B.C. Rockhounder Magazine

Issue#3 - 2020

Smoky Quartz Hunting on Dunn Peak

Editor's Note

Well here we are again folks - same rock place, same rock time, same rock channel. But this issue you will find none of the normal cave man chatter I bury you in (aside from this note) as we have received some excellent article, photo and field trip submissions from our members around the province.

I cannot thank these good folks enough for their submissions - I really enjoy setting them up for you all to read, and I hope to see many more like them in the imminent future. Please remember that you do not need to be a professional to submit your ideas, photos, field trip reports or other articles... just look at me - and I edit this thing!

Joking aside, we have some great stuff for you all in this issue and I encourage you all to participate by submitting to our Mag. Click on any of the links below at your convenience.

Greg Carson

FACEBOOK **INSTAGRAM**

Rockhounder@shaw.ca **rockhounder@bclapidary.com**

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We are not currently accepting Ads from non-members.

rockhounder@bclapidary.com
Greg Carson, Editor

Front Cover: Amazing 13.6 ct Smoky Quartz

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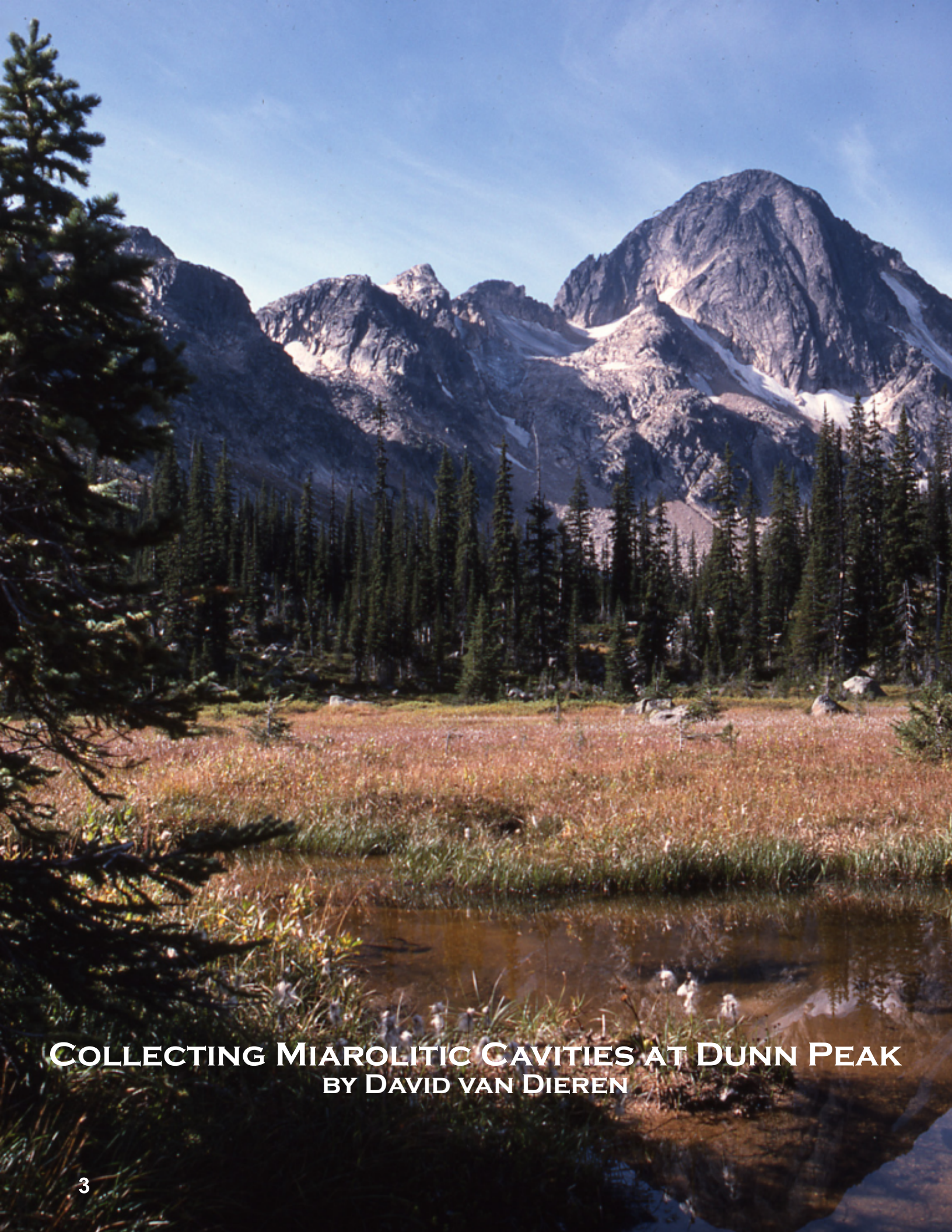


Collecting Miarolitic Cavities at Dunn Peak

by David van Dieren

This article is a compilation of many trips over the years to Dunn Peak to look for miarolitic cavities in the granite. Miarolitic cavities can occur randomly in the granite and typically contain quartz, feldspar and mica.

