

WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XVI ISSUE 5

MAY 2013

OLYMPIA WA

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

REFRESHMENT LIST:

MAY - M J HUETTER

JUNE - DAN DEBOER

JULY - THE HANSSONS

AUGUST 6 - CLUB PICNIC (Starts at 6. Potluck.)

SEPTEMBER - GREG TOLBERT

OCTOBER - MIKE TANAKA

NOVEMBER – THE HOLMQUISTS

DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY

TREASURY REPORT:

The checking stands at \$5480.92, plus we own 20 tables.

BUY...SELL...TRADE

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

Got rust?!

“I use Super Iron Out (available at Walmart for \$2.47) to clean quartz crystals, and I must say this product is great!. I used to boil them in Oxalic acid. But that process has MANY flaws. (even slow heating and cooling causes fractures, fumes, and it eats through any cooker.) Now all I do is pour 1 bottle of Super Iron Out into a 2 gallon gas can (NOTE I said pour acid into the water), seal and shake. The crystals are in large flat Tupperware containers, and I simply pour in enough of the mixture to cover the crystals by at least an inch. Then snap the lid and put in the dark place for 2 days. (Not sure if the darkness is needed, but I have a shed with racks that I use.) After 2 days, there is little sign of rust/oxidation. I rinse the crystals and then soak them for 24 hours in a baking soda bath, neutralizing an remaining acid. I have seen this remove rust from some to the nastiest looking crystals with just 1 or 2 soakings, including some ugly clusters I got from Spruce Claim. It even left the un-oxidized pyrites alone!” Super Iron Out contains sodium hydrosulfite and sodium bisulfite. They

have a website at IRONOUT.COM. Dennis Schneider – Wonders of the Mine 2010.

WORKING WITH MONTANA AGATE

Don't overlook the flat pieces of rough Montana agate. These often have fine, large sprays of dendrites, sometimes the elusive "red tops." These agates are sometimes rather milky and have thick white rinds, so it is difficult to see interior details. Cut a thin slab at first, parallel to the flattest surface. Do the same to the opposite surface. With a light in a dark room, you can "candle" the agate and determine where the next cut should be.

Lapidary Journal August 1998

FOR OPALHOLICS:

Goeff Huaghton has published basic instructions for successful opal doublets and triplets in THE OPAL EXPRESS of the American Opal Society. He uses quartz caps and a background material such as obsidian.

1. The surfaces to be joined should be absolutely flat, but not polished. After using a 260 grit diamond disc, a surface should be sufficiently rough for glue to hold.

2. Surfaces must be clean and absolutely free of oil. Wash them with hot water and dish washing detergent followed by alcohol and acetone.

3. Avoid bubbles in the glue. Take care when mixing the epoxy. If bubbles are left in the joint, they will show. Mix the epoxy more thoroughly.

4. Don't do any more work with the doublet until the glue has completely hardened. Give it at least two days in a warm place.

For those who do not use diamond discs, the parts are usually ready to assemble after using 220 grit carbide.

Alternatives to obsidian for a backing include black jade, black jasper, black agate, dark glass, and besantite. Some cutters of outstanding doublets or triplets use a suggestion from Paul Downing--spray the back of a thin piece of precious opal with flat black (epoxy compatible) paint. *Lapidary Journal August 1998*

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: Ed Lehman 425-334-6282
 Mt. Baker club: Kris Menger 360-366-0576 kmenter@comcast.net
 East King = East King Co, Norma Kikkert, 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 Mark Bauman 253-756-8636
 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 Brad Johnson 206-403-3073
 NID = North Idaho Diane Rose 208-667-8591
 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.

UPCOMING SHOWS: 2013

Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral 5/31-6/02. Swiss Park 9205 198th Ave East Bonney Lake WA

Everett Rock & Gem 06/01/-06/02. Everett Community College 2206 Tower Street Everett WA

FIELD TRIPS: Mineral Council. The wrong trips were reported in last month's newsletter. Try these instead

Msvl 05/18 Walker Valley 9 am Big Lk Store. Geodes.

Hard rock tools. (Plenty of energy required)

Powwow 6/26-30. Madras OR 8am Jefferson Fair Grounds. Agate, jasper, wood, T-eggs (\$). Dig and light tools.

Msvl 7/20 Darrington 10 am Rock Show behind IGA store. Travertine & Spelunking. Hard rock dig, dress for water.

Msvl 7/27 Lake Wenatchee 9 am Coles Corner Gas station. Garnets, actinolite, talc. Screen, wood saw, dig tools.

Msvl 8/17 Greenwater 9 am Enumclaw Ranger station. Agate, jasper. Dig & light hard rock.

Powwow 9/7-8 Red Top 8 am W Fork Teanaway Camp . Geodes, agate, jade. Dig & light hard rock.

Msvl 9/14 Little Nachese 9 am 410& FR 19. Thunder eggs, rhyolite. Dig & light hard rock.

Msvl 10/19 Money Creek 9 am Hwy 2, Money Creek campground. Picture jasper. Rock hammer and container.

Msvl 11/16 Blanchard Hill 9 am I-5 exit 240, gas mart. Stilpnomelane in quartz. Hard rock tools.

ACID: BE CAREFUL

Acid is often used by mineral collectors, lapidaries, and jewelry makers. Although some acids are more dangerous than others, it pays to treat all acids with respect and follow safety rules. The exception is vinegar--acetic acid--which can be used quite safely in many ways as a household solution.

Acid is usually used in solution. The cardinal rule is to add acid slowly to the water. The reverse is hazardous, as there is more of a likelihood of splashing. Use glass or ceramic containers with tight-fitting covers.

When working with acid, be sure to have adequate ventilation. If an acid solution is to be heated, do so slowly in a Pyrex container, preferably on an electric burner or hot plate at a low setting. A gas is more likely to crack the container. Some acids must be heated outdoors, so read the directions of whatever acid you are using. Always wear protective gloves when working with acid: protective goggles are advisable for some techniques.

Should you accidentally get acid on your skin, wash immediately with running water, then follow with a solution of bicarbonate of soda. A box of soda should always be nearby during any acid procedure. Nitric acid, hydrochloric acid, and sulfuric acid are extremely corrosive. Beginners should have an experienced partner when working with these. Always store the acids tightly in a safe place, well out of the reach of children.

Lapidary Journal February 1999

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.luckystrikemine.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 Charlie Price
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RETURN ADDRESS:

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

MINUTES APRIL 2, 2013

Box score: 15 adults, 5 junior

Guest: Richard Geier

Prior member back in the fold: Anne Heyerdahl

Show and Tell: APB: "Jim is missing his show and tell rocks. If anyone picked them up by mistake, please return them. Thanks"

Keith: A variety. Limnite herkimer diamond, tiger eye, staurilite, calcite, petrified lightning.

Bob: Amazing agate nodules from Silver Lake.

Zoe: Saddle Mt petrified wood.

Jaedon: Coal, gold ore, sandstone, dunite, sandstone, galena, basalt, zeolite crystal.

Chuck: Agate with pattern from Hemlock Creek.

Kathleen: Bison fossil vertebra.

Becky: Agate from Hemlock Creek.

Rhianna: Russian rock, pyrite, charoite.

Carson: Pumice from Riffe Lake

Jim: Quartz crystals from Arkansas.

Adult winner: Chuck.

Junior winner: Rhianna

Treasury report from newsletter.

Mineral Council: Field trips and show lists from website.

Federation report: None.

Show report: None.

Old Business: None.

New business: A lady contacted Zoe about a rockhound series.

Jim Thompson passed around a signup sheet for a membership list.

Information was passed out on Hollywood Ranch.

Mineral, crystal and fossil sale: John Sanderson 208-721-3429 or vagajohn@gmail.com.

Program: None.

Respectfully submitted by Acting Secretary
Charlie Price

MAIL TO: