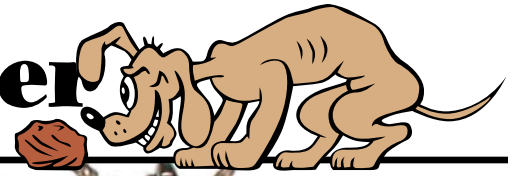


# Port Moody Rock & Gem Newsletter



Rock of the Month

April 2007

Editor: Rose Kapp (roszay@shaw.ca)



website:

[www.portmoodyrockclub.com](http://www.portmoodyrockclub.com)

**President:** Andrew Danneffel

**Vice President:** Warren Edwards

**Past President:** Drew Rekunyk

**Secretary:** Shirley Edwards

**Treasurer:** Al Strome

**Membership:** Sonja Stubbings

**Workshop:** Cecil Smith,

Andrew Danneffel,

Bill McCracken, Ken Ayres,

Geoff Cameron, Warren Edwards

**Newsletter:** Rose Kapp

**Society Delegates:**

Gary Richards (Sr.)

Drew/Diane Rekunyk (Int.)

Ken Ayres (Jr.)

**General Meetings:**

Last Thursday of each month

(except June, July, Aug. Dec)

7:30 PM, Arts Centre,

St. Johns St., Port Moody

**Next Meetings:**

March 29, April 26, June (tba)

**Port Moody Rock Club Website:**

[www.portmoodyrockclub.com](http://www.portmoodyrockclub.com)

**BC Society Website:**

[www.lapidary.bc.ca](http://www.lapidary.bc.ca)

I think men who  
have a pierced ear are  
better prepared for  
marriage. They've  
experienced pain  
and bought jewelry.  
~Rita Rudner

## AMBER

### A Moment In Time

Amber is the common name for fossil resin that is appreciated for its inherent beauty and is widely used for the manufacture of ornamental objects. Although not mineralized, it is sometimes considered and used as a gemstone. It is still believed to possess a certain medicinal virtue and some people claim it has spiritual powers.

#### INCREDIBLE INCLUSIONS

Most of the world's amber is in the range of 30–90 million years old. The oldest recorded amber comes from the Upper Carboniferous (approx. 300 million years ago). The oldest amber containing insects comes from the Lower Cretaceous (approx. 146 million years ago).

Sometimes amber contains remains of insects, frogs, spiders, crustaceans and other small organisms which became enveloped while the exudation was fluid. Fragments of wood frequently occur, while leaves, flowers and fruits are found in marvelous perfection.



*Insects trapped in a set amber, from the Natural History Museum, London, [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)*

#### LOCATIONS

Amber occurs in many parts of the world. Most of the amber which is used in the commercial production of jewellery comes from the Baltic region or the Dominican republic.

Although amber is found along the shores of a large part of the Baltic Sea and the North Sea, the great amber-producing country is Sambia, now part of Russia. About 90% of the world's extractable amber is located in the Kaliningrad region of Russia on the Baltic Sea. A lesser known source of amber is the Ukraine. This Ukrainian amber is much appreciated for its wide range of colors, and was used in the restoration of 'amber room' in the Empress Catherine's palace in St Petersburg.

Amber is found at various localities on the coast of England, the Netherlands and Denmark. On the shores of the Baltic it occurs not only on the German and Pol-

ish coast but in the south of Sweden and in southern Finland.

Amber has indeed a very wide distribution, extending over a large part of northern Europe and occurring as far east as the Urals. Amber and certain similar substances are found to a limited extent in the United States. A fluorescent amber occurs in the southern state of Chiapas in Mexico, and is used extensively to create eye-catching jewellery. Blue amber is recorded in the Dominican Republic.

#### USE AND WORKING WITH AMBER

Amber is extensively used for beads and other ornaments, and for cigar-holders and the mouth-pieces of pipes. The variety most valued in the East is the pale straw-coloured, slightly cloudy amber. In working amber, it is turned on the lathe and polished with whitening and water or with rottenstone and oil, the final lustre being given by friction with flannel. During the working much electricity is developed.

When gradually heated in an oil-bath, amber becomes soft and flexible. Cloudy amber may be clarified in an oil-bath, as the oil fills the numerous pores.

Heating amber will soften it and eventually it will burn. Heated below 200°C, amber suffers decomposition, yielding an "oil of amber", and leaving a black residue which is known as "amber colophony", or "amber pitch"; when dissolved in oil of turpentine or in linseed oil this forms "amber varnish" or "amber lac".

#### TREATED AMBER AND IMITATIONS

Small fragments of amber, formerly thrown away or used only for varnish, are now utilized on a large scale in the formation of "ambroid" or "pressed amber". The pieces are heated with exclusion of air and then compressed into a uniform mass by intense hydraulic pressure; the softened amber being forced through holes in a metal plate. The product is extensively used for the production of cheap jewellery and articles for smoking.

