

April 2025 Volume 65 Issue 3

SKAGIT GEMS

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

Next Meeting

April 5, 2025 10:00 a.m. @ Mount Vernon Senior Center

Bring your friends! Everyone is welcome.

Gem of the Month: Crystals

Refreshments: Feel Free To Bring Snacks or Refreshments

APRIL PROGRAM

The Inner Life of Crystals

Julie Curry is a retired professional gemologist whose career kept her busy grading and appraising diamonds and identifying natural colored gem stones for 20 years.

Using photographs, she will share her passion for all the beauty, light, inclusions, and mystery hidden inside crystals.

Please come to our APRIL 5th MEETING. Learn from her knowledge and how she captures all this in her pictures.

2025 Skagit Rock and Gem Club Schedule

- January 11 - Installation Banquet
- February 1 - General Meeting
- March 1 - General Meeting
- April 5 - General Meeting
- May 3 - General Meeting
- June 7 - General Meeting
- July TBA - Annual Barbeque and Swap Meet
- August 2 - General Meeting
- September 6 - General Meeting
- October 4 - General Meeting
- November 1 - General Meeting
- November 8 & 9 - Skagit Rock & Gem Annual Show

Inside this issue:

Announcements	... Page 1
April Birthstone	... Page 2
WSMC Field Trips	... Page 3
Meeting Minutes	... Page 4
Club Information	... Page 5
The Seven Crystal System	... Page 6-7
Upcoming Shows	... Page 8-9



WHAT ARE THE PARTICULARITIES OF APRIL'S BIRTHSTONE:

DIAMOND?

Month : April

Symbols : Courage, Strength

Traditions : Diamond was worn by Indian warriors to protect themselves from danger.

In brief : April's birthstone, diamond is the perfect mineral for the 7th chakra and allows union with cosmic forces.

Symbolically, it allows one to discover the subtle energies that pass through the universe.

April Birthstone Description: Diamond

There are a large number of diamond varieties on earth, comprising nearly every colour on the spectrum: pink, green, blue or yellow, or rarer still, red or purple. The most common, however, are white. Some stones have several colours, such as the yellow-green diamond. Their intensity and brilliance are equally variable.

If the diamond is undoubtedly April's birthstone, it is for several reasons. Its hardness and incredible resistance generally associate it with loyalty. This is why it is frequently offered at weddings, the season of which begins in April. Diamond's brilliance makes it the absolute symbol of purity, and therefore of birth. And as it is a versatile stone that suits everyone, do not hesitate to offer it to a newborn, set in a jewel that he/she can wear throughout life.



Membership Information

Skagit Rock & Gem Club's yearly dues are due in September. Your yearly dues cover membership privileges from September 1st through August 31st.

If you would like to continue your membership and receive the newsletter, you must be current with your dues. Membership dues must also be paid to use the club shop.

New Membership Forms are available at every meeting. Invite your "rockhound" friends to be a guest at our next meeting. They can become a member after attending three meetings.

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.

If you are renewing your membership, you can mail in your payment to the address below:

Dave Britten
PO Box 244
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

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 nwhopyfrog41@gmail.com (509) 670-0630 or Ed Lehman at wsmced2@outlook.com (425) 334-6282

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 I-5 exit 240 Mini Mart	Shovel & rock splitting tools
05/24	MSVL	Wild Turkey mine	Noble serpentine	9am @ 3515 Waitts Lk Rd. Valley, 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 Garnets
08/16-17	Puyl	Greenwater	Agate, jasper, opal	9am Ranger Station in Enumclaw	Dig & Hard rock tools
09/06-07	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 @ I-5 exit 240 Mini Mart Collecting on road shoulder	Hard rock tools

<https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/wp-content/>

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

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

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

HOST CLUB CONTACT INFO

Msvl - Nique Wicks nwhopyfrog41@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.

Skagit Rock and Gem Club Meeting Minutes March 1, 2025

Meeting called to order at 10:03 by club president Rick Van Pelt.

Board Members present: Rick Van Pelt, Peggy Peterson, David Britten, Jennifer Ross, Eric Self, and Charlene Rhodes.

Attendance: 17 members and 6 guests, Ryan and Michelle Milbrath, Lorraine Carpenter, Tary and Alissa Power, and Gilberto Sanchez

Minutes of last meeting were approved and seconded.

Treasurer report as given by David Britten was accepted and seconded.

Old Business

A bucket will be available at each meeting for members to add their tumbled rocks.

Maryjane reported no date yet for the children's geology program at the Mount Vernon library.

Maryjane will talking to the Stanwood Cub Scouts on 4/15

The Club will have a table at the Skagit Garden and Art Fair at Skagit County Fairground on the third weekend in June. Sandy will bring a sign-up sheet to the April meeting

Sherry took money (\$15) for name tags and will place an order.

Maryjane is working on the poster for the 2025 November Show.

The Club workshop will be opened when the weather warms up. You will need to make an appointment and there is a \$5.00 shop fee.

New Business

April program: "Inner Life of Crystals" where our member, Julie Curry will present photos of the inner working of crystals.

A request was made for a gold panning demonstration in. Rick has equipment and expertise in this subject and was willing to put a demonstration together for a future presentation.

Micah will present a faceting demonstration this spring.

Rick proposed a trip to Swift Creek in the future.

Program: Jennifer Ross gave a brief education talk on obsidian.

Show & Tell

Members brought a variety of different green and obsidian specimens.

Lorraine, our guest, brought slabs and cabs to sell and will be at our next meeting with more.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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

Email: skagitrockandgem@gmail.com

Mailing address: PO BOX 244 , Mount Vernon WA 98273



2025 Officers & Board Members

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| President | · Rick Van Pelt
360-708-2737 |
| Vice President | · Peggy Peterson
425-299-4123 |
| Treasurer | · David Britten
360-755-0741 |
| Secretary | · Jennifer Ross
360-610-1227 |
| Fed. Director | · Open |
| Past President | · Eric Self
360-366-6118 |
| Bulletin Editor | · Charlene Rhodes
360-333-2156 |



Committees

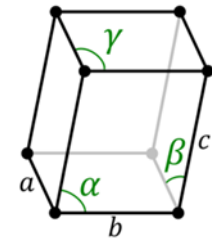
- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Annual Show Chair | Eric Self |
| Facilities/Field Trips | Dave Britten |
| Greeter | Peggy Peterson |
| Scholarship | Kim Kellems
and Shelley Van Pelt |
| Publicity | Open |
| Sunshine | Open |
| Swap | Vandenberg's |

The Seven Crystal System

BYJU'S
The Learning App

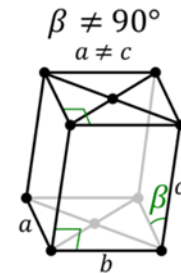
1. Triclinic System:

It is the most unsymmetrical crystal system. All three axes are inclined towards each other, and they are of the same length. Based on the three inclined angles the various forms of crystals are in the paired faces. Some standard Triclinic Systems include Labradorite, Amazonite, Kyanite, Rhodonite, Aventurine Feldspar, and Turquoise.



2. Monoclinic System:

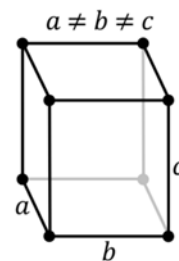
It comprises three axes where two are at right angles to each other, and the third axis is inclined. All three axes are of different length. Based on the inner structure the monoclinic system includes Basal pinacoids and prisms with inclined end faces. Some examples include Diopside, Petalite, Kunzite, Gypsum, Hiddenite, Howlite, Vivianite and more.



BYJU'S
The Learning App

3. Orthorhombic System:

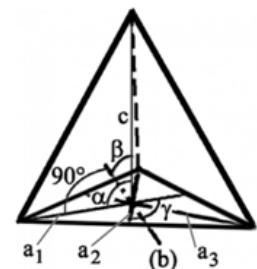
It comprises three axes and is at right angles to each other. There are different lengths. Based on their Rhombic structure the orthorhombic system includes various crystal shapes namely pyramids, double pyramids, rhombic pyramids, and pinacoids. Some common orthorhombic crystals include Topaz, Tanzanite, Iolite, Zoisite, Danburite and more.



BYJU'S
The Learning App

4. Trigonal System:

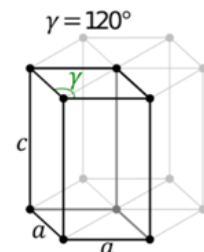
Angles and axis in a trigonal system are similar to Hexagonal Systems. At the base of a hexagonal system (cross-section of a prism), there will be six sides. In the trigonal system (base cross-section) there will be three sides. Crystal shapes in a trigonal system include three-sided pyramids, Scalenohedral and Rhombohedra. Some typical examples include Ruby, Quartz, Calcite, Agate, Jasper, Tiger's Eyes and more.



BYJU'S
The Learning App

5. Hexagonal System:

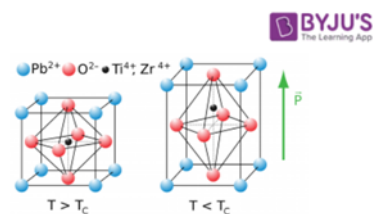
It comprises four axes. The three a_1 , a_2 and a_3 axes are all contained within a single plane (called the basal plane) and are at 120° . They intersect each other at an angle of sixty degrees. The fourth axis intersects other axes at right angles. Crystal shapes of hexagonal systems include Double Pyramids, Double-Sided Pyramids, and Four-Sided Pyramids. Example: Beryl, Cancrinite, Apatite, Sugilite, etc.



BYJU'S
The Learning App

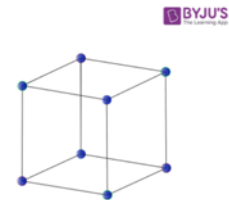
6. Tetragonal Systems:

It consists of three axes. The main axis varies in length; it can either be short or long. The two-axis lie in the same plane and are of the same length. Based on the rectangular inner structure the shapes of crystal in tetragonal include double and eight-sided pyramids, four-sided prism, trapezohedrons, and pyrite.



7. Cubic System:

Cubic system is the most symmetrical one out of the seven crystal system. All three angles intersect at right angles and are of equal length. Crystal shapes of a cubic system based on inner structure (square) include octahedron, cube, and Hexacisohedron. Example: Silver, Garnet, Gold, and Diamond.



Frequently Asked Questions - FAQs

Q1

Why is crystal structure important?

The distinction between two minerals: graphite and diamond, is a perfect example of the value of crystal structure. This tells us that not only is it important to know what elements are in the mineral, but how those elements are stacked together is also very important to know.

Q2

Do rocks have crystal structure?

The composition of the crystal is based on the conditions in which the mineral forms. The minerals with the same chemical formula but different crystal shapes are polymorphs. Conditions such as temperature (T) and pressure (P) are the conditions, since they influence ionic radii.

Q3

What is the difference between crystals minerals and rocks?

A mineral is an inorganic substance or compound that occurs naturally and has an ordered internal structure and chemical composition, crystal shape, and physical properties that are distinctive. A rock, or a mass of undifferentiated mineral matter, is an accumulation of one or more minerals.

Q4

What determine the shape of a crystal?

A number of variables, such as the size and length of their surfaces (known as 'faces') and sides, and the angles between them, define the shapes of crystals. These forms are named for their geometry - for example, the 'cubic or isometric' crystal group belongs to crystals centred on cubes.

<https://byjus.com/chemistry/crystal-structure/#the-seven-crystal-systems>

To know more about the [Atomic Structure](#), Crystal structure, and their classification, register with BYJU'S.



GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

Our 63rd ANNUAL SHOW

March 29-30, 2025 (Saturday 10 - 6, Sunday 10 - 5)

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!

Pioneer Pavilion Community Center
2007 Cherry Street, Ferndale WA

Cross the bridge into downtown and turn left on First Street



YAKIMA ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

PRESENTS

62nd "PARADE OF GEMS"

April 25, 26 & 27, 2025

CENTRAL WASHINGTON STATE FAIR PARK

Modern Living Building 1301 Fair Ave. Yakima, WA. 98901

Special Display

"Fossils of the Northwest and Beyond"

Raffle Door Prizes Silent Auction Kid Activities

Demonstrations, Gold Panning, Trash Can Volcano

Ellensburg Blue talks Saturday & Sunday

Vendors' have: rock & mineral specimen's, jewelry,
jewelry making supplies, lapidary equipment

Friday April 25, 10 am to 4 pm

Admission:

Saturday April 26, 10 am to 5 pm

Adult \$7. Student \$2.

