

WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XV ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2012

OLYMPIA WA

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

REFRESHMENT LIST:

OCTOBER - MIKE TANAKA

NOVEMBER - JERRY SPRENGEL

DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY

BUY...SELL...TRADE

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

CASTLE ROCK SHOW DEBRIEFING. Bob and MJ sold \$375 worth of rock over 9/15-16. While it fell short of the \$689 taken in the year before, the weather was a lovely 80 degrees each day. Part of the income drop can be attributed to not enough rock for sale in the \$2-\$20 categories. (See plea directly below.)

ALL POINTS BULLETIN OR DESPERATELY SEEKING ROCKS! After the Castle Rock show, we're pretty much down to the nubs. Not enough to carry us to next May's Lacey Fun Fair. Any rock or buckets of rock you want to get rid of bring to the October meeting or call M.J. Huetter at 352-9702 for pickup. Thanks to Charley and Keith for recent donations. Recall the old rockhound adage: Don't stick you family with tons of rock when the music stops. Donate before it's too late.

TREASURY REPORT:

The checking stands at \$6101.41, plus we own 20 tables. A year ago at this time the balance stood at \$5184.31. We will be collecting 2013 dues over the next few months, but we will also be paying dues to the Federation and Mineral Council. In January we will pay \$325 to the church for rent and \$350 for liability insurance...same old circle of life.

"TWO THINGS YOU CAN'T AVOID...ELECTIONS AND DUES!"

Once again, we are looking for volunteers to fill the posts. Any warm body will do. It's highly recommended that you volunteer for a post before you are appointed to one. At the October meeting, we will ask for volunteers. At the November meeting, we will vote. At the December meeting, the new officers will take over.

Dues haven't changed--\$10 per household if the newsletter is mailed or \$5 per household if sent by email. You'll have the October, November, and December meetings to pay. Those who don't will be taken off the mailing list December 15th. Along with the club newsletter, your dues entitled you to receive the monthly Northwest Federation Newsletter.

VIBRATORY TUMBLERS ARE NOT THE SAME AS ROLLING TUMBLERS

A vibratory tumbler employs vibration as the driving force which powers the rotation of the load inside the tumbler hopper. The tumbling material is alternately separated and compacted during each vibratory cycle. This improves the tumbling process and allows fresh abrasive to be drawn in between the material. The compaction results on the other half of the cycle forcing contents against the container wall and causing an aggressive but gentle abrasive action. Only the contents inside the container actually rotate as the containers themselves remain practically motionless except for their driving arc of motion. Only a small amount of abrasives are required in the tumbling process, since they operate on a different than most ordinary tumblers.

As a general rule, one level tablespoon of abrasives per pound load plus an equal amount of water are the basic requirements for starting the tumbling process. As the abrasive begins to break down and combines with rock dust and water a slurry (or coating mixture) is formed, it is this type of coating which should be maintained throughout all the tumbling cycles. Too much water or too much abrasive will cause materials to collect in the bottom of the container and not rotate properly. (I can attest to that!! Ed.) It is necessary only to maintain a thin coating of abrasive slurry between the materials in the load. The load is capable of carrying only a given amount of slurry in rotation and suspension, any additional amount in excess will only cause improper operation of the unit and the collection of these materials in the bottom of the container, where they will be of no value in the process.

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 Kikket, 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.
 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.

RAINBOW OBSIDIAN: Nature's Glass Comes in a Surprising Array of Colors ROCK AND GEM 1993

Razor-sharp and shiny as glass, obsidian has served humanity from early history. Also obsidian is one of the earth's most colorful stones, occurring in a wide spectrum of colors.

Common obsidian, or natural glass, is abundant and often easily visible in volcanic outflows. Its glossy black veins are large and deep, almost beyond description. But the showy rainbow obsidian is comparatively rare in larger sizes.

Not so now: A record-size chunk of rainbow obsidian, much larger than any previously known, was recently unearthed in Oregon. How big? More than 4 feet in diameter, 12.5 feet in circumference! Its estimated weight is between 2 and 3 tons, about double the weight of the second largest known specimen.

This "packaged rainbow" showpiece was found by Bob and Betty Mitchell, long-time prospectors, miners and rock dealers, on their claim at Glass Butte in Lake County, Oregon. The boulder was excavated with a back hoe and hauled to Cannutt's Gem and Rock Shop in nearby Redmond, where it is now on display.

The Mitchells have mined this area of central Oregon for years. In fact, the claim, which yielded this huge rainbow obsidian specimen, was filed in 1962. The Mitchells first came to my attention more than 10 years ago when I wrote an article about their discovery and deep-rock mining of the spectacular Paiute jasper in a remote area of the Steens Mountains in southeast Oregon. In addition to rainbow obsidian, their claims produce flame, gold, golden glow and fire obsidian.

Research reveals that the Greek name for obsidian--the ability to reflect images like a mirror--was changed to a Latin name in honor of obsidian's supposed discoverer, Obsidius, who supposedly found the first obsidian in Ethiopia.

In fact, obsidian is found worldwide, everywhere volcanic action has occurred. It is abundant in North America, from the Aleutians through western Canada, the western United States, Mexico and Central America. Noteworthy obsidian outflows include the Glass Buttes area of east-central Oregon and the well-known Obsidian Cliff in Yellowstone National Park.

Obsidian, or "natural glass," is classified as an extrusive igneous rock. Because it emerged from the earth through volcanic action and cooled quickly, it has no crystal structure. Obsidian, high in silica content, is the uncrystallized equivalent of rhyolite and granite.

Although black is the most common color, obsidian occurs in a surprising variety of other hues, formations and color mixes. These include mahogany--a mottled reddish-brown and black; and snowflake--black with white flecks; and greenish, gray varieties.

Experienced rock hounds and mineralogists agree that obsidians are a "mixed bag." Beyond the curiosity value, the common obsidians have little value. But the rare and colorful varieties, such as rainbow, are sought by collectors, carvers, scrimshaw artists and lapidary craftsmen. Obsidian is easy to carve, being only 5 on the Mohs scale of hardness. More importantly, obsidian has the desirable quality of taking and holding fine detail.

These qualities made obsidian invaluable to ancient peoples, who shaped it into knives, spear points and arrowheads.

UPCOMING SHOWS: 2012

FIELD TRIPS: 2012

MSVL: MILLER RIVER 10/27. HWY 2 MONEY CREEK CAMPGROUND. PICURE JASPER. ROCK HAMMER AND CONTAINER.

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. I make sure 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.

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. Keith Greetham
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RETURN ADDRESS:

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

Box Score: Adults 17, Juniors 4
Guests: Megan Casto and Carin Larson

Show and Tell:

Jerry – Reproduction of dinosaur bone.
Bob – Circular balls of granite and green rock.
Kathleen – Peacock jade and garnets.
Jim Pedrick – Ammonites
Cherry – Thick mica and crazy lace.
Greg – Quartz crystals and garnets.
Doug – Lilly pad jasper.
Evan – Thompson River nodules.
Jamie – Banded agate, near Longview.
Zoe – Slabs, polished tourmaline, geode.
Jim Thomas – Ocean Shores, jasper and agates.
Megan (guest) – Inherited rock collection. Biggs jasper.
M.J. - showed big rock that fits in 12 lb tumbler.
Keith – Dinosaur theme, petrified dung, bones and gizzard stone.

No reports from Mineral or Federation. No old or new business.

Respectfully submitted by Acting Secretary
M. J. Huetter

MAIL TO: