

April 2024 Volume 64 Issue 3

# SKAGIT GEMS

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

## Next Meeting

**April 6, 2024 10:00 a.m. @ Mount Vernon Senior Center**

*If you arrive after the meeting begins, have rung all the doorbells, and still get no response, please go to the north window and try to get our attention! Our phones are off during the meeting.*

**Gem of the Month: Yellow Rocks, Gems, and Minerals**

**Refreshments: Feel Free To Bring Snacks or Refreshments**

### \*\*\* New Show & Tell Format! \*\*\*

*Hold on to your rocks!*

We will be trying a new format for our Show & Tell to make it easier for everyone to see and hear about the rocks and gems of the month being shared at our meetings. Instead of putting them together on the table against the wall, **keep them with you at your seat.** You can give a brief background on the rock(s) you brought, what it is, and, if you have questions of what they are David or one of our other knowledgeable members will do their best to identify them for you.

### \*\*\* APRIL CONTEST \*\*\*

Name how many and what kind of rocks you have found on a beach in Washington state.

Share your list of how many special rocks you have found at the beach! If you haven't found any lately, head out to the beach and see what you can find now!

**There will be prizes!**



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### \*\*\* Suggestion Box \*\*\*

This is Your Club! What do you want from it? We need your participation and ideas so it can be the Club you want it to be! Share your ideas and proposals in our Suggestion Box near the guest sign-in book! You can be anonymous if you're shy about sharing your name.

From the Editor:

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds!

It's finally Spring and it's great to have the sun setting later so we can get more things done outside! It being warmer is a plus, too!

I wanted to send out a huge thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and muscle to help move the inventory from our shop.

We accumulated a lot of equipment, rocks, and lots of other miscellaneous items over the years and we couldn't have got it done without your help! You all Rock! Thank You so much!

Also, I wanted to give a shout out to Bruce Hurley, our new club secretary, he's a great addition to our 2024 Officers! Thank you and welcome aboard!

Now that moving the materials and equipment from the shop is about finished we can concentrate on the fun parts of rockhounding, crafting, and enjoying our finds. Maybe find some new spots to find rocks and minerals and learn some new skills to apply to what to do with our finds, or just spend more time doing what you already know! Your personal stories are always welcome, so feel free to send me pictures and tales of your adventures and skills!

We'll be trying out a new format for our Show & Tell at our next meeting with the intent of making it easier for everyone to see and hear about what everyone has brought. So keep your rocks, gems, and minerals with you and we'll go around the room to hear about each specimen. Let us know what you think of the new format, or if you have any suggestions to make it even better.

We also have a suggestion box for any ideas you have to get the most out of your club. So put in your suggestions!

Till next time—Keep Rockin'

*Charlene*

## Welcome New Members!

**Raley Collins**

**Kaylee Johnson**



### Already pocketed

Sometimes,  
when I search  
the rock pile  
of my mind  
for new ideas  
to grind  
and polish,  
my hand goes  
to a pocket  
where one lies  
already shaped  
and shined,  
just waiting  
for a setting  
worthy of it.

— Robert L. Brimm

## Mineral Council Field Trips Contact Information

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

HOST	CLUB	CONTACT INFO
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MSVL = Marysville Rock Club	Ed Lehman	wsmced2@outlook.com h# (425) 334-6282 c# (425) 760-2786
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DARR = Darrington Rock Club	" "	" "
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MSVL = Nique Wicks	nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com	(509)-670-0630
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SPOK = Spokane Rock Rollers	Mike Shaw	mikeshawmoose@yahoo.com (509) 251-1574 or (509) 244-8542
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N O A = Tony Johnson	ynotopals@outlook.com	(253) 863-9238
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PVGMC = Dennis Bachchelor	(360) 870-8741	
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POW = All Rockhounds Pow Wow	Larry Vess	vessel3755@gmail.com or (253)473-3908
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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.

updated  
03/07/24

## UPCOMING Mineral Council Field Trips

2024 WSMC SPONSORED FIELD TRIPS 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 Cell# (425) 760-2786. Pow Wow Dues are \$7.50 each or &15 a family. They supply 3 free breakfast's on trips (what a deal).

DATE	HOST	SITE	MEET@	MATERIAL	TOOLS
01/20	MSVL	Walker Valley	9am Big Lake	Agate	Sm shovel, sm pick, rock & 3# hammer, chisel, bar
02/17	MSVL	WWU Tour	9:30 WWU Parking Lot C		Camera
03/16	MSVL	Cherry Creek	9am Duval & Cherry Valley Rd	Jasper	Rock hammer, wading boots
04/13-14	POW	Saddle Mt	8am Matawa Boat Launch	Petrified Wood	Shovel, rock hammer, sm pick
05/18	DAR	Bailey Trail	9am Verlot Ranger Station	Chert	Rock & large hammers, pry bar
06/15	MSVL	Saddle Mt	9am Matawa Grocery	Petrified Wood	Shovel, rock hammer, sm pick
07/20	DAR	Sweetwater	11am Darrington Rock Show	Travertine	Rock & 3# hammers, chisel, sm pry bar
08/17-18?	PV	Green Water	9am FR 70 @ washout	Agate, Jasper, Opal	Bend shovel, sm pick, rock & 3# hammers, sm pry bar
08/24	MSVL	Lake Wenatchee	9am Lake Wenatchee Park	Garnets	Sm shovel, 1/4" mesh box screen & tweezers
09/7-8	POW	Red Top	8am Teanaway Campground	Agate, Jasper, Geodes	Bend shovel, sm pick, rock & 3# hammers, sm pry bar, chisel
09/21?	Opal	Little Naches	10am Highway 410 & FR 91	T-Eggs, Fossils-Lilypad	Bend shovel, sm pick, rock & 3# hammers, sm pry bar
10/19	DAR	Index	9am Highway 2 & Index Rd	Picture Jasper	Rock hammer, wading boots
11/16	MSVL	Blanchard Hill	9am I-5 & Alger Rd Gas & Go	Dalmation stone	Heavy hard rock tools & safety glasses

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

See CONTACT INFO on previous page and remember to contact host for updated information a week before these field trips!

You can also check The Washington State Mineral Council's website



## Skagit Rock and Gem Club Meeting Minutes March 2, 2024

The March 2, 2024 meeting was called to Order at the Mount Vernon Senior Center at 10:10 a.m. by President Eric Self.

Officers and Board Members present: Eric Self, Peggy Peterson, Dave Britten, Bruce Hurley, and Charlene Rhodes.

Guests were recognized and included Dale Lankford, Phillip Lankford, Raley Collins, Valentin Bueno, Jennifer Abbott-Scott, Emerett Abbott-Scott, and Kaylee Johnson. The visitors were given the traditional small gifts by the Club.

The treasurer's report was read by Dave Britten and approved and seconded as read.

There was no scheduled Program today, as the meeting ended early to reassemble at the shop to move out more inventory.

There was a contest to make a list with the most green minerals. Prizes were given for the lists with the most minerals, with Kim having the winning list of 79 green minerals.

The feature mineral for March was malachite. A number of members brought in quite a variety of specimens of malachite and many other green minerals and rocks. Dave went through and commented upon the various green specimens, including local jade and talc.

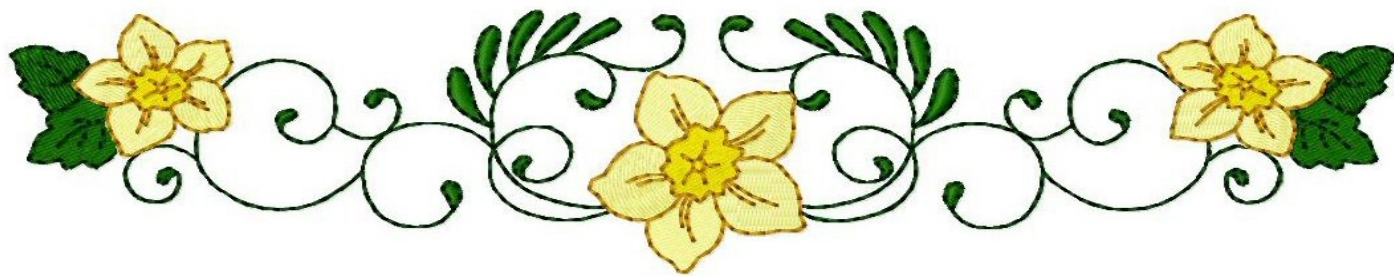
Work on moving all club materials from the fairgrounds shop location beside the baseball park is progressing. This needs to be completed by the end of March.

A break was called with snacks and those in attendance were able to examine the large number of minerals and rocks members brought in to display.

Following the break upcoming rock shows were discussed, including The Mount Baker Rock and Gem Club 2024 Gem and Mineral Show on March 23-24 in Ferndale, WA.

There was a short discussion of the extra equipment that was for sale and for anyone available to volunteer after the meeting to meet up at the shop to see what remains to be done to clean it out by our March 31 deadline.

Meeting adjourned 11:13.



## 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](http://skagitrockandgem.com)

Email: [skagitrockandgem@gmail.com](mailto:skagitrockandgem@gmail.com)

Mailing address: PO BOX 244, Mount Vernon WA 98273



### 2024 Officers & Board Members

President	· Eric Self 360-366-6118
Vice President	· Peggy Peterson 425-299-4123
Treasurer	· David Britten 360-755-0741
Secretary	· Bruce Hurley 702-336-0395
Fed. Director	· Open
Past President	· Wes Frank 360-757-6276
Bulletin Editor	· Charlene Rhodes 360-333-2156



### Committees

Annual Show Chair-Eric Self  
Facilities/Field Trips- Dave Britten  
Greeter-Peggy Peterson  
Scholarship-Kim Kellems and  
Shelley Van Pelt  
Publicity-Open  
Sunshine-Open  
Swap-Vandenberg's

## UPCOMING SHOWS

### April 2024

**20-21—KENNEWICK, WASHINGTON:** 27th Annual Gem and Mineral Show; Lakeside Gem and Mineral; Benton County Fairgrounds, 1500 South Oak; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; \$5 (good for both days) 14 and under free with paid adult admission; Collectors' exhibits; Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Dealers; demonstrations including cabochon fashioning, gemstone faceting, gem trees, sphere making, silversmithing, wire wrapping and jewelry fabrication; silent auction; Kid's Korner Crafts and Games; door prizes; raffle; Fluorescent display; contact Larry Hulstrom, (509) 308-8312; Email: rockhound132@charter.net; Website: Lakesidegemandmineralclub.com

**27-28—WEST SEATTLE, WASHINGTON:** 56th Annual Rock and Gem Show; West Seattle Rock Club; Alki Masonic Temple (West Seattle), 4736 40th Avenue SW; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free; Vendors, Silent Auction, Activities for Kids, Demonstrations, Food; contact Annette Nelson; Email: show@westseattlerockclub.org; Website: www.westseattlerockclub.org

### May 2024

**18-19—SEATTLE, WASHINGTON:** Annual show; Brittany Burkhardt-Elemental Endeavors; Hangar 30 @ Magnuson Park, 7400 NE Sand Point Way, 6870 W Skokomish Valley Rd; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Free admission and parking; Open to the public. Door prizes & food trucks. Over 60 dealers (including over a dozen PNW miners) of minerals, fossils, gemstones, jewelry, mineral art and more; contact Brittany F Burkhardt, (360) 489-5607; Email: seattlemineralmarket@gmail.com; Website: www.elementalendeavors.com

### May 2024-June 2024

**31-2—BONNEY LAKE, WASHINGTON:** Annual show; Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club; Swiss Park, 9205 198th Ave. E.; Fri. 12-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-3; Free Admission; With vendors both inside and outside you'll find a vast selection of rough and finished "treasures" on display. Inside, watch demonstrators show you "how it's done" and see the many displays presented by PVG&MC members. Convenient parking and disabled access; contact Jillian Y. Higgins, (253) 355-3146; Email: PVGAMC@gmail.com; Website: www.puyallupvalleygemandmineralclub.com/shows

### June 2024

**29-30—KENT, WASHINGTON:** Annual show; Cascade Mineralogical Society; Kent Commons, 525 4th Ave N; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission & Parking; A great event for families. Free polished rock for every child. Silent auction & spinning wheel for polished rocks. All kinds of rock, amazing rough to incredible cabochons, jewelry, beads, slabs, and more Fantastic minerals, gems, fossils & metaphysical specimens; contact Katherine Koch, (425) 765-5408; Email: president@cascademineralsociety.org; Website: www.cascademineralsociety.org

### August 2024

**9-11—PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON:** Annual show; Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club; Tacoma Sportsmans Club, 164709 Canyon Road East; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; PVG&MC is hosting its 5th Gem Show in The Trees. Convenient parking is available. Vendors will be offering selections of crystals, minerals, fossils, beads, findings, lapidary equipment, cabochons, geodes, and jewelry, just to name a few things to add to your collection; contact Jillian Y Higgins, (253) 355-3146; Email: PGVAMC@gmail.com; Website: www.puyallupvalleygemandmineralclub.com/shows

### November 2024

**23-24—BREMERTON, WASHINGTON:** Annual show; Kitsap Mineral & Gem Society; Kitsap Fairgrounds & Event Center, 1250 NW Fairgrounds Road; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Free admission; Come for our Silent Auction, Junior's Activity tables, Demonstrators, Raffle Prizes and so much more; contact Danielle Foss; Email: kmgsfallshow@gmail.com; Website: www.kmgsrockclub.com

Source: <https://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=WA>





## UPCOMING SHOWS

MT BAKER ROCK AND GEM CLUB  
2024 GEM AND MINERAL SHOW  
**FAMILY FUN FOR EVERYONE!**

March 23-24, 2024 (Saturday 10 – 6, Sunday 10 – 5)  
Pioneer Pavilion Community Center, 2007 Cherry Street, Ferndale WA



ROCKS, MINERALS, FOSSILS, GEMS, JEWELRY, DEMOS, DEALERS, EXHIBITS, DOOR PRIZES, RAFFLE, ON-GOING SILENT AUCTION, CLUB SALES, FOOD SERVICE, ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS, AND MORE!

**Free Admission Free Parking**

[www.mtbakerrockclub.org](http://www.mtbakerrockclub.org)

North Seattle Lapidary & Mineral Club's

**Free!** 68<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Rock & Gem Show**

April 13-14, 2024

10 AM - 5 PM

Crown Hill Center  
9250 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW, Seattle 98117

**Family Fun**

Junior Activities ❖ Displays ❖ Dealers  
Demonstrations ❖ Door Prizes ❖ Silent Auction

[NorthSeattleRockClub.org](http://NorthSeattleRockClub.org) – a non-profit organization

27th Annual Lakeside Gem & Mineral Show -  
04/20/2024

Start Date: April 20, 2024

Hours: 10:00-5:00

End Date: April 21, 2024

Hours: 10:00-4:00

Venue: Benton County Fairgrounds

Address: 1500 South Oak Street

Kennewick, WA



WEST SEATTLE ROCK CLUB  
PROUDLY PRESENTS OUR 56TH  
**Rock & Gem Show**

APRIL 27 & 28, 2024

FREE ENTRY

2024 Rock & Gem Show by West Seattle Rock Club

Come join us for our 56th annual rock & gem show! We'll have rock displays, minerals, fossils, geodes, gemstones & crystals. There will be live demonstrations of jewelry and lapidary techniques. We will have dealers selling: gems, minerals, lapidary tools, fossils, geodes & more.

Free parking!

Door Prizes!

Our Silent Auction is a great way to start or expand a collection.

We even have a kid's only auction!

Lots of fun activities for kids!

Food and drinks available.

## ABOUT CITRINE



Citrine—the transparent, pale yellow to brownish orange variety of quartz—is rare in nature. In the days before modern gemology, its tawny color caused it to be confused with topaz. Citrine’s attractive color, plus the durability and affordability it shares with most other quartzes, makes it the top-selling yellow-to-orange gem. It’s an attractive alternative not only for topaz, but also for yellow sapphire. The finest citrine color is a saturated yellow to reddish orange free of brownish tints.

Citrine is one of the most popular yellow gems on the market. This designer cut shows off the warm glow of citrine’s sunny color. – Lydia Dyer, gem courtesy John Dyer & Co.



Since natural citrine is rare, most of the citrine on the market is the result of heat treatment, which causes some amethyst to change color from undesirable pale violet to an attractive yellow. The amethyst’s original hue can determine the richness of the resulting citrine’s yellow color.

Low-temperature heat treatment transformed an amethyst into this orangy citrine. A gem carver created the attractive fantasy cut. - GIA & Tino Hammid

Citrine crystals occur in a wide range of sizes, and citrine sizes up to 20 carats are readily available in jewelry. Although citrine is available in standard shapes and sizes, many high-end jewelry designers and gem carvers have fashioned the warm yellow gem into unusual cuts for jewelry and carvings.



This citrine carving weighs 167.78 carats. - Courtesy ICA

Source: <https://www.gia.edu/citrine-description>



## CITRINE QUALITY FACTORS



This award-winning 30.28-ct. super-trillion cut displays citrine's highly valued, saturated orangy red color.

– John Dyer, gem courtesy John Dyer & Co.

### Color

Citrine's attractive color, plus the durability and affordability it shares with most other quartzes, makes it the top-selling yellow-to-orange gem. A saturated yellow to reddish orange color free of brownish tints is prized in citrine, although in the contemporary market, citrine's most popular shade is an earthy hue—a deep brownish or reddish orange.



This group of rough and fashioned citrines exhibits the reddish orange colors enjoyed by consumers. - Dan Van Rossen, courtesy ICA



Citrine's colors range from pale brownish yellow shades like this one to intense reddish orange hues. - Robert Weldon

## CITRINE'S QUALITY FACTORS

The following factors combine to determine a citrine's value.



### COLOR

Vivid yellows, reddish oranges, and earth tones are popular with consumers.

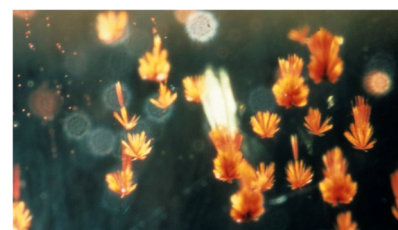
Lime-colored citrine can result from heat treatment of smoky quartz. The gem's designer used some frosted facets to highlight its trendy color. – Lydia Dyer, gem courtesy John Dyer & Co



### CLARITY

Dealers look for citrines without color zoning or visible inclusions. Much of the faceted citrine

in the market is eye-clean, meaning it lacks eye-visible inclusions. Eye-visible inclusions are not common in citrine. If present, they decrease its value.



Microscopic inclusions in citrine are usually not visible without high magnification (as seen in photo at right).



### CUT

Citrine might be carved, custom-cut, or calibrated for jewelry use.

This golden cat is carved in citrine from Brazil. Its eyes are made of peridot and gold. - Robert Weldon



### CARAT WEIGHT

Citrine is available in a wide range of sizes for setting into a variety of jewelry styles.

John Dyer's Lime Citrine Reflections™ is a gem with an attractive lime green color, a fascinating designer cut, and a weight of 33.35 carats. – Lydia Dyer, gem courtesy of John Dyer & Co.



Award-winning gem designer John Dyer calls this gem's cutting style the Regal Radiant Cut. It weighs 19.90 carats. – Lydia Dyer, gem courtesy John Dyer & Co.



## CITRINE BIRTHSTONE MEANING & HISTORY

This November birthstone is the transparent yellow to brownish orange variety of quartz, which has been used in jewelry for thousands of years. Citrine has been a popular gemstone since ancient times and has shared a history of mistaken identities with the other November birthstone, topaz. As a result, people thought citrine had the same powers as topaz. They believed the citrine birthstone could soothe tempers and calm the wearer.

The ancient Greeks carved rock crystal ornaments that glistened like permafrost. Roman pontiffs wore rings set with massive purple amethysts, and citrine has been reported in Roman jewelry. It was particularly popular in colorful Scottish jewelry from the Victorian era. Citrine, believed to derive from the French word for “lemon” (*citron*), is given for the thirteenth wedding anniversary.



Today, most of the citrine in the marketplace results from the heat treatment of amethyst. With its ready availability in a broad range of sizes, citrine birthstone is one of the most affordable and desired yellow gemstones.

A fantasy cut unleashes the fire within this 43.49 ct citrine. Photo: Priscilla Dyer. Courtesy: John Dyer & Co.

### IRON

A trace of iron in citrine’s structure is responsible for its yellow-to-orange color.

### HEAT

Natural citrine is rare. Most citrine on the market is the result of heat treatment of amethyst.

### POPULAR

Citrine is recognized as one of the most popular and frequently purchased yellow gemstones.

### FACTS

**Mineral:** Quartz

**Chemical composition:**

SiO<sub>2</sub>

**Color:** Yellow to orange to orangy red

**Refractive index:**

1.544 to 1.553

**Specific gravity:**

2.66 (+0.03/-0.02)

**Mohs hardness:** 7



## 2024 Skagit Rock and Gem Club Schedule

January TBA – Installation Banquet  
February 3 – General Meeting  
March 2 – General Meeting  
April 6 – General Meeting  
May 4 – General Meeting  
June 1 – General Meeting  
July TBA – Annual Barbeque and Swap Meet  
August 3 – General Meeting  
September 7 – General Meeting  
October 5 – General Meeting  
November 2 – General Meeting  
November TBA – Skagit Rock & Gem Annual Show

**Bring your friends!  
Everyone is welcome.**

The AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION (ALAA) is a 501(c)(4) organization. Its purpose is to promote and ensure the right of amateur hobby fossil and mineral collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public lands managers. Your annual individual/couple membership fee is \$25 which helps support their activities. Club membership is \$50 per year. Send to Treasurer, P.O. Box 54398, San Jose, CA 95154. Make checks payable to: American Lands Access Assn. Applications can be downloaded at: [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org) on the left side of the page. For more information contact: Frank Mullaney, 408-266-1791, cell: 408- 691-2655, Rockyfiv(at) aol.com



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PO BOX 244  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

