



BUGLE



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Editor: Gordon Burkholder
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November 2015

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



RIPPLE ROCK GEM & MINERAL CLUB

RIPPLE ROCK EXECUTIVE 2015

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Past President	Gordon Burkholder	250-923-1740
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Treasurer	Dennis Cambrey	250-337-8949
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Assistant Wagonmaster(s)		
Show Chair	Molly Milroy	
Shop Coordinator	Beba Adams	250-926-0044
Shop Maintenance		
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Slab Draw/Collection	Beba Adams	250-926-0044
Coffee Break	Melissa Ticknor	
Basic Lapidary Instructor	Steve Cooley	250-287-4388

Delegates to Vancouver Island Zone Meetings

Senior	Gordon Burkholder
Intermediate	Jan Boyes
Junior	Ulla Williams

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

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 Box 6 Campbell River, BC, V9W 4Z9.

RIPPLE ROCK CLUB NEWS

President

The election of officers for our Club takes place at the November meeting and I urge all of you to not only attend but to also offer your services to the Club. Several of the current executives have indicated their intention to have their names stand for office, myself included. Giving back and moving the organization forward are my main reasons for volunteering but I also enjoy meeting with other club members to talk about the issues that face the organization and rockhounds in general.

Kathy Young

Vice President

I will not be at the November meeting but will make arrangements to have handbooks and Rockhounder magazines for those who have ordered them at the meeting. Remember that these items must be preordered. It is easiest (?) if you do this while you are renewing your membership at the meeting.

Linda Henderson

Entertainment Report

The big item at the November meeting is a **buy/sell/trade**. Bring along a small tray of your wares for the meeting and bring along some extra cash, too!

The Christmas potluck dinner will be held in the Lounge of the Community Hall and will serve as our December meeting. Business, if any will be kept to a minimum. Details on what to bring will be forthcoming.

Pat Doyle

Zone Report

Well, this month will see the final Zone meeting for the year. It will be held at Marion Barkley's place in Parksville. My trip south has been delayed while Jan and I take care of some estate business so here is the agenda for the meeting. Have a look and see what you think about what we do at the Zone.

Gordon Burkholder, Senior Zone Delegate

November Zone Meeting

Agenda (Proposed)

Welcome and Greetings

Adoption of Agenda

Minutes from August meeting

Club Reports:

Campbell River/ BCLS Report

Alberni

Courtenay

Old Business

Parksville

Cowichan

Victoria

Gemboree Report

New Business

1. Sharing information :

Field trips

Show dates

News articles

2. Other items

Web Site Data from the Web Master

Check out the Buy Sell or Trade page on the website.

"Rock shed" (and/or 5th wheel) for sale: Quartzsite AZ Hi, after several enjoyable years, due to health issues we are selling our winter getaway in AZ, 16 miles from Quartzsite, in the heart of the rockhounding areas.

Click [here](#) for more information and pictures.

Janet Burkholder

Editor's Message

I should have been long gone by now but life sometimes gets in the way of your plans.

This issue sees the introduction of a new feature Rock'n' the Zodiac. I don't have a great strong belief in the metaphysical powers of rocks or crystals but it is interesting to read what some people hold as true. I'll start with the signs of Scorpio and Sagittarius (Oct-Nov Nov-Dec) Let me know what you think about this addition.

Gordon Burkholder

Quotable quote: The best way to find your self is to lose yourself in the service of others. *Mahatma Gandhi*

GEM OF THE MONTH

Topaz



Bing.com images

Pure **topaz** is colorless and transparent but is usually tinted by impurities; typical topaz is wine red, yellow, pale gray, reddish-orange, or blue brown. It can also be white, pale green, blue, gold, pink (rare), reddish-yellow or opaque to transparent/translucent.

Orange topaz, also known as precious topaz, is the traditional November birthstone, the symbol of friendship, and the state gemstone of the US state of Utah.

Imperial topaz is yellow, pink (rare, if natural) or pink-orange. Brazilian Imperial Topaz can often have a bright yellow to deep golden brown hue, sometimes even violet. Many brown or pale topazes are treated to make them bright yellow, gold, pink or violet colored. Some imperial topaz stones can fade on exposure to sunlight for an extended period of time.

