



THE ROCKET

June 2013

Next meeting is Thurs. June 27 – Wine and Cheese!



President's report for June 2013

Wow, it is amazing to know that this year is half over already!

I know that rocks move and grow at a very slow rate, but it seems that the progress of my desire for new days of lapidary arts is keeping up to the micron pace too.

Finally, all the NEW programs will start in September.....yeah!

Bonnie G. is ready and willing to have soapstone carving.

Dan C. is ready and willing to have a 'beginner' silversmithing.

Jake S. is ready and willing to have his wire weaving sessions.

Mike M. is ready and willing to have 'additional' techniques drop-in days.

Diane Bowman is ready and willing to put on bead weaving sessions.

When we get the timing down I will make sure it goes in the Rocket and is posted in the workshop.

Attention, all you avid Rockhounds,- stay safe out in the field.

Watch where you step; a twisted (or worse) ankle will set you back for a long time and may limit your movement in the future.

If you are out bashing away at rocks with a hammer or chisel, remember the safety goggles! How many times have you had a near miss with a flying shard? You can only close your eyes so fast and one day you maybe thankful for having spent the time and effort to don the glasses...yes, I know they are silly to look at but at least they will allow you to be able to see out of your eyes!

Summer camp sounds like it will be a lot of fun, and Verne B. says that he **will** need a couple of volunteers from our club to help with the registration. This means that you will need to come earlier than the participants to be able to register them. Verne is planning to be up in the area mid week before summer camp to help get things finalized-and (I also guess) to get the best spot!

Verne will be at the June meeting so you can talk to him there or give him a call (604 329-9213). Remember to bring money (along with your treat to share) to the Wine and Cheese Social on June 27th, since we are having an auction again. I know there will be some nice things to bid on and win! We also have a couple of show cases up for bid so you can have one to display your treasures at home.

See you at the meeting, Linda.

HASTINGS CENTRE ROCKHOUNDS
Membership Meeting May 23rd, 2013

President – Linda F.

Called the meeting to order at 7:40. Passed out the club list of names, phone numbers and email addresses. If any corrections are needed to notify the Marilyns and Arlene. If you wish to dispose of the sheets please destroy as they contain private information. Jake was not able to attend this meeting. Workshop clean up sheets will be posted. A reminder that the Brazilian agate slabs are for the new members to make their first cab. No one else. Linda thanked Eva Marie Giesecki who is retiring from silversmithing and has donated her equipment to the club. Eva's project and design book will go into the library. B.C. Lapidary membership cards have been received and given to membership to hand out. Thank you to Glenys and Paul for covering membership. A request from the GMFC for the names of deceased members in the last 2 years will be handled by Debbie C. June meeting will be the wine and cheese party. No rock donations needed for the auction.

Secretary – Marilyn S.

Report M/S/C/. A thank you to Debbie C for filling in last month and for the nice card from the club. Magazines given to the library.

Treasurer – Sue M.

Adopted as read

Programming – Jake S.

Jake not in attendance but will do 2 workshops on wire weaving after Father's day. It was agreed one class would be June 18th 7-9:30 and another 10:30-1 on a day to be decided. Needle nose pliers and a stick are the only requirements.

Report to Society- Siggie R.

A brief report. The new President is Doug Murray. There will be an increase in dues next year from \$4.00 to \$5.00. There will not be a calendar next year. The revenue was good for the dealers. The next Rendezvous will be in Armstrong by the Vernon Club. David Barkley in Winfield now has the claim at Buse Lake. Blue Agate. Verne doesn't need help yet with the summer camp as Lillooet Tourism is being very helpful. Interior Vernon tailgate party Aug. 24, \$10.00 a tailgate.

Workshop – Siggie

The 12 inch saw must be cleaned up. If it is dirty clean it. A drill press is coming either new or one that Sue has. A silversmithing table will have to be moved to make room. Diamond bits are missing.

Publicity - Linda

Turned over to Jack to explain the club facebook page. He also directed us to instructions on how to set up a facebook account and protect your security. **sdrv.ms/10NJoMX**

This link is on our website if you are interested in safely opening a facebook account

<http://www.hastingscentrerockhounds.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/open-facebook.pdf>

Newsletter – Marilyn O. and Marilyn M.