Dunn Peak is located within the Dunn Peak Protected Area north-east of Kamloops and is the highest peak in the area at 8,648ft. I must state right up front that all mineral collecting was performed before the area became protected in April 1996.

Dunn Peak is a Matterhorn type peak of granite and I first heard there were smoky quartz crystals in the area from friends in the Kamloops Outdoor Club. This was early in my mineral collecting years and I was as much interested in the hiking as looking for minerals. In the summer of 1987 was our first trip into the area and a trail had only

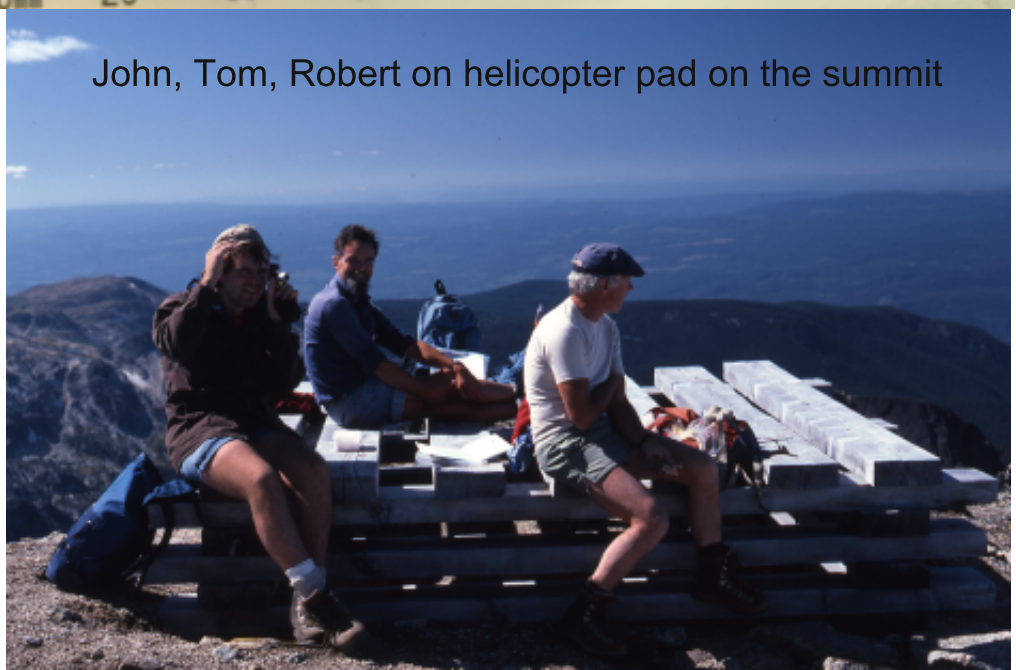
Base Camp below Dunn Peak
(Smoky Quartz in the scree below the peak)

been partially established from Harper Cr. and over a ridge and down to Joseph Creek. We eventually figured out the easiest way was to cross the frigid creek and then follow the creek along the toe of the slope up to near the base of the mountain. Being hikers the main objective was to get to the summit and this was accomplished over three days. The first day was to backpack in (about 8 km with the creek crossing requiring boot removal) and establish camp with a little extra time to explore for crystals. The second day climb to the summit and back to camp and the third day hike out.

After setting up camp amongst the boulders I had a little time to explore the scree slopes below the peak and was able to find a couple of smoky quartz crystals that had rolled down the mountain from a crystal pocket higher up the slope.

Smoky Quartz from the debris below the slope

The second day we hiked up the ridge on the left hand side of the peak without difficulty except for one small exposed maneuver near the summit. Of course at the summit we had a 360° view.



John, Tom, Robert on helicopter pad on the summit

Joseph Creek with camp below the glacier and scree slope

Base Camp - July 1994

Brad hiking into Dunn Peak - July 1994

We had a great trip with minimal time to look for crystals so we had to do it all over again in early September of the same year. I think it was on that trip that I found a piece of smoky quartz with one face covered with double terminated amethyst crystals lying on their sides. I don't have a photo of this piece as it was destroyed when my house burnt down in the forest fires in Kelowna 2003, so by my recollection the specimen probably sounds more spectacular than reality although I think my memory is pretty good.

After this trip we were pretty encouraged about the potential for some good crystals. So we did the same thing all over again in early September 1988! Of course we had to go to the summit so there was little time for collecting and I don't recall finding anything special.

Work took me away from the area so it wasn't until the summer of 1994 I had the opportunity to return to Dunn Peak with my friend Brad Wilson from Kingston, Ontario. Brad and I first met in 1987 when we did the crazy collecting trip at Mt. Foley for Japan Law twinned quartz and Brad was our climbing expert. Anyway, Brad being an avid mineral collector was keen to check the area out after seeing some of the promising specimens I had found. We met up and since the route to base camp was well established we hiked in and set up camp with time to spare to look around but I don't recall finding much the first day.

Dunn Peak on the way up to the ridge

The second day the plan was to check out unexplored area to the right of the peak so we set out to get to the top of the ridge while keeping an eye out for any signs of crystals.

Once we got to the top of the ridge with not a crystal to be found Brad decided we should explore along the crest of the ridge. In short order we come to a highly exposed gap in the rock that to me looked impossible to get around so I stopped right there. Well this was not much of a challenge for Brad and he carried on. Wouldn't you know it after a few minutes he hollers back that he had found a pocket and crystals were lying around and that I should come over there. You got to be kidding me! I am going to die getting there since it was only about a 1,500' drop if I slipped on my way there. Okay, he is finding big crystals so I have to get there, he did it so if I am careful I can do it. The key is

Brad holding a transparent 3” smoky

Brad holding a small feldspar crystal

to focus on the rock and not the drop. I am here today so you know I did it and sure enough there is Brad digging up crystals.

We both managed to squeeze into the area and work the pocket. The problem soon became too many specimens to carry back and we had to negotiate our way back across the exposed spot on the ridge!

So at this point we are concerned because it is getting late in the day and it is a big hike back to camp. Brad got first pick since he found the pocket and then we loaded our packs with as much as we could carry. Unfortunately we could not pack everything so we took what we thought were the best specimens. Now to get back with a heavy pack!

Ok as I recall it was not too bad getting back to the ridge top, after all the adrenaline was up with having a bag full of crystals. Then once on the ridge we had to get down to camp and my knees weren’t great even at that time so my solution was that with the warmth of the day the snow would be soft and I could boot ski down a few hundred feet on the snow and save the knees some pain. The key of course is to be

More quartz and feldspar

able to come to a stop without crashing into the rocks at the end of the snow. Brad felt this was too dangerous for him but the “down elevator” as I call it was too tempting and my knees said go for it. Fortunately the snow was soft enough that even with the extra weight I managed a reasonably controlled slide down to the rocks and back to camp. We managed to get back to camp before dark but totally exhausted.

By morning reality set in and we had another 8 km to go with our camp plus a load of crystals to get back to the truck. It was a hard day and crossing the creek in socks with a heavy pack was not fun but we did it and got back home safe with our haul of crystals.

After cleaning the crystals we found most of the quartz had an ugly whitish layer of quartz coating a beautiful transparent smoky core. I had a stone faceted from a broken piece of quartz crystal. (See front cover of this issue)

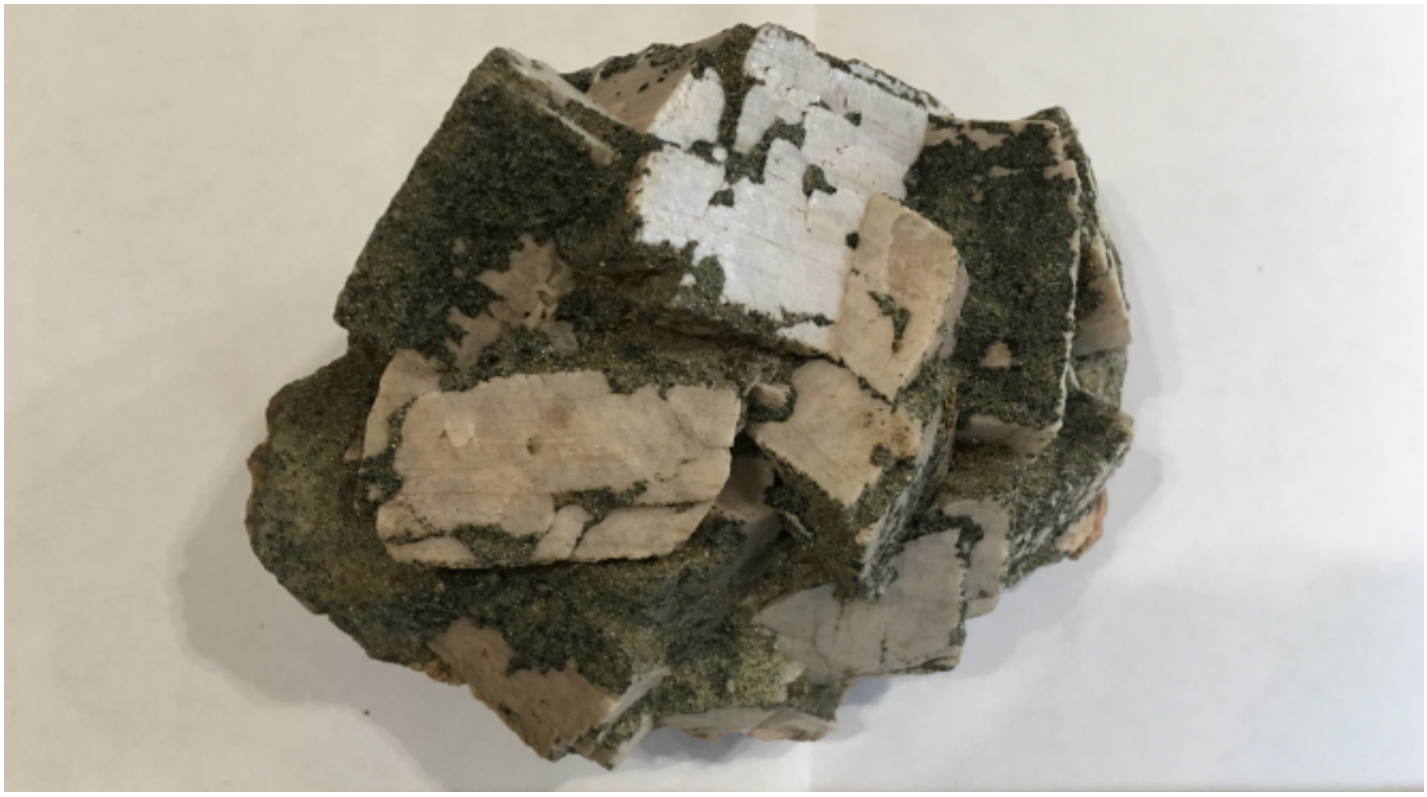
As time passed we got to thinking about the crystals we left behind so we needed to go back! Fortunately I ended up living in Williams Lake and my wife, Chantale (girlfriend at the time), and I decided we should do a trip back to clean up the rest of the pocket. So we hiked in and set up camp among the boulders as I had done on previous trips and we spent time looking around and found some specimens in boulders that had peeled off the mountain. The second day we hiked up to the ridge and got to the exposed spot. We looked and thought about the crystals just a short distance away and then looked at the potential fall and we both chickened out and we went back to camp satisfied to still be in one piece. That night we woke up hearing a thump, thump, thump and I look out the tent and see sparks flying as a rock flew down the mountain and landed what seemed to be next to the tent but in reality was a couple of hundred feet away. Well that was it for Chantale, no more sleeping and we were leaving at sunrise. What can you say? We were out of there and we have never returned.

This is a beautiful and rugged area and you never know maybe there are crystals to be found outside the protected area. What follows are photos of various minerals found over the years in the area.

