



## BUGLE



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Regular monthly meeting  
2<sup>nd</sup> Friday each month at 7:30 pm  
(Except July & August)  
Craft Room, Campbell River Community Hall  
401-11th Ave  
Campbell River, BC



# RIPPLE ROCK GEM & MINERAL CLUB

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Basic Lapidary Instructor	Steve Cooley	250-287-4388

### Delegates to Vancouver Island Zone Meetings

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Intermediate	Jan Boyes
Junior	

## WORKSHOP

Shop located at 246 Dahl Rd.  
 For general shop info contact  
**Beba Adams 250-926-0044**  
**The workshop hours are posted  
 on the club website.**  
**[www.ripplerockgemandmineralclub.com](http://www.ripplerockgemandmineralclub.com)**

### MEMBERSHIPS

A single membership is \$15.00 and a family is \$25.00. Memberships may be paid at the *General* meetings, or by mail to the address on the Bugle cover.

## RIPPLE ROCK CLUB NEWS

Gordon Burkholder; Editor's Message

Welcome Readers! This is my first edition as your "Bugle" editor and you will, I hope, notice some changes. I am endeavoring to include information from members on a variety of topics and I encourage you to submit an article of interest for an edition of the newsletter.

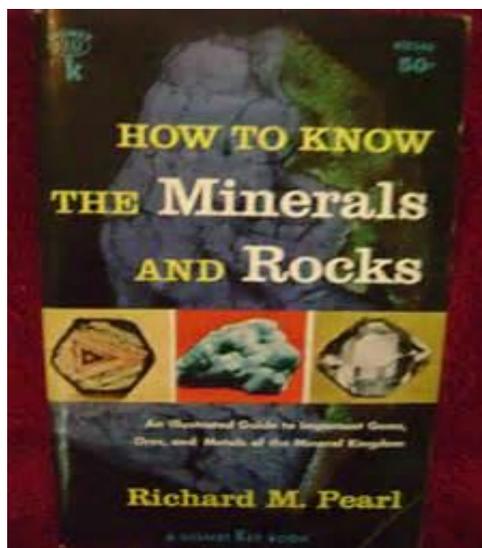
I will try to follow the main sections as outlined in this first edition; articles from members, rock of the month, information on lapidary, a library offering, and of course news of interest to club members. I am looking forward to this opportunity to develop the newsletter and would like to hear from you on my progress. Constructive criticism and suggestions are always welcomed! Please note that the minutes of club meetings will no longer be printed in the "Bugle" but rather sent out to members electronically from the executive. I am changing this to allow for a more detailed reporting of financial information and to keep this information "in-house".

Kathy Young; President's Message

As a new president I wish to extend wishes for happy rockhounding trips for 2015. My biggest desire is to try and promote learning opportunities around rock identification and around the geology of Vancouver Island. If anyone in the club knows a geologist or an experienced prospector please grab them by the collar and let them know our biggest need is more education. Their focus may seem small to them but we want to know more about rocks, even just one kind. Let someone on the executive know if you run into someone who has some experience in identifying a rock.

Linda Henderson; Vice President's / Librarian's Message

I'd like to direct your attention to an interesting book from our collection in the library (for a list of publications please refer to the website [www.ripplerockgemandmineralclub.com](http://www.ripplerockgemandmineralclub.com)) The book is a field Guide "How to Know the Minerals and Rocks" by Richard M. Pearl. Chapter 4 is entitled "Seven Keys to Recognizing Minerals." I haven't read the whole of the content but, it looks to be informative for newer Rockhounders like myself.



## In Memory of Max Baaske



Max was born in Edmonton Alberta on May 27 1937. His parents were Max and Maria. On September 1st 1939 the Second World War broke out and shortly after their family was torn apart.

Any person that was born in Japan or Germany was sent to internment camps during the Second World War; both Max's parents were German and both were interned.

Max's father was an engineer and was immediately sent to an internment camp in Kananaskas Alberta. Max never saw him again.

Max and his older brother Dieter lived with their mother for a while and then she to was interned. Max and Dieter were then put in the care of child welfare and put up for adoption.

Dieter was 5 years older than Max and after both parents were interned Dieter was adopted by a family. Max didn't want anything to do with being adopted and he and Dieter drifted apart.

Max lived here and there in and around Edmonton and as young Lutheran with German parents going to a Catholic school he learned how to run very fast. He went on however to graduated grade 12.

Max also had a stepsister, Elizabeth. If she is still around she should be about 92 years old now but they also have drifted apart.

His mother was interned somewhere in Alberta but Max was not allowed to see her and had no idea where she was. After the war Max finally found his mother but by that time she was confined to hospital where she soon died.

When Max was 19 years old he landed a job with the Chamber of Mines doing prospecting and reconnaissance in the Yukon, North of Watson Lake, he, along with geologists and a team of pack horses use to walk 100s of miles into the back country off the Alaska Highway. They collected samples did field identification, mapped mineral seams and made topographical maps along the way. From that moment on Max was now hooked on rocks.

The geologists Max worked with must have recognized his amazing memory and keen observational abilities. They offered him a job working for the Research Council of Alberta in their Geological Laboratory. He worked there for the next 35 years.

The Geological Laboratory had a steady influx of mineral samples and drill cores from all over Alberta and the Yukon. His main job there was preparing petrographic thins . Basically that entails cutting the rock into slices. He would then check harness, specific gravity, color, structure etc. and do various other tests. Then he could classify, identify and catalog the mineral samples that the geologists had brought in. Max also developed a method for the thin sectioning of Oil Sands which means cutting very very thin slices from samples so they can be analyzed with a microscope or a spectrometer. Max had an amazing memory, he could look at almost any rock and tell you its content, structure, how it was formed and, what I found most irritating, most of the time he could tell you where you found it. He was also able to read and understand Geological maps and he put that knowledge to good use.

Max once said – “Find a job you like and you'll never work another day in your life.”

In 1961 Max first met Mabel through a combined Alberta Geological Research Council & Provincial Pathology Lab bowling club. Simply put, it was a Halloween party. Mabel told me Max was dressed as a Mexican and she was dressed up as an “odd girl,” I'm not sure exactly what an “odd girl” is but I do know not much has changed in 52 years. They dated for a while then one day Mabel said – “Look Max, we have to talk about a few things before we get serious.” Max with his typical dry sense of humor said – “Who's getting serious?” They were engaged Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, 1961 and married in Edmonton on September 1st 1962.

Mabel worked in the hospital lab, in the pathology department and needless to say that doesn't lead to many job related hobbies. Mabel did however fully support Max's hobby of collecting rocks. They joined the Edmonton rock club and went on many outings and along with their other interests they both had interesting, rewarding working careers.

Max and Mabel retired to Parksville in 1992 and joined the Parksville, Alberni and Campbell River Rock hound clubs, that's where I first met them. Max was clearly, absolutely, totally into rocks. Mabel told me she had other interests and that she was a member of two additional clubs oddly called - The Spinning Club and the Thursday Spinners. At first I thought she might be Herrie Crishna (sic), later I found out it was something to do with wool.

In any club 10% of the people do 90% of the work and whether it was on an outing or at a show Max and Mabel were always there helping set up and take down. At shows Max was always busy demonstrating on his Gene and Mabel was usually helping out somewhere or hand lapping gem stones. Max was always more than happy to talk about rocks and has one of the most amazing collections you will ever see.

I use to organize the field trips and Max and Mabel were always there. As soon as we would arrive at a new site people would just scatter, the smart ones stayed close to Max. Mabel would always stay behind however and I was sure to hear.” Is there anything I can help you with?”

Rock hounds aren't known for their etiquette and she civilized us, she gave our field trips the “woman's touch”, if you will have it. She always made sure I didn't put too much rum in

the scrambled eggs. She made sure we cooked over a clean fire with no old rock saw oil. And even when we just had simple sandwiches she insisted that we used napkins instead of Charmin.

As the Wagon Master Max's years of experience and incredible knowledge were indispensable to me. He was so skilled, enthusiastic, intelligent; and always willing to share his knowledge. Max really had an eye for rocks, especially Porphyry, he loved Porphyry, and the bigger the better. I remember once I said to him, "That rock is just way to big Max, please, just leave it."

He turned and said, "Oh no, that rocks not too big. My truck's just too small. And by the way I'm am going to need a bigger hammer."

Once we were on a field trip to a rock bar on the Fraser River near Agazzi. Our club president, Gordon Billings, was accompanied by his dog, aptly named Rocky. Not having a ball, Gordon kept throwing rocks to entertain his dog. Unbeknownst to Gordon his dog was eating the rocks. After several throws Rocky's stomach began to clink and clang like rocks under water and this eventually resulted in an obstruction (you know where) and a vet bill for (you don't want to know how much). Max with his typical dry sense of humor said, "You know, there's cheaper ways of tumbling rocks."

