

WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XVII ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2014

OLYMPIA WA

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

REFRESHMENT LIST:

OCTOBER - MIKE TANAKA

NOVEMBER – THE HOLMQUISTS

DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY

BUY...SELL...TRADE

Charley reports plenty of good material is left. Call him at 360-259-3063 and set up an appt at \$1 a pound. (Email is cprice@pacifier.com.)

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

LOOKING FOR: If anyone has any buckets they do not want or plastic bags bring them to MJ at the meeting. Thanks.

LOOKING FOR: We sold out all of our copolytes. Anyone have any? Willing to trade for some big rock.

TREASURY REPORT: The bank account stands at \$7574.37. In addition we have 20 tables and a lot of rock. We made \$670 at the Castle Rock show on 9/20-21. We paid bills of \$180 (next year's picnic, more small plastic bags, rock, newsletter, supplies.). Thanks to Bob, Kathleen, Ron and MJ for manning the booth. The weather was excellent.

"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 do not will be taken off the mailing list December 15th. Besides the club newsletter, your dues entitled you to receive the monthly Northwest Federation Newsletter. *Such a bargain.*

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, 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 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.
 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 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.
 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.

FIELD TRIPS: Mineral Council.

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.

UPCOMING SHOWS: 2014

Oct 10-12: Portland Regional Rock and Gem Washington County Fair Complex 873 NE 34th Ave Hillsboro OR

Oct 26-26: Bellevue Rock Club. Vasa Park, 3560 W Lake Sammamish Pkwy, Bellevue, WA

Oct 25-26: Clackamette Mineral Club. Clackamas County Fairgrounds 694 NE 4th Ave Canby OR

Nov 8-9: Skagit Rock and Gem Club. Sedro Woolley Community Center 700 Pacific St Sedro Woolley WA

Nov 8-9: Maplewood Rock and Gem Club. Maplewood Clubhouse, 8802 196th ST SW, Edmonds WA

CENTRAL OREGON COLLECTING LOCATIONS by Keene Clay, Mt Hood Rock Club.

The following is a brief summary of sites available around Prineville, Oregon. Maps showing these sites and others are available at the BLM on the East end of Prineville on Highway 26.

Pink Limb: Follow the Post/Paulina highway southeast out of Prineville to milepost 51. At MP 51, there is a gravel road that goes south for about 4 miles and ends up at a camping area on the South Fork of the Crooked River. The collecting area is in an area about one mile surrounding the camp and extending for a considerable distance further to the south and west. You can also get to the collecting area by going south on Camp Creek for about 8 miles and taking the dirt road to the east just past the rock quarry.

Pink limb material is an agate cast of wood limbs and pieces. It is classically pink in color but also will be clear, blue, green and gray. Some still has the wood grain showing and some will have beautiful quartz crystal interiors. Pieces can still be found in sizes ranging from finger size to tree trunk sizes. This location is available spring through fall. It is incredibly hot in mid summer. It is best in spring after heavy rains. The best collecting often requires some significant hiking over rough terrain. Some people have been successful digging in banks near the river and creeks in the area.

WHITE FIR SPRINGS JASPER EGGS: Take Highway 26 east out of Prineville to MP 41 and turn left on Wildcat Mountain Road. This site and others are well marked on maps available at the Prineville Forest Service or BLM offices. Follow this road for about 4 miles and watch for the forest service sign on the right side of the road. Turn up this little spur road for about 200 yards and you'll see distinct diggings on both sides of the roadway. The first big dig on the left has always been productive for rock hounds that are willing to put in hard work. The trick is to clean out the hole to about 5 feet deep. The top 4 feet will have very little material. Once you get to the 5 foot depth you will find a variety of tan lumpy potato shaped rocks. Some of them are still in the original matrix of welded ash. Do not overlook the large clumps of welded ash because they contain some of the best and largest eggs. The prize material is the tri-color or four color eggs that blend white, yellow, brown and purple in beautiful pastels. If one egg has good color, the others in the hole will usually have the same colors. There are many holes in the area and all have been productive, but the best multicolored eggs have been in the area close to the road.

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 259-3063
VICE-PRES. Bob Hansson
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NW FED REP: Jim Thomas
MINRL CNCL : Jim Thomas

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RETURN ADDRESS:

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

Minutes for September 2, 2014

Box score: Adults 21, Juniors 2.

We had a whole bunch of guests: Jan Teague, Jim Layton, Ron and Deb Knackstedt, Utta (a blast from the past), Wolfgang., Richard and Teresa.

Show and Tell:

Charley – making vases, taking pictures and making books.
Jim – a big piece of petrified wood (doug fir?) and books.
Jeremy – Hanson Creek quartz and calcite, zeolites.
Richard – Rough emerald, garnet, how do you remove from matrix?
Zoe – Geode from the Hermiston show.
Ron – took the goop off of a rock purchased at the Tenino show and made a beautiful cab.
Jackie – Thulelite.
Jan – Green jasper.
Kathleen – Garage sale corral fossils. Petrosky stone.
Bob – Oregon agate, honey colored.
Keith – Hip bone from a dinosaur, and a vertebrae from another.
Jim – Limb cast from Eastern WA. Thurdereggs from Central WA.
Utta – donated faceting equipment.

Winners: Utta and both juniors.

Treasury report in newsletter.

New Business: Jim said the Shelton club was looking for spinning wheel material.

No program due to technical difficulties.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary – M.J. Huetter

MAIL TO: