

WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XIII ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2011

OLYMPIA WA

WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.WAMSOLYMPIA.WORDPRESS.COM](http://www.wamsolympia.wordpress.com)

REFRESHMENT LIST: AUGUST - CLUB PICNIC SEPTEMBER - GREG TOLBERT OCTOBER - DAVID OLEXER NOVEMBER - JERRY SPRENGEL DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY

BUY...SELL...TRADE

SHELTON ROCK AND MINERAL SOCIETY
2ND ANNUAL TAILGATE ROCK SALE AND SWAP
MEET. SATURDAY 8/20 AT THE SHELTON SOCCER
PARK, 2102 JOHNS PRAIRIE ROAD, SHELTON 9-5.
TO SELL: \$15 PREREGISTRATION OR \$20 AT THE
GATE. CONTACT RICHARD BUCHHOLZ 360-427-2497
OR [GIGGPIG@AOL.CO](mailto:giggpig@aol.com) SHOPPERS/ BROWSERS:
FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING.

This column is offered free to WAMS members to buy, sell or trade equipment or material reasonably related to rocks or minerals.

REMEMBER: AUGUST IS OUR POTLUCK!

Be sure you go to Rose Garden kitchen at Priest Point Park for our August meeting. (Off to the right as you enter the Park.) Dinner starts at 6 p.m. Bring a dish (salad, main course, or desert). The club will supply plates, utensils and drinks. After we eat, there will be a "tail gate" rock swap. The better the material you bring to trade, the better the material you'll receive in return. Be ready to trade and have fun. No business will be conducted.

TENINO SHOW: 17TH YEAR, ANOTHER SUCCESS.

Thanks again to Dan and Vicki DeBoer and his supporting cast: Charley Price, Bob & Kathleen Hansson, Doug and Sam Beam, Mike Tanaka, Keith Greetham, Jim Thomas, M J Huetter, Jerry Sprengel, Jamie and Evan Glasgow (guest appearances by Albert Bachman and Eleanor Miller), Greg, Kara, and Zoe. Thanks for all your help.

TREASURY REPORT:

On Saturday, we collected \$647 and Sunday the take was \$246 We bought \$250 worth of slabs from Dennis Hall and paid \$200 in back costs for PO Box and Newsletters etc. Our

treasury now sits at \$3903. Tenino still owes us back our \$500 deposit and Dan has additional vendor money.

Mineral Council Obsidian Trip - June 2006
by Rob Stewart

The Washington State Mineral Council hosted a week long field trip in late June 2006. This week long trip traveled to three areas. First stop were the Davis Creek and Lassen Creek areas in Northeast California, noted for sheen obsidian, in rainbow, gold, blue, purple, green, pink, and silver. The map sent out to get to the camp site was wrong. The trip leaders nailed up paper plates with "WSMC" to direct people to the camp. There were a few turns to the camp that needed signs for those unfamiliar with the area.

Digging began at Davis Creek. The site is easy to get to and is loaded with material. Even the tailing piles were sheen obsidian. Digging is required for fist sized or larger material. I have been told that for those who make spheres using a core drill for pre-form, the rounded or nodular shaped pieces are the best, because they break less often than the angular pieces when core drilled.

In the afternoon we switched to the Pink Lady area, acclaimed for its pink sheen deposits, along with rainbow and silver sheen. Some of us traveled over to Lassen Creek to finish off the day. While the digging is fairly easy at Davis Creek and Pink Lady, this is not the case at Lassen Creek. If the clay had more moisture it might be easier to dig. Keep in mind, this was late June with ample time to dry out. There were still occasional small pockets of snow hidden in the shade, but the temperature was around 90 the first day and higher the next. Looser soil forms the first two to three feet of soil.

The obsidian here is solid black. An occasional piece of sheen will come out, but it has been dug previously and reburied. You must dig below these earlier pickings to get consistent sheen. The sheen starts at the interface of the **HARD** clay and continues down into it. The Eastwing hoe-pick was the most effective tool. A full sized pick has too long of a handle and penetrated poorly. A rock hammer wasn't heavy enough to make a dent. The mid-sized hoe was short. Material was mainly blue, purple, and some bright rainbow in small areas. Most pieces were smaller than fist sized. It required effort to find the larger pieces of blue and purple.

