

# WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XVIII ISSUE 5

MAY 2015

OLYMPIA WA

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

## REFRESHMENT LIST:

**MAY - TOLBERTS**

**JUNE - DAN DEBOER**

**JULY - MJ HUETTER**

**AUGUST - CLUB PICNIC**

**SEPT - KEITH GREETHAM**

**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 \$1a 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:** We sold out all of our coprolytes. Anyone have any? Willing to trade for some big rock.

**TREASURY REPORT:** The bank account stands at \$7114.73. Paid rent and insurance. In addition we have 20 tables and a lot of rock.

## ANCIENT GOLD PLACER

**DEPOSITS** Mountain ranges come and go.

Mountains are inexorably destroyed by erosion and by chemical reaction when exposed to atmospheric effects. Evidence of ancient ranges is out there to find. Some ranges have left features in place, to be seen by the careful eye. Others have been reduced to rubble and scattered by our planet's hostile surface environment. In southwest Washington, features of an epoch of volcano-building about 50 million years ago can be seen by careful observation. (Our modern peaks, including MT St. Helens, were uplifted or otherwise produced in the most recent several million years.)

Of particular interest here are the mountains existing in early Tertiary times (or early cenozoic, to 60 million years ago). On North America's west coast (for example), rock of these mountains was decomposed, swept away, and re-deposited to the extent that little was left in the mountains' place. Only the most chemically resistant and physically durable minerals survived the trip. Gold has both characteristics. In California and Chile, gold was carried

from the mountains by run-off, to be dropped at river bars. Later, other geological activities would bury the bars, thereby preserving them and their new mountain-building activities. This opened some of the ancient deposits, exposing them again to the atmosphere. Gold was washed from these placers to become mixed with newer gold being eroded from lodes in more modern mountains. Gold at Sutter's Mill had such origins.

## GEOLOGY CORNER

**BY RON GRAICHEN**

### PUBLISHED BY CARNY HOUND

Obsidian is volcanic glass similar to ordinary window glass. It is generally black, but some is "mahogany" in color. The black color is caused by tiny specks of iron, (probably magnetite) while the red is created when the iron rusts. Obsidian (glass) is really non-crystalline silica and is a "hard liquid". As such it is chemically unstable, meaning silica wants to align into crystal form. Because of this property, the glass does "rot" very slowly. Have you noticed that very old window glass is more brittle than new glass? Obsidian is a very young volcanic product in geologic time. There is no obsidian in "old" rocks.

## RECYCLING SAW OIL - FOR THOSE THAT HAVE TO

First, put the dirty trim saw oil in a disposable container, then add some very hot water and stir thoroughly. The hot water warms the oil and lowers its viscosity, letting the dirt settle out more easily. As the water sinks to the bottom, it carries the dirt with it, leaving clean oil on top. Put the container in a freezer or set it outside in a northern winter. After the water freezes, you can pour off and reuse the oil. *Lapidary Journal* September 1998.

## SHOP HINTS

Use your trim saw for the essential straight cuts, then use a pair of slip-joint pliers to finish your rough preform by the process of nibbling. Nibbling removes objectionable points of material--use the pliers with strong pressure while simultaneously giving a sharp twist to the cabochon blank. Agate and similar materials respond well to this technique; however, a tough material such as nephrite does not.

Cleavage planes in fluorite may give the faceter trouble. Advanced cutters advise orienting the table facets away from the cleavages by cutting 10 degrees away from the cube. Cutting a twinned crystalline gem such as amethyst or chrysoberyl may also be difficult. Experts suggest having the twinning plane just below and parallel to the girdle.

*Lapidary Journal August 19*

## LOCAL FIELD TRIPS (PUB. WSMC)

CMS, WMSC = 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 Kickett, 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](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.

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.

The Washington State Mineral Council plans guided fieldtrips to collecting sites. Open to member clubs and the general public.

