



Next issue deadline: August 7, 2026
Upcoming meetings: Friday, June 26, 2026
Next meeting: Friday, September 25, 2026
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Club secretary: Crystal, secretary.hcr@gmail.com

Friday, June 26, 7pm Meeting / Social!

Looking forward to seeing you at Hastings Community Centre Auditorium (on the main floor) at 7pm, Friday, June 26. This is our Cheese & Wine Social accompanied by the *bottle draw*! Note that we take a break over the summer and return to regular meetings in the Fall (Sept. 25, 2026 next meeting date). Wine is provided at this meeting - please do not bring alcohol (unless it is for the bottle draw) but do remember to bring a dish to share with your fellow Hounds!

What is the bottle draw? From your Executive:

There will be paper on the table marked off in squares. Members place their "bottle" donation on any square they choose. The "bottle" can be anything from wine or jam to any jar with "things" inside, like rocks since we are a rock club who love ROCKS! Then, we sell tickets - like the ways and means, on whatever amount we agree on, this is a fundraiser as well - like ways and means. The winner of each square gets whatever is within that square. Lots of fun!"



Winner / Winner but no chicken dinner...

In the May issue - I provided a June 7 deadline to be eligible to win this carnelian set. Eligible entries were keyed into an online name draw - please join me in congratulating Lara on her win!

Lara provided two submissions: Snowflake obsidian set in resin as if floating in the bezel. Hand-made cording for necklace. (Left) And (Right) West Fraser, Quesnel Jasper from 2023.



Share your makes
& HCR goals!

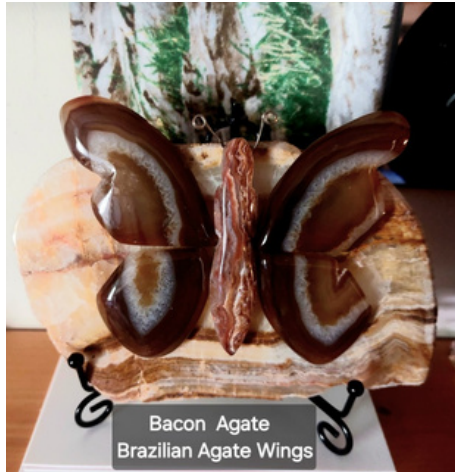
In this newsletter:

- Workshops, Member News and Events
- Carnelian Necklace Set, photo submission contest winner = Lara!
- New Member Nuggets
- June HCR Members' photo submissions
- May Presentation Thank You, Midori!
- 2026 Rendezvous, May 15-18 photos - fuller slideshow happens at the Social:-)
- Sunday, June 14 Spider Workshop results
- Tailgate flyer
- How to reach us



HCR Member Photo Submissions

Thanks to Richard K, Dawn, Lara (previous page) and Amy



Thanks to Richard for continuing to broaden our rockhounding horizons! As a newer HCR member, this was the first I had heard of "Bacon Agate"? Was this news to you?

According to AI:

Bacon Agate is a colloquial term for a specific type of banded agate or seam agate, celebrated for its striking, parallel striped layers of red, light brown, and white that look like sizzling bacon. These stones are favored by rockhounds and lapidary artists for cutting into cabs or display slices.



Um, yes, it does look like a Wallaby is featured Left, and dualling peacocks are featured Right.....

Amy?

Thank you, Amy, for sharing these post-Rendezvous trip photos! We didn't realize that Down Under was en route from Lillooet to YVR??

New Member Nuggets

Each month, I meet new HCR club members who are interested in our Club's roots. I found this photo from an earlier edition of The Rocket - so here's a bit of HCR trivia for you!:



Featured left is our Club Stone - Nickel Silicate which is "a compound or mineral characterized by its vibrant, apple-green color. It exists in both natural mineral forms (like garnierite or népouite) and synthesized nanomaterials, and is highly valued in geology, battery research, and industrial pigment manufacturing." (thank you Google)

To the Right is an homage to former, long-time member, John Prychon.



May HCR Member Meeting Presentation

Based on Midori's Presentation, Slides used with permission

After the business portion of our May meeting was complete - an informative and interactive presentation was given by Midori. Midori volunteers for us in support of graphic design and communications, and is also the BCLS calendar girl. You can ask her about all that entails at the social:-)

Midori was one of the first HCR members that I interacted with upon becoming a rockhound. In fact, my engagement level increased proportionately with the amount of time I spent with Midori. In short, her enthusiasm and excitement about learning lapidary, silversmithing, and metal workshop techniques is totally infectious! She will happily share her latest make, acquired learning, or newly-tested technique. This generous, bubbly approach to our crafts inspires enthusiasm and honestly? makes me want to make more AND wear and share my makes. We are both of Japanese heritage and can tell you that it is very "non-Japanese" to talk about yourself or what you create with pride. Historically, this can be viewed as boastful. Old-school cultural norms tried to dictate that we ALWAYS do our best and aspire for excellence without expectation or outward expression of pride. So I LOVE and appreciate my interactions with Midori. We are learning to enjoy relaying and sharing with others who may also have been holding back. Let's be our own biggest fans and use these opportunities to share our learnings and celebrate our accomplishments.

The humility around our work also applies to our amazing and talented workshop instructors - they quietly teach us and patiently share their expertise multiple times per week. Without expectation or fanfare. So the next time you take a workshop - be sure to send your appreciation and respect. They are offering their skill out of kindness, - which makes it even more important for us to be thankful.

Back to the May presentation! Midori shared her solo rockhounding trips to Magdalena and Guadalajara, Mexico and Thunder Bay, Ontario. This presentation was thorough, succinct, helpful, and thoughtfully took into account travelling alone as a woman. A few slides are reproduced herewith:



BACKGROUND

- Joined in Spring 2023
- Lapidary & Silversmithing for 3 years
- Zero previous related experience
- Joined 2-3 light clubs' field trips before solo trips
- Love rocks & crafts!

*You don't need
professional
experience to start!*

MAGDALENA, MEXICO

Searched for some opal businesses in the area & emailed them, but no response. Probably because it was not a phone call? (heard phone is preferred)

Found an opal mining tour that can be booked as a single participant & contacted the organizer

Around \$220 for round-trip transportation cost + translation + mine entrance fee + can bring back everything found at the mine



What did she find?

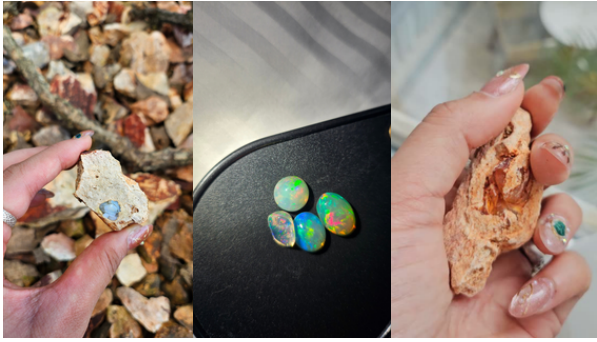
THE FOUR MINES MAGDALENA

The mine is owned by the 4th generation of the original owner, and they have Mexican fire opals, obsidians, limestones, and agates. They also had a workshop in the back where they polished stones on their own.



May HCR Member Meeting Presentation, cont'd...

Based on Midori's Presentation, Slides used with permission



Continuing with Midori's May presentation on solo rockhounding trips - now arriving in Thunder Bay, Ontario!



THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO (CA)



TOUR ARRANGEMENT

- Visited open mines that do not require prior reservation/ tour arrangements/ mining permits.
- Went to the Blue Point Mine & the Diamond Willow Mine (Both charged \$40 per bucket).
- My favourite: the Diamond Willow Mine

DIAMOND WILLOW MINE

The mine is owned by the 3rd generation of the original owner. The Diamond Willow Mine's owner originally discovered the amethyst's existence in the area originally & opened the mines. They have bigger spaces & a washing station for your finds too.



BLUE POINT MINE

The mine is owned by a lovely couple, and they charge \$40/ bucket. They share useful amethyst cleaning tips on their website:

<https://bluepointamethystmine.ca/how-we-clean-amethyst>



May HCR Member Meeting Presentation, cont'd...

Based on Midori's Presentation, Slides used with permission

Continuing with Midori's May presentation on solo rockhounding trips - Thunder Bay, Ontario...

"RUSTED" QUARTZ CLEANING TIP

- First, clean dirt & clay using water and plastic scrub brushes. Soak in warm soapy water for stubborn clay as needed.
- Next, soak rocks with iron oxides ("rust") in a saturated Iron Out solution for 8-12 hours.
- After soaking, rinse again to remove softened iron stains. Repeat process as needed.



LEARNED LESSONS...

Dress for outdoor conditions—it can get very cold suddenly

Ride shares are hard to find (you do need to be able to drive)

Ship rocks via flat rate package to save \$\$\$ (45 kg for \$90 ish)

Diamond Willow Mine>>>>



WHAT DID I FIND?





Rendezvous Wrap - May 15 - 18, 2026

Rendezvous 2026 took place May 15-18, 2026 in Lillooet at Elks Hall, 920 Moha Road, in Lillooet. The Hastings Centre Rockhounds had a fabulous time with the Lillooet club and several others! Huge thanks to the organizers, wagon masters and volunteers. It was so well organized!!

A shared album has been posted on BCLS where you are encouraged to add photos if you have something to share! Photos are planned to be presented in the background as a slideshow at our Friday social - so catch up on what you missed!



Road Trip!



**Rendezvous
Slideshow at
June's Meeting!**

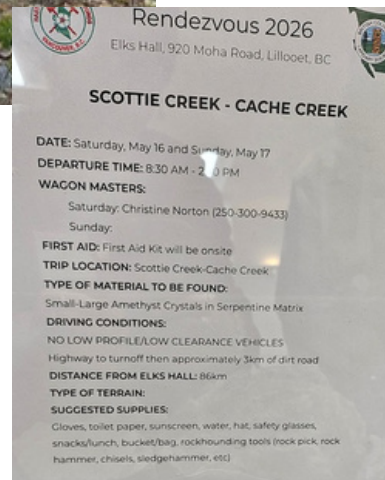


Rendezvous Wrap- May 15 - 18, 2026, cont'd...

Visit [shared album](#) assembled by BCLS

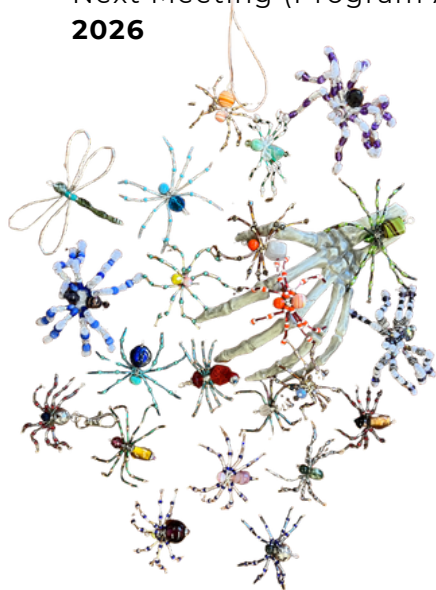


Yes, that's snow...



Snapshot of Upcoming Activities

- Workshop Clean up reminder: **Saturday June 27th, 2026 - 1pm**
- BCLS Calendar Contest - deadline **July 1, 2026** - see Midori for entry details.
- Consider volunteering on **Sunday, July 5, 11-5** at the Hastings Community Centre Summer Fun event.
- Club tailgate reminder: **Saturday July 25 - 10am-4pm** Linda takes bookings.
- Club summer social: **Saturday Aug. 22** - Details TBA
- Next Meeting (Program Adam from Rubble Rock & Gem): **September 25, 2026**



Thank you Spider Makers!!

Oh, and thank you Mike and Bob for letting us invade the Sunday Metal Workshop to create these beaded beauties. This was a free, members-only workshop. The inventory is now gifted to our Club to use at upcoming Spin & Wins for kids! Which one is your fav?? We are all wanting to make dragon flies or beaded bezels next...



Workshop Hours

Always visit our website and monitor your email to confirm scheduling. At the time of writing, drop-in fees are \$5 for lapidary per session and \$4 for silversmithing per session. PLUS, kit fees for first timers...

Schedule

Sunday (10 am - 1:30 pm seasonal) - **Metalworks**

Instructors: Mike and Bob

Monday (6:30 pm - 9:30 pm) - **Lapidary**

Instructor: Renee

Tuesday (6:30 pm - 9:30 pm seasonal) - **Metalworks**

Instructors: Mike and Diane

Wednesday (9 am - 12 pm) - **Silversmithing***

Instructors: Diane or Renee

Wednesday (1 pm - 4 pm) - **Lapidary**

Instructors: Dave and Steven

Thursday (6:30 pm - 9:30 pm) - **Lapidary**

Instructors: Dan and Tim

Friday (1 pm - 4 pm) - **Lapidary**

Instructors: Richard and Jim

Saturday (9 am - 12 pm) - **Silversmithing***

Instructors: Crystal and Bob

Saturday (1 pm - 4 pm) - **Lapidary**

instructor: Bob

Alternate Lapidary instructors are Linda and Alex.

Please note that the schedule is subject to change based on instructor availability. Changes are often announced by email.

***Beginners to Silversmithing** are asked to contact Crystal before attending. Instruction is available only at the Saturday session and there is a \$45 beginners kit with supplies needed for making your first project. **Lapidary** has a \$25, first-timers' fee which covers your drop-in fee for the first 3 sessions, the orientation package, and a starter rock.

[Workshop rules and regulations](#)



Rendezvous Wrap - from a newbie...

Nancy, The Rocket Editor's Opinion Only!



Their faces say it all. As a first-timer - I honestly had NO idea what to expect. In fact, I think I had set the bar pretty low to avoid disappointment! But from my travel companions, to the organizers, volunteers, wagon masters, locals, etc. I was blown away by how smoothly everything went and how much fun we had. I've mentioned to my rockhound roommate that my adult children tell me how pleased they are that I have made "rock" friends. And yes, I have. And absolutely, it is an honour and a privilege to learn from y'all and to explore my home province in such a unique and exciting way. It has been years since I convoyed with so many others and experienced snow, heat, and logging roads all in the same day. And then spent the entire evening afterwards laughing (there may have been some cocktails involved) about our roadtrips and trying to buy yet more rocks at the auction. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in making my kids happy about my new-found passion.

Follow **BCLS Field Trips** and **HCR's website** for upcoming events



*Thank you for reading!
next issue deadline: August 7, 2026*

THE ROCKET	HASTINGS CENTRE ROCKHOUNDS
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Hastings Centre Rockhounds Club

TAILGATE SALE



**ROCK,
MINERAL &
GEMSTONE**



**SATURDAY,
JULY 25,
2026**

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM



**Lower Parking Lot
– Hastings
Community Centre
3096 E Hastings St.
Vancouver, BC,
V5K 2A3**

*Some road direction restrictions
exist. Check the [Hastings: Sunrise
\(Adanac Overpass\) Traffic Calming -
Implementation Plan](#) for details.



**Hastings Centre Rockhounds
Club Website**
hastingscentrерockhounds.com/



**Hastings Centre Rockhounds
Club Facebook Group**
[facebook.com/groups/hastings
s.rockhounds](https://facebook.com/groups/hastings.rockhounds)