The second day scheduled Lassen Creek in the morning and a sunstone area in the afternoon. Without a hoe-pick and no interest in sunstones, I returned to Davis Creek, specifically the glory hole that had given up larger pieces (up to volleyball size) the first day. I need to sidetrack to two extremely important safety issues: Cont on page 2.

LOCAL FIELD TRIPS (PUB. WSMC)

CMS, WMSC = Cascade Mineral Society. Brian Williams (206) 290-2312 email bwaters2011@gmail.com
 Ed L = Ed Lehman (425) 334-6282 wsmced@hotmail.com
 WSMC = Washington State Mineral Council, use Ed above.
 BC Wagon masters: Clair Belzer 604-946-8656
 Kit = Kitsap Rock club: Tony Schackmann 360-372-2777
 Maple = Maplewood club: Don Furey 425-348-4827
 Msvl = Marysville club: Christina Morrissey 425-398-1300
 Mt. Baker club: Kris Menger 360-366-0576 kmenter@comcast.net
 East King = East King Co, Norma Kicket, 206-612-3113
 N.W.R. = NW Rockies & MT Baker clubs: Kathy Earnst 360-856-0588 or Ed Lehman 425-334-6282
 Pvgm = Puyallup Rock Club Tony Johnson 253-863-9238
 Bellv = Bellevue, Bruce Himko, 425-957-1284
 Skagit = Skagit Rock Club: Vi Jones 360-424-8340
 Pebb = Whidbey Pebble Pushers: Dick Edwards 360-579-2807
 Pow Wow club = Cliff Matteson (253) 475-8433
cliff.conniematteson@gmail.com
 Longview = Longview club Emmett Johnson 360-636-3491
 Ashwood Oregon Darrell Friend 541-489-3252, web page www.ashwoodrockstock.com
 Eking = East King Norma Kikkert, kev1123@hotmail.com
 WAC - Washington Agate Club
 Yak = Yakima Rock Club Bill Snell 509-933-2093
 Whidb = Whidbey Rock Clubs Dick Edwards 360-579-2807
 BELL = Bellingham Rock Club Brian Hughes 360-671-7330
 EVR = Everett Rock Club Bob Johnson 425-408-0849
 NID = North Idaho Diane Rose 208-667-8591
 PVGM = Puyallup Valley Tony Johnson 253-863-9238
 Elb = Ellensburg Rock Dave Master (509) 925-3827
 WAMS = Wa Agate & Mineral Club. Mike Messenger. 360-561-6379 mmessenger@comcast.net
 Boe = Boeing Rock club Erik Chilson 360-825-3138
 Swms = SWest WA Mineral Society Dave Roth 360-295-3567
 W Sea = West Seattle Rock Club Brian Waters 206-290-2312
 Always call the club rep to confirm all trip data. Some trips have fees to non club members, so they can be a day member and be covered under club insurance. The usual fee is \$.50 a day. Pow Wow requires membership \$3 each a year. WSMC 6100 Road trip rider fee is \$8 to help offset the \$65 vehicle access permit we must purchase. Some trips have no charge.

UPCOMING SHOWS: 2011

SHELTON ROCK SOCIETY: AUG 20 9-5. TAILGATE ROCK SALE AND SWAP MEET.

SOUTHERN WA MINERAL SOCIETY: SEPT 17-18. CASTLE ROCK FAIRGOUNDS

FIELD TRIPS FOR 2011

8/6 YAK TIMBERWOLF MTN: Time TBD Naches (Yakima area) Quartz crystals w/inclusions.

08/20-21 PVGM GREENWATER 9 am @ Enumclaw Ranger Station. Agate, jasper. Dig and light hard rock.

08/27? Ed Lehman JADE CLAIM: Time TBD. Darrington Area. Jade- fee dig \$100 /person. Strenuous hike.

09/3-4 NSEA REPUBLIC WA: Time TBD. Plant fossils. Shale and splitting tools.

09/10-11 POWWOW RED TOP, CLE ELUM. 8 am W Fork Teanaway Camp. Geodes, agate, jade. Tools: Dig & light hard rock

09/17 PVGM LITTLE NACHES. 9 Enumclaw Ranger Station. Thundereggs. Tools: Dig & light hard rock

9/24-25 Stu Earnst (earnstkk@comcast.net) WASCO OR: 8 Goldendale WA. China Hollow Picture Jasper. **REG OPENS 7/1 \$25 Deposit**

10/29 MSVL: Miller River. 9 am Hwy2 Skykomish WA. Picture jasper. Rock Hammer and container.

11/5 Mt Bk: Blanchard Hill. 9 am I5 exit 240 gas mart. Stilpnomelane in Quartz. Hard Rock tools.

Cont from page 1:

1. Obsidian, more than other rocks, is razor sharp!
2. Undercutting in holes causes cave-ins.

The first day a boy was digging with adults watching/helping when the overhang fell on him. Fortunately, he only received a cut on one hand. It could have been life threatening.

I immediately knocked down the rest of the overhang and cleaned down to the undug dirt. In a diggers haste to find the Smithsonian specimen, much good material ends up in the tailing piles. (Always check previous diggings.) Digging down through new dirt, a large basketball face appeared. Excavation took more time than expected, being twice the size I had estimated and weighing 135 pounds. This locale has a 500 pound annual limit on obsidian, evident by a free permit from the town of Davis Creek that you must have in your possession.

All sites are off Highway 395 in the northeastern California. The Davis Creek site is the first left turn (if you are heading south) off of 395, after entering the town of Davis Creek which is marked by a small sign on your right. I recall the sign being brown, but you know how well a rockhound's memory can be when visions of sheen obsidian are on one's mind. Shortly, you come to a 4 way intersection with stop signs. Go straight and continue on as the road turns to dirt. From there the easiest way for me to remember the way is to follow the signs towards Benton Meadows. The signs will direct you to take a right onto a road that tees into the one you are on Turn on this road still following the signs to Benton Meadows. The road crosses a creek immediately after passing a sharp uphill hairpin spur to the left which goes to the digs, only a quarter mile to the site. This is a good thing because there is about a foot difference in height between the two tire ruts and the hairpin turn is not passenger car friendly. There are two pit areas here. The upper is straight up from the parking area. The lower is to the right above the parking area. People say there is a difference in the material, but both were fed by the same flow. I think what you finds depends on the hole you are lucky enough to be in.

The Pink Lady area is not hard to find. The Lassen Creek area is to the left of the road and just short of the campground. If there is anyone there, you can see the vehicles from the road. I plan to bring a topographical map when I return. Tim Fisher has directions posted on his web site (www.orerockon.com). They were helpful for getting familiar with the area before traveling there. His directions and the topographical map should get you there.

INTERNET ROCK SITES

1. www.orerockon.com - Pacific NW field trips, equip buy/sell, misc.
2. www.wrightsrockshop.com Has everything.
3. www.agateswithinclusions.com. The name sums it up.
4. www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Forest/2031/ . Terry's Oregon Rock Page has info on Oregon collecting.
5. Information on collecting in Eastern Oregon during the Madras Pow Wow: Write Eula Dillard, 145 E. 179th, Spanaway WA 98387 or call 253-847-2755.
6. www.wyodonor.org and www.thermopywy.net/bhbf for dinosaur excavation trips.
7. <http://mineral.galleries.com/minerals/byname.htm>
Part of Amethyst Galleries, Inc.'s web site, this is a listing of all the minerals in that company's (extremely extensive) database. More than a mere list, however, each entry is linked to its own page, giving info. such as the mineral's chemical composition, history, physical characteristics, and so on.
8. <http://www.goodearth.com/virtcave.html> The virtual cave site offers a directory of all caves in the US that are open to the public.
9. <http://www.luckystrickemine.com> Info from Prineville, OR rock dig site.
10. <http://www.the.gemshop.com>. The Gem Shop in Cedarburg, Wisconsin hold claims to central Oregon rock sites.
11. www.rockhounds.com This is a great site! Every aspect of rockhounding is addressed or it gives you a link.
12. www.stonetrails.com/ORlocs/ORlocs.htm Oregon rock sites Replace OR with WA...you'll get Washington sites.
13. <http://www.kinglseynorth.com>. **Buy grit in bulk.**
14. www.fs.fed.us/ - Fees and required permits for access to Federal lands.
15. General interest sites: www.rockhounds.com, www.fireagate.com, www.awesomegems.com
16. Be sure to go to our website (See top of Page 1). There are numerous links to other sites.
17. WEBSITES FOR DINO LOVERS
<http://dsc.discovery.com> Look for games and videos
<http://www.paleoportal.org>
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com> Look for technology and science.
<http://www.geo.ucalgary.ca>
<http://www.scienceschoolhouse.com>
18. <http://www.jescoproducts.com> **Buy grit in bulk**