Amber has been imitated by other resins like copal and kauri, as well as by celluloid and glass. True amber is sometimes coloured artificially. Often amber (particularly with insect inclusions) is counterfeited



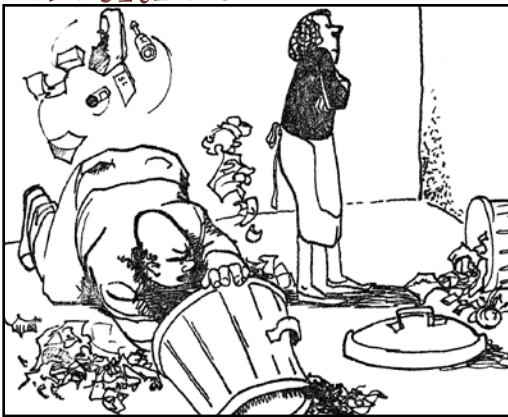
## Meeting Highlights

### General Meeting, February 22, 2007

- The PoMo Library Art Show, Sale & Talk, Feb.10, went well with both Andrew and Geoff displaying. There was interest and a few people joined the club.
- The Geological Society of Canada is interested in attending our annual show. This will be followed up.
- The benefits of belonging to the Gem & Mineral Society of BC was discussed. Gary explained how the Society provides field trip insurance, support, special events, and accessibility to field trip areas as a group.
- The club now has it's own membership cards. As well, the Society cards are now available for pick up.
- Fieldtrips: Gary is arranging to have a epidote trip in the spring. (If it ever stops raining.)
- Annual Show: We have a new name for this year's theme: Nature's Kaleidoscope. Rose will produce promotional material.
- A spring work-bee is in the planning to clean up the club basement and transport donated material in. Tentatively, Saturday, May 5th.
- The June Potluck has been changed to a general meeting, replaced with a July BBQ and prize workshop.
- The BC Guild of Facetors would like to join the Port Moody Rock Club. They will draft up a proposal.
- We watched a movie about Diamonds.

*submitted by Rose, acting secretary*

## Sunshine *Canadian Rockhound*



**I told yah an' I told yah - amber is supposed to have a bug in it!**

### Schedule for General Meeting Goodies

After every general meeting there is a round of treats and coffee. Here's a reminder who's next on the list of supplying goodies.

March: Lynne J., April: Bill M., May: Sonja

## WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

**MON.** Lapidary 8:30 AM - 12 noon  
**TUES.** Lapidary 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
**WED.** Faceting 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
**THURS.** Lapidary 8:30 AM - 12 noon

For faceting, contact Bill McCracken at 604-469-1726

## Rock News

### Meeting Entertainment Wanted

I'd be interested in hearing from anyone who would be willing to provide a demonstration/show & tell - or anything else of interest - as the entertainment at one of our monthly general meetings. We have been showing movies the past few months at the meetings which have been a hit; however, it would be nice to intermix them with presentations and other events. Any other ideas (i.e. if you know of a non-club member who might be interested in giving a talk) are also welcome.

### Saturday Workshops?

If our lapidary workshop in Kyle Centre were to be open Saturdays between 10 and 3, would you attend regularly? We are considering opening up the shop on Saturdays and are interested in learning the demand.

### Hole Drilling Workshop

Thanks to Drew for hosting the hole drilling workshop. The group learned how to use a Dremel/Fore-dom to drill holes into stone. The club has a Fore-dom at the workshop members may use. You will need to bring your own drill bits. If you're looking at buying a Dremel, they are available at Cosco for under \$50.00.

### Membership Cards

Please note that PMRC and Society membership cards are available for pick-up at the workshop. The cards will also be made available at the meeting this coming Thursday. The PMRC card is our Port Moody Membership Card (new this year). The Society card is issued by the B.C. Lapidary Society (our club is a member club of this society). Both cards can be used to obtain 10% discounts at most rock & gem stores in the lower mainland.

### Studio Tours

Our club will be participating in ArtsConnect's Studio Tours on April 21st and 22nd (Sat. and Sun.). Saturday, 11-4 and Sunday, 11-5. During the weekend our shop will be open to the public. The shop will feature demonstrations, a display case, and a small sales table. Visitors will also be welcome to make a cabochon. A map of the Studio Tours event can be found here (we are #12 on the map): <http://www.pomoartsfestival.ca/mainsite/studiotours.htm>

I am looking for volunteers to work in the shop this weekend who would help answer questions and assist visitors with their project. Volunteers are welcome to bring and work on their own personal lapidary projects, with the understanding that answering questions and helping visitors are priorities.

