November 2025 Volume 66 Issue

SKAGIT GEMS

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

Next Meeting:

November 1, 2025 10:00 a.m. @ Mount Vernon Senior Center Refreshments: Feel Free To Bring Snacks

Reminder: Annual Club Dues are due!

Gem of the Month: Fossils

November Rock & Gem Show Needs You!

The club still needs donations for raffle prizes and door prizes - remember, our raffle benefits our geology scholarship fund. The donations can come from your personal collection of rock, gem, and mineral-related items, and/or jewelry you have made. The donations of smaller items will also go to hourly door prizes. We're looking for eye-catching items that people will want to buy raffle tickets for!

You can also donate your left-over Halloween candy for the kids games at the show.

We can also use volunteers! So many things to choose from! Raffle ticket sales, Door Greeters, Kids Crafts, and the Spinning Wheel. Helping out with the Set-up and Teardown is always welcomed and the more, the merrier! All you talented Demonstrators are always needed and welcome to show off your skills! This is a great opportunity to get the community interested in the club and attract more members.

Sign up sheets will be at November meeting. Let's all pitch in to make this show a success!

There will be a Celebration of Life for Sherry Broome at the Samish Island Community Center on Sunday, November 16th at 1 pm. Come prepared to share stories about Sherry and bring a potluck finger food dish.

Stay tuned to the universe for messages from Sherry. See her obituary on Page 2...

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DUES ARE DUE!

Please pay at next meeting or by mail

The position of Bulletin Editor is open. This is a great way to get involved with the club and it practically writes itself!

Putting the bulletin together the past few years has been a very rewarding and educational experience for me, but I am at a point where I have to focus my priorities on the greater demands of my family.

If you are interested or have questions regarding this position, call, text, email Charlene (360-333-2156 or piratequeen@centurytel.net), or touch base with me at the meeting.

Microsoft Publisher is the program I've been using, but feel free to use what you have and are familiar and comfortable with. Thank You!

Sheryln Kaye Broome

Sherry was born on June 1, 1949, at Camp Lejeune, NC to a young marine, Billy T. Broome and his wife, Doris Kay Koonce Broome. Eager to get started in life, Sherry skipped her high school graduation in Havelock, NC in stead enrolling early at the University of North Carolina in Asheville. She graduated with a degree in Social Sciences.

Sherry met David Grant Britten (the son of anther military family) through a college friend. They were married August 20, 1976, in a civil ceremony in the basement of the Asheville Courthouse. Sherry had al-



ways wanted to 'go west' and soon they relocated to David's home territory in Washington State. In Mount Vernon, Sherry became a bookkeeper at the Skagit Valley Food Co-op. Over the next four decades Sherry and her very competent co-workers helped guide the Co-op from a small storefront o Pine Square to an important anchor business in downtown Mount Vernon.

Sherry was smart, kind, fun-loving, very organized and compassionate with an adventurous spirit. She loved her cats, gardening, reading, sewing, rock hunting, spending time at the beach, and visiting with friends and family. She was deeply connected to the mysteries of the universe. She and David enjoyed the bounty and beauty of Washington State including many summer trips over the Cascades to ferry fresh cherries, apricots and peaches to her many friends on the west side.

Sherry maintained a positive attitude as she faced a series of health problems over the past few years. She resolutely worked her way through hours of rehab when recovering from heart surgery and two hip replacements, never letting the difficulties stop her from regaining her strength and mobility. After a series of strokes, she made all her end-of-life decisions with the same grit and resolution. She passed away peacefully at 4 am on September 9, 2025, in the excellent care of the beautiful Whatcom Hospice House in Bellingham. She was fortunate to see many family members and friends in her final days.

She is survived by her loving husband David; her brothers, Michael of Florida and Richard of Michigan; brothers-in-law Forrest, Allan, and Randyl; and nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Sherry encouraged love and compassion throughout the world and was grateful to Hope Fitzgerald of Connecticut and her worldwide meditation group as a source of great comfort.

There will be a Celebration of Life at the Samish Island Community Center on Sunday, November 16th at 1 pm. Come prepared to share stories about Sherry and bring a potluck finger food dish. Stay tuned to the universe for messages from Sherry.





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.



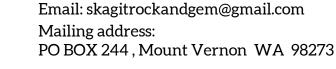
We are a member of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Washington State Mineral Council.



We are affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Dues are \$20.00 for single membership, \$30.00 for family, and \$25.00 for single, plus kid(s) under age 16.

Visit our website: skagitrockandgem.com





Like us on Facebook

2025 Officers & Board Members

President · Rick Van Pelt 360-708-2737 Vice President Peggy Peterson

425-299-4123

· David Britten Treasurer 360-755-0741

Secretary · Jennifer Ross

360-610-1227

Past President · Eric Self

Fed. Director

360-366-6118

· Open

· Charlene Rhodes **Bulletin Editor** 360-333-2156 **OPEN**



Committees

Annual Show Chair Eric Self

Facilities/Field Trips Open

Greeter Peggy Peterson

Scholarship Kim Kellems

and Shelley Van Pelt

Publicity Open

Sunshine Open

Vandenberg's Swap

Skagit Rock and Gem Club Meeting Minutes October, 2025

Meeting Date: September 4, 2025

Meeting called to order at 10:03 by President Rick Van Pelt

Board Members present: Rick Van Pelt, Peggy Peterson, David Britten, Jennifer Ross, Charlene

Rhodes, Eric Self

Attendance: 13 member, and 3 guests. Guests are: Sharene Roodzant, Jay Raney and Laura

Shomshak.

Minutes of last meeting were corrected, approved as corrected and seconded.

Correction: David Britten is not stepping down as Treasurer.

Treasurer report as given by David was accepted and seconded.

Old Business

65th Annual Rock and Gem Show

11/8, 9:00 - 5:00 and 11/9, 10:00 to 4:00. The event will be at the Sedro Woolley Community Center, 703 Pacific Street. Admission is free.

Show staffing:

Sign-up sheets were made available for members to pick tasks and activities to commit to. Flyers were distributed for members to post. People are needed for:

Set-up starting 7:00 on Friday 11/7 until completed.

Staffing greeting desk, raffle, children's table and more.

Break-down on 11/9 after 4:00.

Eric will be at the community center at 7:00 to start setting up. Debbie will be running the raffle and David will be managing the children's activities. Micah will demonstrate lapidary skills.

Display Cases:

Eric and Rick are ordering supplies including table skirting and 100 watt bulbs for the display cases. There are still cases available for members who want to set one up. Cases are $4' \times 2' \times 2'$. Tables and cases, as well as other supplies are in a trailer that Erik will bring to the community center.

Other show related discussion:

No additional vendor spaces are available. Food will be available to purchase for guests and volunteers. Mary Anne requested permission to sell a geology-related coloring book she has developed. She will donate 10% of her profit to the club. This was approved by a vote of the membership. Emily discussed selling a fold-out guide to pebbles at the show.

Meeting space

The future of the senior center and our meeting space is still up in the air. Possible future meeting space was proposed, including the Clear Lake Historical Society building, and meeting space at Skagit Valley Community College.

Skagit Rock and Gem Club Meeting Minutes October 2025 continued

New Business

No new business

Announcements

No announcements

Program

No program today

Show and Tell

The theme for Show and Tell was blue rocks

Mary Jane brought Jasper and Swift Creek blue agate.

David brought a possible chrysocolla as well as amethyst agate jewelry that he made for his wife.

Shelly brought a specimen of Imperial Jasper

Peggy brought agate specimens from Graveyard Point, Idaho

Sandy pro jewelry she had made and jasper from Oregon.

Laura brought specimens of soda, light, turquoise, lapis lazuli, and labradorite

Sharene brought Ellensburg blue agate and discussed her membership in the Washington Prospectors Mining Association. This membership gives her access to some mining claims north of Ellensburg where she has been able to dig for Ellensburg blue agates.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40.

Time Again for Dues!

Once again, dues are due. Your yearly dues cover membership privileges from September 1st through August 31st.

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!

Dues are \$20.00 for single membership, \$30.00 for family, and \$25.00 for single, plus kid(s) under age 16.

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

Skagit Rock & Gem Club PO Box 244 Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Maya Ruler's Tomb Is Unearthed in Belize, With Clues to His Ancient World

A rare mosaic death mask made of jadeite and vessels in the shapes of an owl, a monkey and coatimundi were found with the ruler.



The central architectural complex at Caracol, Belize. Credit Caracol Archaeological Project/University of Houston

By Alan Yuhas

Published July 10, 2025Updated July 14, 2025

The archaeologists worked in the shadow of towering Maya ruins, piercing the floor of a structure they had searched years before.

Below, they found an even more ancient chamber, still holding a body and the treasures it was buried with: a rare mosaic death mask and jadeite jewelry, shells from the

Pacific and elaborate designs on pottery and bone.

It was the 1,700-year-old tomb of a Maya ruler — the first ever found at <u>Caracol</u>, the largest Maya site in Belize — and it held clues to a Mesoamerican world where cities contended with one another from hundreds of miles apart.