There will be no newsletter June and July. The name tags are set up in boxes please return them after the meeting. If a new member hand writes a tag we will make an official tag for you. The birthday

draw winner must be at the meeting-July's will be with June and August birthdays will be with September. The winner this evening was Karl Freeman a fish carving by Cliff Smith. There will be pictures and articles on the Rendezvous in the next issue.

Historian – Vera S.

Pictures from Paul and Debbie for the historian's album.

Social – Brigitte R.

Thanked everyone for the goodies and reminded everyone of the wine and cheese party.

Sunshine-Debbie C.

Helen Brown wife of R.K.Brown of Swan Lake has died.

Showcase – Bonnie G.

Next showcase is "rockhounding for the summer". Bonnie has agreed to do soapstone workshops in Sept. or Oct.

Library – Crystal & Manda C.

Have new magazines

Ways and Means - John P.

Good selection for the draws including cabochons by Cliff Smith

Membership – Glenys M.

38 members present plus 1 guest and 4 new members

New Business

Discussion on another silversmithing class. List collected of those interested

Time adjourned 8:45

Workshop Hours

**Reminder....
You must show your
Community Center and
Hastings Rock Centre
membership cards to
your instructor each time
you use the workshop &
pay fees.**

With Instructor

Monday & Thursday 6:30pm – 9:30pm
Wednesday 10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday 1:00pm – 4:00pm





With Instructor

Saturday 9:15- 12:15pm

Membership

Runs from January to December

Single \$20 Family \$25

Membership with Hastings
Community Centre is required for club
membership.

Club Contact Person:
Michael Edwards-604-
987-1471

Anyone can post a notice to this group's wall by sending an email to:

hastings.rockhounds@groups.facebook.com

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/hastings.rockhounds>

Our web page can be found at:

www.hastingscentrerockhounds.com

SHOWCASE Bonnie and Dave Gosse 604-980-0741

Sorry I didn't make it to the May meeting. I had to unexpectedly work late. This is a reminder that we will change the display cabinet at the next meeting. The subject of the display is "**Gone rockhounding**". How about an old rock hammer and some found rocks and if possible a polished piece of the found rock.

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Ashcroft Rendezvous a Hit with Hastings Hounds by Paul Pinsker

The 2013 Rendezvous hosted by the Thompson Valley Rock Club was a well-attended event, about 200 altogether, and claimed by some of the veterans to be the 'best ever'. Our Hastings Rockhounds Club sent a contingent of some 20-strong to the annual May Long Weekend event. With perfect weather, beautiful surroundings, good material to be found, and great camaraderie all had a marvelous time.

Rendezvous started auspiciously with a Friday potluck supper where the tables fairly groaned with the bounty of everyone's home cooking. The field trips were eagerly signed up for. On Saturday, many Hastings members headed north on Highway 97, passing the beautiful ochre cliffs near Hat Creek before turning east along easy gravel up to Scotty's Creek, some 20km north of Cache Creek, in search of amethyst, jasper, and quartz at a pair of nearby sites. After much hammering, Dan C's efforts paid off, liberating a large pocket of quartz crystals (which he kindly gave away, as he tends to do).

Then on Sunday a large party of our members, with others forming a convoy of 20 vehicles, followed the Wagonmaster about 30km east of Cache Creek, then way up Deadman's Valley to look for agate nodules or "peanuts" along a stretch of alpine dirt track. As we drove up the lovely valley the road went from pavement to well-graded gravel to steep, one-lane rutted gravel,

finally ending in very steep 4X4 track that most vehicles negotiated. Some walked the last half kilometre and were rewarded with some nice crystal finds. Up top the game was mostly chipping and raking through the low rock ridge along the track to unearth agate nodules. Verne's brother, Allan (from the Shuswap Rock Club), searching apart from the main group, found the catch of the day, a beautiful cluster of calcite crystals.

Other field trips included the Arrowhead Plateau and a tour of Teck's giant Highland Valley copper mine at Logan Lake.