Sunday April 27, 10 am to 4 pm.

Under 12 free with

Free parking at Gate 5

paid adult

Discount Coupon: \$1. off Adult Admission Limit One



Spring Bazaar

April 5 & 6, 2025

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

8802 196th St SW,
Edmonds, WA



2025 GEM SHOW

Hosted By Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club
28th Annual Show

Saturday, April 26th - 10 am to 5 pm

Sunday, April 27th - 10 am to 4 pm

Benton County Fairgrounds

SAVE THE DATES!

1500 S. Oak St., Kennewick, WA

Adult Admission \$5 (good for both days)

Children 14 and under FREE
with paid adult admission

ATM now available!



Events & Activities Include:

40 Collectors' Exhibits

Great Door Prizes

Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Dealers

Fluorescent Displays

Kid's Korner - Games & Crafts

Silent Auctions

Geode Cracking

Tailgating - Sunday 8:00am to Noon

Demonstrations Include:

Cabochon Fashioning

Gemstone Faceting

Gem Trees

Sphere Making

Silversmithing

Wire Wrapping

Jewelry Fabrication

Follow the Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club
on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube
And at lakesidegemandmineralclub.com



2025 Calendar of Gem, Mineral,

Name	Start	End	Location
Mt Baker Rock & Gem Show	03/29/25	03/30/25	Pioneer Pavilion Community Center, 2007 Cherry Street Ferndale, WA 98248
Maplewood Rock & Gem Sale	04/05/25	04/06/25	Maplewood Rock & Gem Clubhouse,
Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club Show	04/26/25	04/27/25	Benton County Fairgrounds - Building #2, 1500 South Oak, Kennewick, WA 99336
Yakima Rock & Mineral Club Annual Gem & Mineral Show	04/25/25	04/27/25	Central Washington State Fair Grounds, 1301 S. Fair Avenue, Yakima, WA 98901
Grays Harbor Gem, Geology, Rock &	04/26/25	04/27/25	Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds,
West Seattle Rock Club Annual Gem Show	04/26/25	04/27/25	Alki Masonic Temple, 4736 40th Avenue SW, Seattle, Washington 98116
Everett Rock & Gem Club 69th Annual	05/03/25	05/05/25	Evergreen State Fairgrounds, 18359 Cascade View
Seattle Mineral Market	05/17/25	05/18/25	Hangar 30 Building @ Magnuson Park, 7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, Washington 98115
Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show	May 2025 TBD		Swiss Park, 9205 198th Ave. E., Bonney Lake, WA 98391
Cascade Gem and Mineral Show	June 2025 TBD		Kent Commons, 525 4th Ave N, Kent, Washington 98032
Darrington Rock & Gem Show	July 2025 TBD		Mansford Grange, 1265 Railroad Avenue, Darrington, WA 98241
Washington Agate & Mineral Society Rock & Gem Rendezvous	July 2025 TBD		Tenino City Park, 300 Park Ave. W., Tenino, WA 98589
Port Townsend Rock & Gem Show	August 2025 TBD		Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 4907 Landers Street, Port Townsend, Washington 98368
Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club Show in the Trees	August 2025 TBD		Tacoma Sportsmans Club, 16409 Canyon Rd E., Puyallup, Washington 98375
Maplewood Rock & Gem Club November Show	08/16/25	08/17/25	Maplewood Rock & Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196th St., Edmonds, WA 98026
Shelton Rock & Mineral Society Tailgate Rock Sale & Swap	August 2025 TBD		Mason Area Recreation Park, 2100 E Johns Prairie Road, Shelton, Washington 98584
Seattle Mineral Market November	November 2025 TBD		Everett Mall, 1402 SE Everett Mall Way, Everett, Washington 98115
Skagit Rock & Gem Club Show	11/08/25	11/09/25	Sedro Woolley Community Center 703 Pacific St. Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

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 every one 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.



Don't forget--Check out the WA State Mineral Council webpage for all the gem shows and field trips next year.
<https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/>

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 on the left side of the page. For more information contact: Frank Mullaney, 408-266-1791, cell: 408- 691-2655, Rockyfiv(at) aol.com



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