OFFICIAL BLM REGULATIONS REGARDING COLLECTING:

You can collect a reasonable amount of rocks and minerals from BLM lands, but a permit or fee may be needed if you exceed certain amounts as described below. Note that the collecting limits for petrified wood are slightly different.

A REASONABLE DAILY COLLECTING AMOUNT

No BLM permit or fee required.

- fits in a car trunk or is a partial pickup truck load and,

- weighs less than 250 pounds
- and the material is not for commercial use.

(For petrified wood see below)

MORE THAN A REASONABLE DAILY AMOUNT

Requires a permit and fee from BLM.

- is a full pickup truck load or,
- involves more than one trip (or partial load) and,
- weighs more than 250 pounds
- or the material is for commercial use,
- or explosives or power equipment is used.

PETRIFIED WOOD:

Collecting petrified wood is free up to 25 pounds per day, plus one piece, but no more than 250 pounds per year. Pooling of quotas among two or more people to obtain pieces over 250 pounds is prohibited. A permit is needed for amounts over these limits.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES; CODE OF ETHICS

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations and rules governing collection on private lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting materials in collection areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind, such as fences, signs, building, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning materials--matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

I will cause no damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will support the Rockhound Project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless or how found.

I will cooperate with Field Trip Leaders and those in designated authority in all collection areas.

MINUTES JULY 5, 2011

WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY

WAMS meets the first Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., at the First Baptist Church of Lacey, 4702 22nd (corner of College St. and 22nd)

Officers:

PRES	Charley Price	
VICE-PRES.	M. J. Huetter	459-8121
ACT SEC:	M. J. Huetter	459-8121
TREASURER:	M. J. Huetter	459-8121
NW FED REP:		
MINRL CNCL :		

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

PROGRAMS:	Charley Price	
SILENT AUC:	Mike Tanaka	455-4607
ROCK SHOW	Dan DeBoer	866-3940
NEWSLETTER:	M. J. Huetter	459-8121

WEB SITE:	Charley Price
JR PROGRAM:	Greg Tolbert

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Printing & Mailing	
	M. J. Huetter 459-8121

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RETURN ADDRESS:

**WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY
P O BOX 2553
OLYMPIA WA 98507**

Called to order by Vice President M. J. Huetter
Boxscore: 11 Adults, 2 Juniors.

Guests: Paul and Jeanne

Show and tell:

Jerry – Oregon, private ranch, BIG rock with angel wing quartz and rhyolite. Also, limb casts.
 Doug & Sam: Hanson Creek. Crystal and amethyst, tumbling rock from Salmon Creek, black agate from Green River, and blue agate from First Creek.
 Sheryl: Alaska rainbow garnets.
 Greg: Oregon Whiskey River jasper
 Zoe: California obsidian and mahogany needles.
 MJ: Polished rocks
 Jim: Fossil leaves
 Bob Kathleen: Oregon Hampton Butte petrified wood.
 Mike: Washington sand made of iron.
 Keith: Bruneau, pyrite, Utah calcite, pink limb cast, coprolyes, and rutilated quartz.

Dan Deboer reminded all of the upcoming show, asking for volunteers at the Friday potluck for the vendors. He also announced that 11 vendors had signed up. (Note: thanks to all there was plenty of food on Friday and ultimately there were 22 vendors. All asked to come back next year.)

Before the meeting was adjourned, the acting President was reminded to announce that the August meeting would be our annual potluck.

Submitted by
M J Huetter, Secretary

MAIL TO: