

October 2023 Volume 63 Issue 5

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

SKAGIT GEMS

Next meeting

October 7th 10am @ the Mount Vernon Senior Center

Gem of the Month: Orange Rocks

Refreshments: Feel free to bring treats!



We are in the process of collecting names for membership pins/nametags. The cost for a single badge has gone up to \$25.00 (!!!) plus tax, and two to ten are \$12.50 (plus tax ~ totals \$13.60 each). Members pay upfront, and when we have several requests, the club will order them to get the lower pricing. Please let Dave know if you are interested in ordering one before or at our next meeting.

Upcoming Gem Show Needs

We have a raffle that benefits our scholarship fund. The club needs prizes to put in the raffle. These can be items from your rock collection, jewelry you've made, or other rock-related items. They should be nice items that people will want to buy raffle tickets for.

Also, save your left-over Halloween candy for the kids games at the show.



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Rock Collection for Sale:

Larry Brooks 360-618-2128
14180 Beaver Marsh Road, Mount Vernon
Please call to set up a good time to check it out

From the Editor:

What a great September meeting! It included visitors from Australia, Peter and Sherri Wright from Sapphire, Queensland, Australia. They are small scale hand miners and rockhounds mining Sapphires in the Gemfields of central Queensland 350km Inland from Rockhampton, and they are members of the Gemfields Lapidary and Craft Club. Sherri does faceting and silver smithing and Peter does cabbing and skin polishing. They brought some of their beautiful blue sapphires to show and some Agate Creek agates to share. Micah Hanley, who contributed his Oregon Sunstone Rockhounding Trip story to our September newsletter, also showed and shared some of the sunstones from his trip. The ones he faceted were dazzling! There were lots of other amazing stones and gems that were brought to show, and I apologize I don't have all the information on them.

As we are beginning a new year, I wanted to welcome our new members from this past year, Dan & Ameer Barber, Debra Blaurock, Darrel Gadbois, Casey Jackson, Marcia Taylor, and Torrey Troxel. As I'm also new here, it's been nice meeting other rockhounds while I'm learning the ins and outs of putting together this newsletter!

I can't wait to see what this next year brings and for us to get settled into our new building for our club work shop!

Till then, keep rockin',

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

UPCOMING Mineral Council Field Trips

Updated 09/04/23 (From Washington State Mineral Council)

Next trips:

October TBD – Money Creek for picture jasper, maybe ore, Skykomish.

Contact: Marysville Rock Club-- Ed Lehman wsmced@hotmail.com h# (425) 334-6282 c# (425) 760-2786

November TBD – Blanchard Hill for Stilpnomelane (Dalmation stone) and green chert.

Contact: Marysville Rock Club-- Ed Lehman wsmced@hotmail.com h# (425) 334-6282 c# (425) 760-2786

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.

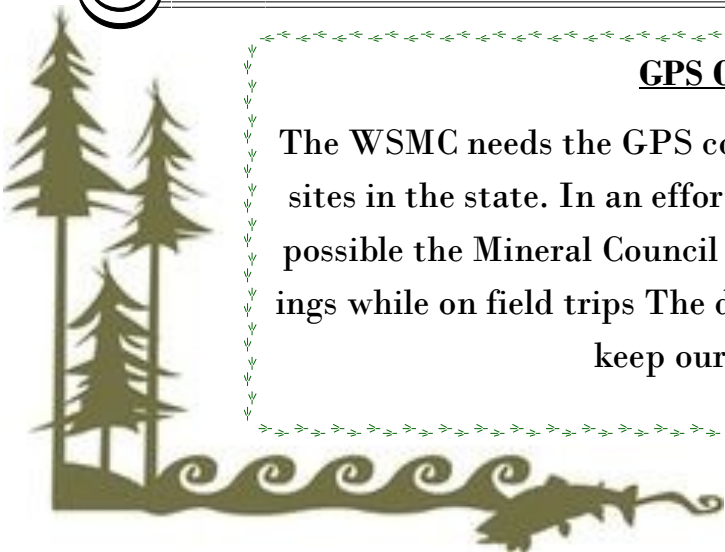
Many trips need Discover Pass, Trailhead Pass & Forest Pass. Ask when you inquire about trip

Don't forget--Check out the WA State Mineral Council webpage for all the gem shows and field trips this fall.