One time I was visiting Max and Mabel. I had just done some mechanical work and returned four of Max's rock saws. We had quite a time getting them back in the basement due to all the rock piles here and there and everywhere. After we were done Mable called us up stairs for lunch. I politely suggested to Max that he should clear out some rocks from down stairs. His reaction, "If it wasn't for all Mabel's knitting and spinning wheels I could store more rocks up here."

Once on our way to a one week field trip or - summer camp to the town of Logan Lake we stopped in a rock quarry along the Fraser canyon for a short break. We all quickly wandered off in different directions mostly to get rid of the morning's coffee. When I returned Max had dug up this amazingly huge piece of Jade. I said. "Holy mackerel! Where on earth did you find that?"

Max said, "It was really easy to spot, you're the one that got it wet."

On December 27 Max died, he was at home. After a series of strokes and heart attacks his hands and legs were terribly swollen. He could hardly walk. He sat down by Mabel and simply said, "I can't go any further, I just can't." One arm dropped, then the other, then his head. Max had passed away. Probably the best for Max, after over 53 years together he died in Mabel's arms.

It was an honor to have known Max. He and Mabel made a truly wonderful couple.

Thanks for everything Max and Mabel,

(One Rock and One Gem). Written by a very dear friend, Charlie Hallstrom.



*To Mabel, from all of us in the Club, our warmest thoughts and deepest sympathies to you.*

#### FROM THE SHOP



The Genie, Gem-Maker is truly a "magic machine". Known around the world for top performance with its 6" diamond grinding and polishing wheels. Not only does it make short work of grinding and polishing gemstones but with a few accessories added, it becomes a trim

saw, jeweler's buffer, flat lap machine and a way to easily miter perfect corners for gemstone jewelry boxes.

The Genie comes complete, powered by a 1/4 HP 1800 RPM heavy duty, industrially rated sealed capacitor start motor requiring 400 watts at 115 VAC. Wheels include two 6" x 1.5" Galaxy diamond grinding wheels (80 and 220 grit), four 6" x 1.5" Nova sanding and polishing wheels (280, 600, 1200 and 3000 grit), 18" lamp, cab rest, 5.5" canvas polishing pad, sample of high grade 14,000 diamond compound, sample Water Aid, 4 splash guards, and a manual.

The Genie will do your grinding and polishing jobs in the fastest and most efficient manner available. The unique combination of special diamond wheels all mounted together lets you proceed directly from one step to the next without any delay or a lot of bother. Turn out a 30mm x 40mm agate cab from preform to finished gem in a matter of minutes.

#### Maintenance Tips

The genie is a workhorse and needs to be brushed and cleaned after every use. Never put her away without a good scrubbing of the wheels and removal of any rock dust under the hoods. It is also advised to spray the wheels with water before using the machine.

The cylinder has a leather gasket that needs to be oiled at regular intervals in order to maintain the seal and ensure a good water action for the "sprayers". Every 40 hours is the recommended time interval for oiling. In our shop that means that at least once a month this should be done. The manual gives complete directions on how this is done.

If in doubt about procedures at the shop, check with the shop supervisor who should know all about these operations.

#### Quote:

» I consider a human soul without education like marble in the quarry, which shows none of its inherent beauties till the skill of the polisher fetches out the colours, makes the surface shine, and discovers every ornamental cloud, spot and vein that runs through the body of it.

- Joseph Addison

## ROCK OF THE MONTH



Various forms of garnet

GARNET: January's Birthstone

Hardness 6.5 – 7.5

From the Phoenician meaning pomegranate.

### “Magical properties”

- Prevents skin diseases
- Protects against evil and bad dreams
- Assures the wearer of love, faithfulness and protections from wounds

### Types of garnet

1. Pyrope: a deep red colour. From the Greek meaning fiery eye
2. Almandine: dark red with a mauve tinge. The purple variety is called rhodolite.
3. Spessartite: red-orange or orange-brown. Rare and expensive
4. Grossular: a speckled green resembling jade. Hessonite is a sub-species
5. Uvarovite: a rare intensely green gem
6. Andradite: contains iron and is rarely cut

Source: “The complete Metal smith” by Tim McCreight, 1982

Quote: **There are still 2 things you can get for a dime; 2 nickels.**  
(January 1980 issue of the “Bugle”)

## WHAT’S THAT ROCK?

### **Rock Identification:**

Lots of people have found rocks that they consider to be unusual and want them identified. Many of these rocks are at first glance so unusual that they are considered as potential meteorites. I have never found a meteorite so I read this article by R. M. Thompson of the Dept. of Geology at UBC, first printed in “The Canadian Rockhound” Vol. VII #1, February 1963, with great interest. I am rewriting only pertinent parts of the article.

### How to Identify a Meteorite

If you think a specimen is a meteorite, take a few minutes to look at the surrounding rocks. Note their surfaces, break off the corners of some to expose a fresh surface area, and examine it critically. Compare the features of the surrounding rock with those of the unknown specimen. Remember that meteorites are never abundant at any one place. Compare the weight of the unknown rock or a piece broken from it, with a piece of rock of the same size. If the unknown is not heavy for its size, and it is similar to many of the local rocks it probably is not a meteorite.

### IF THE SPECIMEN IS A STONE, LOOK FOR THESE FEATURES:

- (1) The presence of a fused crust on the surface.
- (2) Small metallic inclusions which may be detected by a magnet, or by rubbing the fingers over a fresh break, in which case the metallic inclusions will feel jagged.
- (3) Metallic inclusions enclosing round silicate bodies.
- (4) Small rounded silicate bodies or chondrules.
- (5) Thin black veins within the specimen.

### IF THE SPECIMEN IS METALLIC LOOK FOR THESE FEATURES:

- (1) Is the object magnetic? All iron meteorites are strongly magnetic
- (2) Is the iron malleable? The magnetic terrestrial minerals are brittle but meteoric iron is malleable.
- (3) Remove the surface film from a small spot and note the colour of the metal.  
Meteoritic iron is gray, similar to the colour of a five cent piece.

(4) Tap the object with something; metallic meteorites give a different sound than rock.

(5) Is the specimen particularly heavy for its size?

Most meteorites are comparatively small, irregular rounded objects. Some are essentially stony, others are made entirely of metal and a few contain a considerable proportion of both stone and metal. Meteorites are never abundant any place, and since they are different from rocks of this earth they can be recognized.

A freshly fallen meteorite usually is covered with a thin black crust, because most meteorites contain iron and only a trace of iron is needed to darken the fused crust. After a meteorite falls it begins to react with oxygen and water and the fusion crust slowly turns brown. Usually as soon as a brown colour is conspicuous in the crust, rusty areas occur around any metallic inclusions near the outside of the meteorite.

Sometimes the colour of the unaltered fusion crust on a stony meteorite will be white because the meteorite contains very little iron. Thus colour of the fusion crust is not a dependable criterion to use in identifying a meteorite.

A meteorite is moving faster than the air can escape. Air is pushed along the sides of the body and this flow of hot air melts and ablates material from the surface. Although some molten material sticks on the surface most of it is pushed along by the air.

As the velocity of a meteorite is reduced by friction with the air, its surface temperature decreases and finally a point is reached where the molten material freezes. When this happens the ripples in the fused material are preserved. The direction of these delicate lines or "flight markings" indicated the orientation of the object.

Some of the internal fractures of the meteorite which extend to the front face may fail and the object will appear to explode. It frequently happens that meteorites break in the air and several pieces fall. The falling meteorite is losing weight and entering denser atmosphere, and soon a point is passed where the ratio between weight and area of exposed surface cause the velocity of the meteorite to decrease rapidly. Thus a small meteorite is not hot when it strikes the earth.

From the above (*statement?*) it is evident that a meteorite cannot have a thick glossy coat on its surface. Thus no meteorite will resemble a furnace slag.

Narrow dark glassy veins are common in stony meteorites and often can be seen in areas where the crust is broken off.

The most common peculiar surface feature is the wide, shallow depression called "thumb marks" because of their resemblance to an impression made by a thumb. These are numerous in irons but also occur in stones. Occasionally some sugar-like holes occur in iron meteorites.

Most meteorites are dense heavy objects but there are variations and there is a type called carbonaceous chondrite which is low density, black and rather crumbly and contains considerable carbon. Usually a freshly fallen meteorite is an irregularly-rounded object and looks like it was sculptured in a blast of hot air. On weathering they lose this appearance. A surprising number of meteorites have rather flat sides. These flat features generally are the rear face and represent fractures or cleavage breaks. A few meteorites have a conical form.

Well, after reading all this I'm still not sure if I'd recognize a meteorite when I saw one but it does give some new information that might help eliminate impostors.

### **Kornography**

Q: Did you hear the one about the geologist?

A: He took his wife for granite so she left him

## ARTICLES

### Baja Rocks

By Bob Hayhurst

Gord, Jan, Pat and I went on a field trip yesterday up the Oasis Primer Agua road just south of Loreto, BCS. Ten rocky, bumpy, twisting kilometers west of Mexican1 Highway, in the Sierra de la Giganta, you come to a small stream leading to a waterfall that has carved its course through a narrow canyon. A waterfall in the desert is pretty special! There is some interesting breccia with quartz crystal acting as the filler along the rivers banks.



Banded agate can be found beach combing just a short walk from our campsite at Rivera Del Mar RV Park. Some of the agate appears to have a bit of Mexican fire agate and still others a bit of crazy lace.



In the arroyo a short drive north of Loreto is Shell Canyon where the walls are 100 feet high. They have been eroded into fantastic shapes. There, one of the rocks appears to have black tourmaline needles embedded in a green matrix.



There are so many interesting places to explore!

### Thought for the day

Common sense is the collection of prejudices acquired by age eighteen. *Albert Einstein*

## WELCOME “NEW” MEMBERS!

As of the date of publication there have been 30 renewals from last year’s membership. Please remember to renew your 2015 membership at the meeting or by contacting a member of the executive.

Here are the 30 members to date:

**Adams, Beba**

Akelaitis, Barbara

Armstrong, Jennie

**Baaske, Mabel**

**Billings, Gordon**

Boyes, Jack & Jan

Burkholder, Gorden & Janet

Cambrey, Dennis & Sue

Cooley, Steve

Cooper, Diane & Stomperud, Hans

**Devlin, Penny**

Doyle, Pat & McBurnie, Ron

Falconer, Jack

Gray, Allen Hunter, Donna

**Hallstrom, Charlie & Lena**

Hayhurst, Bob & Pat

Henderson, Linda

Huber, Steve & Jeanette

Jesseau, Brad

Kerr, Harry & Milroy, Molly

**Langill, Gwen**

MacKay, Randy

Mawhinney, Shane & Robin

Menzies, Lynn

Myhre, Harlow

Myhre, Jamie

Ritcey, Ed

Thompson, Faye & Richard

Ticknor, Mellissa & Myhre, Alvin

Young, Kathy

Highlighted names represent lifetime membership.

If you don’t see your name, perhaps I omitted it or you haven’t paid your 2015 dues, yet. gb

## FROM THE CUTTING FLOOR

### Slab Saws

What are the difference between a slab saw and a trim saw? The diameter of the blade and the type of vise on the saw are the important differences.

A small saw blade means the size of rock one can cut is limited, as an example, a 10" blade can only cut a rock about 4" in diameter. While this may be large enough for most situations it does limit the rocks one can cut.

If one is creating a slab, the thickness is critical and must be maintained from one slab to another very closely. So once the rock is clamped into the vise, it must be able to advance the rock every time by the same amount. Some vises will not allow for this type of accuracy and this is where the type of vise on the saw becomes very important.

On the other hand, when trimming a cab, you need to cut very close to a scribed line and this needs to be done freehand. A trim saw has a flat surface built up to the blade to support the small cab you are trying to trim. Large slab saws are not built to handle this sort of work.

Besides some people might feel intimidated holding a small piece of rock next to a large saw blade that is drenching them in oil.

Slab saws have larger diameter blades than trim saws, and the blades also tend to be thicker than those used on trim saws. The extra blade thickness helps increase cutting speed.

### Saw Buying Tips

- A general rule of thumb for choosing a saw: Anticipate what the maximum size would be of the largest rock you would be cutting and choose a (blade) size at least 3 times as large as the material you wish to cut.
- Are you planning on slabbing small to moderate sized geodes and rough? A 10" or 12" saw with power feed will work well. Do you need to cut large cross sections on a production basis? Choose an 18" variable feed saw.
- Realize that there are trade-offs: Understand that every rock will cut differently and that everyone demands different results. Thin blades will wander more than heavier, sturdier blades. Hard rock demands premium oil coolant. Fast feed rates can mean greater chance of blade damage if something slips or breaks during the cut. Do some homework and be willing to sacrifice some things to get what's really important.
- Pay attention to the blade: Before any other components, go for the best blade that you can afford. The blade will dictate the resulting smoothness and flatness and is crucial in getting a good cut.

### Maintenance Tips

The cutting oil used may vary but it should be regularly changed. Clean out as much of the rock dust as possible and put the remaining oil in a filtering sack to get the residual dirt. Once through the cloth this oil may be reused at some later date.

### Final Thoughts

Now and then it's good to pause in our pursuit of happiness and just be happy.

- Guillaume Apollinaire