Sunday night most attendees celebrated together at the Ashcroft Community Hall, with a grand buffet dinner hosted by the Legion's Ladies Auxiliary. The ladies came to the rescue on short notice when the Ashcroft Inn's chef recently departed and took the kitchen equipment with him! The BC Lapidary Society held elections, after which it was revealed where the next Rendezvous will occur: So, for another great experience let's meet up next May Long Weekend in Armstrong



Ashcroft Rendezvous by Caroline Liu

Thanks to the carpool of Isabel and Emilio, at last my son Kevin and I could go to Rendezvous! Isabel came to pick us up at 1:30 on Friday afternoon. We went to her home first. With rocks everywhere in the yard, in the hallway and in the living room, Isabel is truly a rock-lover. We started off in the van. Emilio was the driver. He is kind and humorous, and Isabel is warm and conversable. They spoke to each other in Spanish, while to us, in English. Kevin was listening to the music on his iPod all the way and sometimes he took a nap.

I noticed that Isabel had a book named *Gold, Gemstone & Mineral Sites of British Columbia (Sites within a day's drive of Vancouver)*, and I bought one immediately back home.

We went to our motel named Desert Inn in Cache Creek first, and then went to register in River Inn in Ashcroft. On Saturday, we would go to Scotty Creek, which was about 45 minutes' ride. Materials which could be found were: "Amethyst, Drusy Quartz Crystal, chromite, Jasper Agate, possible arrowheads, and possible gold in the creek." "Hazards=Wood ticks, bears, falling rocks and logging". When I saw wood ticks, I mistakenly thought they were only the roots of the crops and perhaps we should be careful enough not to be injured by stepping on them. I was terribly wrong! With fear and disgust, Isabel explained to me about this kind of horrible biting insect. And I read more about it when back home:

<http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/ticksbc.htm>

Ticks and Humans in British Columbia

In the parking lot we met Dan, Bill and Nick. Isabel told me that the three were always together. Before starting, Dan bent over the right window of our van and played a joke on Isabel, "So you have brought them (me and Kevin) to dig rocks for you. Or when they find good rocks, you'll tell them: 'Throw them away! They're useless.' And you pick them up." We all laughed.

When we arrived at Scotty Creek, we stopped at a huge rock and people began their work at once with hammers striking jingly and jangly. Some went to the ditch nearby and others went to the far end of the road. I noticed that Joyce took her interest in taking photos.

I found a lot of serpentine (Bill told me the name) and Isabel gave me two pieces of selenite, which she found in another place.

After lunch, we went to another hill full of grey burned trees. Kevin was always striking his hammer without stopping and I didn't see what he had found. Perhaps the boy was just exercising his muscles. Isabel cut down some rhodonite from a big rock.

In the evening, the auction began already when we went in. The room was full, and the atmosphere was tense and fervent. The host counted quickly. The starting price of most rocks was about \$10 and the final price was added to about \$25. For some of the bigger and better ones, the starting price began at about \$50 and the final price was ended at about \$105. Big buckets of "Mystery" rocks were done alternately, eventually pricing at more than \$100. There were also chances for kids, only \$5 to get a milk bucket of various rocks, and people said that it's well worth the price. But Kevin was tired and sleepy at the auction and gave up his privilege. As there were only about 5 kids this time, the rest of the milk buckets of rocks were distributed to parents for their children and then to grandparents for their grandchildren.

On Sunday we would go to Deadman Valley, which was about 1 hour ride. "Possible Material: Agate, Eye Agate, Petrified Wood, Jasper". "Hazards: Terrain, Rolling Rock, wood ticks, bears etc." And people mentioned there were also rattle snakes. Later in the afternoon when the activity was over, Kevin said with a little disappointment, "Why didn't I see any rattle snake?" When near the Deadman Valley, all the vehicles stopped. The wagonmaster told us that someone lost a gold ring the day before and warned us to pay attention. Later we stopped again to watch a petrified tree far and high on a cliff.

Emilio drove his van along the steep and hilly road up to the mountain. After climbing onto a slope, we arrived at Deadman Valley. Immediately people were busy at work on the mound with hammers, rakes and other tools. We dug out many eggs of agate, some as big as quail eggs and some as small as soybeans. I heard Joyce say she had found a blue egg and Paul praised her, "Nice work, Joyce!" Then I unexpectedly found a big piece of agate on the ground where I put my backpack.

Too many eggs in the rock and it's too heavy to carry them back home, so I was responsible for searching the rocks with eggs and asked Kevin to beat the eggs out from the rocks. After much practice Kevin became skillful: only with a gentle beat around, the egg could come out itself.

During the rockhounding activity, two thorns went into my finger. My finger ached and it's a little red and swollen. But I didn't bring a needle with me, so I couldn't get them out at that time. One week later after we came back, I suddenly remembered this. But when I checked my finger, the two thorns had disappeared completely! Then I got the answer from the internet: some tiny thorns can be absorbed by the skin and some big thorns can burst through the skin and come out by themselves.

At the raffle in the afternoon, some lucky people could win about 3 or 5 times for 10 tickets. A man bent down and turned his face away when he went to the front to accept the winning rock, as he was jokingly showing sorry that he had won so many times. But there were also people who got nothing. To my joy, at the end my number was called and the host handed me a small piece of peacock ore. And then Isabel won a large piece of rhodonite. Later she told me that it's me who drew her ticket and I was so pleased to hear that.

In the evening we went to the Ashcroft Community Centre to dine together. We were the last row to eat, but there were still enough food, though not very tasty. After dinner, we walked along the Thompson River. Emilio, Isabel and Kevin watched the “Mystery” bucket of a member. They said it’s well worth the price and the various rocks were fabulous. It’s a pity that I didn’t see the “Mystery”, as that time I was down the road looking for rocks with beautiful designs near the riverside. When I came up and asked Emilio the name of my rock from the river, he said simply, “Ta”. Then he saw my puzzled look and explained, “Ta means throw away”. I laughed and threw it away immediately. Later when I asked another member the name of a brown rock I just found near the river, he answered the name was “leave-it-here”. I laughed again and did as he said. But I still missed it at night and I went to pick it up the next morning, though it really was not of special material.

We still had breakfast together on Monday morning and after breakfast some of us took photos together near the Thompson River. We talked with Joyce, Paul and other members. They’re kind and friendly.

Then we began our way back home. Isabel wanted to take us to more places on the way. We first stopped at Gold Pan Provincial Park. Kevin immediately found a large piece of agate and soon Emilio also found one, and I heard him saying gently to Isabel, “Look, what I have found for you, my dear!” Isabel was pleased and kissed him on the cheek. I didn’t have time to look for rocks there, as I was much attracted by the smooth driftwood on the beach. I quickly gathered up a pile of beautiful driftwood.

When we stopped again in Yale, we saw the river level was indeed very high, leaving almost no beach at all. So the former plan of going to Hope was unrealistic and we didn’t stop at Hope. Isabel said we could come at the end of the summer when the beach would be full of various wonderful things by the fall of the summer water.

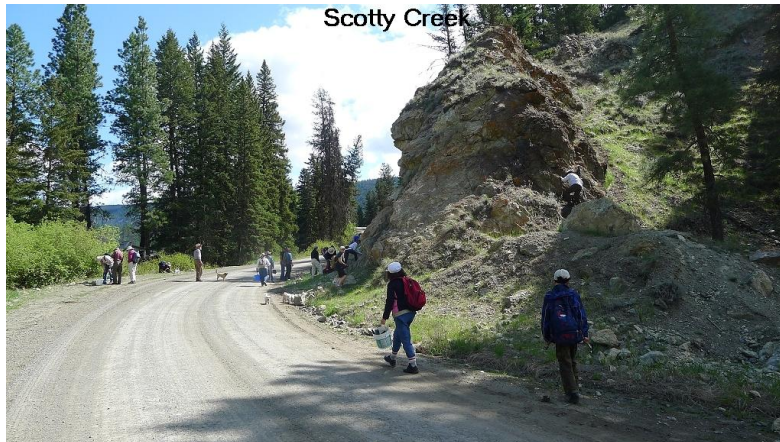
On the way back, Kevin and I could often take a nap, but Isabel and Emilio couldn’t. Isabel had to talk with Emilio in order to keep him not sleepy. When poor Emilio did feel sleepy, we gave him black chocolate to eat to refresh himself. Emilio joked, “I am stuffed with so much chocolate. If my blood sugar has increased, I will get even with you.”

They sent us to our apartment, and when I took the driftwood from the van, Emilio asked with a smile, “Do you have a chimney in your room?” He is always so humorous.

All together, I have collected four bags of rocks and some driftwood. What I have gathered is not only rocks and wood, but also pleasure and friendship.

Thanks Isabel and Emilio! Thanks also go to Denise and Linda for their help! Thanks Joyce and Paul and other members!





What's the birthstone for June? (from earthsky.org)

Pearl



Unlike most gemstones that are found within the Earth, pearls have an organic origin. They are created inside the shells of certain species of oysters and clams. Some pearls are found naturally in mollusks that inhabit the sea or freshwater settings such as rivers. However, many pearls today are cultured-raised in oyster farms that sustain a thriving pearl industry. Pearls are made mostly of aragonite, a relatively soft carbonate mineral (CaCO_3) that also makes up the shells of mollusks.

A pearl is created when a very small fragment of rock, a sand grain, or a parasite enters the mollusk's shell. It irritates the oyster or clam, who responds by coating the foreign material with layer upon layer of shell material. Pearls formed on the inside of the shell are usually irregular in shape and have little commercial value. However, those formed within the tissue of the mollusk are either spherical or pear-shaped, and are highly sought out for jewelry.

Pearls possess a uniquely delicate translucence and luster that place them among the most highly valued of gemstones. The color of the pearl depends very much on the species of mollusk that produced it, and its environment. White is perhaps the best-known and most common color. However, pearls also come in delicate shades of black, cream, gray, blue, yellow, lavender, green, and mauve. Black pearls can be found in the Gulf of Mexico and waters off some islands in the Pacific Ocean. The Persian Gulf and Sri Lanka are well-known for exquisite cream-colored pearls called Orientals. Other localities for natural seawater pearls include the waters off the Celebes in Indonesia, the Gulf of California, and the Pacific coast of Mexico. The Mississippi River and forest streams of Bavaria, Germany, contain pearl-producing freshwater mussels. Japan is famous for its cultured pearls. Everyone familiar with jewelry has heard of Mikimoto pearls, named after the creator of the industry, Kokichi Mikimoto. Cultured pearls are bred in large oyster beds in Japanese waters. An "irritant," such as a tiny fragment of mother-of-pearl, is introduced into the fleshy part of two- to three-year-old oysters. The oysters are then grown in

mesh bags submerged beneath the water and regularly fed for as long as seven to nine years before being harvested to remove their pearls. Cultured pearl industries are also carried out in Australia and equatorial islands of the Pacific.

The largest pearl in the world is believed to be about three inches long and two inches across, weighing one-third of a pound. Called the Pearl of Asia, it was a gift from Shah Jahan of India to his favorite wife, Mumtaz, for whom he also built the Taj Mahal.

La Peregrina (the Wanderer) is considered by many experts to be the most beautiful pearl. It was said to be originally found by a slave in Panama in the 1500s, who gave it up in return for his freedom. In 1570, the conquistador ruler of the area sent the pearl to King Philip II of Spain. This pear-shaped white pearl, one and a half inches in length, hangs from a platinum mount studded with diamonds. The pearl was passed to Mary I of England, then to Prince Louis Napoleon of France. He sold it to the British Marquis of Abercorn, whose family kept the pearl until 1969, when they offered it for sale at Sotheby's. Actor Richard Burton bought it for his wife, Elizabeth Taylor.

Pearls, according to South Asian mythology, were dewdrops from heaven that fell into the sea. They were caught by shellfish under the first rays of the rising sun, during a period of full moon. In India, warriors encrusted their swords with pearls to symbolize the tears and sorrow that a sword brings.

Pearls were also widely used as medicine in Europe until the 17th century. Arabs and Persians believed it was a cure for various kinds of diseases, including insanity. Pearls have also been used as medicine as early as 2000 BC in China, where they were believed to represent wealth, power and longevity. Even to this day, lowest-grade pearls are ground for use as medicine in Asia.

Moonstone

June's second birthstone is the moonstone. Moonstones are believed to be named for the bluish white spots within them, that when held up to light project a silvery play of color very much like moonlight. When the stone is moved back and forth, the brilliant silvery rays appear to move about, like moonbeams playing over water.

