

Bulletin of the Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. Volume 63, Issue 7 - July 2022

From the President's Pen

All, I am going to keep my input short and just remind everyone to please volunteer for our upcoming Gem and Mineral Show. The dates necessary for setup, show support and break down begin on August 4th and 5th (setup), August 6th and 7th (show support), and late afternoon into the evening of August 7th (break down). If you, a family member, or friends are willing to help out please be sure to reach out to Florence or Kim and sign up.

Keeping it simple for all to research, have a look at just how and what is used to make those beautiful fireworks happen: *https://geology.com/articles/fireworks/*

I hope you all have a wonderful Independence Day, enjoy the great weekend, weather, and family and friends.

— Glenn Fiala



Vice President's Corner

Wow, summer is here and the hot weather with it. July brings road trips and family gatherings along with the celebration of our country's freedom, on the 4th of July.

Since BBQ's, fireworks and parades are some of our favorite summer plans and memories, the Rock Rollers chime in too with our annual potluck on Tuesday evening, July 12, 2022 starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Garden Room.

Please check the chart of what you personally need to contribute to our gathering. By using the first letter of your last name you will find what to bring.

RRR generously provides the meat and drinks. However, BRING YOUR OWN PLATES, UTENSILS AND DRINK CUP or you may find it a little awkward!!!

Let's have some fun now!! HAPPY 4TH OF JULY RRR!.

— Vernon Deck



Members, please bring the suggested potluck items as determined by the first letter of your last name. Bring your own plates and utensils. The club will furnish meat & beverages.

Last name beginning with letters -

A-E bring a dessert F-L bring a hot dish/main dish M-Z bring a salad or side dish

Schedule:

Table & Food Set-up 6:00-6:30 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm.

Inside this issue:

Meeting Minutes	2
Welcome New Members, Rookie News, Announcements	3
RRR Needs You!, Our 60th Show!, Upcoming Shows, Speakers Needed	4
It's 2022 Show Time — We Need Helpers!, Lapidary Shop Open House	5
Indian Springs Trailhead Field Trip	6
Lapidary Shop News, Calendar	7
Red Quartz and Blue Quartz	8

MINUTES FOR ROSEVILLE ROCK ROLLERS EDUCATIONAL MEETING JUNE 14, 2022

Call to Order at 7:04 p.m. by Glenn Fiala, President. **Flag Salute.**

Introductions of Guests.

Present: Members, 49+, Juniors 4 and Guests 12.

Presentation of Award to Richard (Dick) Hilton. The plaque from AFMS, for Dick, honoring him with the 2022 Honorary Award for distinguished achievement in the Field of Earth Sciences, was given to Dick.

Business Meeting:

Sunshine - no report.

- **Juniors** Kendra Harback reported they had 8 participants, 3 of them were brand new. They used starbursts to show the Rock Cycle. First, they weathered their starbursts by shaking them up making sediment. Then they lightly packed them making sedimentary rock. Next, they applied heat and pressure from our hands to make metamorphic rock until the starbursts were all swirled together. Lastly, they microwaved their starbursts until they were like lava and then they harden into igneous rock. Next month we will move forward in our collecting badge by putting rocks on boards and labeling their size.
- **Treasurer** Terry Yoschak sent in a report that she paid half of the rental for the Event Building for our Show.
- **Secretary/Membership** Florence Brady reported we have 228 members.
- **Programs** Vice President, Vern Deck, reported the July 12th Ed. Mtg. will be our annual potluck dinner. Early start time, 6:30. Details will be in the July bulletin.

CFMS Director - Barbara Louden was absent, no report.

Vests, Tee Shirts & Patches – Steve Todd will be ordering more vests, see him to place an order.

Field Trips – Gene Doyle reported on the Virgin Valley get together and shared samples of what he dug. Upcoming field trip to the Bear River area on June 18th. CO-OP field trip to Fallon & Middlegate NV areas will be June 25 & 26.

Librarian/Historian - Karla Shannon was absent.

- **Show** Jim Hutchings updated the possible layouts for the vendors and club activities. A walk through with taking measurements will occur at 5 p.m. June 21st. About 40 vendors have signed up. Many more volunteers are needed.
- Show flyers are available to take. Next Show Committee meeting is June 21st. TBD if we can sell snacks, drinks.
- We will have our RRR exhibit case along with show flyers at the Placer Co. Fair.
- **Lapidary Shop** Denise Coyne was absent. She is working on the future plumbing project and replacement of both outside doors. The proposals will need Board approval.

Lapidary Classes – Cathy Nelson – no upcoming classes. **Refreshments** – we need signups for the fall meetings.

Old Business –

- Drawings for Camp Paradise Scholarship Winners were done: 1st place, Debra Daly; 2nd Jim de Blanc; 3rd Denise Coyne; 4th Gina Malcolm; and 5th Teresa Johnson.
- Tailgater Glenn reported we did very well and do not plan on holding another one in the Fall. The sales/ profits will help us with the repairs to the Lapidary Shop.

New Business – Gene Doyle, Show SA Co-Chair, thanked the volunteers who helped clean and store rocks at the Lapidary Shop in the heat on June 11th.

General Announcements – none

- **Drawings** winners were: Member, Jim Bell; Junior, Isaac Harback; and Guest, Bertha Newell.
- **Presentation** VP introduced RRR member Lindy Summers-Bair who gave a presentation on the Paricutin Volcano in Mexico.
- Silent Auction Sherri Collins reported 10 more minutes for the Silent Auction.

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

MINUTES FOR ROSEVILLE ROCK ROLLERS BOARD MEETING JUNE 14, 2022

Call to Order – by President Glenn Fiala at 8:45 p.m. **Present** – a quorum was present.

Membership Applications – a motion was MSA to approve the applications from Bertha (Zavala) Newell, AJ Chapple (a Junior) and Brandon Newey.

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Florence Brady, RRR Secretary

MINUTES FOR ROSEVILLE ROCK ROLLERS BOARD MEETING JUNE 28, 2022

Call to Order - by Vice President, Vern Deck at 7:03 p.m.

- **Roll Call** a quorum was present. Guests: Les Holbrook and Gloria Marie. Absent: Jim Barton, Glenn Fiala, Barbara Louden, Martha Nichols, Karla Shannon and Terry Yoschak.
- **Minutes:** A motion was MSA to approve the minutes for Board Meeting on May 23, 2022 and Ed. & Bd. Mtgs. on June 14, 2022.
- **Treasurer**: Bills Terry Yoschak was absent. She reported she has paid the Fairgrounds the 2^{nd} payment for rental of the Event Center (\$11,701). \$1,000 deposit was sent on June 28^{th} .
- **Correspondence**: Secretary, Florence Brady reported none.
- Membership: Florence stated we have 232 members.
- **Vice President/Programs**: Vern Deck stated the program for the July 12th Ed. Mtg. will be the annual potluck dinner. Early start time of 6:30 p.m. and details will be in the July bulletin. Jim Hutchings will take care of the meat order. For the August Ice Cream social meeting, Jim suggested he could bring a large ice chest with dry ice for the ice cream.

Librarian - Historian: Karla Shannon was absent.

Deadline for Bulletin: Friday, July 1st.

- **Field Trips**: Gene Doyle reported there will be an upcoming field trip to Indian Springs for porphyry (Chinese writing rock) on July 16th. A field trip to the Hawthorne area of NV is planned for the Oct. 22 weekend.
- Federation Director: Barbara Louden was absent.
- Lapidary Classes: Cathy Nelson reported no classes to be offered during July.
- Show: Jim gave an update on the electric supplier. Still no decisions on selling snacks/drinks; parking passes not determined distribution method; requested tables/chairs inside the Atrium (smaller one). Postcards were delivered to the PO on June 27th. More banners may be purchased. Approximately 42 vendors with more sending in contracts. Still need volunteers. Facebook messages are being sent.

Lapidary Shop: Denise Coyne - shared information on installing

plumbing pipes to connect with the Roseville city sewer system. Logistics and problems were discussed. A motion was MSA to approve \$3,265 for the plumbing project. A permit from the City will be obtained (cost to be determined) along with a final inspection. The plumber will dig the trench and new pipes will be placed inside the old pipes.