Most trips are free. (Our club is a member of the Mineral Council.) Included will be PowWow trips. (Must joint to go on trips.) Host clubs and contact persons will be set up as I gather info. For now, go to [mineralcouncil.org](http://mineralcouncil.org) for updates or contact Ed Lehman at [wsmced@hotmail.com](mailto:wsmced@hotmail.com), home (425-334-6282) or cell (425-760-2786). 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.

May 23: ELB. Saddle MT. 9 am Mattawa Leprechaun

Market. Petrified Wood. Dig, Lt hard rock.

June 15: SPK. Emerald Creek. 9 am @Emeral Creek Star Garnet Area, Idaho. Garnets. Tweezers.

June 21-24: POWWOW. Madras OR. 8 am Fairgrounds. Dues required. Petrified wood, agate, jasper, thunder eggs- \$1 lb.

July 18: Darrington. 11Am @show, Darrington Grange. Travertine. Lt hard rock tools.

August 15-16: NWOS. Greenwater. 9:00 am @ Enumclaw Ranger Station. Agate, jasper. Dig, Lt hard rock.

Sept 12-13: POW. Red Top. 8:00 am @ camp (W for M fork jct) (see dues above.) Agate, geodes, jade, jasper.

Sept 26: NWOS. Little Naches. 9:00 am Enumclaw Ranger Station. Thundereggs. Dig, Lit hard rock.

### UPCOMING SHOWS: 2015

May 2-3: Everett Rock and Gem Club Everett Community College, Student Fitness Center, 2206 Tower Street, Everett WA

May 2-3: Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club. Douglas County Fairgrounds, I-5 Exit 123, Roseburg OR

June 5-7: Puyallup Valley Gem and Mineral Club Swiss Park, 9205 198<sup>th</sup> Ave East Bonney Lake WA 98390

July 24-26: OUR SHOW IN TENINO.

Aug 15: Shelton Rock and Mineral Society. Tailgate Rock Sale and Swap. 9 – 5. Shelton Soccer Park Parking Lot, 2102 John's Prairie Road.

Oct 24-25: Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club. Clackamas County Fairgrounds, 694 NE 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Canby OR 97013

## 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.wyodinator.org](http://www.wyodinator.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

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### RETURN ADDRESS:

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

## Minutes for April 7, 2015

**Box score:** Attendance 25 adults 1 junior.

Guests: Jenny Baxter, Bob Lambert, Kara Cereshino, Ryan North

### Show and Tell:

Jim P: Rainbow and mahogany obsidian.  
Cherry: Pumice, leopard jasper bracelets.  
Jim Pr: Trip to Rice Museum. Geode with sprayed on polish.  
Kathleen: Chrysocolla  
Bob: Small polished thunderegg halves.  
Chuck: New Zealand sponge, fossil shells.  
Becky: New Zealand beach fossils.  
Greg: Nebraska rattle snake egg.  
Tracee: Green jasper, agates.  
Zoe: Agate from Nebraska.  
Ron: Aquamarine cab.  
Albert: Fern inclusions in opaque agate.  
Dana: Malachite.  
Jenny: Agate and jasper.  
Teresa: Amethyst, lapis, geode, agate.  
Ryan: Zeolites glued to branch.  
Richard: Faceted gem stones.  
Shawn: Beach agate, Green Mt. Carnelian.  
Rachel: Black beach agate, petrified wood, polished agate, fossil.

### Minutes and treasury report per newsletter.

**Mineral Council and Federation Report.** Jim mentioned that House Bill 1271, dealing with rockhounds on state land, died in committee. Updated field trip and show listing is now on the Mineral council website.

**Show Report:** Dan reported that the show is on schedule for the 24th-26<sup>th</sup> of July. He handed out flyers for distribution.

**Old Business:** None. **New Business:** Charlie said that he has 2 display cases available for members. There are currently pictures on our website. Interested, contact Charlie at 360-259-3063.

**Program:** Charlie lead a discussion on petrified wood.

Respectfully submitted by Acting Secretary – Charley Price.

**MAIL TO:**