"They've found a very early ruler, so that's very important, and he's claimed to be the founder of a dynasty," said Gary Feinman, an archaeologist at Field Museum of Chicago who was not involved in the excavation. "That's a major find."

Arlen Chase, one of the archaeologists working at Caracol, was among the first to enter the tomb. "As soon as we saw the chamber, we knew we had something," he said.

From the style of ceramic vessels, he knew the tomb was exceptionally old. From the red cinnabar all around, he knew it was for someone of very high status.

Diane Chase, an archaeologist, in the recently excavated tomb. Credit...Caracol Archaeological Project/University of Houston

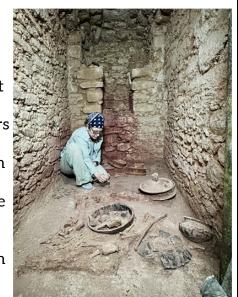
But it was the mosaic mask, in pieces of jadeite off to the side, that made him realize just how unusual the tomb was. "Oh my God, this is much more important than I thought it was," he remembers thinking.

With each discovery he called Diane Chase, an archaeologist with whom he has been working at Caracol for four decades.

"I kept saying, 'Do you want me to come down?" she said. "And he kept saying no. And then, eventually he said yes." (The Chases will celebrate 50 years of marriage in August.)

Diane Chase hurried from their base at the University of Houston to take stock of the discoveries.

The Maya ruler, they determined, had grown old for his time, living long enough to lose all his teeth and for bone to grow over his jaw.



"We've never found anyone that we could identify as a ruler at Caracol before, so that in itself was amazing," Diane Chase said. And "double wow," she said, the ruler could be identified as the founder of a dynasty.

The ruler had been interred not just with the mask but three sets of jadeite ear flares, an extraordinary luxury for the Maya elite, and a variety of ceramic vessels. They showed the Maya god of traders, a hummingbird and a ruler holding a spear, with supplicants making offerings to him. Vessels depicted a monkey, an owl, and the heads of coatimundi — mammals sometimes described as raccoons crossed with lemurs.









Jadeite ear flares, top left, and hummingbird, owl and coatimundi vessels.

Credit...Caracol Archaeological Project/University of Houston

"It's stuff that we've never seen before," Arlen Chase said of some of the designs.

Through hieroglyphics, the archaeologists identified the ruler as Te K'ab Chak, who took the throne in A.D. 331. He ruled Caracol as it was growing into a larger city, the Chases said, but centuries before its peak as a regional power with an estimated 100,000 people. Like other Maya cities, it had been abandoned by about A.D. 900.

The discovery "adds a whole new dimension" to the site, said Melissa Badillo, the director of Belize's Institute of Archaeology, a longtime working partner of the Chases. "This is the first of its kind in that it's a ruler, a founder, somebody so old, and in so good a condition, to be honest, because the humidity doesn't lend itself well to preservation."

For the Chases, the discovery was thrilling also because of how the artifacts related to other finds over the years. "Without this tomb, we wouldn't have any idea as to how everything tied together," Arlen Chase said.

Some of the artifacts found in the tomb closely resemble those at two other Caracol burials, dating around A.D. 350, the Chases said. One of those also held cremated human remains, blades of green obsidian from central Mexico and a projectile for an atlatl — used to throw spears — the sort of object often associated with Teotihuacán, an ancient metropolis nearly 750 miles to the north. Cremation was a practice of high-status Teotihuacán but not of the Maya elite.

The evidence, the Chases argue, suggests that the early Maya had relations with the people of central Mexico decades earlier than previously thought, despite the great geographic distances between their cities. It is likely to have taken more than 150 days to walk from Teotihuacán to Caracol in the days of Te K'ab Chak. Even today it takes nearly 24 hours by car.

The artifacts show that these cities were not just aware of one another but also interacting, perhaps with envoys at the highest levels of society, the Chases said — a sign of what they called a "globalized" ancient world of trade and diplomacy.

That conclusion fits with other research showing that the Maya built societies with complicated political relationships, experts said, although some expressed caution about extrapolating from the artifacts until they could learn more.

"This was a very dynamic, political world," Dr. Feinman said. "They have evidence of some kind of connection to Teotihuacán in central Mexico, but what the mechanism of that connection is — a person? ideas? — it's harder to say. Their interpretations may be right, but I would say I'd like to

see it spelled out in an article before I could say more."

Rosemary Joyce, an anthropologist at the University of California, Berkeley, also said that she wanted to learn more.

DNA and isotope testing, which the Chases hope to do, could reveal more about the lives of the interred people, and more detail about the ceramic vessels could help determine if they were imported or local imitations, Dr. Joyce said.

Members of the archaeological project at Caracol working in the tomb.

Credit...Caracol Archaeological Project/University of Houston

The Chases believe that the artifacts indicate prolonged Maya relations with Teotihuacán decades before A.D. 378, a moment often called the "entrada," which some archaeologists believe signals the arrival of central Mexicans into the southern lowlands.



When exactly all these cities were interacting, and how and where, will almost certainly be a matter of intense debate among archaeologists, in part because the degree of precision that dating technology can offer is limited.

"People who have money in this game at Tikal will try to argue that it's not earlier than 378," Dr. Joyce said, calling the argument "kind of a fool's quest, because you can't get down to that close of a date."

The Chases have anticipated such debates.

"There's a lot more to the story that's going to take us longer to unravel," Diane Chase said. There will be "basically a ceramic argument," Arlen Chase said.

But Dr. Joyce said that she agreed with their portrayal of a complex Mesoamerican world.

"It's much more likely that Teotihuacán would be seeking relations with many places," she said, rather than a scenario in which someone from central Mexico reached a single Maya city and "suddenly everything changed."

Dr. Badillo said that the Belizean authorities hoped to showcase some of the artifacts at Caracol, and that the site should become more accessible with the completion of a new road. She also said that she expected that the Chases, "based on their track record," would be back to the site again soon.

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https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/10/world/americas/maya-tomb-caracol-belize.html?searchResultPosition=1

2025 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 Nique Wicks at nwhoppy-frog41@gmail.com (509) 670-0630 or Ed Lehman at wsmced2@outlook.com (425) 334-6282

The Council Reporter

Date	Host	Site	Material	Meet Time/Place	Tools
01/18	MSVL	Walker Valley	Blue agate	9am Big Lake Store	Dig & light hard rock tools
02/22	MSVL	Cedar Ponds	Jasper & fossils	9am Sultan Park 1 mile hike on road	Dig & light hard rock tools
03/08	MSVL	Cherry Creek	Jasper	9am Park & North end of Duvall Wading in creek, bushy	Rock hammer light hard rock tools
04/12	Pow- Wow	Saddle Mt	Petrified wood	8am Boat launch SW of Mattawa	Dig & Light hard rock tools or just pick up smaller pieces
05/10	MSVL	Racehorse Creek	Leaf fossils, morel mushrooms	9am 1-5 exit 240 Mini Mart	Shovel & rock splitting tools
05/24	MSVL	Wild Turkey mine	Noble serpentine	9am @ 3515 Waitts Lk Rd. Val- ley, WA Pay dig	Hard rock or surface picking
05/31	MSVL	Walt Bailey Trail	Rainbow chert	9am Verlot Ranger Station Collecting along roadside	Hard rock tools
06/21	WSMC	Saddle Mt	Petrified wood & opal	9am Harvest Foods, Mattawa	Dig & Light hard rock tools or surface picking
07/26	MSVL	Lake Wenatchee	Garnets	9am @ rest stop just West of Lake Wenatchee Hwy 2	Shovel, screen container for Gar- nets
08/16-17	Puyl	Greenwater	Agate, jasper, opal	9am Ranger Station in Enumclaw	Dig & Hard rock tools
	Pow- Wow	Red Top	Agate, jasper, geodes	8am Teanaway Camp Ground	Dig & Hardrock tools
09/20	Puyl	Little Naches	Thunder eggs, fossils, lily-pad jasper	10am @ intersection of Hwy 410 & FR 92	Shovel, small bar
10/01	MSVL	Index	Picture jasper	9am @ Index	Rock hammer
11/08	MSVL	Blanchard Hill	Stilpnomelane (Dalmation stone)	9am @ 1-5 exit 240 Mini Mart Collecting on road shoulder	Hard rock tools

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

100 % of map booklet sales goes to Walker Valley lease, insurance for access to private property

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

HOST CLUB CONTACT INFO

Msvl - Nique Wicks nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com Or (509) 670-0630

Pow Wow -Larry Vess vessel3755@gmail.com or (253)473-3908

Puyl Nate White (206)349-7054 nate.white77@gmail.com

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.

Washington State Rock & Gem Show Dates

November 2025

8-9—SEDRO-WOOLLEY, WASHINGTON: 65th Annual Show; Sedro-Woolley Community Center, 703 Pacific Street; Saturday 9-5, Sunday 10-4; Free admission; Gems, Minerals, Jewelry, and more; Kids activities, demonstrations, displays, hourly door prizes, raffles, and more!

14-16—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, minerals & much more at manufacturer's prices. Buy direct from the importers & wholesalers. Jewelry repair & cleaning while you shop; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; Email: info@gemfaire.com; Website: http://www.gemfaire.com

22-23—BREMERTON, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Kitsap Mineral & Gem Society; Kitsap Fairgrounds and Events Center, Presidents Hall, 1250 Fairgrounds Rd NW; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; Come to our annual Fall Festival of Gems! Kitsap Mineral and Gem Society is proud to present our annual show once again. Come for family fun, a silent auction, juniors' activities, demos, vendors and so much more! For over 85 years, we have been a club, and for nearly 40, we have been hosting a show; contact Danielle Foss; Email: kmgsfall-show@gmail.com; Website: www.kmgsrockclub.com

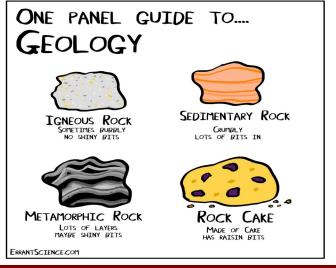
December 2025

5-6—EDMONDS, WASHINGTON: Maplewood Rock and Gem Club Holiday Gift Sale, Hours: 10:00-5:00, Venue: Maplewood Rock and Gem Club Clubhouse, 8802 196th Street SW, Edmonds, WA; Website: http://www.maplewoodrockclub.com/home

26-28—AUBURN, WASHINGTON: Seattle Mineral Market, *Special Winter Showcase*, Auburn Outlet Collection Mall, 1101 Outlet Collection Way, Auburn, WA We are having a winter show, and we would like to invite you! Dealers in Minerals, Fossils, Gemstones, Jewelry, Meteorites, Mineral art and more! PNW Diggers too! FREE PARKING & ADMISSION, FUN FOR ALL AGES

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





2025 SKAGIT ROCK & GEM CLUB ANNUAL SHOW DISPLAY CASES

Here are some things to consider when putting together a display case to show visitors what you love about geology, rocks, minerals, and lapidary arts.

Tips for designing your display case:

- -Choose a subject of interest or theme for your case; ask yourself, "What is the purpose of my display
- -Add an interesting backdrop and use paper or fabric to cover the floor and walls of the case to showcase your rocks and minerals in their best light
- -Include a riser or display stands; consider their color and make sure they don't overwhelm your display
- -Adding ephemera can help create interest or carry a theme; these could be posters, pictures, labels, tools or objects associated with your theme and purpose of display
- -Make sure your rocks and minerals are ready to be displayed. Have them clean, mounted, and labeled —before you pack them up to take to the show.
- -Practice setting up your display at home, take a photo of your practice setup so you will have a reference if you need it. Pack it up backwards, and carefully, so you unload what goes in your display case first.
- -Double check all your labels are there and correct
- -Bring supplies for setting up your case—scissors, tape, tacks, glue...
- -and the most important thing... HAVE FUN!

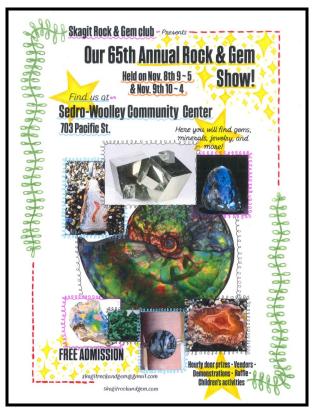


VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED

We always need volunteers to help with this years show.

We will need people during the show as well as setting up and cleaning up.

Our whole club community comes together to make these shows happen, and it gives you a chance to get to know other club members better as you work side by side.



Skagit Rock & Gem Club Annual Show November 7 -9th, 2025				
Friday, November 7 th MORNING - start 8 a.m.	Set up and prepare tables for dealers Set up and prepare tables for club activities Set up modules and cases for raffle and club displays			
Friday, November 7 th <u>AFTERNOON</u>	Dealers will prepare their areas Club members will organize activities areas The Greeters Table will be set up at the entrance Case Displayers will fill their individual display cases			
Saturday, November 8 th 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	SHOWTIME Help needed all day. Sign up for times that you are available to help at Greeters, Critter Table, Spinning Wheel, Auction, and Club Sales			
Sunday, November 9 th 10 a.m. to 4 p,m.	SHOWTIME Same as Saturday			
Sunday, November 9 th <u>AFTER Raffle Prizes are</u> <u>Awarded</u>	Dismantling and Cleanup			