- **Directors**: Holly Hinkle, Martha Nichols (abs.), Cathy Nelson, Denise Coyne had no reports.
- **Juniors**: Patty Holbrook reported the Juniors will play a rock game due to a shorter than usual meeting. Discussed was her request to move the Juniors' meeting over to the Lapidary Shop starting with the Sept. meeting. (If we continue to meet in the Garden Room, there are logistic issues.) Logistics of using the Lapidary Shop were discussed. Discussion regarding the age requirements for Junior membership (8 yrs. 17 yrs.). Parent/guardianship supervision might be needed with Juniors younger than 8 yrs. Discussed Juniors who were qualified could come with a parent and take lapidary instructions. Prior appointment with an instructor is needed.
- **Past President**: Jim Barton was absent.

Old Business -

- Camp Paradise scholarship winner Debra Daly will be attending the 1st session. Payment was sent in to CFMS. (Only 8 entries for the drawing were done.)
- Placer Co. Fair Jim reported on our exhibit case which was in Jones Hall, Exhibits. Might consider moving to the Kids' Zone. If so, need to have activities (spinning wheel with prizes) along with the exhibit case in the Exhibit Hall location and information on the Society and Show. Exhibit case needs to have some "eye catching" specimens like quartz crystals from Arkansas. Light bulbs need to be replaced with LED bulbs.
- Waiver to be developed on field trip waiver form which states permission for attendees to have possible photos published/ shown, by the Society. Hoping to work with CFMS on the wording.
- **New Business** New Chairpersons for our Donation/Silent Auction. Via e-mail, RRR President Glenn Fiala approved as co- chairpersons, Sherri Collins and Holli Hinkle for our Donation/Silent Auction chair positions.
- Kenney G Jewelers contacted Glenn to see if they could borrow some of our display/exhibit cases. More details need to be determined.
- **Next Bd. Mtg.** attendees were reminded no regular, 4th Tuesday night of the month, Board meetings in July & August.
- September 27th will be the next Board Meeting. If needed, will hold a meeting after the July & August Ed. Mtgs.

Adjournment – adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Florence Brady, RRR Secretary



July Refreshments

It's the Potluck! Check Page 1 to see what item you should be bringing! Food should be brought in between 6:00 pm and 6:30 pm, because we start eating the food at 6:30!

If you are assigned to bring a hot dish/main dish, what we are looking for is more

protein! Suggestions include: a casserole with ground beef or cheese in it, or a pot of chili, or a bucket of KFC, or deviled eggs, etc. Use your imagination!



Rookie Rock Roller News



The Rookies will meet in the Garden Room at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 12, 2022. Due to the potluck dinner the meeting will end at 6:30. We will play a game. Please note that starting

in September the meeting will be in the Lapidary Shop from 5:30 to 6:45. The Rookie program is designed for children 8-17 years of age. I am finding that children younger than that need extra support to do the activities. They need help following directions and completing the activities. I don't want to turn younger children away if they are interested in the program, so I am asking that parents stay with children under eight to assist them one on one.

Over the next year the Rookies will be working on two badges from the Future Rockhounds of American Badge Program. The first is Earth Processes and second is Collecting. In September I will be asking each of the Rookies who are interested in earning the collecting badge to report on their collection as a final requirement for the badge. Rookies who attend most of the meetings should be able to earn the badges. The Rookies are also able to work on these or other badges on their own. Just let me know when they finish a badge, and I will go over it with them.

The show in August is a perfect opportunity for the Rookies to earn some of the requirements for the Showmanship and Leadership badges. Rookies who volunteer to work at the show or choose to display their collection can complete two or more of the required activities:

Showmanship Activities 6.1, 6.3 and 6.4. Leadership Activity 9.6

All of the information to complete these activities is in the Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program at www.amfed.org (on the homepage click on Kids Corner, then click on Merit Badge Program, and finally click on AFMS Badge Manual. Parents, please let me know if your child wants to do a display of their collection for the show.

See you in July, Patty Holbrook, Junior Advisor 916 834-3915 and pattyholbrook@hotmail.com

Page 3

RRR NEEDS YOU !



The clock is ticking!

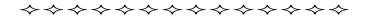
We still have a need for volunteers to help during our show (details in this bulletin).

We have a great start with Set Ups (Thurs. & Fri.) But need volunteers during the actual Show Days: Show Days, August 6 & 7 - Saturday & Sunday Take Down Sunday, August 7th, starting at 4 p.m.

Please contact Florence at fhbrady@comcast.net to find out how/where you can help. Remember, no experience is needed! Signups will also be taken during the July Educational Meeting on Tuesday, July 12th.

Your reward is - you are helping your Club and.... you get to park and enter the show free!

Florence Brady, Volunteers Coordinator, 2022 Show Kim Fiala, Assistant Volunteers Coordinator, 2022 Show



Upcoming Northern California Shows

August 6-7: ROSEVILLE, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers @the Grounds Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: James Hutchings, (916) 995-7380 Email: jhutchings22@hotmail.com Website: www.rockrollers.com



Speakers Needed (Offsite)

RRR member Michelle Grant is looking for volunteer speakers for a meeting at the Veterans Community Center in Citrus Heights. We are looking for guest speakers to give a 30-45 minute presentation incorporated with lunches, served to our veterans, on a Tuesday or Thursday from 11:30am to 12:30 p.m.

It would be great if someone in RRR would love to come share and give a speech or demo on a gem, mineral, rock, fossil, or a presentation on jewelry or lapidary classes.

Please contact: Michelle Grant, 530-961-2649, and email: m.grant@veteranscommunityctr.org

Our 60th Show!

Well, there is no turning back now! over 3,500 post cards were mailed out this week to the households that have attended our show in the past three years. We are going to have to show up on August 6th and 7th, because the vendors and visitors will be at the door at 10 AM to "DO" a show. There are only two things we need to do as a Society. We need to have you get the word out on Social Media, by sharing our announcement on our Group and Like Page to any other page that will allow it! We need you to pick up fliers at our next meeting, our potluck, and distribute our fliers to anywhere and anybody you meet. We do not want these to go to waste, and these are the most efficient and economical way to get the word out about our show.

As you may know, all our advertising efforts end up with new people through our doors. They fill out the Hourly Door prize, and we are able to obtain their name, address, email, and how they heard about us. These are what we use to build our database of households that we send post cards to each year. Every year, we add to that database. At one time, our attendance was around 500 folks. We have grown that to nearly 3,000 paid admissions and 600 or so under 12! That is a lot of opportunities to expose the community to the art and science of the mineral kingdom. We need to have you think about finding more folks to bring to our show!

The second thing we need, is "YOU"! We need worker bees to help out in each task at our show. These require no experience, no skill, just a smiling face and a commitment to be there for a 4 hour shift. We cover the parking pass! We know a lot of you plan to just "be there" and perform any task we need you to. However, it would really calm our nerves to know we have as many of the shifts, at all the events, covered, before the show. All of our event tasks are inside the air conditioned event center, except a hardy couple of souls who can assist the parking attendants in the North lot, to admit our people to park.

My sense is, people are ready to get out, and buy. We could really use your help to greet them and show them what we do, with a smile.

—Jim Hutchings, Show Chair



A sympathy card is being sent to Alexis Prince, whose father passed away. When you know of any member who is ill or has been hospitalized, please contact our Sunshine Chair, Heather Crane, at (818) 903-4433 or hmcrane7@gmail.com

It's 2022 Show Time - We Need Helpers!

DATES: August 4, 5, 6, & 7, 2022

(NO Experience Needed!)

