

GOLDRUSH LEDGER



Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club
July 2008

SFMS Stamp Program

HISTORY: The SFMS stamp program, founded in 1999, is a volunteer action of member clubs of the Southeast Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies. The purpose of the program is to offer free scholarships to participating clubs. At present, approximately 50% of the clubs in the Federation participate in the stamp program. The only requirement to participate is: The club must be a member in good standing in the SFMS and contribute stamps to the program on a regular bases.

The drawing is held at the annual meeting of the SFMS. The number of scholarships awarded each year depends on the amount of money earned from the sale of the stamps. 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the stamps goes toward scholarships to attend Federation Workshops at William Holland or Wil-dacres. Winners of scholarships have a choice of which school or workshop they wish to attend at no cost, however student must pay their own travel expenses to and from the school. The number of scholarships awarded have steadily grown since this program began, if we continue to receive enough good quality stamps to sell.

Most used postage stamps have some resale value to collectors. Commemorative stamps and foreign bring in the most money, however other good clean definitive stamps only have a marginal value if they are off paper. One thing to consider when saving stamps is, are they desirable as a collectors item.

The stamp collector is looking for the cleanest well center stamp he can find for his collection. Stamps that are torn, have heavy cancellations so as to make the stamp unsuitable, are discarded and no credit will be given to the club. (see program rules).

Each club should appoint one member to act as chairperson for the stamp program. This person will act as a liaison between their club and the SFMS program chairperson. They should encourage all member to save their stamps from their home, office or any other source, strip the paper off to not less then ¼ inch nor more than ½ inch around the stamp, (care should be taken not to cut or damage the stamp) bring the stamps to each meeting. The chair person should then go through the donated stamps

and discard any soiled or damages stamps. When ½ pound or more have been accumulated, forward them to the SFMS Stamp Chairman.

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Updated Stamp Program

Our club is a participating member in the SFMS cancelled-stamp program. Our members are asked to save stamps from their mail by cutting around the stamp, leaving 1/4", so as not to damage the edges of the stamp. It is no longer desirable to soak the stamps off of the paper, just cut or tear the envelope without damaging the stamps. Please check the SFMS website at

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/stamp-program.html>

for specific information and instructions for the stamp program. Members are also asked to collect the "PB Meter", (Pitney Bowes) imprinted on the envelope. Members may turn in their collections to Pat Walker at regular meetings, being sure to include a piece of paper with their names. At the SFMS annual meeting, clubs contributing stamps will be included in a drawing. If a club's name is drawn, it in turn will have a drawing from the names of contributing members for a workshop scholarship. Last year four workshop scholarships were awarded!

Juniors Program Takes Summer Vacation

The summer gets so busy that it's hard to get a group together - I think I'll skip July and August (which is Labor Day weekend), and try for a meeting on the last weekend of September.

*Thanks everyone,
Mary Fisher*

July Meeting Topic: Micromount Minerals

Murray Simon, Vice President, and prestidigitator extraordinaire, will be discussing the collecting and mounting of miniature mineral specimens. The topic is Micromounting Minerals. A micromount is any mineral fitting into a 1" x 1" x 0.75" box. Complete mineral collections can fit easily into a shoe box. A small loop or microscope is needed to view the specimens.

Jasper Classification - Part III

Scenic Jaspers by ron gibbs

Scenic Jaspers (aka picture jaspers) derive their name from their distinctive look. These jaspers freeze what appear to be small scenes or landscape paintings in their structure. The complexity of the scenes are often amazing, with details that appear to be plant structures, rocks, mountains, lakes, streams, and complete skies, even at times with cloud like structures.

The scenic jaspers tend to be very fine grained often resulting from the cementation of mud or siltstones. They may also form from silicified pyroclastic flows. The scenes may be formed by the repeated sedimentation processes of water, wave or wind action. These may produce repetitive patterns that lock in their actual method of creation. For example wind traveling over fine grain sediment might produce miniature sand dunes that are eventually trapped in layers and look exactly like the sand dunes they are.

Coloration may come from the original sedimentary materials, or it may be introduced by later water staining in the porous sediment, or it might be carried by the siliceous fluids that caused the cementation process. Likely the final colors come from a mixture of these processes.

Getting a life-like scene from any given rock cut is often a matter of pure luck. Sometimes an educated guess can be made based on the layering structure of the beds or hints of internal structure from chips along the outside of the rough. Often the resultant patterns are too large for gemstone use, but they can be polished and framed making small works of stand-alone art.

A very large number of the finest scenic jaspers come from the Oregon-Idaho border area. Many of the best known jaspers with wonderful patterns and excellent hardness come from this general locale. Most of these are silicified mudstone and siltstone. They often produce color images reminiscent of the American South West.

Imperial Jasper is most often found in a red-maroon variety or a greenish-blue variation. It often has orbs, but sometimes can make nice ocean wave patterns.

Succor Creek - Oregon



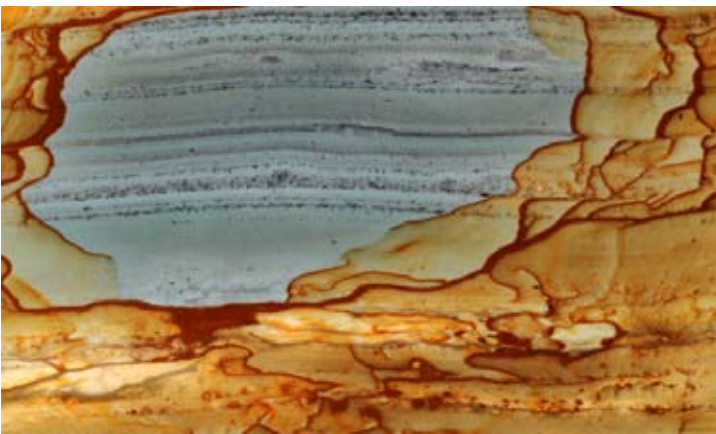
Ocean Waves - Imperial Jasper - Mexico



Biggs Jasper - Oregon



Biggs Jasper - Oregon



Biggs and Deschutes Jasper both come from the same general locality, and can often be confused. They are both very fine grained and take a great polish. The most sought after is the variety with the bluish cast.

Rocky Butte Jasper is another fine grained jasper with a wider variety of colors than the previous two. It often has a blue to blue-green area that is perfect for sky with brown to brown-red mountains and even some green grassy areas.

Succor Creek Jasper is another fine picture jasper from south-eastern Oregon. It has blue to blue green sky areas with tan to darker brown mountain like structures.

There are many other scenic jaspers, Owyhee being one, but the named Owyhee Jaspers produces such a large variety of jaspers they will be covered in the next installment all by themselves.



Rocky Butte - Oregon



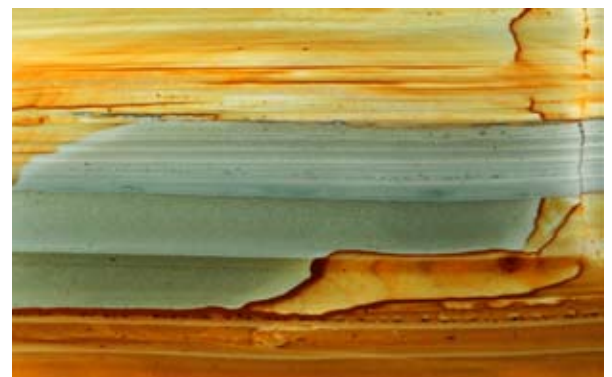
Rocky Butte - Oregon



Deschutes Jasper - Oregon



Deschutes Jasper - Oregon



Succor Creek - Oregon