

# WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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MAY 2016

OLYMPIA WA

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## REFRESHMENT LIST:

**MAY - M J HUETTER**

**JUNE - DAN DEBOER**

**JULY - TOLBERTS**

**AUGUST - CLUB PICNIC**

**SEPTEMBER - ROBERT LAMBERT**

**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.*

## THE COSMIC QUESTION: SHOULD YOU LABEL YOUR ROCK COLLECTION?

Let's be truthful and air our dirty linen: It's a rare rock hound who catalogs his collection. Designating "Bucket 1", "Bucket 2", etc. with a grease pen does not count. After a hard day digging and hauling home tons of questionable material at best, it's all we can do just to dump them in a pile. Thank goodness for big back yards.

We rely on oral tradition, ignoring such recent discoveries as the printing press or word processing programs. "Honey, all the stuff around the drive is petrified wood, except for any obsidian, jasper, and chunks of broken asphalt that may be mixed in by mistake."

Admittedly, word of mouth is not a very orderly procedure, but it works. *Fact: it's counter productive to label material that is stored under the back deck or behind the shed. Also, it's dangerous, considering the infestation of black widow spiders.*

So why bother? Any knucklehead knows that a 3000 pound boulder was carted home as a source of future cabs, not a specimen for the Smithsonian. Besides, after 13 years, who can remember where and how it was acquired? It's a "get around to" rock, not something reviewed by Bob Jones for the Tucson Gem and Mineral Grand Case.

Of course the argument swings the other way if you're lucky enough to own a prize piece. For bragging rights, the rock should be labeled, if only to inform the viewer it isn't a synthetic bauble purchased for \$19.99 from "As Seen On TV."

Does affixing a label detract or add to the stone's natural beauty? Many figurative rocks have been exchanged over this question.

Consider...should Marilyn Monroe have worn a badge: "*Norma Jeane Mortenson*. Carbon life form. 92% water."? Or that gorgeous LA sunset: "*Light refraction*: Primary colors filtered through 1,000,000 tons of floating pollutants." Who cares about the origin, density, and chemical symbol of malachite, when "How much do you want for it?" succinctly sums up its worth and beauty?

If you must label a specimen, please, get the name right. Is it Jade, Fake Jade, Nephrite, or Moose Creek Green? Some have more aliases than Carlos the Jackal. To avoid heated arguments, only collect specimens with one name. The Hope Diamond, for example. Who will question the nomenclature when you surround it with 20 armed marshals.?

Frankly, only one reason exists to label or (mislabel) your collection: money. Advertising "All you can carry -- \$5!!", doesn't command much attention. But terms like "Diamond" or "Imperial Jade" added to locales like "Kimberly Mines, South Africa" or "Zhu River, China" will make people wish their credit card limits were higher. Whether or not it really is Imperial Jade moves us into ethics, which this article doesn't have time to address. We're still trying to figure out the concept of labeling.

Another reason (\$\$\$) for cataloging, or, at least, sorting material is that the last thing you want to do is sell a bucket of thunder eggs for \$20 and hear the purchaser exclaim "Wow, look at all this Ellensburg blue at the bottom."

Purists say "baloney" to all this discussion. "Look, just let the rock sit out on the lawn in its natural beauty. Wait for someone to start asking questions. Avoid written information that could hold you liable. For example: "I got this piece at a silent auction." (True.) "I was told it may have broken off of the meteor that blasted all the dinosaurs into extinction." (Hearsay.) "But I can't be certain. The previous owner said he bought it from a rock shop in Minnesota from a bin marked 5 cents per pound. (Leave out of conversation.) "That's why I placed a question mark after the 'Jurassic Meteor?'" (Caveat Emptor.)

While not required by U.S. law, certain rocks should be labeled out of courtesy. Uranium for sure. Cinnabar with high concentrations of cyanide. Chipped obsidian with scalpel edges, and mercury, while not a heavy favorite among rock hounds, still fascinates kids. With profit margins razor thin, any lawsuit could easily wipe out 20 years of sales.

As Shakespeare noted centuries ago: "A rock by any other name, still carries weight"-- at which point Macbeth heaved one through Juliet's stained glass window.

## 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 [srtrocks@aol.com](mailto:srtrocks@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.

5/7 Dar. Racehorse Creek. 9 am IGA @ Nugent's Corner. Fossils and mushrooms. Dig & Hard rock (only for the fossils.)

5/21 Elb. Saddle Mtn. 9 am Mattawa Lepricon Market. Petrified wood. Dig and Hard rock.

6/10-14 Spk Succor Creek & McD. Call host for info. Thundereggs and Agate. Dig & Hard rock.

6/1 Dar FR 17 & 18. 9 am Darrington IGA. Jade, Serpentine, Hematite. Dig tools.

6/23-26 NWOS Madras Oregon. 8 am County Fair grounds. Agate, Petrified wood, Thundereggs. Dig and Hard rock.

7/16 POW Sweetwater. 10 am Darrington show grange. Travertine. Dig and Hard rock

8/20-21 NWOS Greenwater 9 am Enumclaw Ranger Station. Agate and jasper. Dig and Hard rock.

9/10-11 POW Teanaway. 8 am Teanaway camp. Geodes, agate, jade. Dig and Hard rock.

9/24 NWOS Little Naches. 9 am Enumclaw Ranger Station. Thundereggs and Lilypad Jade. Dig and Hard rock.

10/15 Msvl Money Creek. 9 am Money Creek camp gorund. Oregon and Picture Jasper. Dig and Hard rock.

11/19 Mt Baker club. Blanchard Hill. 9 am I5 exit 240 gas station. Dalmation Stone. Hard rock.

**TREASURY REPORT:** *The bank account stands at \$8381.79. Paid \$200 to reserve Tenino for our show. We have 20 tables and lots of rock.*

## 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

Mailing address: P O Box 2553 Olympia WA 98507-2553

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

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SILENT AUC: Mike Tanaka 455-4607  
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### 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.

### UPCOMING SHOWS: 2016

May 7-8: Umpqua Gem and Mineral Club Douglas County Fairgrounds I-5 Exit 123 Roseburg Or

June 3-5: Puyallup Valley Gem and Mineral Club Swiss Park 9205 198<sup>th</sup> Avenue East Bonney Lake WA 98390.

July 24-26: WAMS. Once again into the fray...  
July 29-31: Willamette Agate and Mineral Society (AFMS and NFMS Meetings) Linn County Expo Center Albany Oregon

October 1-2: Marysville Rock Club. Totem Middle School Gym 7<sup>th</sup> Street and State Ave, Marysville WA  
October 22-23: Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club Clackamas County Fairgrounds 694 NE 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Canby OR 97013

October 22-23: Bellevue Rock Club. Vasa Park, 3560 West Lake Sammamish Parkway SE, Bellevue WA

November 12-13: Skagit Rock Club. Sedro Woolley Comm Center, 703 Pacific Street Sedro Woolley WA  
**MINUTES FOR APRIL 5, 2016**

**Box score:** Members 25, guests 4

**Guests:** Suzy Waldron, Tim Vance, Tera Geimer, Zoe Aleshire

### Show and Tell:

Keith – **WELCOME BACK**, Copper specimens.  
Jim P. - Petroski Stone slabs, shaker box for gold panning  
Neial – Limestone with fossil shells.  
Mary – Misc beach rocks.

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Bryan T. - Opalized petrified wood.

Kathleen – Christmas tree jasper from Oregon.

Bob – Fortification carnelian agate with polished surface.

Sabrina – Agate, Jasper, Amethyst.

Bryan – Polished cabs, coprolites, common opal.

Richard – Autenite (uranium ore). Geiger counter.

Therese – Amber, amonite, horn corral, tooth fossil.

Rachel – Shaun's agates from Montesano. Agate, Geology book.

Albert - Turquoise (dyed), Turquoise (real).

Bob L. - Shelton rock quarry zeolites.

Brandon – Zeolite, thundereggs, citrine, Holly Blue agate.

Arlyn – Agates.

Tera – Sedimentary river rock.

Rainy – Rock Net weight.

Jim – Celestite.

Cherry – Misc animal beads.

David – Shells from beach.

Zoe – Agate, jasper.

Cherry was the adult winner. Brandon and Arlyn won junior prizes.

**Treasury** report: per newsletter. **Federation** report: None.

**Mineral Council** report: None. **Show** report: Dan has heard from dealers already. May be conflict with school remodel for use of Multi Purpose Room.

**Old business:** Meeting with Feds was positive concerning Group trips. Short discussion on individuals collecting on Public Land.

**New business:** Jim P. has 3 amethyst trips in future. Contact him for dates and times. Info available for Shelton Tailgate sale and Grays Harbor Gem Show.

**Good of the Order:** Ralph brought more minerals from the State Library collection for the juniors.

**Program:** Display options for cabs and polished rocks. Recorded by acting Secretary Charlie Price.

## ACID: BE CAREFUL

Acid is often used by mineral collectors, lapidaries, and jewelry makers. Although some acids are more dangerous than others, it pays to treat all acids with respect and follow safety rules. The exception is vinegar--acetic acid--which can be used quite safely in many ways as a household solution.

Acid is usually used in solution. The cardinal rule is to add acid slowly to the water. The reverse is hazardous, as there is more of a likelihood of splashing. Use glass or ceramic containers with tight-fitting covers.

When working with acid, be sure to have adequate ventilation. If an acid solution is to be heated, do so slowly in a Pyrex container, preferably on an electric burner or hot plate at a low setting. A gas is more likely to crack the container. Some acids must be heated outdoors, so read the directions of whatever acid you are using. Always wear protective gloves when working with acid: protective goggles are advisable for some techniques.

Should you accidentally get acid on your skin, wash immediately with running water, then follow with a solution of bicarbonate of soda. A box of soda should always be nearby during any acid procedure. Nitric acid, hydrochloric acid, and sulfuric acid are extremely corrosive. Beginners should have an experienced partner when working with these. Always store the acids tightly in a safe place, well out of the reach of children. Lapidary Journal February 1999.