Our show for 2022 needs volunteer workers to help with a setup Thurs. morning, August 4th; our regular setup on Friday, August 5th; AND members to help during the show hours on Saturday and Sunday; and also with the takedown procedure on Sunday. For our new members, don't hesitate to help, as you will be working with other club members who can provide any needed assistance to you. Remember, once it was all new to us, too! **See areas below where help is needed below.** Check in with the Chairperson for the area where you are working. Signups will be taken at our Educational Meetings. Look for the **SHOW SIGNUPS** sign. OR contact Florence at (916) 715-4088, fhbrady@comcast.net

SETUP – starts at 8 a.m. on Thursday and 9 a.m. on Friday, and continues through the morning/afternoon. Assist with unloading items from storage trailer. Skirting is placed where needed, exhibit cases are set up, & signs placed. During Friday afternoon, we help the exhibitors, vendors, and assist in kitchen if needed. A dinner is available for workers. <u>TAKEDOWN</u> – starts promptly at 4 p.m. on Sun- day, August 7th . Assist exhibitors. Remove empty exhibit cases, remove skirting, take down exhibitor tables. Remove skirting from other tables. Help pack all items into storage trailer. Help Silent Auction, Kids' Junction/ Education Station, Snack Area and Entrance Area clean up. Clean up buildings. Fold up all tables and chairs.

DURING THE SHOW – Hours Open: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4 Each Show Day, two different shifts: 9:30 -1:30 and 1:00-5:00 (*Kids' Junction/Education Station has different times/shifts.)

<u>KITCHEN/SNACK AREA</u> -help with snacks or be a cashier and take orders and money.

***KIDS' JUNCTION/EDUCATION STATION** - Run the train, assist with selling items, the spinning wheel, making necklaces, selling grab bags, etc. If you want to work 2 shifts, signup for first and last shifts. Shifts are: 9:30 -12:30, 12:00 - 3:00 and 2:00 - 5:00.

<u>ADMISSION TABLES</u> - greet visitors, take ad- mission money, assist with filling out forms for hourly drawings and for addresses for the postcards. Explain the show is in lobbies and main building.

<u>SILENT AUCTION</u> - Explain different auctions. Help setup an auction. Collect money from winners and make direct sales. A lot of fun, you get to see what is offered for sale!

BE SURE TO WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE WHEN WORKING AT THE SHOW !!

OR ATTENDING THE SHOW!



<u>SECURITY</u>-Walk around the assigned building, be observant of the guests. Cell phones will be used to keep in contact. Vests stating "Security" are worn.

<u>RAFFLE TABLE</u> - Sell Raffle Tickets! Explain grand prizes and hourly prizes. Assist Chairpersons.

EXTRA PERSONS - TO BE ASSIGNED

WHERE NEEDED - These members would fill in where needed during the shift they signed up for.

<u>SIDEWALK/GREETER</u>-Stand outside, near the steps and direct visitors inside .

<u>**PARKING LOT MONITOR**</u> – more information later, but will need RRR monitor at the parking lot to be used by our RRR volunteers.

ROSEVILLE ROCK ROLLERS LAPIDARY SHOP OPEN HOUSE Sunday, August 14th, 9am - 12:00 pm

@ The Grounds/Placer County Fairgrounds Roseville 200 Corporation Yard Road, Parking Lot L Roseville, California 95678

Tour the shop, meet the instructors.

Find out about the other

Rock Roller activities, such as rock hunting trips and our junior meetings.

Enter to win a door prize, one each hour.

(Must be in attendance to win.)

A RRR FIELD TRIP TO INDIAN SPRINGS TRAILHEAD July 16, 2022

- This trip is open to all rockhounds who agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics, the directions of the field trip leader and practice safe rock hounding.
- Call the field trip leader beforehand to sign up and for further information
- A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arrival at meeting site.
- The use of intoxicating substances during the effective hours of this field trip are expressly prohibited.

TRIP LOCATION – Indian Springs Trailhead. Tahoe National Forest, Eagle Lake Road about 1.5 miles north of Highway 80 (Approximately 22 miles West of Truckee, California).

TRIP DIFFICULTY RATING SCALE

Vehicle Access & Parking - #3 vehicle access and parking good for all vehicles, no specific handicap parking. Collection or View Site - #5 - ¹/₄ mile to site with easy walk.

WHEN – Saturday, July 16, 2022.

MEMBER'S GUESTS – Allowed.

COLLECTION MATERIAL – Porphyry (Chinese Writing Rock) with large white felspar crystals in hard igneous rock. It is found on the side of the road, hillside and in a creek. It will make beautiful cabochons. See pictures attached, rocks polish up beautifully!

LEADER & CONTACT INFO – Gene Doyle: 408-605-9457; <u>eugene.doyle@sbcglobal.net</u>. Keep in touch with Gene as weather could be changing.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE – We will meet at the site at 9:30 a.m., start our walk at 10 a.m.

MEET - I will be parked on Eagle Lakes Road at the turn for Carlyle Rd. about 9:30 a.m.

DIRECTIONS TO SITE – Take Highway I-80 East to the Eagle Lakes Road turn off (Exit 164) which is the next exit after State Highway 20, and about 22 miles West of Truckee, California. Proceed about 1.5 miles North on Eagle Lakes Road past the Indian Springs Campground. You will see my Blue 4Runner next to the right turn onto Carlyle Rd. (dirt road) at the Indian Springs Trailhead sign.

VEHICLE REQ'S – Any vehicle with good tires and a minimum clearance. Not recommended for low profile cars like Prius.

CAMP/FACILITIES – Indian Springs Campground is located next to the collection site. This campground may be noisy for some due to its close proximity to the Highway. Pit toilets are available. There is no drinking water. The site is located adjacent to the Yuba River.

TOOLS –Buckets, rock hammer, eye and hand protection. The rock is easily accessible.

SAFETY CONCERNS – 6,000 ft. elevation, sun exposure, snakes, and possible mosquitoes. Wear sun screen protection and bring bug spray. Water in the river is very cold and sometime runs fast, best to stay away from the water.

CLIMATE/WEATHER – Typical July weather for this area, cool in the morning to warm to hot in the afternoon.



CLOTHING – Wear clothing that will protect you from the sun such as a hat, long sleeves shirt, pants, and comfortable shoes.

OTHER REMARKS – This is the perfect trip for someone just getting started in collecting rocks in the field. You will find quality, rare, material in an area of great geologic interest. Bring a camera, this is an area for good pictures.



Lapidary Shop News

Lapidary Shop: We are still open for the cabochon classes, open sessions and Mineral ID. This will be by appointment only, there will be no drop-ins at this time. Classes will be a limited to 6 students/ people at a time due to COVID mandates.

Students must call the instructor for the day that they wish to attend for an appointment.

Everyone must wear a mask covering the mouth and nose while in the shop. Also, everyone must wash their hands or use a hand sanitizer before signing in.

The schedule is:

Mondays: 5PM to 9PM. Instructor is Vernon Deck. Please call him to set up an appointment. (805) 598-3206 Wednesdays: 11AM to 3PM. Instructor is Holli Hinkle. Please call her to set up an appointment. (916) 579-8011 Wednesdays: 5PM to 9PM Instructor is Fran Todd. Please call her to set up an appointment. (310) 987-0642 Mineral ID: with Jim Hutchings. Please call him for an appointment. (916) 995-7380

Thursdays: OPEN SESSIONS: Thursdays: 5PM to 9PM. Monitor is Holli Hinkle. Please call her to set up an appointment. (916) 579-8011

This open shop time is for those who have completed RRR's introductory cabochon class. Starting in July the open shop will be every Thursday. The usual \$5.00 shop fee will apply. — Please contact Cathy for any questions. 925-321-2024.

***The Monday and Wednesday classes are still being limited to 6 students. *Denise Coyne, Shop Chairperson 714-393-0006*

We are pleased to be adding two new instructors to our lapidary shop. Tom Collins and Gene Doyle will be helping as back up instructors.

