

September 2025 Volume 66 Issue 6

SKAGIT GEMS

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

Next Meeting:

September 6, 2025 10:00 a.m. @ Mount Vernon Senior Center

Refreshments: Feel Free To Bring Snacks or Refreshments

Reminder: Annual Club Dues are due!

Gem of the Month: Agates!

Skagit Rock & Gem Club Annual Show needs more Member Volunteers!!!

We thank and appreciate all who have already volunteered for the show.

Please come to the September 6th meeting to sign up and add your name to the list of volunteers. This is the Club's main event of the year where you can get involved and meet the members in a fun and engaging environment. It's also where we get most of our funding for our club expenses.

There are various positions available at our Annual Show. Our upcoming September meeting will have details on being a Door Greeter, operating the Spinning Wheel, assisting with Kids' Crafts, and selling Raffle Tickets! If you have special skills, you can show them off as a Demonstrator!

Micah will be demonstrating his faceting skills again this year!

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

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

See you at the September 6th meeting!

Inside this issue:

Announcements	... Page 1
More Announcements	... Page 2
WSMC Field Trips	... Page 3
Meeting Minutes	... Page 4
Club Information	... Page 5
Agates	... Page 6-7
Upcoming Shows	... Page 8-9

DUES ARE DUE!

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

From the Editor:

Our Annual Rock and Gem Show is coming up soon! Be sure to mark your calendars for November 7th, for set up, and November 8th and 9th, for the show. We need volunteers and will have sign-up sheets at the upcoming September 6th meeting . This year our show will be back at the Sedro-Woolley Community Center. This is a great event where everyone can get involved and support our Club!

It's time to nominate Officers for 2026. As Skagit Rock & Gem Club continues to grow and thrive, we are powered by the passion and dedication of our members. With our current officers' terms ending soon, we are looking for new members to step up and help lead the way forward.

And remember, it's also time to renew your membership dues!

See you at the September meeting and Keep Rockin',

Charlene

Things to Do:

- Renew Skagit Rock & Gem Club Annual Membership**
- Volunteer for November Annual Show**
- Become a Skagit Rock & Gem Club Officer**

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:

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 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. 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

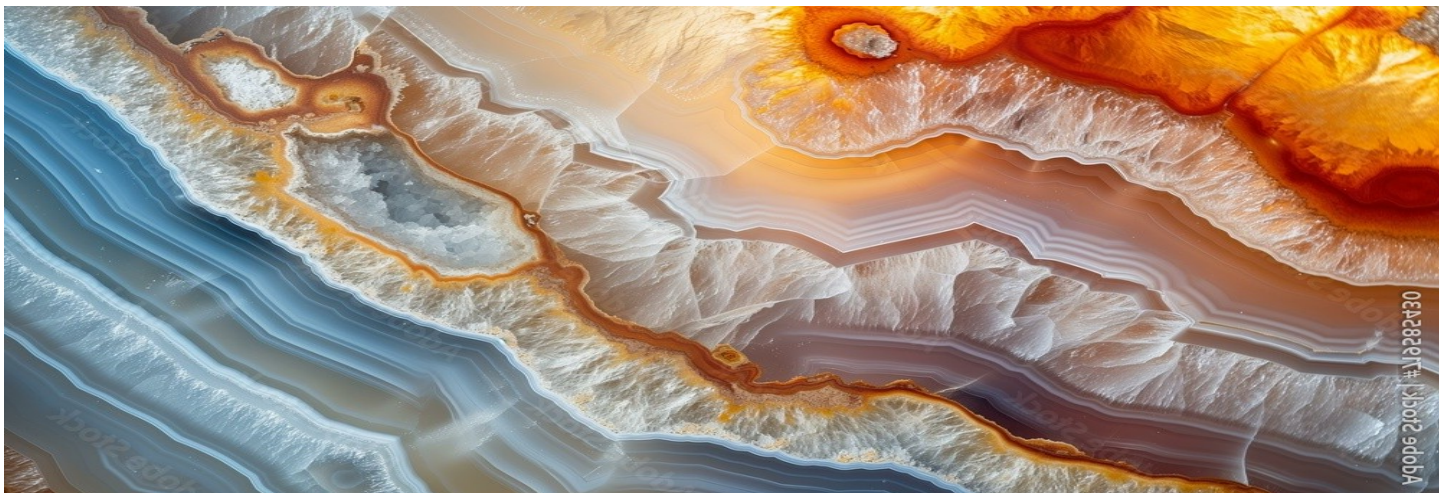
Puyl Nate White (206)349-7054 nate.white77@gmail.com

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 Notes, August 2, 2025

The August meeting was called to order by Rick Van Pelt.

Five guests, Jessica Izutsu, Thomas Zink, Mel Starr, Anders Rodin, Sharene Roodzant, and nine members were present. Board Members present were Rick Van Pelt, Peggy Peterson, Dave Britten, and Charlene Rhodes. Bruce Hurley and Charlene Rhodes had to excuse themselves early. Secretary, Jennifer Ross was absent.

Meeting minutes from June 7, 2025 were read and approved.

David Britten read the Treasurer's Report and it was approved as given.

Meeting was lots of discussion and questions from guests.

Guests were interested in club workshop and Rick caravanned anyone who wanted over to check out the workshop.

The gem of the month of September will be Agate, chosen by Alissa Power

August meeting was adjourned.



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

Interesting Facts about:

Agate



THE NATURAL
GEMSTONE COMPANY
The Authority in Gemstones™

Exploring the world of Agate gemstones unveils a treasure trove of fascinating details. Our blog delves into “Interesting Facts about Agate,” highlighting the unique characteristics and historical significance of this mesmerizing stone. One of the most interesting facts about Agate is its formation in volcanic rocks, creating stunning banded patterns that are truly one-of-a-kind. Additionally, Agate has been used for centuries in various cultures for its perceived protective and healing properties. These interesting facts about Agate not only enhance our appreciation of its beauty but also deepen our understanding of its cultural and geological importance.

Agate: The Earth’s Natural Tapestry

Agate, with its mesmerizing layers and array of colors, is a microcosm of the earth’s artistry. This semi-precious stone, a form of chalcedony, is renowned for its stunning banded patterns, which make each piece uniquely beautiful. Beyond its aesthetic allure, agate holds a place of significance in history, culture, and science. In this blog, we uncover some of the most interesting facts about agate, revealing why this gemstone continues to fascinate and inspire.



A Palette of Nature

One of the most captivating aspects of agate is its incredible variety of colors and patterns. These can range from soft pastels to vivid hues, with bands that are straight, wavy, concentric, or in complex patterns. This diversity is due to the stone’s formation process, where layers of silica are deposited in volcanic rock cavities over millennia. The different minerals and elements present during formation contribute to the stone’s coloration, making each agate unique.

Historical Significance

Agate’s history is as layered as the stone itself. It was highly valued by ancient civilizations, including the Greeks, Egyptians, and Mesopotamians, who used it for making jewelry, amulets, and decorative items. Agate seals were prized in ancient times for their durability and intricately carved designs. The name “agate” is believed to be derived from the Achates River in Sicily (now known as the Dirillo), where agates were found in ancient times.

The Science of Beauty

Agate forms when silica-rich water flows into pockets and cavities within rocks such as volcanic lava. Over time, the water evaporates, leaving behind layers of silica that, layer upon layer, form agate. This process can take hundreds of thousands of years, with the slow accumulation of materials resulting in the stone’s striking bands. Agates can also form in other types of host rock, contributing to the variety found in different regions.

Symbolism and Metaphysical Properties

Agate is believed to possess various metaphysical properties and has been used for centuries for its supposed healing and protective qualities. It's often associated with balance, grounding, and harmony, reflecting its natural equilibrium. Many cultures regard agate as a stone that can enhance mental function, improve concentration, and soothe and calm the bearer.

A Global Phenomenon

While agate can be found worldwide, certain regions are renowned for their unique and high-quality specimens. Brazil is famous for its large, colorful agates, while Uruguay is known for its deep purple and blue varieties. The United States, specifically the states of Montana, Michigan, and Oregon, also produces a significant amount of beautiful agates, each with its distinct characteristics.



Uses and Applications

Beyond its use in jewelry and decorative objects, agate has practical applications as well. Its hardness and resistance to chemicals make it suitable for making mortars and pestles used in laboratory settings. Agate slices, with their natural translucence, are often used as decorative coasters, lamp bases, and window ornaments, showcasing their beauty in everyday settings.

Care and Maintenance

Agate is relatively durable but should be cared for properly to maintain its luster. It can be cleaned with warm soapy water and a soft brush. Though resistant to most chemicals, agate jewelry should be removed before using harsh household cleaners. Prolonged exposure to sunlight can fade some

of the more vibrant colors, so it's best to store agate pieces in a shaded place.

Agate's enduring appeal lies in its natural beauty, historical legacy, and the intrinsic connection it offers to the natural world. Each piece tells a story of geological processes, human history, and artistic expression, making agate a truly fascinating gemstone. Whether worn as jewelry, displayed as a slice of natural art, or used in practical applications, agate continues to captivate and charm with its timeless elegance and intricate patterns.

<https://naturalgemstones.com/education/interesting-facts-about-agate/>

Washington State Rock & Gem Show Dates

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: bmurril@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: kmgsfall-show@gmail.com; Website: www.kmgsrockclub.com

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



Skagit Rock & Gem club

Presents

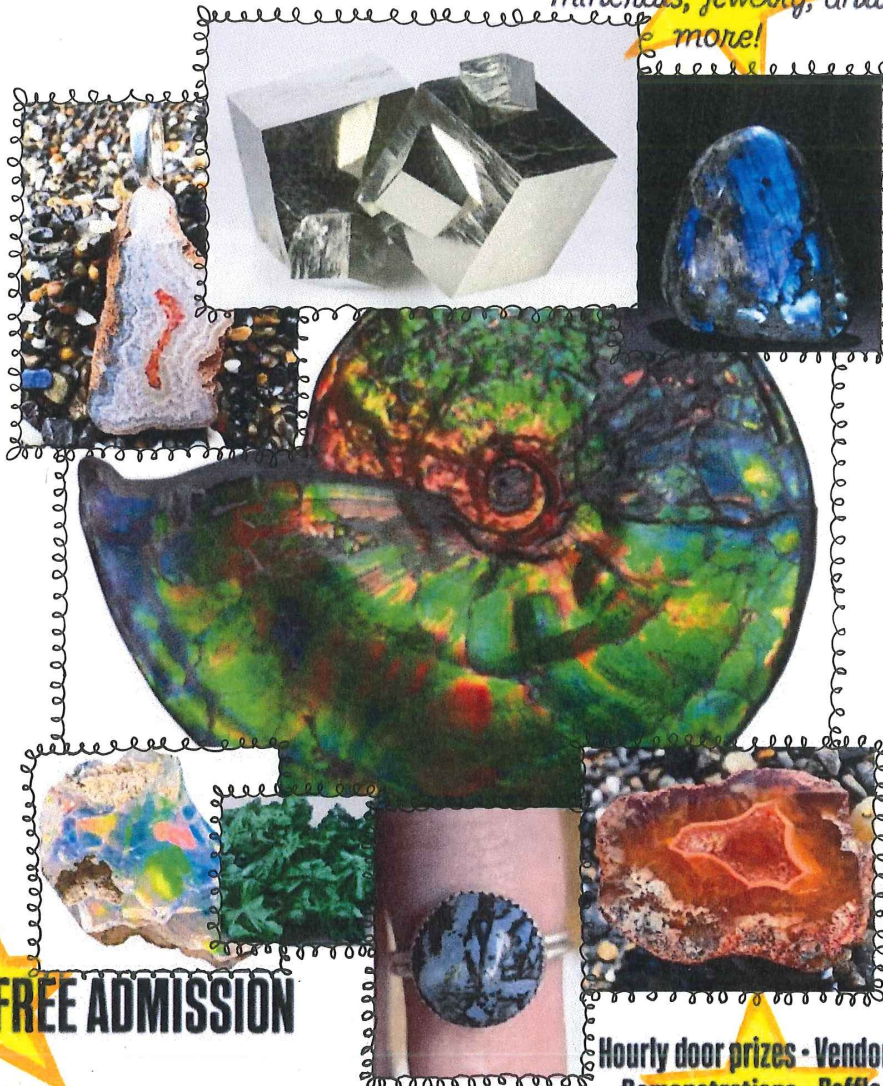
Our 65th Annual Rock & Gem Show!

