

September 2023 Volume 63 Issue 4

Official Publication of the
Skagit Rock and Gem Club
Serving Skagit County WA
Since 1961

SKAGIT GEMS

Next meeting:

September 2, 10am @ the Mount Vernon Senior Center

Gem of the Month: Purple Rocks & Gems

Refreshments: Feel free to bring a snack!

Don't forget—Dues are due!

September Birthstone: The Sapphire

Meaning, Symbolism, and History of the Sapphire

Known for its deep blue color, the sapphire has been one of the most sought-after gems for centuries. It's part of what some consider to be the big three of jewelry stones, along with the ruby and the emerald. It has symbolized royalty and truth, while many have cherished its mysterious healing powers. Learn more about the history, meaning, and symbolism of the sapphire – the September birthstone!

Sapphire's Color

The gemstone is best known for its striking pure-blue color, but it can range from greenish-blue to violet-blue. Part of the same corundum family as the ruby, stones in violet, green, yellow, orange, pink, and purple are known as "fancy sapphires." Some exhibit color changes, depending on the lighting.

Corundum is naturally colorless, but trace amounts of elements like iron, titanium, and chromium lead to a range of colors. Outside of red corundum (rubies), all other corundum gems are considered sapphires.

By Tim Goodwin
June 20, 2023

<https://www.almanac.com/september-birthstone-sapphire>



Photo Credit By Sapphireedge (Own work) via Wikimedia Commons

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From the Editor:

Hello All!

As the summer continues to fly by it's good to be home and out of the heat. We went on a three-plus week road trip that covered seven states and close to four thousand miles! So many awe-inspiring places, starting from the beautiful San Juan Islands travelling to elevations close to ten thousand feet! Each so unique in its landscape, terrain, and ancient man-made features from hundreds, and even thousands, years past. The creeping plague of Mormon crickets at Dinosaur National Monument Visitor Center was unexpected, and I was relieved to find they did not make their way to Rangely, Colorado, less than an hour away, where we stayed a couple days to explore The Canyon Pintado Historic District. Driving the unpaved highway CO-23, we were the only vehicle present the entire day so we were able to check out the petroglyphs, pictographs, and ancient sites in the remote Freemont archeological site with only the spirit winds as our companions. The following day we continued on highway 139 and visited more sites and even saw wild horses grazing off the highway. We also visited the Black Canyon of the Gunnison and Mesa Verde National Parks. The elevation and view down from those two places made us dizzy! Incredible. One of the other spectacular places we visited was Bryce Canyon National Park. The spectacular hoodoos, spires and towers, which have been described as 'forests of rock', never cease to amaze me!

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Annual Barbeque and Swap at the Vandenberg's in July due to being away on vacation. If anyone has any good stories they would like to share, please send them to me at piratequeen@centurytel.net. I'm sure other members unable to attend would love to hear about it!

This month we have a special contribution from one of our members, Micah Hanley, highlighting his Oregon Sunstone Rockhounding Trip with his daughters, Claire and Carly. This looks like an awesome place to collect sunstones, so I appreciate him sharing his special Father's Day trip with us!

On another note, we are still working out the details of moving the club's workshop from the fairgrounds. So, stay tuned, as we will need help moving our equipment from the old location to the new one.

And don't forget, our Annual Dues are due! Get a friend to join, too!

Charlene



Time Again for 2024 Dues!

Club dues will give membership thru August 2023. Please pay dues if you would like to continue your membership and receive the newsletter. Membership dues must be paid to use the club shop.

Membership forms are available at every meeting. Invite your "rockhound" friends to our next one!

Your yearly dues cover membership privileges from September 2023 through August 31st, 2024. Dues are \$15.00 per year for adults and \$5.00 for those under age 16.

Payment can be made by cash or check at a meeting or by mailing the form and payment to address below:

Dave Britten
PO Box 244
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

WSMC SPONSORED FIELD TRIPS from The Council Reporter July 2023

The WA St. Mineral Council plans guided fieldtrips to collecting sites. Open to member clubs, and the general public. Most trips are free. Included are the Pow Wow trips (must join to go on trips). Host clubs and contact persons will be set up as I gather info. For updated info, go to mineralcouncil@zoho.com or contact Ed Lehman at wsmced2@outlook.com or h ph# (425) 334-6282

Aug 19 & 20 Greenwater @ 9am Enumclaw Ranger Station Tony Johnson (253) 863-9238

Sept—9 & 10 Pow-Wow—Teanaway Community Camp 8am Agate, Jasper & maybe Jade .
Larry Vess (253)-473- 3908 or vessel13755@gmail.com

Sept 16 10am @ Hwy 410 & F R 19 Thunder Eggs, Fossils & Lilypad Tony Johnson (253) 863-9238

Oct - Money Ck Camp 9am PICTURE Jasper

Nov— Blanchard Hill 9am @ I-5 & Alger Exit gas & go Dalmation Stone & Green Chert

ALWAYS contact host for updated info a week before trip !!!

HOST CLUB CONTACT INFO

MSVL = Marysville Rock Club Ed Lehman wsmced2@outlook.com h# (425) 334-6282 c# (425) 760-2786
DARR = Darrington Rock Club Ed Lehman wsmced2@outlook.com h# (425) 334-6282 c# (425) 760-2786
SPOK = Spokane Rock Rollers Mike Shaw mikeshawmoose@yahoo.com (509) 251-1574 or (509) 244-8542
N O A = Tony Johnson ynotopals@outlook.com (253) 863-9238
PVGMC = Dennis Bachchelor (360) 870-8741
POW = All Rockhounds Pow Wow Larry Vess vessel13755@gmail.com or (253)473-3908

Keep updated on <http://www.mineralcouncil.zoho.com> Land management changes, and roads close regularly. There is a area on web page with tool category in pictures and names of tools. Always have proper cloths and gear for conditions. Be prepared with safety, first aid, food and drink. A week before trips I (Ed Lehman) will have a pdf file with map and info for that trip I can send you on request. I will do the same for trip host. Try to be at the meeting site 30 minutes before trip time for details and instructions with a full tank of gas. Use code of ethics, keep our lands open to rockhounding.



GPS Co-ordinates Needed

The WSMC needs the GPS co-ordinates of any and all of the collecting sites in the state. In an effort to make the map booklets as accurate as possible the Mineral Council is asking for everyone to record GPS readings while on field trips The data can also be used to help in our fight to keep our collecting areas open.

General Meeting Minutes 8-5-2023

The meeting was called to order at 10:13 am.

Guests: Kirsten Morse, Cebra Blaurock, Mina Bertels, Stephen Bertels, Terrence Meyer.

Board Members Present: Eric Self, Norma McDonald, Peggy Peterson, Dave Britten, Charlene Rhodes and Wes Frank

Treasurers report read and approved as read.

Show and Tell: Contributors were Peggy, Sandy, Charlene, Norma, Elijah, Bruce and Terrence

No August Birthdays

Break

Upcoming Field trips:

Aug 19 & 20 Greenwater @ 9am Enumclaw Ranger Station Tony Johnson (253) 863-9238

Sept—9 & 10 Pow-Wow—Teanaway Community Camp 8am Agate, Jasper & maybe Jade . Same info as April 15 & 16.

Sept 16 10am @ Hwy 410 & F R 19 Thunder Eggs, Fossils & Lilypad Tony Johnson (253) 863-9238

Sunshine Committee: no activity to report

Program: We had an in-depth report and discussion about the upcoming move of the workshop from the Fairgrounds location to the City of Mt Vernon location of 118 S Barker St. The proposed lease was discussed and potential changes to some wording suggested, the discussions were ongoing, and the city seems accommodating of the club's needs. Questions about what qualified for an in-kind community outreach will be asked in the follow up meeting with the city. Since there is no option to stay where we are the move seems imminent. Once we know what the costs and requirements end up being, Sherry will do a budget analysis to help us determine if we can generate the income necessary to meet the club's annual expenses.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma McDonald, Secretary

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!



Meetings are on the FIRST Saturday of the month (except for Jan, July and Dec) at 10:00 am at the Mount Vernon Community (Senior) Center
1401 Cleveland St.
Mount Vernon WA 98273

The purpose of this non-profit earth society shall be to stimulate interest in the study of geology, lapidary, and the collection of geological specimens.

We are a member of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Washington State Mineral Council. We are affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Dues are \$15.00 per year for adults and \$5.00 for those under age 16 .



Visit our website: skagitrockandgem.com

Email: skagitrockandgem@gmail.com

Mailing address:

Skagit Rock & Gem Club

PO Box 244

Mount Vernon, WA 98273



Committees

Annual Show Chair-Eric Self

Facilities/Field Trips- Dave Britten

Greeter-Peggy Peterson

Scholarship-Peggy Peterson,
Kim Kellems

Publicity-Open

Sunshine-Open

Swap-Vandenberg's

2023 Officers

President	· Eric Self 360-366-6118
Vice President	· Peggy Peterson 425-299-4123
Treasurer	· David Britten 360-755-0741
Secretary	· Norma McDonald 206-612-3113
Fed. Director	· Virgil Keltz 360-424-6525
Bulletin Editor	· Charlene Rhodes 360-333-2156
Past President	· Wes Frank 360-757-6276

Rockhounding Road Trips

Submitted by: Micah Hanley, with daughters Claire and Carly

Oregon Sunstone Rockhounding Trip

Hello friends and fellow rock hounds. On Father's Day weekend my two daughters and I took a long road trip down to Plush Oregon to visit the sunstone mines there. It's about a ten hour drive where we stayed in Lakeview Oregon, so it is a pretty long haul down there! The drive was scenic, and after we



turned south outside of Bend Oregon, we entered an area they call the "Oregon Outback."

The evidence of volcanic activity is all around as you drive through the area with large formations of black basalt and other igneous rocks and minerals surrounding you. When it comes time to head out to the sunstone collecting area, it is about a two hour drive from Lakeview, largely over well maintained dirt and gravel roads. There isn't much



traffic out there, but plan on collecting a thick load of dust in the summertime like we did!

After a long dusty drive in the middle of nowhere, and with constant second-guessing that I had made all the right turns, we eventually made our way to the mine site. We visited one of the handful of mines which offer an opportunity for fee-digs to the public. We went to the Double Eagle #16 mine, which I have no problem recommending if anyone is interested in visiting. In the event that paying a fee to dig for rocks doesn't interest you, there is a public collection area nearby which we didn't visit. I've been told that it is easy to collect lots of clear sunstones at the public area, but that all the color stones have been pretty well picked over. Bear in mind that is just hearsay, and I have no experience there myself.

Continued next page...

We spent some time digging through one of the tables which has about a yard of screened and cleaned material on a table. We found a good number of sunstones as well as some nice color stones too!



Watch out for scorpions!



They look delicious!

After that, we moved over to the screening pit where we put in some spade-work and got good and dusty looking for more sunstones. We also found plenty of sunstones that way, but it is a much dirtier way to find them!



Continued next page...

Oregon Sunstone Rockhounding Trip
Continued from page 7



Our reward at the end of the day was a couple pounds worth of sunstones. There were plenty clear to light yellow stones, many of which are good candidates for faceting or cabochons. We also found a fair number of good colored stones, many of which will facet into really nice gemstones!



Upcoming things to do!

Marysville Rock and Gem Club
www.marysvillerockclub.com



47th Annual Rocktoberfest 2023
Join us for a weekend of fun, family and shopping!
October 7-8, 2023
Saturday and Sunday: 10 am – 5 pm

Evergreen State Fairgrounds
Display Bldg #500
14405 179th Ave SE, Monroe WA
(Off Hwy 2, Just West of Monroe, WA)

Free Admission!!

DISPLAYS:	GREAT SHOPPING:	ALSO FEATURING:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gemstones • Minerals • Fossils • Rocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mineral Specimens • Petrified Wood • Fossils • Handmade Jewelry • Gems • Rock Art & Carvings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lapidary Demonstrations • Children's Activities • Raffles • Hourly Door Prize Drawings • Grab Bags • Food Vendors

Sat 9am-5pm
Sun 9am-3pm



ROCK SALE AT OUR FARM
with
WE-R-SPHERIOUS, MIKE COLLINS AND TRIPLE A. ROCKHOUND, ANTHONY DAVIS



We invite you to come to our farm for an outside socially distanced rock sale the second Saturday of each month from April thru September. We will have tables and tables of rocks- ie spheres, rough, polished, thunder eggs, jewelry, figurines, crystals, and of course, slabs! Please bring a bucket for your rocks and a umbrella in case of rain. Coffee, hot cocoa and tea provided to keep you warm as well as cold water to keep you cool. Please contact us if you are looking for something specific. Cash and cards are accepted.

4707 Strumme Road Bothell, WA 98012
2023 425-280-1833

SALE DATES: April 8+9, May 13+14, June 10+11, July 8+9, Aug 12+13, Sept 9+10



Comic contributed by Sandy Hansen

Upcoming Washington Rock & Gem Show Dates

August 2023

<https://www.rockandmineralshows.com/location/mineral-shows/washington>

19-19—SHELTON, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Shelton Rock and Mineral Society, Shelton WA; Mason County Recreation Area, 2100 E. John's Prairie Rd; Sat. 9-5; Free admission and parking; Rocks, minerals, fossils, rock crafts and equipment. All rock hounds and vendors are invited to participate. Food concession, raffle, demos, games and entertainment, restrooms Vendors \$40 per tailgate space; contact Susan, (360) 275-9432; Email: SRMS242@yahoo.com

September 2023

8-10—LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Southern Washington Mineralogical Society; Cowlitz County Fairgrounds, Event Center, 1900 7th Avenue; Fri. 11-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; free; Dealers, Member Display Cases, Food, Door Prizes, Gem Dig, Demonstrators, Spin Table, free parking; contact Crystal Teel, (360) 355-6424; Email: swmineralogicalsociety@gmail.com

9-10—PORT ANGELES, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Clallam County Gem and Mineral Association; Vern Burton Community Center, 308 East 4th Street; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; free; family-friendly event; contact Kathy Schreiner, (360) 460-0827; Email: kmsjes@olympen.com; Website: sequimrocks.org

9-10—WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society; Walla Walla County Fairgrounds, Community Center Building, 831 Orchard St; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; \$3 children under 12 free (last year); Show has cases, dealers, silent auction, kid's area, raffle drawings and demonstrations; contact Warren Rood ; Email: warrenrood@yahoo.com

16-17—AUBURN, WASHINGTON: Cascade Gem and Mineral Show; Cascade Mineralogical Society; Green River College, Phys. Ed. Facility, 12401 SE 320th Street; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free; You will find everything from rough to finished gemstone jewelry! Free polished rock for every child and free kids activities. Great Family Event. Free Parking. Mark your calendar now and plan on attending; contact Kat Koch, (425) 765-5408; Email: vendorchair@cascademineralogicalsociety.org; Website: www.cascademineralogicalsociety.org

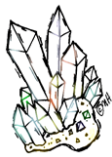
October 2023

7-8—MONROE, WASHINGTON: 47th Rocktoberfest; Marysville Rock and Gem Club; The Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Display Bldg #500, 14405 179th Ave, SE; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free; Rough, slabs, polished cabs, minerals, fossils, tools, and lapidary equipment, jewelry, demonstrator, club displays and activities for children, free parking. Facebook - www.facebook.com/Marysville-Rock-and-Gem-Club-213484905338173; contact Christina Morrissey; Email: cmvw@frontier.com; Website: www.marysvillerockclub.com

November 2023

10-12—PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire; Washington State Fair Events Center, 110 9th Ave SW; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$7 weekend pass; Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, pearls, minerals, fashion accessories & much more at manufacturer's prices. Jewelry repair & cleaning while you shop; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; Email: info@gemfaire.com; Website: http://www.gemfaire.com

18-19—BREMERTON, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Kitsap Mineral & Gem Society; Presidents Hall, Kitsap Fairgrounds, 1250 Fairgrounds Rd. NW; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; Come join us for our annual Fall Festival of Gems! Demonstrators, Vendors, Juniors Activities, Silent Auction and so much more! Fun for the whole family, come find out about field trips and club activities; contact Danielle Foss; Email: kmgsfallshow@gmail.com; Website: www.kmgsrockclub.com



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