

# **“BEGINNER ROCK TUMBLING”**

## **(INSTRUCTIONS FOR GEM SHOW WELCOME & KIDS TABLES)**

Presented by: Mel Buhr

### DISCUSSION TOPICS:

#### 1. Sources for equipment and supplies.

- Overview of tumbler sizes

- Garage / Estate Sales (make offers)

- Other Club Members

- Lortone, Inc (Mukilteo, WA)

- Kingsley North, Inc. (Norway, Michigan)

- E.R.G.C. Sales

- Craigslist

- Local Rock Shows / Dealers (ask for discount)

- All purpose plastic tub “small” (Home Depot, Lowe’s)

#### 2. Sources for Rock.

- Saltwater Beaches

- Rockhound Estate Sales

- Local Rock Shows/Dealers

- E.R.G.C. Sales

- Craigslist

- Auctions, Estate Sales, and Garage Sales

3. Grading/Sorting rough rock.

Most important ingredient is: THE ROCKS!

Differences in size & hardness

Disposal of unsuitable rock

Loading the tumbler

Timelines for grinding with grit

Washing Techniques

4. Polishing tumbled rock.

Sources for ingredients

See recipe on attached page

Timelines for polish

Washing & drying techniques

5. Sorting & packaging polished stones.

Welcome Table size, 1" to 2" Dia. Approx. (50 per QT Ziploc bag)

Kids Grab Bag size, up to 1" Dia. Approx. (fill GAL Ziploc bag)

Kids Spinner Prize size, over 2" Dia. Approx. (fill GAL Ziploc bag)

Bags and Bucket labeling

6. Presentation of finished stones to club.

7. Questions?

## **GRINDING RECIPE**

After selecting stones to tumble:

1. Fill Barrel with rocks about 2/3 full.
2. Add Approx. one (1) cup #80 grit per 25 lbs. of rock.
3. Fill barrel with water to within 1" to top.
4. Seal lid tight & run for 30 days. (DO NOT OVER-TIGHTEN!)
5. Remove rocks from tumbler & wash thoroughly.

## **POLISH RECIPE**

After stones have been thoroughly washed from grinding stage:

1. Insert all rocks into barrel.
2. Add (for 25 lb. tumbler):
  - 1 pint Tide Detergent
  - 2 heaping Tablespoons Polish Compound  
(Cerium Oxide) or equivalent
  - 3 pints Granulated Sugar
  - 1 ½ pints Leather Scraps (Approx. ¾" - 1" square)  
Available at Tandy Leather Factory, Shoreline, WA.
  - Water to within 1" of barrel top
3. Seal lid tight and run for 5 days. (DO NOT OVER-TIGHTEN!)
4. Remove rocks from tumbler, wash thoroughly, and air dry.
5. Sort and package finished stones.
6. Bring to Rock Club meeting for "Show & Tell".