Blue topaz is the state gemstone of the US state of Texas. Naturally occurring blue topaz is quite rare. Typically, colorless, gray or pale yellow and blue material is heat treated and irradiated to produce a more desired darker blue.

Mystic topaz is colorless topaz which has been artificially coated giving it the desired rainbow effect. [Wikipedia](#)



Yellow topaz

ROCK'N' THE ZODIAC

Scorpio and Sagittarius

The traditional stone for those born under the star sign **Scorpio** is [Aquamarine](#). Aquamarine is known as a calming stone. It is helpful in dealing with issues involving the Throat Chakra. It's also used to soothe and calm you when you are in fear. Aquamarine is blue-green or aqua like the color of water. The gift from Aquamarine is to bring you complete relaxation and remember the crashing of the waves at sea. This

stone is also very good for enhancing communication skills. Aquamarine is a Seeker Energizer crystal. Seeker Energizers are fantastic energy conduits of the Universal Life Force that help us have the energy and determination to success in seeking new changes in our lives. It will aid you in efforts to become more flexible, stronger, and to eat right.

Rose Quartz is yet another stone that represents Scorpius. This stone is also known as a love stone. When using this stone you feel a lot stronger and an enhancement in your self-confidence. It also opens your heart to all different kinds of love and helps them to grow. Rose Quartz is perfect for keeping a positive attitude. It helps you see the beauty of the world and people around you and to love the life you live. In Rose Quartz, the strong passion and power of Red is toned down to subtler, feminine aspects. This is the color ray of determination, commitment, and caring. Simply, pink is love. Also, rose is a soothing color, useful to calm feelings of anger or resentment. Rose is a comfort color that can aid efforts to meditate.

The traditional stone for a **Sagittarian** is Topaz. Topaz colors varies from yellow, orange, blue, clear, brown, red, pink, violet, to green. Blue is the most popular color. This stone is also known as the true stone of success and love. Topaz promotes truth and forgiveness. It removes and demolishes doubts and strengthens your beliefs. Topaz has been said to be able to unleash your imagination. Amethyst stones and Topaz stones combined are powerful and bring you a very soothing relaxed feeling. Topaz is able to aware us what is most important. It's also said that this stone can open your mind to new adventures.

Lapis Lazuli is also a stone associated with Sagittarius. Lapis Lazuli is a stone that promotes friendship and truth, and can be worn to promote honesty and ease of communication. It is also believed to increase mental clarity, and be an energy focus for teachers. It is believed to enhance creative self-expression and to promoting spirituality.

Quote: People who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do. *Isaac Asimov*

Field Trip Anyone?