This gemstone belongs to the family of minerals called feldspars, an important group of silicate minerals commonly formed in rocks. About half the Earth's crust is composed of feldspar. This mineral occurs in many igneous and metamorphic rocks, and also constitutes a large percentage of soils and marine clays.

Rare geologic conditions produce gem varieties of feldspar such as moonstone, labradorite, amazonite, and sunstone. They appear as large clean mineral grains, found in pegmatites (coarse-grained igneous rock) and ancient deep crustal rocks. Feldspars of gem quality are aluminosilicates (minerals containing aluminum, silicon and oxygen), that are mixed with sodium and potassium. The best moonstones are from Sri Lanka. They are also found in the Alps, Madagascar, Myanmar (Burma), and India.

The ancient Roman natural historian, Pliny, said that the moonstone changed in appearance with the phases of the moon, a belief that persisted until the sixteenth century. The ancient Romans also believed that the image of Diana, goddess of the moon, was enclosed within the stone. Moonstones were believed to have the power to bring victory, health, and wisdom to those who wore it.

In India, the moonstone is considered a sacred stone and often displayed on a yellow cloth – yellow being considered a sacred color. The stone is believed to bring good fortune, brought on by a spirit that lives within the stone.

Alexandrite

June's third birthstone is the alexandrite. Alexandrite possesses an enchanting chameleon-like personality. In daylight, it appears as a beautiful green, sometimes with a bluish cast or a brownish tint. However, under artificial lighting, the stone turns reddish-violet or violet.

Alexandrite belongs to the chrysoberyl family, a mineral called beryllium aluminum oxide in chemistry jargon, that contains the elements beryllium, aluminum and oxygen (BeAl_2O_4). It is a hard mineral, only surpassed in hardness by diamonds and corundum (sapphires and rubies). The unusual colors in alexandrite are attributed to the presence of chromium in the mineral.

Chrysoberyl is found to crystallize in pegmatites (very coarse-grained igneous rock, crystallized from magma) rich in beryllium. They are also found in alluvial deposits – weathered pegmatites, containing the gemstones, that are carried by rivers and streams.

Alexandrite is an uncommon stone, and therefore very expensive. Sri Lanka is the main source of alexandrite today, and the stones have also been found in Brazil, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Myanmar (Burma). Synthetic alexandrite, resembling a reddish-hued amethyst with a tinge of green, has been manufactured but the color change seen from natural to artificial lighting cannot be reproduced. Such stones have met with only marginal market success in the United States.

The stone is named after Prince Alexander of Russia, who was to become Czar Alexander II in 1855. Discovered in 1839 on the prince's birthday, alexandrite was found in an emerald mine in the Ural Mountains of Russia.

Because it is a relatively recent discovery, there has been little time for myth and superstition to build around this unusual stone. In Russia, the stone was also popular because it reflected the Russian national colors, green and red, and was believed to bring good luck.



June Birthdays

7-Dan Constantinescu
10-Ron Crump
10-Sante Gasparn
10-Nigel Hamilton
12-Mary Wang
16-Marlena Fairbourne
19-Cliff Ford
19-Louise Le Blanc
30-Marilyn Maxwell

July Birthdays

3-Paul Pinsker
12-Manda Mok
13-Roza Joba
17-Caroline Liu
20-Siggi Rohde
23-Dinesh Patel
24-CaseyWong
23-Emilio Codoy
25-Elizabeth Courtney
26-Phinney Sue
27-Caton Wong

One of these lucky **June and July** birthday members in attendance at the meeting will win a “special” rock carved rock by Cliff Smith!!!

What's the birthstone for July? (from earthsky.org)



The ruby, birthstone for July, is among the most highly prized of gemstones.

The ruby, birthstone for July, is among the most highly prized of gemstones. Large rubies are harder to find than large diamonds, emeralds and sapphires. As a result, rubies' value increases with size more than any other gemstone.

Along with its close relative, the sapphire, the ruby is a form of the mineral corundum, which is normally drab and grey in color. Red gemstone corundum is called ruby. All other gemstone corundum colors – orange, yellow, brown, green, blue, purple, violet, black, and colorless – are called sapphires.