July Calendar						Birthstone: Ruby	
Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
For questions *** about classes, contact : Cathy Nelson (925) 321-2024 Email: canelson2@netscape.net					I *** Your	2 nust have com-	
3	4 SHOP CLOSED	5	6 Lapidary Shop I 1:00 am-3 pm 5:00-9:00 pm	7 *** Lapidary Shop 5:00-9:00 pm	pleted the RRR introductory cabochon class to come to these Thursday sessions.		
10	l I Lapidary Shop 5:00-9:00 pm	12 Meetings: Rookies 5:30 pm Club 6:30 pm	13 Lapidary Shop 11:00 am-3 pm 5:00-9:00 pm	14 *** Lapidary Shop 5:00-9:00 pm	15	16 Indian Springs Trip 9:30 am	
17	18 Lapidary Shop 5:00-9:00 pm	19 Show Meeting 7:00 pm	20 Lapidary Shop I 1:00 am-3 pm 5:00-9:00 pm	21 *** Lapidary Shop 5:00-9:00 pm	22	23	
24 / 31	25 Lapidary Shop 5:00-9:00 pm	26 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	27 Lapidary Shop I 1:00 am-3 pm 5:00-9:00 pm	28 *** Lapidary Shop 5:00-9:00 pm	29	30	



The Rollin' Rock

Roseville Rock Rollers

www.rockrollers.com

Red Quartz and Blue Quartz by Steven Wade Veatch

Quartz (SiO2) is a common mineral found in all three classes of rocks (igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary) in many environments, and in a range of colors. Rose and blue quartz are less common than some of the other varieties. Rose Quartz has a pale pink to rose red color thought to be caused by trace amounts of tita-nium that absorbs all colors except pink. This may account for its rosy color. In a laboratory experiment, samples of rose quartz from several localities were carefully dissolved in acid. The remaining insoluble residue consisted of thin microfibers. These fibers may also be responsible for the color of rose quartz.



Well-formed rose quartz crystals are rarely found in nature. Rose quartz is generally found in massive chunks associated with pegmatites. The term pegmatites refers to exceptionally coarse-grained crystalline granite. Since rose quartz is cloudy, it is not popular as a faceted gem, but it is commonly formed into cabochons, rounded into beads for necklaces, or carved into various objects.

Rose quartz has been named as South Dakota's official state mineral. Here rockhounds have a good chance to find specimens ranging from shades of light pink to rose-red. Some rose quartzes from South Dakota have a distinctive asterism, a star shaped display of light on the polished surface.

Blue quartz, with a deep to sky blue color, is packed with tiny grains such as rutile (TiO2) and ilmenite (FeTiO3). Other inclusions might include tourmaline, crocidolite, zoisite, and several others. Some researchers hypothesize that the blue color comes from the Rayleigh scattering of light by these microscopic inclusions. Rayleigh scattering selectively scatters visible light of the shorter blue wavelength. However, the cause of the blue color still remains uncertain. Blue quartz has a waxy luster and sometimes displays asterism.



Blue quartz occurs at a number of localities. In Llano County, Texas, blue quartz is found as small, doubly-terminated crystal in a rhyolitic porphyry informally called Llanoite. The crystals weather out of the host rock and can easily be collected. Blue quartz is also found in a diorite near the Dairyland Power Dam near Tony, Wisconsin. Blue quartz was recent-

ly discovered in the Cushing Point Formation at Peak's Island, Maine. The specimens there have inclusions with the chemistry of biotite. In the past, biotite has not been listed as a possible inclusion. Research now suggests that the inclusion of biotite on Peak's Island may be responsible for giving crystals its blue color. Blue quartz is associated with pegmatites of the Cape Ann Granitite at Andrew's Point in Rockport, Massachusetts. The author has found blue quartz at two Colorado locations: Park County near Hartsel and on the tailings of the Bull Domingo Mine in Custer County northeast of Silvercliff. A famous site - Antequera - near Malaga, Spain yields translucent crystal of intensely blue quartz.

While some varieties of quartz are well-known, such as amethyst and smoky quartz, blue quartz is a lesser known variety. The sapphire-blue quartz is wonderful to behold and exciting to find in the field. The rich blue colors hold your attention and move you to plan a collecting trip. The variable rose colors beckon the collector to cut and polish slabs of rose quartz rough. Both varieties of quartz truly deserve a spot in your collection.

References:

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via Breccia, 11/11, The tumbler 12/11

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EDUCATIONAL MEETING LOCATION: @THE GROUNDS, JONES HALL, 700 EVENT CENTER DRIVE, ROSEVILLE, CA

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