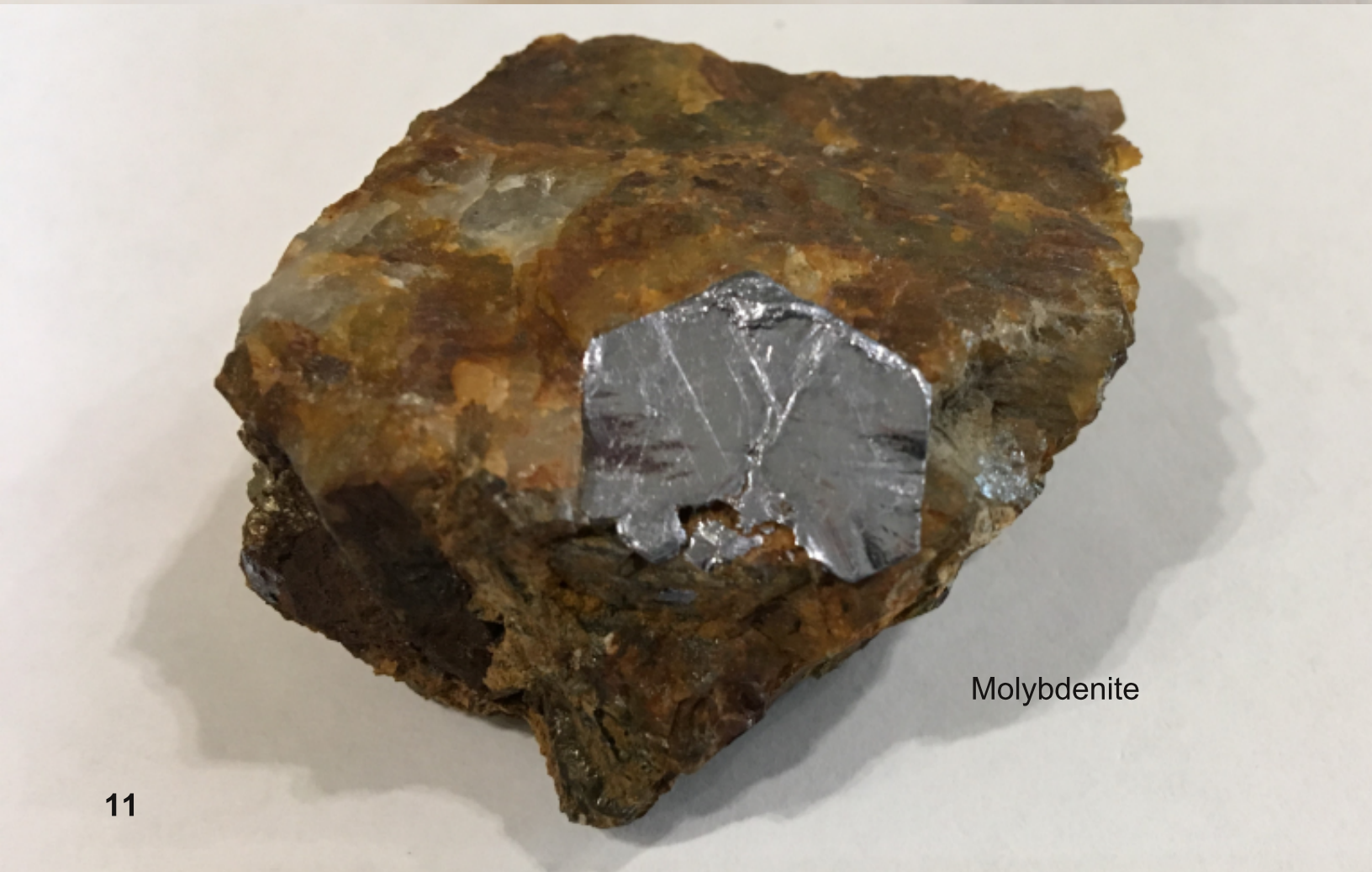
Mineral Specimens from Dunn Peak

Above: Large Burnt Feldspar Specimen

Below: Feldspar coated with Chlorite?



Burnt Baveno Twin



Molybdenite

Tiny pale green gem beryl

Calcite polyhedroid

Calcite polyhedroid from a big boulder

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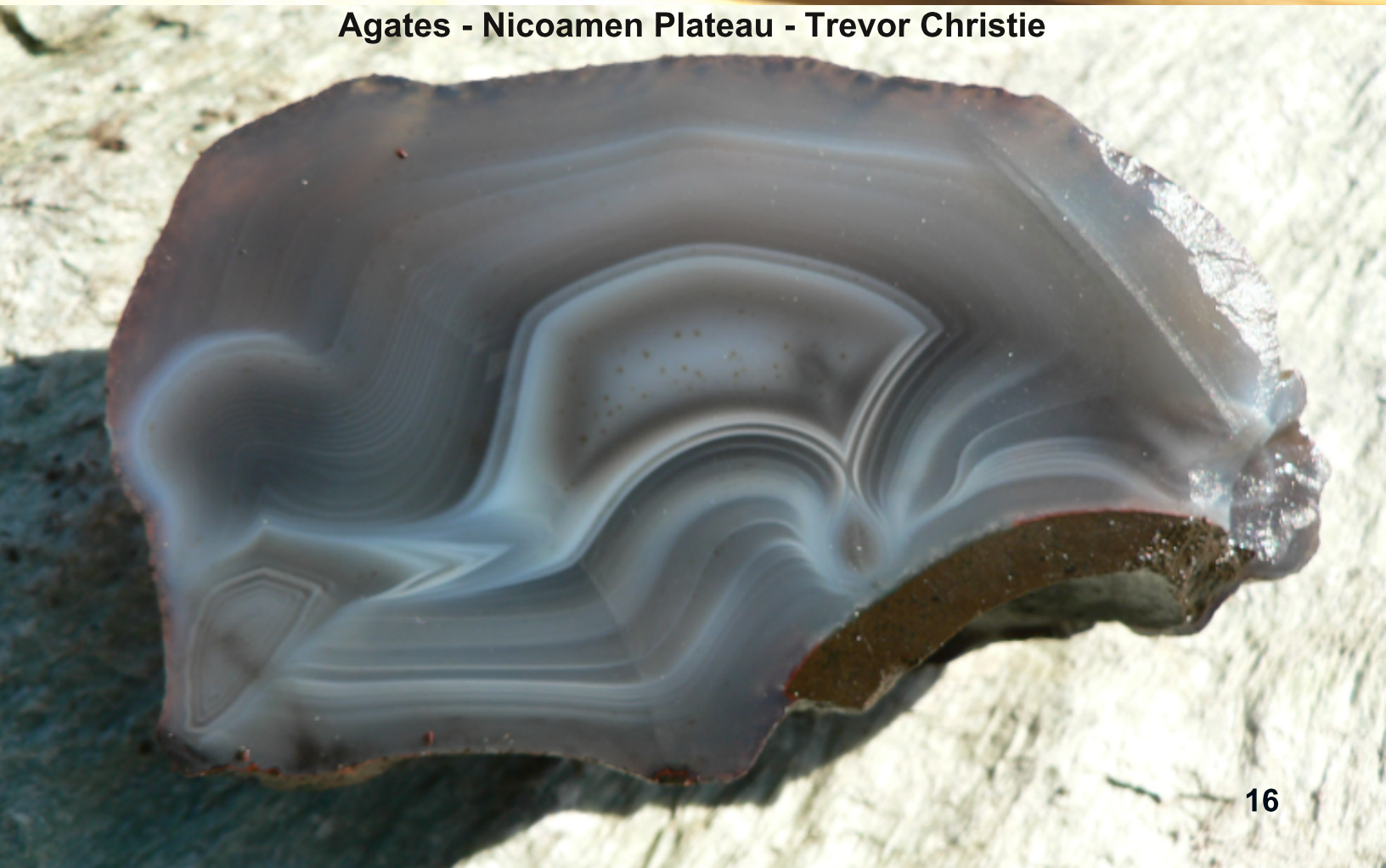
Agates - Nicoamen Plateau - Trevor Christie



Agate - Cache Creek - Trevor Christie

Crinoid Fossil - Trevor Christie

A 60 YEAR HISTORY OF THE FRASER VALLEY ROCK & GEM CLUB - 1959 TO 2019

by Ruby Jaggernath

History

Fraser Valley Rock and Gem Club members have always been an enthusiastic lot. The whole thing began when a bunch of these enthusiasts attended lapidary classes taught by Wes and Florence Veale at Aldergrove High School. Soon the Tuesday class overflowed and a second class was started on Thursdays in Langley High School, taught by Elizabeth Hugie.

By October 1959 it became apparent that something more had to be done. The first meeting of FVR&G was held on October 22, Les Veale as President. At first the group met at Vasa Hall, the Orange Hall at Otter Road and Fraser Highway but parking there was limited. There were 16 members. Fees fixed at $3 per year for individuals; $5 for families.

Norm and Elsie Young were active members, Norm worked as treasurer, president, delegate show chairman, door man, library, etc. Norm also selected a rock each month for a member to research and talk about. Florence Van Horne remembers doing a talk on salt, which included the uses, structure, and identification techniques.

Bob Thompson made a cabinet for a library. Club members participated in local fairs, members using flat show cases made by “Bernard Lowe. However, it was Flo Veale who kept club members involved, and eventually got them to display at the PNE.

When Wes stepped down, Barney Smallman became President on condition that a board of directors be formed.

The club continued to grow. So did members’ skills. In October 1960 a group of members took silversmithing from Bernard Lowe at Langley High School. Several members also attended Mrs. Hugie’s geology class and there was a silver class in Abbotsford taught by Mrs. Mary Elgood. Harold Sutton of Maple Ridge also taught silversmithing.

Harold Sutton of the Maple Ridge Club, also taught silversmithing. Jim Greenwood took classes from Harold, who was a methodical instructor. Once proficient, Jim along with Wally Friedoleneds offered beginner classes in the basement of his home. Jerry Kitson (past president) and Ron Vauthrin were the first students. (approximately 1983) In 1983 Ron Vauthrin took over lapidary instruction from Arnold Hopp and shortly thereafter started silversmithing classes, continuing on until late 2018, the longest ongoing instructor the club has ever had.

Parking at the Orange Hall was a problem. When Carl Voigt heard OAPO were bidding on a government garage in the old works yard, he put in a bid to rent space in their hall. (sometime between 1962 and 1966) OAPO members fixed up the hall, scavenging materials such as a hardwood flooring from an old building that was torn down. FVR&G became the first group to rent from them.

On Thursday, February 18, 1965, FVR&G became temporary host for the "Rolling Rock." The "Rock" originated with the Maple Ridge Club and travelled from club to club across the continent and back, to encourage communication between various rockhound groups. FVR&G received it from Surrey Rockhounds and in April, Aldergrove hosted the Mission Valley Rock and Mineral club and passed the Rock on to them. It returned to Aldergrove in February 13, 1971 when Bert Hayter of Maplewood Rock Club in Edmonds, Washington delivered it to FVR&G again. The rock was to go back to Washington, then travel to the east coast before returning to its origin in Maple Ridge rock club.

This beautiful specimen of Montana agate with quartz crystals, called the travelling rock made it's first appearance in BC at the Fraser Valley Rock and Gem club in August of 1980. The rock was sent by the Montana Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs in April of 1972 and had been travelling on both sides of the border "to promote international friendship and participation between provincial and state rockhounds".

In 1969/70, FVR&G members decided since all the other clubs had crests this club should have one, too. Elsie Young, Jim Greenwood and Edith Greenwood formed a committee. Elsie designed about six crests, Jim and Edith decided which to present to the club members in July and members voted for the best one. Selected colours are light blue, dark blue and gold.

Membership fees in 1979 were $4 single, $6 family.

FVR&G became members of the Lapidary Rock & Mineral Society of BC. in 1995.

The first newsletter was probably written by Toots Tucker. Louise Mill took over until it was considered too expensive and discontinued. ***

FVR&G has supported the Association for the Mentally Retarded with donations throughout the years. In February 1975 the club received a cultural grant from Langley Art Council.

In June 1975, Len and Olive Ferguson and Toots Tucker displayed rocks and minerals, rock. critters and soapstone carvings at Aldergrove Elementary School. Also in June 1975 the club donated eleven pendants for a Langley competition.

In January 1981, the FVR&G received a request from a teacher in Germany for BC rocks and photos of the local area. The teacher planned to use the stuff in geography lessons. The materials turned over to the Aldergrove Chamber of Commerce to be sent to Germany.

Merrifield Table

Ralph & Esther Merrifield of Burlington, Washington became members about 1967-68 and remained with FVR&G until 1969 or 70. Also members of Mt. Vernon club in Washington, . They were extremely active and enthusiastic. It was the Merrifields who first suggested a show and tell table.

Esther was diagnosed with cancer, eventually went into hospital. Ralph visited

faithfully every day. One day on the way home was killed in a car accident. Esther died shortly after. In their memory, the show and tell was named the Merrifield table.

Shows

In 1962 (or 1964?), Aldergrove Chamber of Commerce thought it would be a good idea for the club to put on a show in Aldergrove. FVR&G's first show was held on July 14, 15 and 16, 1962, at the old Ross Moor Garage in Aldergrove.

Norm and Elsie Young, avid orchid growers, donated many flowers for the display. Terry LangHodge and the Bradner Flower Club provided help and donated flowers. The show was opened at 7:00 pm by Reeve J.A. Murphy. Approximately 750 people visited the show opened by Reeve J.A. Murphy.

Before holding their own show, members of the FVR&G attended and participated in various shows around the Fraser Valley and occasionally in Washington and Alberta. Even after holding shows in Aldergrove, the club attended or participated in various other shows. For instance, in 1960, they displayed finished gems at an Arts and Crafts Show in the Park Hotel and exhibits at Cloverdale and Abbotsford. In September 1965, a 3-day show at Fraser Valley Fairgrounds in Clearbrook, featuring Indian artifacts crystals, Haida carvings, rock crystals, hand crafted silver jewelry, etc, in 1966 at a rock and gem show in St. Joseph's Church, Langley members displayed rocks from their natural state to finished jewelry and household goods. They participated in the BC gem craft show at the PNE Showmart building in September 1974. Edith Greenwood started the Children's Corner at the BCLS show. School bus loads of children came to the show for this event.

And so on.

In 1968 Club members and guests bagged 1,400 pounds of rock for the BC gem show to be held at the Showmart Building, Ex Park, on October 18-20 of that year. The rock included agate, jasper, rhodonite, crystal, etc.

Occasionally FVR&G attended shows out of BC, such as the Gem and Mineral Federation of Canada show and the Annual Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs show in Lacombe, Alberta in 1980.

They also continued holding their own shows in Aldergrove. Often before a show, Members placed display case and raffle prize case in malls. just before a show members took turns manning the display to give out information, answer questions and sell raffle tickets.

A couple of good stories came from these shows:

At a very successful show in Fort Langley Museum the club had set up a gold panning display complete with "nuggets" of gold-painted rock. A group of lively boys "lifted" the "gold" rocks. However, there was TV surveillance and the boys were caught on the monitor. They had to return the rocks.

In the early days, members slept overnight at the OAPO hall, the only security

provided. Bob Morgan was overnight security at the OAP hall for many years. Around 1999 the show was held at the Aldergrove shopping centre (extra foods mall). Due to faulty communications, the OAPO hall was not available and there was a last minute scramble to find a site and set up the show. However, the manager at Aldergrove Mall gave a good deal, the show was organized and daily customer traffic at the Mall ensured a great turn out.

Club displays have also been organized in Aldergrove Library, Langley Centennial Museum, Clearbrook Library, MSA library and Fort Langley museum. The show in Fort Langley, organized in 1976, was to be kept and the contents changed every three months.

Work Shop

In the beginning, Wes Veale installed a rock shop in his home and a work shop was set up there for the use of members who had finished night school classes.

In July 1973 the club purchased some Lapidary equipment as a first start towards having our own work shop. At the same time, they begin planning to teach various techniques of polishing and working stone.(Note: they also played Bingo after meetings in those days.) In Noveber 1973 the club began advertising for a “home for our planned workshop, “Must be centrally located and free or very reasonable rental.”

Lapidary Lessons were to begin in November or December 1974 Len Ferguson led the workshop committee planning the lessons which were set to begin early 1975. The club hoped to eventually include silversmithing, soapstone carving, etc. In February 1975 they decided to limit workshop lessons to 5 pupils per lesson. Among the first pupils were Ken Christie, Dorothy & George Wall and Holden Lyndstrom. The Pebble Pups were included in lessons.

Len Ferguson. was instrumental in renovating the old fuel shed to accommodate the lapidary classes (the fuel tanks are still under the shed). The workshop crew organized in 1979 included Jim and Edith Greenwood, Arnold Hopp., Jack Speers, Holden Lindstrom, Don Merrill, Louise Mill, Len Ferguson Elsie Young and Cliff Dempster.

In November of 2012 the club purchased a kiln for the workshop. Included was a range hood fan and heat shield for the kiln.

In February 2014 FVR&G purchased a rolling mill, the Durston 80mm, for the workshop. It was installed in May and Ron ran a spacial workshop for instruction on using the mill. Chuck donated a dolly for moving water buckets.

In November 2014, Ken Flett volunteered to cut a new tabletop for the shop and rolling mechanics chairs were purchased as well.

As the club membership grew, the workshop became more and more crowded. In 2018 Kelly Earles volunteered to look into options for expansion. She negotiated with Langley Recreation Department to rent an unused concession stand. Bert van Dalfsen worked out details with the Engineering Division. Ron Vauthrin helped Bert

with planning layout of the shop and logistics of moving and setting up equipment. They each spent three weeks, all day, every day. Then Bert spent his evenings coordinating the next days work schedule and volunteers. Robert Brown, Lyn Fuessel, Arn Hamelin (Richmond Club) and of course, Ron and Bert donated lumber and miscellaneous supplies.

Patty Bennett's father, Dave Guenther, a plumber, volunteered his time and materials to put in the water supply to the grinding machines. Marie Van Dalfsen did most of the painting of the new shop and donated first aid kits for both shops. On moving day, Fred Hoekstra provided a large truck with a lift and Harley Waterson , Lyn Fuessel, Trevor Christie, Ross Gussen provided muscle power.

Larynda Brown coordinated volunteers to clean and paint the "old" shop which became the new Metal Shop for silversmithing, wire wrapping, copper work, etc. Bert and Ron built and installed new counters for the Metal Shop. Others who gave of their time included Fred & Kelly Earles, Ross Gussen, Robert Brown, and Noor Qanbery, a true Club effort.

Image of the old Ross Moor Garage in Aldergrove, where the first rock show was held.

August 9 2020 Fraser Valley R&G Field Trip to Sackum

Photo Credits to Trevor Christie

August 23 2020 Fraser Valley R&G Field Trip for Serpentine

Photo Credits to Trevor Christie

2021 BCLS Calendar

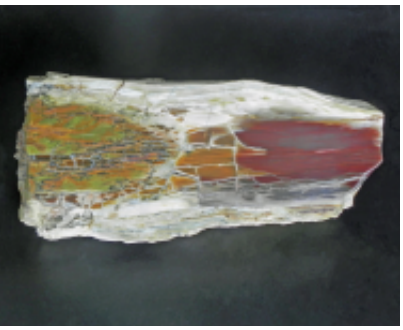
Featuring rockhounding photos from around BC

Includes all the Rock Show dates but please check our website to ensure events are still happening due to Covid-19

Cover: Lynn Stoughton

Calendars are still $10 each !

Order Form Below



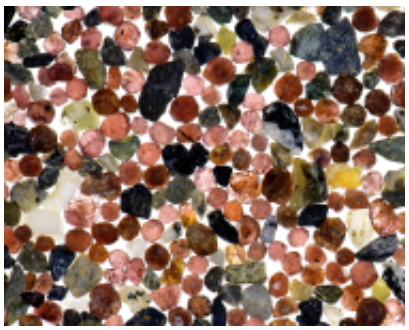
January: Hilmer Krocke

February: Russell Ball

March: Wally Arnold

April: Warren Bobyk

May: Danny Salcedo

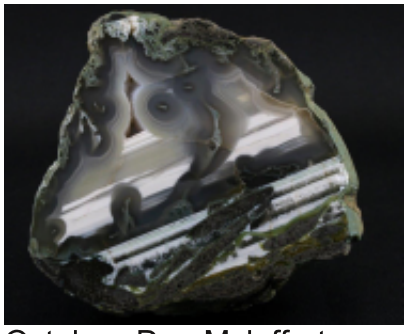


June: Russ Beuker

July: Ken Dewerson

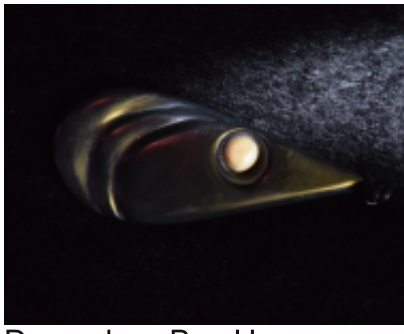
August: Trevor Christie

September: De Morgan



October: Dan Mclafferty

November: Adam Kelliher



December: Bev Henry

SEND CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER TO:
The BC Lapidary Society
PO Box 254 Station A
Abbotsford BC V2T 6Z6

Name: _____
Club: _____
Address: _____
_____
Number of Calendars: ____

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