

# WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XVIII ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2015

OLYMPIA WA

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

## REFRESHMENT LIST:

**NOVEMBER – THE HOLMQUISTS**  
**DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY**

### BUY...SELL...TRADE

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

Tim Howard has FREE show cases for anyone who wants to cart them off. His phone number is 360-458-7841

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

**Amethyst Trip: November 8. Meet at the Martin Way Park N' Ride. Questions, call Jim 360-459-3655.**

## "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. All offices are up for grabs.

**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](http://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*

**TREASURY REPORT:** *The bank account stands at \$9428.76 We have 20 tables and lots of rock. Charley sold \$529.50 worth of rock at the rock sale held at his house.*

## 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

Dar = Darrington Rock Club. Ed Lehman (see above)

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 Kicket, 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 = Larry Vess - [vessel3@comcast.net](mailto:vessel3@comcast.net) 253-473-3908, 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 Steve Townsend [srrocks@aol.com](mailto:srrocks@aol.com) 509-244-8542

NWOS - Northwest Opal Society. Tony Johnson - 253-863-9238

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.

11/14: MtBkr. Blanchard Mt. 9Am @ I-5 240 exit, gs station. Stilpnomelane & chert. Hard rock tool.

## UPCOMING SHOWS: 2015

Nov 7-8: Maplewood Rock Club. Maplewood R&G Clubhouse, 8802 196<sup>th</sup> St SW, Edmonds WA

Dec 5-6: Maplewood Rock Club. Maplewood R&G Clubhouse, 8802 196<sup>th</sup> St SW, Edmonds WA

## UPCOMING SHOWS: 2016

Feb 13-14: Whidbey Island Gem Club. Oak Harbor Senior Center 51 SE Jerome Street Oak Harbor WA

March 5-6: East King Co. Pickering Barn 1730 10<sup>th</sup> Ave NW Issaquah WA

## 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*

## 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	
<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRS:</b>		
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.

## Minutes for October 6, 2015

Boxscore: Adults 21, Juniors 0

Guests: Kris, Mike.

### Show and Tell:

Jim: Showed discarded mines/metals manuals.  
Kathleen: Interesting rock.  
Jim: Mt. Rainier peacock rock.  
Cherry: Trilobite?  
Bob: Amethyst  
Ralph: Specimens from Lima Lake.  
Jim: Jade from a recent trip.  
Alan: Petrified wood and purple agate, McDermitt NV  
Rachel: Lake Superior agate, and Hawaii drusy agate.  
Karen: Trip to Red Top and Ellensburg Blue.  
Rainiy: Some of her mom's rocks. Sulphur, copper?  
Thundereggs, Milton Creek jasper.  
Bob: Rock with tongue.  
Keith: Pink alabaster, Cherry Orchard agate.  
Kris (guest): Striped rock.  
Mike (guest): Bunch of rocks acquired diving in rivers.  
Petrified wood, agate, fossilized bone?, jasper

Drawing winner: Mike.

Treasury report in minutes. Charley sold \$529.50 worth of rock at his sale. Jim set the amethyst date for Nov 8<sup>th</sup>. Meet at 12:30 at the Martin Way park and ride. Ralph reported that the WA Geology Library was having its annual silent auction on 10/14, ending at 3 pm. DNR building. The club auctioned off Spencer Opal. Charley presented a program showing his trip to gather Pinto Creek jasper.

Respectfully submitted by Acting Secretary M.J. Huetter.

## Tips from Ed Reiber (He won the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society's Jaguar Trophy at the Gem Diego show in 1998 for his case of polished Mexican agates.)

Deer Park fire agate - I used an old sewing machine motor with a chuck attached to it to hold the tool. That way, I could hold the piece to be worked on with both hands and have better control over it. I used silicon carbide grit on wooden dowels and Cratex wheels to shape the piece and follow the surface of the fire layer. The sewing machine motor didn't go too fast, so I didn't burn through the fire layer. I finished up with cerium oxide on a wooden dowel, which put a nice polish on the fire agate.

Displaying translucent cabs and polished slabs with dendrites or sagenite--The idea is to bounce as much light as possible through the translucent stones. First, use white liners and risers. I use about a 5-6 inches tall and 3 inches wide riser along the sides and back of the case. I can then put two rows of cabs and specimens around the edges of the case, one on top of the risers along the sides and back of the case. I can then put two rows of cabs and specimens around the edges of the case, one on top of the risers and one just in front of the risers. In the center is a slightly tilted stand of clear Plexiglas, about 2-3 inches tall in the front and 3-4 inches tall in the back, with rows of cabs laid on it. This really lets the light shine through.

## TEST FOR TOPAZ

Quartz and topaz are not easy to separate by eye, sometimes impossible when the quartz is a true topaz color. Obviously, there is a big price difference, so you don't want to be fooled, unless you're one of the rare rock hounds that has money to burn.

Topaz is harder than quartz. A drop of water will not spread on topaz, but will on quartz. Clean the stone with a cloth to remove all trace of grease. It must be dry before the test; then place a small drop of water on it.

On stones with a hardness of 7 or less on the Moh's scale, the water will disperse. On harder stones, it will remain as a globule. The harder the stone, the more rounded will be the globule.

*Ore-Bits*