

August 2025 Volume 65 Issue 6

SKAGIT GEMS

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



Next Meeting:

August 2, 2025 10:00 a.m. @ Mount Vernon Senior Center

Refreshments: Feel Free To Bring Snacks or Refreshments

Reminder: Annual Club Dues are due!

Skagit Rock & Gem 65th Annual Show is just around the corner.

It's time to start planning to make it the best show ever! Whether it be educational, whimsical, elegant and artsy, or a single knock-out specimen, start planning for your showcase.

We will be back in our original location at the Sedro-Woolley Community Center at 703 Pacific St, so will have more display cases available than last year.

This is a great chance for our newer members to get involved.

There are still a few **WSMC Field Trips** slated for 2025. Check out page three for all their guided fieldtrips to interesting collecting sites for a variety of minerals.

Our table at the Skagit Garden & Art Fair

at the Skagit Valley Fairgrounds on June 21 and 22 had a great turnout of members who had a great time manning the booth and sharing what our club is about with people who have never heard of us!

This event gave our club excellent exposure to a multitude of visitors who showed up for the fair and stopped by our booth for information about our club. We also sold some rocks and raised some money for the club!

Great time at our club's annual July picnic!!!

There was excellent food including hot dogs, fried chicken, fresh salmon, and side dishes galore at our club's July 12 annual swap and picnic. 12 members attended including hosts, Lorene and Danny Vandenberg.

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DUES ARE DUE!

**Please pay at August meeting
or by mail**

Peridot

August's birthstone

photograph by walter geiersperger, corbis
by catherine d. hughes

Represents happiness

You're happy! You never get up on the wrong side of the bed. "Grumpy" definitely doesn't describe you.

Old-school myths

Peridots were once thought to glow in the dark. People felt that peridots could ward off anxiety, help one speak better, and improve relationships. Peridots protected anyone wearing them from evil and enchantment.



Rock-solid facts

Peridot is the gem-quality crystal of the olivine rock. It is the only gem found in meteorites.

photograph by richard leeney, dorling kindersley/getty images

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/peridot#:~:text=Peridots%20were%20once%20thought%20to,them%20from%20evil%20and%20enchantment.>

Membership Information & Reminder that Annual Dues are Due!

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 nwhoppyfrog41@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. 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 @ 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 and general operation of WSMC

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.

Skagit Rock and Gem Club Meeting Minutes June 7, 2025

Meeting called to order at 10:14 by past president Eric Self

Board Members present: Eric Self, Peggy Peterson, David Britten, Jennifer Ross

Attendance: 9 members and 2 guests, Paul Fabiabiniak and his daughter Iona. Emily McQuarrie has attended three meetings and can now join as a member.

Minutes of last meeting were approved and seconded.

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

Old Business

Sandy Hansen gave a brief update regarding our table at the Skagit Garden and Art Fair this month. The event will be held at the Skagit County fairgrounds on 6/21 and 6/22, from 9 AM to 4 PM both days. Sandy reports that one more person is needed in order to have two people at all times staffing the table. Please contact Sandy to volunteer.

Mary Jane Heller reported that final versions of the poster and quarter sheet cards have been printed and she presented a receipt to David Britten for the cost. Members took copies to distribute in their communities.

Emily McQuarrie will explore having Skagit Valley Community College environmental science students apply for scholarship funds available through this club.

Sandy Hansen gave information on the planned demolition of the Mount Vernon Community Center building due to age and maintenance costs. Community space had been proposed for the Commons (new library) but this has proven to be impractical.

No club meeting in July. On July 12 a potluck picnic will be held at Dan Vandenburg's home at 6414 North Fruitdale Road, Sedro Woolley, time TBD

New Business

No new business

Announcements

The Cook Road Grange Rock Show will held on July 6 and July 7, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM both days. The address is 21273 Cook Rd, WA 98233-4806, Sedro-Woolley.

Program

No program today

Show and Tell

The theme for Show and Tell was fossils.

Emily McQuarrie brought coprolite and additional fossils.