<https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/>

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.





SKAGIT ROCK & GEM CLUB

General Meeting Minutes 09-02-2023

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

Guests: Peter and Sharry Wright, Julie Bishop, Lee Shearer

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

Treasurers report read and approved as read.

Show and Tell: Purple Stones

Program: Sapphire and Jade Video, also Sharry and Peter Wright shared their experience mining for Sapphires on their Australian mine

Break

Upcoming Field trips:

Sept—9 & 10 Pow-Wow—Teaway 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

Old Business: Workshop, we are still waiting for responses from the city of Mt Vernon on latest questions about utility projections.

New Business: Upcoming Show November 10-12. Volunteer sign-ups will be available in October's meeting. Advertising will be ramping up for the show now.

We are investigating getting new name tags for new members. We need a list of those who want them as there is a minimum order amount and the more ordered the lesser the cost per name tag.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma McDonald, Secretary

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!



Meetings are on the FIRST Saturday of the month
(except for Jan, July and Dec)
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: PO BOX 244 Mt. Vernon 98273



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

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



Wulfenite is a commonly bright orange to yellow [gemstone](#) most notably known from Arizona, USA. The stone serves as Arizona's official state mineral and was even the theme for the 65th annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show in 2019.

Is wulfenite rare or common? The mineral is somewhat uncommon, though it does come from quite a few locales. However, gem-quality crystals that are thick enough to cut into gems are exceedingly rare.

The wulfenite stone is better known as a collector's stone, partly for its rarity but also because its natural formations are so unique and beguiling.

About Wulfenite Stone

Wulfenite is a [semi-precious gemstone](#) that's also known as "yellow lead ore."

This stone is one of few minerals containing molybdenum. Molybdenum doesn't occur naturally on its own, but rather always as part of a compound.

Besides gems, what is the wulfenite mineral used for? For many years, wulfenite was mined as a molybdenum ore, though this isn't its only industrial benefit.

Because molybdenum is strong and resistant to weathering when combined with other metals, additional wulfenite uses include wet processing (a process for separating ores from their host), oil refining, and steel strengthening (when combined with iron).

Wulfenite Specifications & Characteristics

Wulfenite is a lead molybdate mineral. The mineral's formula is $PbMoO_4$. It joins other molybdenum minerals like molybdenite and powellite. Wulfenite also forms a series with the much rarer stolzite ($PbWO_4$), with wulfenite on the molybdate-dominant end and stolzite on the tungsten-dominant end.

What does wulfenite look like? Wulfenite has warm orange, yellow, or red hues. Its unique shapes include pyramidal or bipyramidal (two pyramids attached at the base) shapes, along with thin tabular crystals or granular masses.

Besides its autumnal colors, wulfenite's luster is a stand-out feature. The luster can be adamantine, like that of diamond, to resinous, like that of amber. Wulfenite also has a high refractive index, meaning lots of light passes through it.

Another unique trait of wulfenite is that some specimens are piezoelectric, meaning they generate an electrical charge under mechanical pressure. Because its density is high, it'll feel heavier than other crystals of the same size (dimensionally).

Here are the remaining mineral properties of wulfenite:

Mohs hardness: 2.5-3

Color: Shades of orange, yellow, brownish-orange, red, tan, brown, yellow-gray, greenish-brown, olive green, black, colorless

Crystal structure: Tetragonal

Luster: Adamantine (diamond-like) or resinous

Transparency: Transparent to opaque

Refractive index: 2.28-2.40

Density: 6.5-7.0

Cleavage: Distinct, 1-direction

Fracture: Irregular/uneven to subconchoidal

Streak: White

Luminescence: None

Pleochroism: Present but weak in orange and yellow

Birefringence: 0.122



For more informations go to: <https://www.gemrockauctions.com/learn/a-z-of-gemstones/wulfenite>

Upcoming Rock and Gem Shows!

DATE	CLUB	SHOW	LOCATION
October 2023 6th 10am-6pm 7th 10am - 6pm 8th 10am—5pm	Portland Regional Rock and Gem Show	42nd Annual \$7, under 12 free with adult	New Location Wingspan Event Center 801 NE 34th Ave Hillsboro, OR
October 2023 7th 9am - 5pm	Idaho Falls Gem & Mineral Society	Annual Members Rock, Gem, and Jewelry sale Adults \$3, 12 and under free	Bonneville Co. Fairgrounds 1542 East 73rd South Idaho Fall, ID
October 2023 7th 10am - 5pm 8th 10am—5pm	Marysville Rock and Gem club	47th Rocktoberfest	Evergreen State Fairgrounds Display Bldg #500 14405 179th Ave SE Monroe, WA
October 2023 7th 10am - 5pm 8th 10am—3pm	Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club	65th Annual show	Willamalane Adult Activity Center 215 W C St Springfield, OR
October 2023 14th 10am - 5pm 15th 10am—5pm	Port Moody Rock & Gem Club	Annual show	Kyle Centre 125 Kyle St, Port Moody, BC
October 2023 14th 10am - 5pm 15th 10am—3pm	Surrey Rockhound Club	Annual show	Sullivan Hall 6306 152 Street Surrey, BC
October 2022 21st 10am—5pm 22nd 10am—4pm	Hell's Canyon Gem Club	Hell's Canyon Annual Show \$5 for weekend	Nez Perce County Fair Building 1229 Burrell Avenue Lewiston ID 83501
October 2023 29th 9am - 4:30pm 30th 9am—4:30pm	Parksville & Courtenay Gem & Mineral Clubs	Annual show	Qualicum Beach Civic Centre 747 Jones St Qualicum Beach, BC
November 2023 4th 10am - 5pm 5th 10am - 5pm	Delta Rockhound Gem & Mineral Club	Annual show	South Delta Rec Centre 1720 - 56 Street (Tsawwassen) Delta, BC
November 2023 11th 9am - 5pm 12th 10am - 4pm	Skagit Rock & Gem Club	Treasures of the Earth	Sedro Woolley Community Center 703 Pacific St Sedro Woolley WA 98284
November 2023 17th 1pm - 6pm 18th 10am - 5pm 19th 10am - 3pm	Abbotsford Rock & Gem Club	Annual show	Matsqui Community Hall, 33676 St. Olaf St. Abbotsford BC
November 2023 18th 9am - 4:30pm 19th 9am - 4:30pm	Parksville & Courtenay Gem & Mineral Clubs	Annual show	Qualicum Beach Civic Centre 747 Jones St. Qualicum Beach, BC
November 2023 18th 10am - 5pm 19th 10am - 5pm	Kitsap Mineral and Gem Society	Fall Festival of Gems	The President's Hall 1200 NW Fairgrounds Road Bremerton, WA
February 2024 10th 9am—5pm 11th 9am—5pm	Whidbey Island Gem Club	Annual Gem Show	Oak Harbor Senior Center 51 SE Jerome St. Oak Harbor WA
April 2024 20th 10am - 5pm 21st 10am - 4pm	Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club	27th Annual Rock & Mineral Show \$5 adults, 12 & under free	Benton Franklin County Fair- grounds Building 2, 1500 S. Oak Kennewick, WA
April 2024 27th 10am - 5pm 28th 10am - 5pm	West Seattle Rock Club	56th Annual Rock Show	Alki Masonic Temple 4736 40th Ave. SW. Seattle, WA

Skagit Rock & Gem Club Presents		
		Treasures of the Earth Rock and Gem Show
November 11th & 12th Free Admission	 www.facebook.com/skagitrockandgem	
Saturday 9-5 · Sunday 10-4 Sedro Woolley Community Center 703 Pacific St. Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, Crystals, Demonstrators, Jewelry, Displays, Vendors, Lapidary Supplies Raffle, Hourly Door Prizes, Kids' Activities Contact: skagitrockandgem@gmail.com		



Volunteer sign-ups for our show will be available at our October meeting.

Please consider donating prizes for the raffle that will benefit our scholarship fund.

Also, remember to save up that leftover Halloween candy for kids games at the show!



Skagit Rock and Gem Club
 PO BOX 244
 Mount Vernon, WA 98273