If you'd like to display or sell an item or two, I'd also like to know. We do not have a great deal of space for a sales table so we'd be limiting those wanting to sell to a few items. We'll talk about this more on Thursday but please respond to this message if you're interested in displaying, demonstrating, or selling at this event. If you are looking to volunteer we don't expect you to be there all weekend.

### Interesting WebSite

I came across an interesting web site worth passing along. It's called the Mineralogy Database and can be found at <http://www.webmineral.com/>. The site *continued on page 3...*

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### The 2007 BC GEM SHOW Minerals of the Pacific Rim

April 13, 14 & 15

Fri: 10am-8pm

Sat & Sun: 10am-6pm

Ag-Rec Building, Central Fraser Valley Frgrds, 32470-Haida Dr., Abbotsford, BC

Admission: Adults - \$6.00,

Students (6-17) - \$2.00,

Under 6 (accompanied by adult)- Free

Displays • 30+ dealers with crystals, minerals, cut stones, cutting material, gift items, supplies for silversmithing, beading, carving and lapidary

- In the club displays there will be displays of local material.
- Soapstone carvings
- Demonstration techniques of lapidary, soapstone carving, faceting, silversmithing, flint knapping, wire wrapping, and enamelling.

### Field Trip - Harrison Lake Fossil Collecting

Sunday April 22, 2007

Meeting place: 9AM,

Sasquatch Inn parking lot.

A great trip for kids, pick up some real clam or belemnite fossils! The Sasquatch Inn is located on Highway #7 in Harrison Mills. This is also at the turn-off for the Hemlock Valley Ski area.

Check a map.

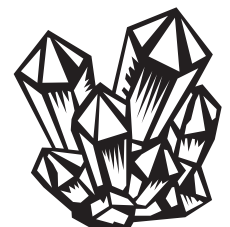
Leader: Walt Pinder, 604-826-2342.

• For more information, check the society web site:

[www.lapidary.bc.ca/gemshow](http://www.lapidary.bc.ca/gemshow)

• US wagon master trips are listed at:

[www.mineralcouncil.org](http://www.mineralcouncil.org)



## Rock News cont...

contains a searchable index of over 4,000 minerals. Information on a mineral includes an audio clip clarifying pronunciation, animations illustrating crystalline structure, in addition to basic locality and identification characteristics.

### Pacific Museum of the Earth Field Trip

Our club is looking into the possibility of having a field trip to the Pacific Museum of the Earth on the UBC campus. This museum features a wide range of fantastic mineral and fossil specimens. They have also recently re-opened "the vault," a collection of rare gemstones including some rough diamonds.

The museum staff also offers basic mineral and rock identification workshops that last about one hour. We have been looking at hosting one of these for a while now and I'm thinking we might as well roll the field trip and workshop into one event. This workshop is a basic introduction to identification and while it might be a little simplistic for more experienced rockhounds, beginners should find it informative and helpful.

We're looking at holding this on a Saturday in either May or June. At this point I'm leaning towards Saturday May 12th. UBC is a bit of a drive so we'd see what we could do about carpooling if members are uncomfortable making the commute themselves.

Please respond to this email if you're interested in attending this evening. We will need a sufficient number of participants to ensure this event is a go.

### Field Trips Possible

There are three more events I'm looking to organize in the next month. One is a field trip (or two) to the Tierneys, depending on how many people want in. The second is a Pomo-club-only field trip with Gary Richards for epidote crystals. The third is a repeat of last year's two week workshop, "Wire Wrapping with Shirley."

### Field Trips Possible

I thank our workshop users for treating the equipment with care over the past few months and our supervisors for continuing to make little tweaks and improvements where needed. I think the users are now familiar with the new wheels and pumps and have worked hard to use the equipment properly and respectfully.

*Andrew*

## AMBER

### Rock of the Month continued...

using a plastic resin similar in appearance. A simple test (performed on the back of the object) consists of touching the object with a heated pin and determining if the odor is of wood resin. If not, the object is counterfeit, although a positive test may not be conclusive owing to a thin coat of real resin. Often counterfeits will have a too perfect pose and position of the trapped insect.

### THE AMBER ROOM

The Amber Room was a collection of chamber wall panels commissioned in 1701 for the king of Prussia, then given to Tsar Peter the Great. The room was hidden from invading Nazi forces in 1941, who upon finding it in the Catherine Palace, disassembled it and moved it to Königsberg. What happened to the room beyond this point is unclear, but it may have been destroyed when the Russians burned the German fortification where it was stored. It is presumed lost. It was re-created in 2003.

*researched by: Rose Kapp, references: wikipedia*



*Amber Room detail*



*A lovely selection of belt buckles*



*Ken Ayres*

### A selection of photos from the PoMo Library Art Show, Sale & Talk, Feb.10, 2007.



*Interest from the public*



*Andrew, Marlene, Bill, Geoff & Neil*