

# ALBERTA ROCKHOUND NEWS

Publication of the Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs

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September, 2019



Brett Jensen

## President's Message – September 2019

Greetings everyone! I hope you all had a great summer and found time for some rockhounding.

Since the last newsletter I have had the incredible experience of attending the BC Rendezvous sponsored by the British Columbia Lapidary Society (BCLS). This year it was held in Rock Creek, BC. The BC Rendezvous corresponds to our May Daze and is usually held on the same long weekend in May. However, this year it was held in June to avoid possible flooding experienced in previous years. The weekend long event includes field trips, silent auction, bucket raffle, banquet and annual general meeting of the BCLS. I attended the Rock Creek Dolomite Quarry and Rock Candy Fluorite Mine field trips. Both were excellent opportunities to bring home a bucket or 2 of nice rocks. At the auction I was able to purchase some Rock Creek ocean agate and some BC jade.

In BC everyone has jade! I was given some time to promote the GMFC at their annual general meeting and to advertise the national show in Lethbridge. I met some new rockhound friends and had a wonderful time. Thanks to all the BCLS people!

As I have travelled around the western part of the continent and have had many opportunities to visit new places, make new rock hound friends and attend many shows and related events I have observed some trends in the lapidary world. The trends in jewellery making that I have seen in recent years are:

- a) more free-form shapes and natural crystal geometric shapes and fewer traditional symmetrical geometric shapes in cabochons
- b) more natural rough surfaces, such as drusy crystal surfaces
- c) more mixed media, such as wood, stone, leather, fabric and metals
- d) more variety in metals other than silver and gold, such as copper, brass, aluminum, tin, etc.
- e) more use of recycled materials and found objects in jewellery
- f) more personalized jewellery with initials, names and personal connections to people and places
- g) even more emphasis on the traditional preferences of bold colors and patterns in cabochon stones
- h) more application of metaphysical properties of rocks and minerals
- i) new discoveries of gemstones and lapidary materials worldwide

I have tried to apply all of these trends in my rock collecting, buying and jewellery fabrication. A few years ago while attending the big shows in Arizona I asked many dealers what the popular colors were that year. The most common reply was that fashion changes too quickly and too often and that it was too difficult to stay up on all the changes in fashionable colors. "However, over half of all gemstones cut are blue and blue always sells!" I have tried to use that advice in my rock collecting and buying. Another constant that I have found is, "When someone says that this is the last of any mineral, rock or fossil and that there is no more available, never believe them!" Another constant that I have found is that, although availability and popularity of lapidary materials may vary over time, prices just seem to go constantly up. What is something worth? Whatever you are willing to pay for it!

While I have your attention I would like to throw in a couple of plugs for 2 upcoming events in Lethbridge. Saturday, September 14 we are having our annual tailgate sale in the Peavey Mart parking lot on Mayor Magrath Drive South from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. There is always room for another vendor or 2 and there are always unique things to buy. On Friday, October 04 from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Saturday, October 05 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, October 06 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm the Southern Alberta Rock Hounds Association is sponsoring the National Rock and Gem Show in the West Pavilion of Exhibition Park in Lethbridge. We have room for more vendors and invite all rock hounds to come and support the first club show in Lethbridge in 18 years. On Saturday evening the Gem and Mineral Federation of Canada will have its annual banquet and annual general meeting in Lethbridge. Let the wind blow you into town for a great weekend!

## **ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS**

**President:** Brett Jensen dgbrett.jensen@gmail.com

**Vice-Pres:** Holger Hartmaier hhart@telusplanet.net

**Secretary:** None

**Treasurer:** John Cherwonogrodzky (403) 526 0532 jcherwono@shaw.ca

**Custodian/Librarian:** Doug Schatz schatz.doug@gmail.com

**Past Pres:** Rob Biel (403) 391 8063 ronbiel@platinum.ca

**Editor:** Ed & Pauline Zeschuk epz@shaw.ca (780) 430-6694

## **MEMBER CLUBS AND SECRETARIES**

*Calgary Facetors Guild:*

*Calgary CRLC:* Shelley Gibbins sapphire13@shaw.ca

*Edmonton Tumblewood:* Heather Strachan (780) 289 7018 strachan.heather@gmail.com

*Lacombe Lapidary Club:* (403) 391 8063 ronbiel@platinum.ca

*Medicine Hat Rock & Gem:* Kiwanis Centre, 826-11 St. S.E. Medicine Hat, AB (403) 527-0068

*Southern Alberta Rockhounds:* Joyce Joevenazzo joevenaj@gmail.com

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS**

1. To promote and encourage the study, cutting, polishing and engraving of gemstones and rocks and other geological materials and lapidary work as a hobby other than for the purpose of trade, industry or business.
2. To encourage the exploration of Alberta for lapidary materials, and to promote and create a greater interest in Alberta finished and unfinished rocks and minerals.
3. To encourage and promote the close association with, and exchange of information between rock hobbyists and lapidary groups to stimulate interest in and disseminate knowledge about mineralogy and earth sciences.
4. The Alberta Federation sponsors a website which its members may use to promote the activities and events of their club.
5. The operations of the Alberta Federation are to be mainly carried out in the Province of Alberta, under the Canadian Rockhound Code of Ethics.

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS is a member of THE GEM AND MINERAL FEDERATION OF CANADA. Each club pays their members dues to the AFRC Treasurer by February 1<sup>st</sup> and each paid up member is entitled to 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Liability Insurance which covers events such as field trips, rock and gem shows, and other organized events.

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ROCKHOUND NEWS**

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This is your magazine. We need articles & suggestions. Send submissions anytime. If possible, send your article about two weeks before publication date to get them into the current month's publication. Otherwise the article will be included in the next publication.

**From the Editors:**

There were no articles submitted for this newsletter from anyone from any of the Alberta clubs.

Any size of article, large or very short is always a welcome contribution to the newsletter and to the clubs. Examples of articles can be a summary of your rock collecting trip, a new technique in your shop, or some tool or equipment you have acquired, etc..

This September newsletter will be thin on articles.

A link about Amber sent to me by Alice Watts. Thanks Alice, much appreciated.

<https://apple.news/ABcFiSb0uT0Ooc7h0tAyVpQ>

**MINUTES: ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS, DIRECTORS MEETING**

*Sunday, September 08, 2019. 10:30 a.m.*

Held at CRLC Club premises - #13 3650-19 Street NE Calgary, AB.

**Meeting began at 10:44 a.m.**

1. The Club does not have a Secretary. Karen-Anne and John Cherwonogrodzky (JohnC), of MHRLC, volunteered to take minutes for this meeting.

2. **Consideration of Agenda**, Additions.

2a) Specimen findings, linking with a geologist, rock/mineral/meteorite identification (JohnC)

8 Correspondence – emails: spam, phishing, malware (Holger Hartmaier, CRLC)

9.4 Travelling Library – update, Doug Schatz (LHLG)

10.1 May Daze 2020/ 2021 proposal (JohnC)

2 a) **Specimen identification:** JohnC raised the issue that many clubs have likely experienced people from the public wandering in and wanting to have their findings identified (and not wanting to be club members). The occurrence may be an opportunity for the lapidary club to be better known, to increase public appreciation of rock & minerals, and for a geologist to come across specimens of interest. How can these interact?

Brett Jensen (SARHA) said he is often asked to do identification. He is reluctant to do so from photos as one needs an actual specimen. He also clarifies that his assessment can only be taken as an educated guess. Holger Hartmaier advised that there is the website “**mindat.org**” available for preliminary identification. They suggested that, rather than bother a geologist, university professor or specialist, a series of steps be done:

Pre-screen: where was it found, what was its environment, what properties does it have (hardness, weight, magnetism, does it fizz with vinegar), appearance (transparent areas like an agate, opaque like a jasper, etc.)

The finder should use “mindat.org”

If the finder cannot find what their specimen is, then they could send photos and a specimen to Brett or Holger, who may then need to send these to an expert (e.g. Robert Haag, meteorite specialist, Tucson, Arizona)

### 3. **Roll Call:**

Present: Calgary Faceters' Guild, Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club, Lacombe Handicraft & Lapidary Guild, Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club, Southern Alberta Rock Hounds Assoc.

Absent: Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club

4. **In Memorium:** Rick Smith and Judith Anna Johnson of CRLC.

5. **President's Message:** Brett Jensen (SARHA): His notes will be sent to the Alberta Rockhound News. He gave a brief review of trends in lapidary and also additional items:

He attended "B.C. Rendezvous", their AGM (165-185 in attendance) similar to our May Daze. Field trips were at Rock Creek near Penticton, but access to possible ocean agate was not possible.

Silver Cove (Melissa/Chris Robak), champions of lapidary, have a BC sapphire claim.

The Rock Candy Mine, Grand Forks, BC, is the only commercial mine that allows public access to "vug vasts" or dynamite blasted seams of fluorite crystals.

There continues to be controversy as to whether Saphradite from Saphra USA is a tektite (splash ejections from a meteorite hit) or something else.

6. **Minutes of the April 14, 2019 meeting** (as noted in Alberta Rockhound News, April issue): Moved to accept by JohnC (MHRLC), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Willams (CFG), approved.

### 7. **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

7.1 Traveling Memento: update Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky (Med.Hat R&L Club). 3 tags are required: SARHA 2017, CRLC 2018, MHRLC 2019. Did CRLC want their initials or full Club name noted. They requested the latter.

7.2 Website: update by Tony Cave (LHLG). Karen-Anne (MHRLC) noted that sites of some of the clubs need updating. Tony thought that these had been updated, but possibly inaccuracies are due to old links being used. Karen-Anne also asked about having the Alberta Rockhound News loaded on the sites, and Tony said this was in progress. Note that JohnC had renewed the domain, will renew the website, and will ask reimbursement later in the year with other bills.

7.3 Rejuvenation: Brett Jensen noted had visited Grande Prairie and the club does not exist, should have it removed from the AFRC website. The Lloydminster Jewelry Association does not want to join AFRC. Perhaps future discussions with Chris Robak (Silver Cove), who hosts shows throughout the province, may give some leads. It was noted that part of the reason they have successful shows is because of their skill at advertising, social media, and enticing draws.

8. **Correspondence:** Holger Hartmaier experienced email fraud where someone pretended to be our President. JohnC added that the fraudsters are getting sophisticated. He used to get emails from those pretending to be Ron Biel, now they are pretending to be our current President. When he put the cursor on the email sender, the correct email address was presented. However, when he forwarded the message to himself and put the cursor on the email sender, it then unhid the email address of the **fraudster**. Previously he had gone to the bank and police of Medicine Hat, then the bank and police of Lexington, Kentucky where the money

was to be sent, and all advised that nothing could be done to identify the fraudster. Holger noted that one can forward the email to Telus to investigate at “busters.com”.

## 9. Committee Reports:

### 9.1 Treasurer’s Report and related topics (JohnC).

ATB Bank Statements: It is a legal requirement that the Executive receive hard copies of the monthly bank statements. The President and Vice-President received theirs, the Treasurer had his, there was no Secretary to receive a copy.

The Treasurer’s AGM Report, presented to members at May Daze 2019, was distributed. Within the report was the audit (including inventory), Profit/Loss Statement, Projected Income/Expenditure/Budget for 2019, AFRC membership numbers of the clubs, financial transactions of 2019 from January to May 2019, list of Delegates/Directors.

**GIC**: JohnC summarized that finances are healthy in the chequing account, even taking account that AFRC membership fees have not increased since 1991, that about 80% goes for all members to become GMFC members (and they can attend and vote at GMFC meetings) and that new expenses have occurred (e.g. Director’s Insurance). He estimated all will be well for at least 3 years.

As the GIC matured on 23 September 2019, he made the motion, “***I, John Cherwonogrodzky, Med. Hat R&L Club delegate and AFRC Treasurer, move to re-invest the entire amount (principle and interest) for another 3-year term with the bank Alberta Treasury Branch***”. Seconded by Doug Schatz (LHLG), approved by all.

### 9.2 GMFC Report: Brett Jensen (AFRC GMFC representative, President of AFRC/GMFC/ SARHA):

There had been one GMFC conference call, and BC is struggling to get a representative.

There had been a complaint that GMFC asks too much, 50% of proceeds from those hosting the annual meeting, but everything is negotiable and under his leadership this would not happen.

There had been a complaint that there is cheaper insurance than the GMFC insurance, but given the large number collective, this is unlikely.

There was some controversy regarding the scholarship. Some institutions will not award the scholarship at graduation ceremonies given that the grades are not official. However, this is puzzling because other scholarships are awarded during this time, and GMFC should be given credit at least for offering the award. This will be addressed at the GMFC AGM. It should be noted that previously there was an attempt to award the scholarship outside the immediate family of a GMFC member, but this had been voted down.

GMFC is looking forward to the AGM at Lethbridge. It will be held Saturday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, meal 6 p.m., meeting 7-7:30 p.m., restaurant location to be announced. It was noted that all AFRC members are GMFC members and can attend and vote.

The GMFC/National Rock and Gem Show of Canada (4-6 Oct) was last held in Lethbridge 18 years ago.

There will be about 20 dealers. Digital bulletin boards will advertise the show in town for \$250, there will be “sandwich” boards and media coverage.

Doug Schatz asked Brett to forward the GMFC and Gem Show info to the Delegates/ Directors.

### 9.3 Alberta Rockhound News: editors were absent.

Dale Nielsen (CRLC) noted a few errors in the last Newsletter. The notice of the 2 November 2019 Artisan Fair was in reverse colour, and she was noted as going to demonstrate polymer clay which is not so.

### 9.4 Travelling Library: The Custodian, Doug Schatz (LHLG) asked if anyone is interested in taking the library. CRLC said they would and that their custodian was Lori Wichink.

## 10. **New Business:**

10.1 a) May Daze 2020. Preparations are underway, with a contract in place for the Hall. However, as the representative were away, it was thought inappropriate to speak for them.

10.1 b) May Daze 2021. JohnC noted that at the May Daze celebrations there was a passion for getting together, going on field trips, exploring a town and neighbouring sites. Should AFRC try something new and arrange May Daze in an area of interest where there is no club, but suitable facilities (hall, camping)?

Brett noted that, as an example, although there is no club in Grande Prairie, there is an excellent new museum, fossils in the area, etc. He moved that "*Brett Jensen and John Cherwonogrodzky explore the possibility of holding May Daze 2021 in a new location, a non-club area*". 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dale Nielsen, approved by all.

The Lacombe Club volunteered that if by chance this initiative is not possible, they would host 2021 May Daze but need a year's notice.

10.2 **Nominations for** November meeting's election of **Executive** (for the term Jan-Dec 2020). There was a question as to whether the election was for a 1 or 2 year term. JohnC commented that even if it was for a 2 year term, by tradition the Executive was elected for a 1 year term every year.

Brett Jensen said he would stay as President for another year

Holger Hartmaier would stay as Vice-President

Ron Biel would be Past President

John Cherwonogrodzky would stay as Treasurer.

(all asked if there were any nominations, any Director/Delegate who wished to take any of these positions, but there was none.)

A Secretary is needed)

10.3 **Discussion on memberships and dues**. Dale Nielsen (CRLC) asked what the policy was for members who join or pay dues late. JohnC said that by tradition, anyone who joins after September 1 has their membership fee covering September 1 of that year to December 31 of the following year (16 months).

## 11. **Announcements:**

SARHA, the Lethbridge club will be hosting a tail-gate at the Peavy Mart, Saturday, 14 September, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., though most begin set up at 9 a.m., some shutdown at 2 p.m. There is a \$10 vendor fee payable to the club.

The Calgary R&L Club will be hosting their Christmas Artisan Fair on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, only 6 tables are left.

**Next meeting is Sunday, November 17** (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) pending weather.

12. **Adjournment:** 12:52 p.m.