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!

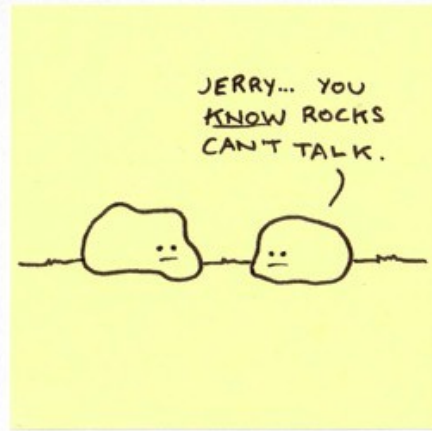
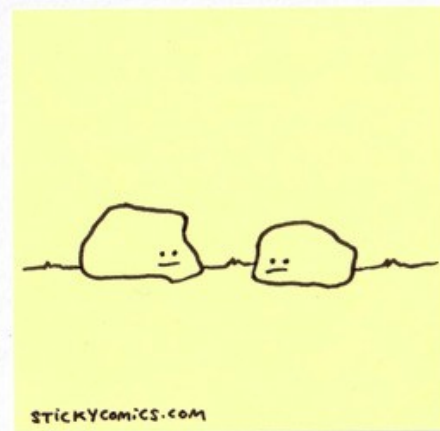
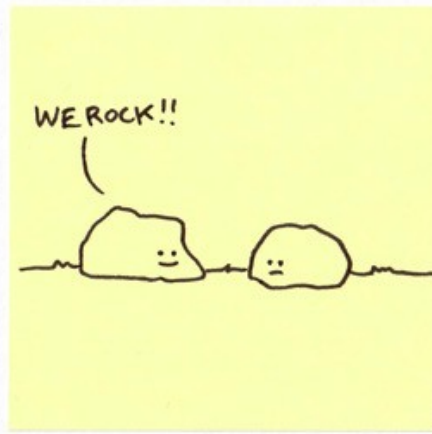
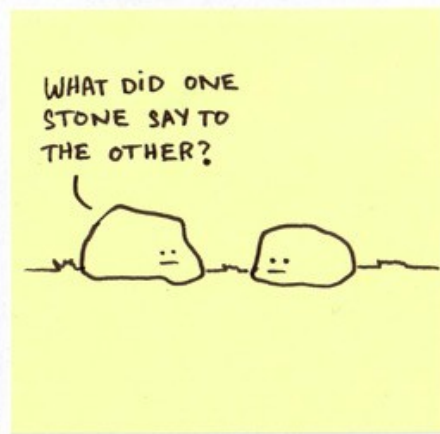


FREE ADMISSION

skagitrockandgem@gmail.com

skagitrockandgem.com

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



Skagit Rock and Gem Club
Charlene Rhodes—Editor
PO BOX 244
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