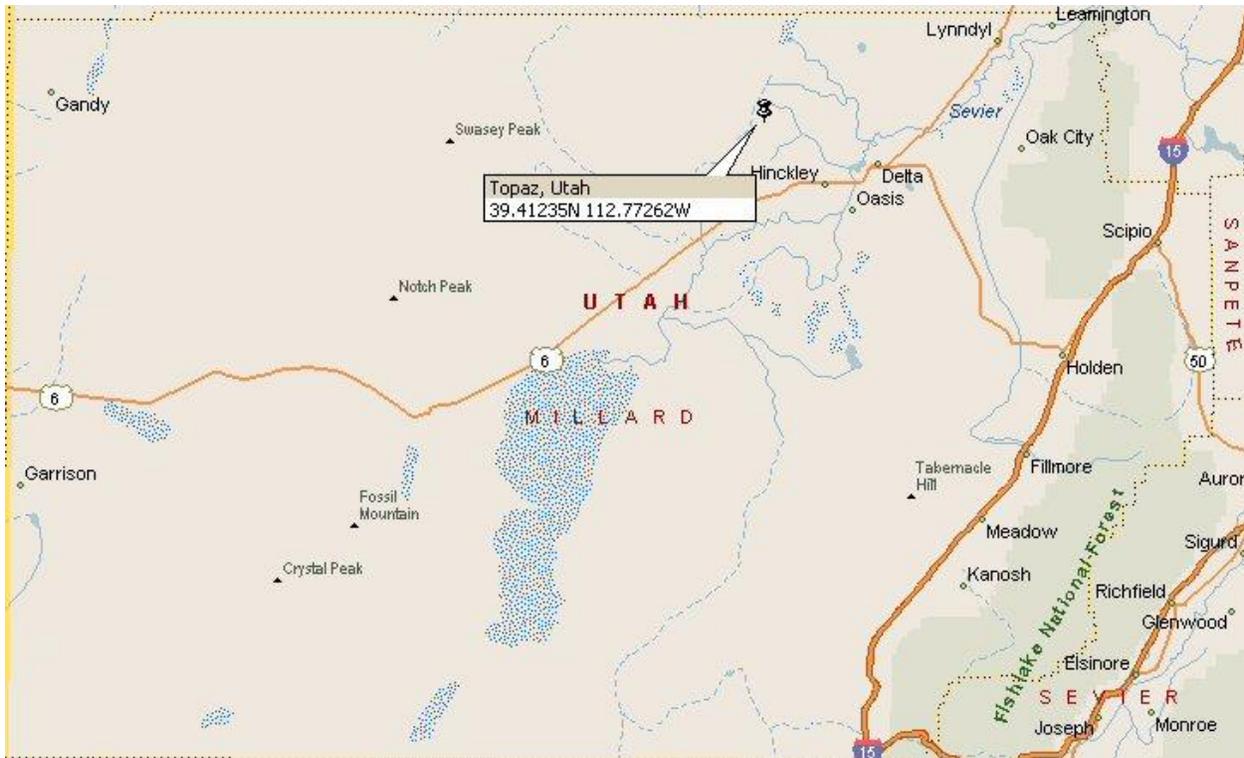
Topaz Mountain



Crystals found on Topaz Mountain

Topaz Mountain is part of the Thomas Range, located in Juab County, Utah, approximately 60 km Northwest of Delta, Utah in western Utah. The mountain lies on publicly owned land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Collection of rocks and minerals is permitted at Topaz Mountain and, as a result, the area is frequented by amateur as well as professional rock hounds.

The summit and surrounding area is known for its relative abundance of semiprecious minerals including topaz, red beryl and opal. A variety of other minerals are found at Topaz Mountain including garnet, amethyst, pseudobrookite, and hematite.



WHAT'S THAT ROCK?

Jade

Jade is an ornamental rock. The term jade is applied to two different metamorphic rocks that are made up of different silicate minerals:

1. Nephrite consists of a microcrystalline interlocking fibrous matrix of the calcium, magnesium-iron rich amphibole mineral series tremolite (calcium-magnesium)-ferroactinolite (calcium-magnesium-iron). The middle member of this series with an intermediate composition is called actinolite (the silky fibrous mineral form is one form of asbestos). The higher the iron content, the greener the colour.

2. Jadeite is a sodium and aluminum-rich pyroxene. The gem form of the mineral is a microcrystalline interlocking crystal matrix.

Nephrite and jadeite

Nephrite and jadeite were used from prehistoric periods for hardstone carving. Jadeite has about the same hardness as quartz. Nephrite is slightly softer, but is tougher (more resistant to breakage) than jadeite. It was not until the 19th century that a French mineralogist, Alexis Damour (1808-1902), determined that "jade" was in fact two different minerals.

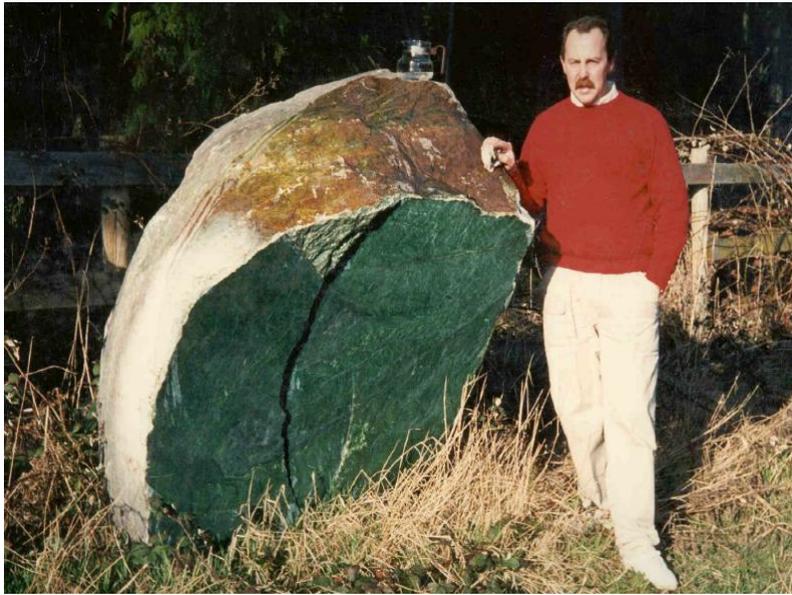
Among the earliest known jade artifacts excavated from prehistoric sites are simple ornaments with bead, button, and tubular shapes. Additionally, jade was used for adze heads, knives, and other weapons, which can be delicately shaped. As metal-working technologies became available, the beauty of jade made it valuable for ornaments and decorative objects. Jadeite measures between 6.0 and 7.0 Mohs hardness, and nephrite between 6.0 and 6.5, so it can be worked with quartz or garnet sand, and polished with bamboo or even ground jade.

Jade was first identified in Canada by Chinese settlers in 1886 in British Columbia. At this time jade was considered worthless as they were searching for gold. Jade was not commercialized in Canada until the 1970s. The mining business Loex James Ltd., which was started by two Californians, began commercial mining of Canadian jade in 1972.



BC jade

Mining is done from large boulders that contain bountiful deposits of jade. Jade is exposed using diamond-tipped core drills in order to extract samples. This is done to ensure that the jade meets requirements. Hydraulic spreaders are then inserted into cleavage points in the rock so that the jade can be broken away. Once the boulders are removed and the jade is accessible, it is broken down into more manageable 10-tonne pieces using water-cooled diamond saws. The jade is then loaded onto trucks and transported to the proper storage facilities.



Boulder of BC jade

Thought for the day: To keep the body in good health is a duty... otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear. *The Buddha*

Field Trip anyone?

Jade City BC

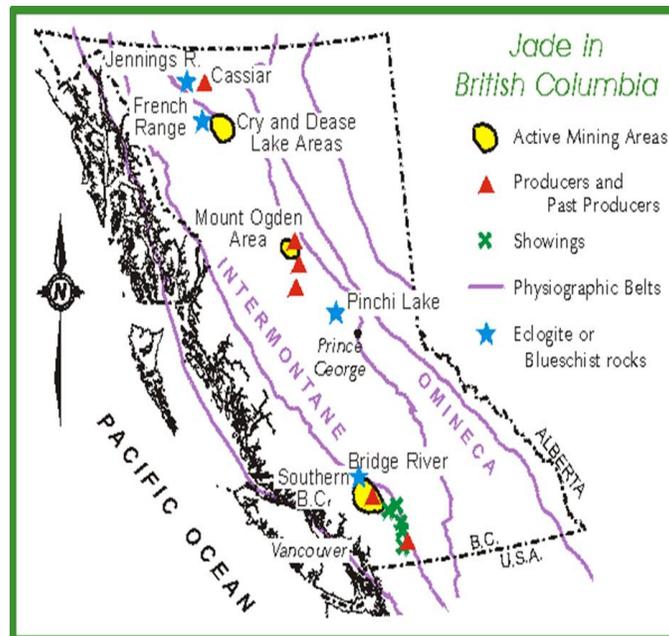


Jade bear and fish

Jade City is a "spot on the road" in northwestern British Columbia, near the Yukon, located on Highway 37 in the Cassiar Highlands. The region around Jade City is rich with serpentinite (a jade precursor), greenstone (jade look-a-likes), and jade. The region contains one of the world's richest deposits of nephrite jade. The settlement was founded in the mid-80's by jade miner Steve Simonovic. Jade City is (by road) about 24 hours north of Vancouver, and 1 hour south of the Yukon border. As of 2015 it has a population of about 30 people.

Jade City is a very small town. There are two local seasonally-operated businesses that offer highway services and sell jade products made from nearby formations of the stone. Currently, only one of the two stores is active. During the summer a church opens up to the public offering Sunday services.

The reality TV series Jade Fever documents the mining efforts of the Cassiar Mountain Jade Store, the Bunce family, and their Chinese backers in the region around Jade City. They mine hard rock deposits and placer deposits left by glaciers. The Bunce family has mined the area for jade for about 40 years, starting with Claudia Bunce's Father, Steve Simonovic.



Sources of jade in BC

Quote: You can observe a lot by watching. *Yogi Berra*

FROM THE CUTTING FLOOR

Cutting Jade

Ever since I began cutting rocks I had heard that jade was especially difficult. Generally speaking, jade costs more to cut, about 40% more on average. The wear and tear on a blade and the extra time to cut were said to be the reasons for this additional cost. I have cut a lot of 'jade' and found that some is more difficult while other pieces are not so bad. I think this has to do with the orientation of the crystals and the quality of the piece. Here's a YouTube video to give some ideas about how the Malaysian people cut their jade. www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzi6cNvg9ZI

I know that I could not sit like the cutters do in this video for the time it takes to cut a piece. The jade being cut is not BC 'jade' as it is white with some green and 'bad' black parts included. Using the light to see how transparent the jade is gives an idea of the quality. \$18 USD for that small piece of white jade is pretty good quality, I think. This jade is undoubtedly destined for a carver's table.



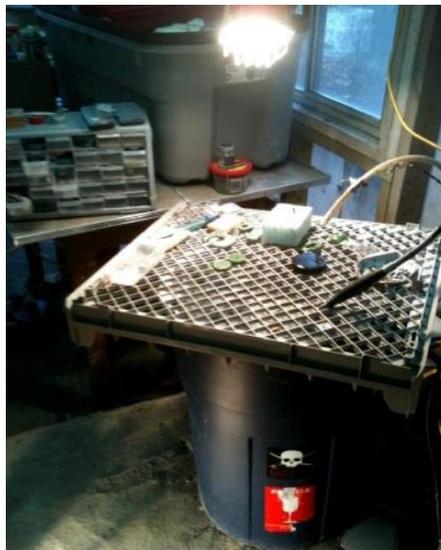
White jade carving

A simple carving set up

By Symposium

January 15, 2011

One of my great teachers, Kevin Campbell showed me the cheapest and easiest way that he'd figured out to set up a carving station. Using a garbage can! I still use this for some carving and it makes for a great mobile unit. Everything packs up in the can for travel or storage.



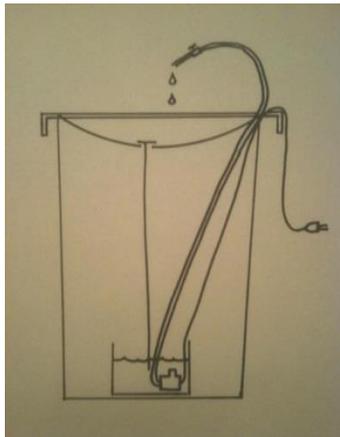
Carving jade generally requires the use of water to lubricate the cutting action of the diamonds in your tool bit as they grind against the surface of the stone. If you do not, and at the high speeds that's these burrs and wheels are spinning the friction will create a lot of heat and the metal bonding agents that hold the diamonds to your tool expand too much, and can allow the diamonds to fall out of your tool shortening its life and the cutting effect.

To bring water to the party, basically, submerge a pond pump in the bottom with water and run the outflow tube up and out of the garbage can. Using a length of approx. 2 feet of twisted copper wire you can custom a flexible armature so that you can target the water where you need it. To complete put a little mini tap in the hose and you can find the pump hose and valve/tap at most hardware stores or gardening centers in the plumbing section. Here in North America the cost is about \$60 total. **(Cost is based on 2011 prices and may have changed. It is in USD.)*

The deck or working surface I have added in the image above is a large crate maybe for eggs or bread, which coincidentally clips on to the top rim of a standard garbage can!

What you can't see in the photo is that I have actually turned the lid of the garbage can upside down so it dishes downwards. I have cut a little hole in the lid (slightly off center to stop small beads and such draining down the hole too, if dropped). In the bottom of the garbage can I have a smaller bucket for my water reservoir and pump. You don't need quite so much water and it's easier to change and clean.

Suspend some string from a horizontal stick or nail, down through the hole in the upturned lid and into the bucket below to guide the water flow and stop splashing.



Final Thought: Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter. *Mark Twain*