Mary Jane Heller brought fossilized corals, ammonites, trilobites, leaf impressions and petrified wood.

Peggy Peterson brought a large polished ammonite, also called a nautilus.

David Britten brought a crinoids, ammonites, a sectarian and more.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15.

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 Channeled Scablands



Typical landscape of the Channeled Scablands, as seen in the Drumheller Channels National Natural Landmark

The Channeled Scablands are probably the least known of the seven wonders of Washington State, but they have the most fascinating geological story. I still meet people today who grew up in the Seattle area that have never heard of them. What are they? Most of eastern Washington State is either farmland or mountains, but then there are large swaths of the landscape where all you can see is barren bedrock and strange rocky land formations. The early settlers in eastern Washington referred to these areas as scablands because they were

not suitable for farming. Their origin was a complete mystery.

The Channeled Scablands extend from the area around Spokane, west to the Columbia River near Vantage and southwest to the Snake River near Pasco. They are known as the "Channeled Scablands" because they are crisscrossed by long channels cut into the bedrock, called coulees. About 150 distinct coulees have been identified; some of them are hundreds of feet deep. The two largest are Moses Coulee, which is 40 miles long, and Grand Coulee, which is 60 miles long.

The blue arrows show the main routes of the Missoula Floods

During the last ice age 10,000 to 20,000 years ago, part of a glacier blocked the Clark Fork River in northern Idaho that normally flowed into Washington near what is now Spokane. This created an ice dam that caused the river to form a lake in western Montana. This lake eventually grew to cover 3,000 square miles, containing as much water as Lake Erie and Lake Ontario combined. Then the ice dam collapsed. The water from the lake was released and created



one of the largest mega floods in the history of the world. This was first theorized by a geologist named J Harlen Bretz in 1923. His theory was very controversial and other geologists thought he was nuts. It was not until the early 1970's that his mega flood theory was finally accepted, with the help of NASA's satellite imagery that clearly revealed the network of channels carved out by the mega floods.



One section of Dry Falls, which was the largest waterfall in the world about 10,000 years ago

Over 500 cubic miles of water swept across the landscape in a wall of water hundreds of feet deep and washed away everything in its path in a matter of days. The water flow of this mega flood was as great as the combined flow of all the rivers in the whole world, *times ten*. Geologists calculated that the Missoula Floods created their own earthquakes as they thundered across the landscape. The most dramatic evidence of the Missoula Floods is Dry Falls. What we can see now is a cliff three and a half miles wide and 400 feet high. At their peak flow the floodwaters were possibly 800 feet deep at the top of the falls, so the volume of water, icebergs and house-sized boulders crashing over the falls must have been unimaginable.

When the topsoil was all washed away the floodwaters scoured thousands of square miles of basalt bedrock and created the coulees we see today. Once Glacial Lake Missoula drained and the flood stopped, the ice dam gradually formed again and the glacial lake was re-created. Eventually, the second ice dam collapsed and another mega flood was unleashed. Geologists believe this happened more than forty times over a period of several thousand years, and only stopped when the last ice age ended. Each mega flood compounded the erosion of the previous one and culminated in the bizarre landforms we now call the Channeled Scablands.

Palouse Falls, 198 feet high

Palouse Falls did not create the huge canyon we can see today in Palouse Falls State Park. The amount of water that currently flows in the Palouse River over the falls is much too small to have caused such extensive erosion of the basalt bedrock. Rather, the canyon at Palouse Falls was created by the Missoula Floods. At this location the flood waters were probably several hundred feet deep, *at the top of the falls*, so they easily could have filled the canyon to the brim with a raging torrent.



The photographs and information about the Channeled Scablands shown here are just a sample from the book, *The Seven Wonders of Washington State*, by Howard Frisk.

Experiencing the Channeled Scablands

Entrance Cost: none

State Parks in the Channeled Scablands: Steamboat Rock, Sun Lakes-Dry Falls, Palouse Falls, Potholes, Sacajawea

State Parks Admission: Discover Pass is required, \$11.50 for one day, \$35 for one year

Access: roads throughout the Channeled Scablands are open year round, unmaintained dirt roads may be impassible during winter

<http://www.sevenwondersofwashingtonstate.com/the-channeled-scablands.html>

Washington State Rock & Gem Show Dates

August 2025

8-10—PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club; Tacoma Sportsmen's Club, 16409 Canyon Road East; Fri. 12-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-3; Free Admission; Convenient parking is available. Vendors will be offering a wide selection of crystals, minerals, fossils, beads, findings, lapidary equipment, cabochons, geodes, and jewelry, just to name a few things to add to your collection. Also available will be rough materials; contact Jillian Y Higgins, (253) 355-3146; Email: J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com; Website: www.puyallupvalleygemandmineralclub.com/shows

8-10—PORT TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Port Townsend Rock Club; Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 4907 Landes St; Fri. 10-8, Sat. 10-8, Sun. 10-6; Gate admission prices are: \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors 65+ and for students 13-17, \$2 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and younger; Featured with the Fair each year we include members display cases and vendors. A large running HO scale train display, spin the wheel for prizes and a raffle; contact Vicki Stearns, (425) 941-5708; Email: vickistearns52@gmail.com

September 2025

6-7—LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON: Annual show; SWMS Southern Washington Mineralogical Society; Cowlitz County Fairgrounds Event Center, 1900 7th Ave; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Free for whole family; Auctions, kids activities, demonstrations, blacklight room, jewelry, beads, food, prizes. Beautiful and unusual things to see. Rocks for sale; contact Greg M Larson, (503) 421-3877; Email: gm_larson@hotmail.com

October 2025

4-5—MONROE, WASHINGTON: Show and sale; Marysville Rock and Gem Club; Evergreen Fairgrounds, 14405 179th Ave SE, Building 500; Sat. 10-5; Free; The 49th Annual "Rocktoberfest" Rock, Jewelry, and Mineral Show & Sale Demonstrators, Dealers, Exhibits, Raffle Drawings, Door Prizes, Food Service, Espresso & Elephant Ears Special Display - Dino Skull; contact Brian Murril, (425) 346-9313; Email: bmurriel@aol.com; Website: marysvillerockclub.com

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: kmgsfallshow@gmail.com; Website: www.kmgsrockclub.com

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

Skagit Rock & Gem club

Presents

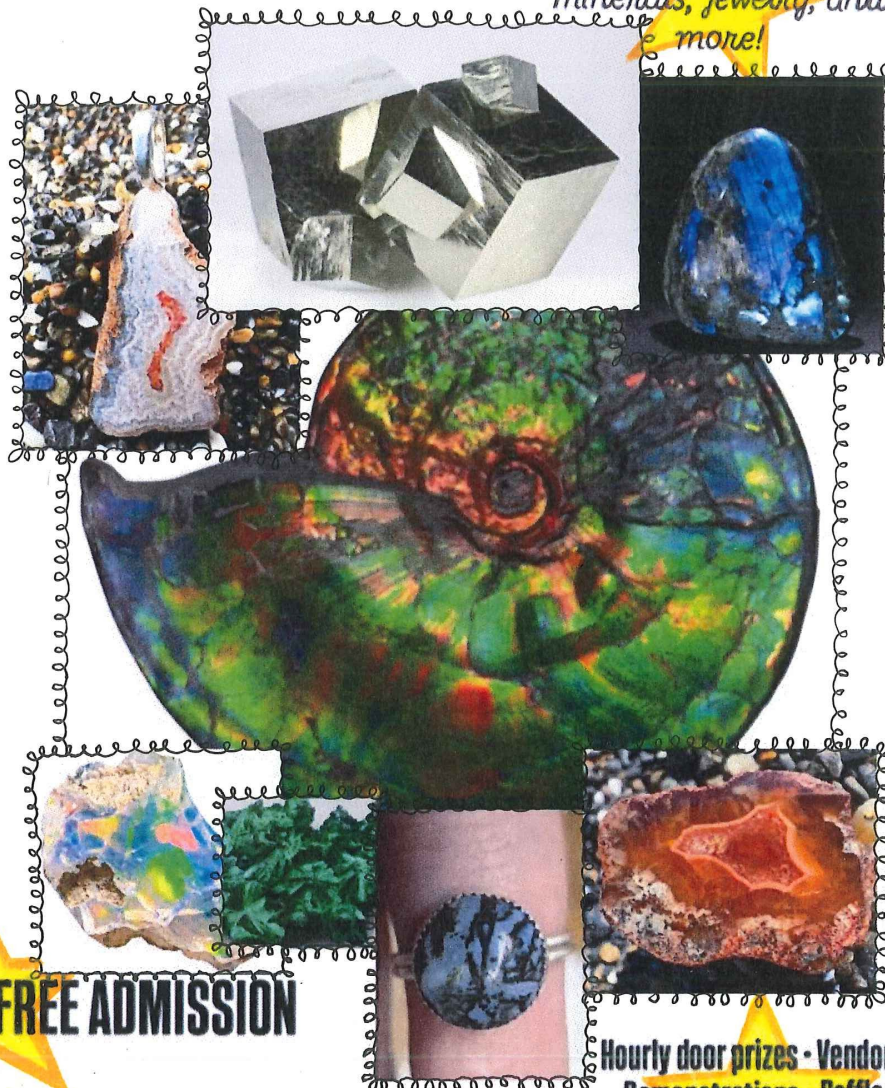
Our 65th Annual Rock & Gem Show!

Held on Nov. 8th 9 - 5
& Nov. 9th 10 - 4

Find us at

Sedro-Woolley Community Center
703 Pacific St.

Here you will find gems,
minerals, jewelry, and
more!



FREE ADMISSION

skagitrockandgem@gmail.com

skagitrockandgem.com

Hourly door prizes • Vendors •
Demonstrations • Raffle •
Children's activities

Perseid meteor shower 2025

By [Daisy Dobrijevic](#) Contributions from [Chelsea Gohd](#) last updated January 14, 2025

The Perseid meteor shower is one of the best shooting star displays of the year.

The Perseid meteor shower is one of the most prolific meteor showers of the year. The shower is active from mid-July until late August and will **peak on the night of Aug. 12, before dawn on Aug. 13, 2025.**

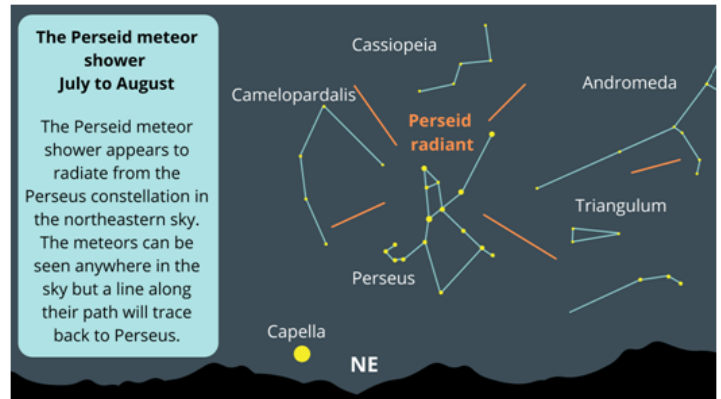
Viewers should start observing around 11 p.m. local time when the rates of shooting stars increase and can watch the sky until dawn. Unfortunately, the peak occurs just three days after a full moon, so moonlight may wash out fainter meteors.

Although the Perseids occur annually, there's already anticipation for a potential [Perseid meteor storm in 2028](#), so be sure to mark your calendars!

The Perseids result from Earth passing through debris — bits of ice and rock — left behind by [Comet Swift-Tuttle](#), which last passed close to Earth in 1992.

The shower [peaks around Aug. 11-13](#), when Earth travels through the densest and dustiest part of this debris. In years without moonlight, the meteor rate appears higher, and during outburst years (such as 2016), the rate can reach 150-200 meteors per hour.

[According to NASA](#), you can expect to see an average of up to 100 meteors per hour during the Perseid's peak.



<https://www.space.com/32868-perseid-meteor-shower-guide.html>



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