The Mogok valley of Upper Burma is famous as the source for the finest and rarest rubies of all, known as “pigeon's blood” for the stones' intense red color. Another major source of rubies is Thailand, well-known for dark, brownish-red rubies. Both Thailand and Burma regard the ruby as their national stone.

In the Orient, rubies were once believed to contain the spark of life – “a deep drop of the heart's blood of Mother Earth,” according to ancient Eastern legends. Ancient Asian stories tell that the ruby was self-luminous. They called it “glowing stone” or “lamp stone.” It's said that an Emperor of China once used a large ruby to light his chamber, where it glowed as bright as day. Brahmins – Hindu priests of the highest caste – believed that the homes of the gods were lit by enormous emeralds and rubies. Later, Greek legends told the story of a female stork, who repaid the kindness of Heraclea by bringing her a brilliant ruby – a ruby so bright that it illuminated Heraclea's room at night.

Ancient Hindus, Burmese, and Ceylonese regarded sapphires as unripe rubies, believing that if they buried the sapphire in the ground, it would mature to a rich red ruby.

In the Middle Ages, rubies were thought to bring good health, as well as guard against wicked thoughts, amorous desires, and disputes. Rubies, along with other types of red stones, were said to cure bleeding. And it was believed that the ruby held the power to warn its owner of coming misfortunes, illness, or death, by turning darker in color. It is said that Catherine of Aragon, first wife of King Henry VIII, predicted her downfall in seeing the darkening of her ruby.

Because of their rarity, there are very few famous large rubies. In his 13th-century books of his travels, Marco Polo relates the tale of a magnificent gemstone – believed to be a ruby nine inches long and as thick as a man's arm – belonging to the King of Ceylon. Kublai Khan, the Emperor of China, offered an entire city in exchange for the enormous stone, to which the King of Ceylon replied that he would never part with his prize for all the treasures of the world.

The word *ruby* is derived from the Latin “ruber,” meaning red. This name was once used to describe all red stones, including red spinel, red tourmaline, and red garnet. Many famous rubies in history turned out not to be rubies after all. For example, the famed Timur ruby – given to Queen Victoria in 1851 – was later found to be ruby spinel.

Surrey Rockhound Club is holding a tailgate sale Sunday, July 14th in the

Sullivan Hall parking lot. In order to attend you need to be a member of a rock club (any one) as our insurance company insisted on it .

Let me know if you belong to any club. If not you may want to consider joining a club, the yearly rates are very reasonable.

Also fyi each parking spot costs \$10.00, if you have one spot you can either sell out of the trunk of your vehicle or you can set up in that parking spot and park your vehicle in a designated area (not close to your spot), of course if you have 2 spots (total of \$20.00) you can do it either way/or both but you must stay within the boundaries of your assigned parking spot.

Email Rita if you wish to have a spot: Her email: ritrr@shaw.ca

To confirm and hold your spot, please mail your cheque to

Don Stebbing

13689 - 57B Ave.,

Surrey, B.C.

V3X 2V2

Cheers, De (for Rita Brooks, chair of the sale)

NEW BOOK Announcement

Gem Trails of British Columbia [2nd edition] by Cam Bacon

ISBN: 978-0-88839-724-9

5.5" x 8.5", softcover, 104 pages

73 colour photos / 37 maps

\$12.95

Hancock House Publishers

ORDERING:

E: sales@hancockhouse.com

T: 604-538-1114 TF: 1-800-938-1114

This updated and expanded second edition of GEM TRAILS of British Columbia continues to lead rockhounds along the province's beautiful back roads to active and accessible collecting sites for gems, minerals and fossils.

Maps, photos, descriptions and collecting tips help novice and expert rockhounds plan week or weekend trips through ten regions of British Columbia.

Highway 99 North_ Chilliwack to Hope_ Hope to Princeton _ Hope to Merritt _ Hope to Cache Creek _ Cache Creek to Kamloops _ Cache Creek North to 100 Mile House_ North Kamloops to Little Fort _ North B.C._ Kootenays

Thanks Paul and Caroline your great articles about Rendezvous-sounds like a fun time!!!

Please send stories, etc. of rockhounding adventures that you would like to share with our club-
marolson47@gmail.com