

WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XVII ISSUE 05

MAY 2014

OLYMPIA WA

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

REFRESHMENT LIST:

MAY - M J HUETTER

JUNE - DAN DEBOER

JULY - RALPH NOLLNER

AUGUST - CLUB PICNIC

SEPTEMBER - JIM & CHERRY

OCTOBER - MIKE TANAKA

NOVEMBER - THE HOLMQUISTS

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. See below.

LOCAL ROCK TRIP REDUX: For those who still need more rock, mark your calendars for May 10th 2014. Another club sale of rock at \$1 a pound. Once again at MJ's house: 4616 16th Ave SE Lacey WA 98503. Hours 9 - 3:30. Open to members and friends. More big stuff than small stuff...

TREASURY REPORT: A special thanks to Kathy Farr and Charley for the sale at Charley's house on April 26.

Counting the sale of one saw, the club took in \$1803 and nearly recouped the initial outlay. Charley is considering having another sale, possibly in June. After the club chose their favorites, MJ swooped in to scavenge material for upcoming shows and fairs. So, the checking stands at \$3227.05. We own 20 tables and literally 1.5 tons of rock. Tally of rock sold vs \$5000 investment is \$2597. Along with the club rock sale on May 10th, the club will be selling rock at the Lacey Fun Fair and the Olympia Artists' Garage sale over May 24-25. In July we have our show and in September we will be once again at the Longview show.

HOW TO MAKE A GIFT

Get out that box of slabs you plan to use "someday" and

blow off the dust. Pick out six and trim to 4" squares. Round the corners and bevel the edges so the squares will have smooth edges. Polish the best side. Back the other side with self-stick felt. The thickness of the slabs does not have to be the same. You now have a set of six unique coasters in a variety of colors and patterns. Ore-bits 3/96

TOPAZ - BY Erin Huggins, age 10, Skagit Gems 1996

Topaz is a crystal form of aluminum-fluor-silicate, commonly found in shades of yellow or amber but also in pink, green, blue, or clear. Topaz has a hardness of 8, harder than quartz. Topaz forms at very high volcanic temperatures in igneous rhyolite cavities. The world's finest topaz comes from Russia, but fine topaz also comes from Ramona, CA, Pikes Peak, CO, and Topaz Mt, UT.

My family has visited Topaz Mt twice in the last three years to hunt for topaz. On our first trip we didn't find much at the mountain, but when we drove out we made an interesting discovery. We could see hundreds of little sparkles in the sunlight, so we stopped to look. All over the ground we saw little topaz crystals, especially near anthills. The ants had pushed them out of the ground to build their nests. We found lots of them, but they were all clear, like glass. Topaz loses its color in the sunlight, so don't leave topaz jewelry near a window.

We returned to Utah last summer with much better luck. We hunted for topaz at a commercial quarry called the Mile High Claim. We had permission to look there. During a day in the quarry we found many nice topaz crystals. Some were still attached to the rock, but many were loose. I discovered that by looking in the loose gravel at the base of the cliff there were crystals that had been knocked loose by the blasting. I could look there easier than grownups because they don't bend over so well. After I found a few my brother got real interested in the gravel at the base of the cliff, too. We got out some screens and managed to clean out all the gravel. This only took until about 10 o'clock that night, when my parents made us to bed anyway. Some of the topaz crystals were perfect, but some had little specks that looked like sand on them and in them. These are called inclusions. They are little specks of quartz. Some crystals look like they are made of quartz sand. When it got dark we could see all the little sparkles of topaz crystals in the moonlight. It was a very beautiful night!

That same day my dad found a really nice crystal. The way he found it was while he was picking up loose rocks to throw them out, he picked one up and when he laid it in his bucket, he saw the other side. He made a weird gasp that we all rushed to him to make sure he wasn't having a heart attack. It was a top quality crystal with a smaller crystal behind it. At first my brother thought it was a phantom crystal, which is a crystal with another crystal growing inside of it. Too bad it wasn't.

LOCAL FIELD TRIPS (PUB. WSMC)

CMS, WSMC = 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
LkSd = Lakeside Gem & Mineral club. Andy Johnson 509-546-1950
Maple = Maplewood club: Don Furey 425-348-4827
Msvl = Marysville club: Ed Lehman 425-334-6282
Mt. Baker club: Kris Menger 360-927-0994
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
Pvym = 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 Kicket, kev1123@hotmail.com
WAC - Washington Agate Club
Yak = Yakima Rock Club Jerry Wichstrom 509-653-2787
jewtmew@aol.com
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: 2014

May 3-4: Everett Rock & Gem Club: Everett Comm College Student Fitness Center 2206 Tower Street Everett WA

June 6-8: Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club: Swiss Park 9205 198th Ave East Bonney Lake WA 98390

July 26-27: TENINO SHOW – BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!!!!!!

August 15-17: NFMS Annual Meeting Hermiston Conference Center 415 South Highway 395 Hermiston OR

FIELD TRIPS: Mineral Council.

5/17/14 Elb: Saddle Mt. 9 @ Matawa Leprechaun Market. Petrified Wood. Dig & light hard rock.

06/14/14 Spk: Emerald Creek @To be determined. Star garnet. Tweezers

07/13/14 Spk: Lolo Pass @ To be determined. Smokey quartz. Dig tools, hard rock.

08/02/14 Shltn: Salmon Creek. I-5 park and ride Toledo. Agate, petrified wood, pseudo coprolites. Be prepared for wading. Shovel.

08/16/14 NWOS: Greenwater. 9:00 Enumclaw Ranger Station. Agate, jasper. Dig, hard rock.

09/06-7/14 POW: Red Top 8:00 Camp (W fork M fork jct) Dues, see above. Agate, geodes, jade, jasper

9/13/14 NWOS: Little Naches. 9:00 Enumclaw Ranger Station. Thunder eggs. Dig, hard rock.

10/04/14 MSVL: D.P. Mine & H.T. Creek. 9:00 Money Creek Camp. Ore picture jasper. Lt hard rock, light dig

11/08/14 MtBaker: Blanchard Mt. 9:00 I-5 240 exit gas station. Stilpnomelane & chert. Hard rock.

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.

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.

Minutes for April 1, 2014

Box Score: Adults 18, Juniors 8
Guests: Alexandra and Valerie Sullivan

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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MINRL CNCL : Jim Thomas

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RETURN ADDRESS:

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OLYMPIA WA 98507

Show and Tell:

Leann: Tumbled rocks from Clallam Beach.
Ralph: Vanadinite purchases from Mystery Gallery.
Keith: Polished agate nodules halves.
Kathleen: Agatized coral from Florida.
Matthew: Graphite from nuclear reactor.
Chase: Salt from nuclear reactor.
Bob: Martson Ranch Oregon Christmas tree jasper.
Zoe: Pyrite from Spain.
Johnny: Malachite and carved obsidian.
Kirby: Agate with clam inside.
Jeremy: Opalized wood.

Jeremy won the adult drawing. Matthew won the junior drawing.
Treasurer report per newsletter.

Old business: Charlie informed everyone that there will be a MEMBERS ONLY rock sale at his house on April 26 starting at 10 am. A big variety of material will be once again sold at \$1a lb. The precious opal will be sold at a discount. Plus there is some equipment. This sale will be in addition to the one scheduled for May 10th at MJ's. The latter sale will be open to members and friends.

New Business: There was discussion on expanding our show in July to a three day event. A motion was made and seconded to try a 3 day show if there are enough dealers interested and we could get permission from the local authorities. The motion passed unanimously.
Mineral council report: None. NW Federation report: None.
Dan reported one dealer has signed up and the show will be July 26-27, unless we go with the 3 day format. Bob mentioned the OSO slide and urged member to be aware of potential slide areas when out rockhounding.

Program: YouTube video on use of rock saw.

Respectfully submitted by Acting Secretary --Charley Price

MAIL TO: