

# WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XVII ISSUE 09

SEPTEMBER 2014

OLYMPIA WA

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

## REFRESHMENT LIST:

**SEPTEMBER – JIM & CHERRY**

**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](mailto: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.

**TREASURY REPORT:** The bank account stands at \$7069.02 after the Tenino show deposits. In addition we have 20 tables and a lot of rock. We made \$120 at the Lacey Farmers Market/Family Kid day outing on 8/9/2014. We employed two spinning wheels and everything cost 50 cents. Since it cost \$25 to rent the space, Bob and MJ decided that the club would not do it again in the future. MJ took the \$120 plus another \$60 and purchased 9 buckets of rock for \$180 at the annual Maple Tree Lapidary sale in Renton on 8/23/2014. The buckets should average \$30-\$50 in sales. Most buckets contain cut agate nodules, roughly bookend size. Will see how well it sells at the Castle Rock show on 9/20/2014.

## FREE!!

The club has “some” rocks that are “interesting” but would be hard to sell—even to impressionable little kids. Typically we just load them on to the spinning wheel with a nice piece and *viola!*—they're gone. MJ will bring in pieces to the next meeting. If anyone wants them, they can have them. Free. If two people want the same rock, we'll just flip a coin. If three people want the same rock, we'll play Rock, Scissors, Paper. If more than three people want the same rock, we'll just have an old fashioned John Wayne fist fight—last person standing wins. Anyway, we'll try to move some of our inventory to members, since you bought it in the first place.

**Geology Classes:** The city of Olympia is offering a number of geology classes, starting in September. Call 360-753-8380 or visit their website [olympiawa.gov/experienceit](http://olympiawa.gov/experienceit). The classes

are: Geologies Plate Tectonics, Geologic Basics – Geologic Time, How Glaciers Carved the South Puget Sound, Geology Basics – Deposition, Volcanic Washington, Geology Basics – Introduction to Geology, The Three Great Floods of Washington's Past, Geology Puget Sound, Ten Great Geological Features of Washington.

## TUMBLING SUGGESTION:

Tumble agate slabs by layering them with about 50% small rounded stones that are less than 1/2 inch in diameter. They could be small beach agate, Sweetwater agate, or commercial material for tumblers. Balance the load so that there is a ratio of 30% flats, well separated by the small stones. Start with coarse grit to remove the saw marks. Next, use medium to fine grit, but be patient--- processing flat surfaces takes several times longer than that of normal tumbler loads. Use rotary or vibratory tumblers. LAPIDARY JOURNAL AUGUST 1996

## 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, WSMC = Cascade Mineral Society. Brian Williams (206) 290-2312 email [bwaters2011@gmail.com](mailto:bwaters2011@gmail.com)  
Ed L = Ed Lehman (425) 334-6282 [wsmced@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:cliff.conniematteson@gmail.com)  
Longview = Longview club Emmett Johnson 360-636-3491  
Ashwood Oregon Darrell Friend 541-489-3252, web page [www.ashwoodrockstock.com](http://www.ashwoodrockstock.com)  
Eking = East King Norma Kikkert, [kev1123@hotmail.com](mailto:kev1123@hotmail.com)  
WAC - Washington Agate Club  
Yak = Yakima Rock Club Jerry Wichstrom 509-653-2787  
[jewtmew@aol.com](mailto: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.

## FIELD TRIPS: Mineral Council.

**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.**

## UPCOMING SHOWS: 2014

**Sept 13-14: Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society. Walla Walla County Fairgrounds Community Center Building 3636 Orchard Street Walla Walla WA**

**Sept 13-14: Clallam County Gem. Vern Burton Community Ctr 308 East 8<sup>th</sup> St. Port Angeles WA 98362**

**Sept 20-21: Southern Wa Mineralogical Society. Castle Rock Fairgrounds A Street & Cowlitz River Castle Rock WA 98611**

**Sept 27-28: Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club Clackamas County Fairgrounds 694 NE 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Canby OR.**

**Oct 4-5: Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club Guy Lee Elementary School 755 Harlow Road Springfield OR.**

**Oct 10-12: Portland Regional Rock and Gem Washington County Fair Complex 873 NE 34<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 196<sup>th</sup> ST SW, Edmonds WA**

## INTERNET ROCK SITES

1. [www.orerockon.com](http://www.orerockon.com) - Pacific NW field trips, equip buy/sell, misc.
2. [www.wrightsrockshop.com](http://www.wrightsrockshop.com) Has everything.
3. [www.agateswithinclusions.com](http://www.agateswithinclusions.com). The name sums it up.
4. [www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Forest/2031/](http://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](http://www.wyodonor.org) and [www.thermopywy.net/bhbf](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://www.fs.fed.us/) - Fees and required permits for access to Federal lands.
15. General interest sites: [www.rockhounds.com](http://www.rockhounds.com), [www.fireagate.com](http://www.fireagate.com), [www.awesomegems.com](http://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  
ACT SEC: M. J. Huetter 352-9702  
TREASURER: M. J. Huetter 352-9702  
NW FED REP: Jim Thomas  
MINRL CNCL : Jim Thomas

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

PROGRAMS: Charley Price  
SILENT AUC: Mike Tanaka 455-4607  
ROCK SHOW Dan DeBoer 866-3940  
NEWSLETTER: M. J. Huetter 352-9702

WEB SITE: Charley Price  
JR PROGRAM: Greg Tolbert

**NEWSLETTER STAFF:**

Printing & Mailing  
M. J. Huetter 352-9702

The Washington Agate & Mineral Society Newsletter is printed and distributed monthly. Material may be reprinted if properly credited. Deadline is the 20th of each month.

**RETURN ADDRESS:**

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

## Minutes for August 5, 2014

**None. Picnic instead.**

Respectfully submitted by Secretary – M.J. Huetter

### **PAINTING THE RUBY RED** Lapidary Journal March 1992

If rocks and minerals came in shades of black, white, and gray, there would be few minerals we would consider gems. Oh, we might value certain minerals such as quartz, tourmaline, or corundum for their industrial properties, but in a world where color is often a criterion for beauty--the leaves of fall, fashions of spring, or a friend's eyes--we would almost certainly not treasure rocks and minerals for their beauty. For without color, a gemstone, with the notable exception of diamond, is just another "rock".

For nature to paint the ruby red, an extraordinary set of coincidences must take place. Many gems and mineral fans can recite the fact that chromium is the coloring agent for ruby, or some other element accounts for the hue of another gem, but that is just scratching the surface. What do we mean by "agent" or "accounts for"--just how does chromium give ruby its prized red? And more puzzling still, how does chromium make a ruby look red but an emerald look green?

Those are big questions and we don't pretend to try to answer them fully here, but we will probe a little deeper and examine not merely the chemical element, such as chromium, but the particles that make up the atoms of those elements and how they interact. For us to see colored stones, the right atoms of the right elements must be in the right places in the right amounts. And on top of that, these minute bits of matter must all be coordinated with the mercurial nature of light. For without light, gemstones, no matter how perfect their atomic recipe, would have no color.

**MAIL TO:**