

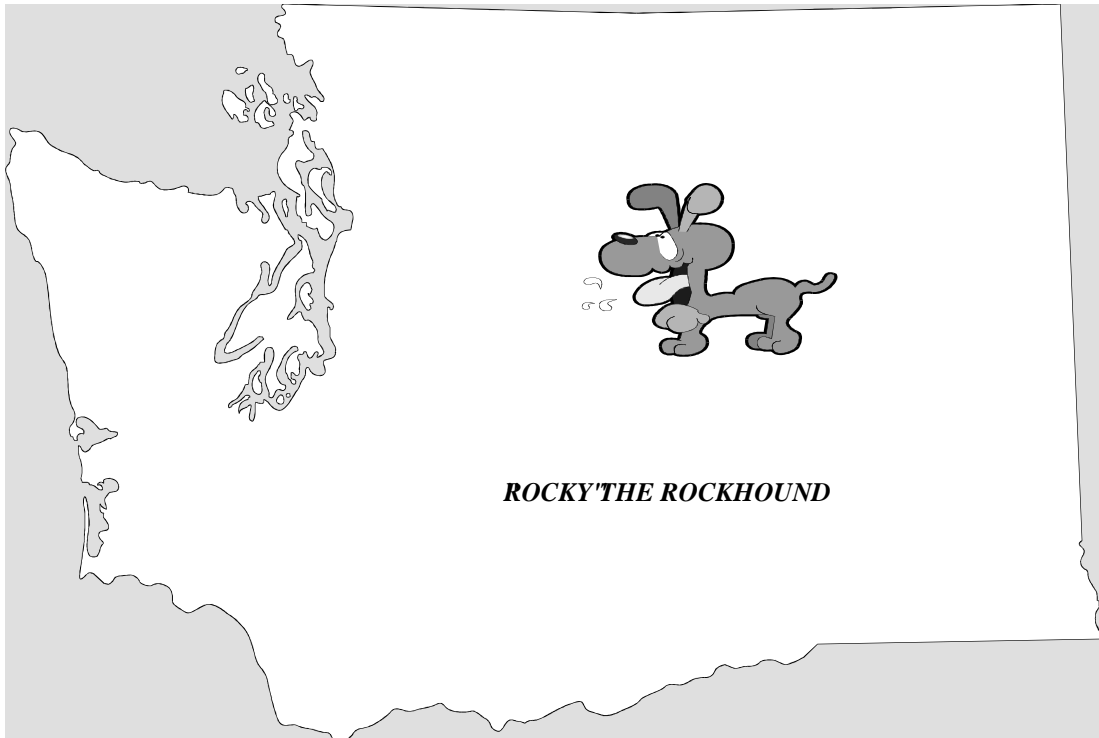


The Council Reporter



Volume 32, Issue 3

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**Official Publication of the
Washington State Mineral Council**

**WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL
2011 OFFICERS**

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Wagonmaster	open		

The West Side Board meets the third Tuesday of each month between Quarterly meetings, unless a meeting is specially called. Usually no meeting in July and December dependent on Board action.

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Westside Board Meeting Minutes 04/17/12

The are no minutes of the General Meeting in Ellensburg on 3/31 due to the weather and those that attended did not form a quorum to conduct business.

Brian Waters opened the meeting at 7:40pm

Bob Pattie presented the treasurer's report for Kathy who could not make the meeting.

Wagonmaster report:

There was a field trip to Racehorse Creek but no information about attendance.

Brian Waters will be the field trip leader for the Lake Wenatchee trip.

The Wasco trip in September has been canceled.

Brian reported that the gate to Walker Valley was missing all of the locks. We should have Stu contact the DNR office to replace our lock.

Ed will be selling the map booklets at the West Seattle show this weekend. Bob will have 50 sets of the color booklets printed. Ed paid Bob \$180 for the printing costs and will submit a bill to Kathy for re-imbusement.

Old business:

Bob reported that he and Brian will be meeting with the DNR on 4/30 to discuss the idea of a test site to assess the impact of rock collecting. The idea is to show the DNR that the impact of rock and mineral collecting is generally low, highly seasonal, and that a wide range of people with many different backgrounds engage in this hobby. To help determine a suitable test site, we need to survey the member clubs to gather data on collecting sites, number of field trips, attendance, etc.

Bob reported that the USFS will be working on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Motorize Travel Management Plan. Somehow we need ensure that access to collecting sites on Forest Service lands are addressed in the Draft EIS. Follow the link below to go to the website.

http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/okawen/landmanagement/projects/?cid=fsbdev3_053614

New business:

Bob also reported that he has attended the DNR's Snoqualmie corridor Recreation Plan meetings. The make up of the committees have been primarily hikers, bicyclists, environmental activists, etc. While the meetings may be attended by the general public, they are not allowed to participate. When additional open

May 5, 2012 Combined Board Meeting AGENDA

Pres. Opening of Meeting
Treasurer's Report
◇ Kathy Earnst
Committee Reports
◇ Wagonmaster
Old Business
New Business
Open Comments
Adjourn

Preliminary Meeting Calendar for 2012

West side board meetings:
1/17, 2/21, 4/17, 6/19, 10/16

At 7:30PM at the
Maplewood Clubhouse
8802 196th St SW, Edmonds

General meetings :
3/31, 5/5, 9/22, 11/3

All general meetings will be held at:

Palace Café
4th & Main
Ellensburg
Meeting @ 9:30 AM

meetings are held, we need to get more representation from our hobby to show out interest in the land use. If/when new planning groups are formed we also need to ensure that we are represented.

Follow the link below for more information on the plan and meetings.

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/recreationeducation/topics/recreationplanning/pages/amp_rec_snoqualmie_corridor_recre.aspx

Meeting adjourned,
Submitted by Glenn Morita, Secretary Pro-Tem

ALERT! ALERT!

Registration is open for the WSMC's China Hollow Jasper field trip to Wasco, Oregon. Only 40 collectors are allowed, no children under 16 please.

Preference will be given to those who have not yet gone to the
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site.

There is a \$25 fully refundable deposit required for this trip to secure a spot. If a party cancels with less than 30 days' notice before the date of the trip they will not receive a refund. (This is so that people who register to go actually attend. If a party registers than doesn't attend they are taking away a space that others may have used.)

Contact Information for registration: Stu & Kathy Earnst (360) 856-0588 Call for mail address earnstkk@comcast.net

TRIP DETAILS

WHEN: Sat-Sun: May 19th & 20th.

WHERE: Gathering & Camping spot: Brooks Memorial State Park on Hwy 97 (north of Goldendale.)

ITINERARY:

Saturday, 5/21 collecting at China Hollow claim

Sunday, 5/22 trip to Dolph's rock shop in Rufus, OR (An appointment only museum/rock shop)

There are two nice motels in Goldendale. The mine owner will charge a per lb. fee for material gathered at the site. He also sells more select material at his shop in Wasco.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY HOSTS ANNUAL SPRING ROCK AUCTION

On Saturday, April 28 the SWMS will host its annual Spring Rock Auction at the Catlin Grange featuring a wide array of desirable rocks. Samples include petrified wood, carnelian, thunder eggs, Mexican lace, polka dot agate, and obsidian to name a few. The club has recently acquired new materials some of which will be included in the auction. This auction is a fundraiser for the club.

Preview of rocks begins at 2:00 pm with bidding commencing at 3:00 pm. The regular club meeting begins at 7:00 pm. The Catlin Grange is located at 205 Shawnee Street (off of North Pacific Avenue) in Kelso, Washington. For further information please contact Nicole at 360-785-4417 or Vicki at 360-636-3491. All are welcome to attend – come join the fun!

Regarding the huge jump in prices for cerium oxide, I thought I should follow up with an article regarding why the price has jumped so much in the last few years and let everyone know of recent events that should eventually bring the price back down.

As best as I know regarding the price jumps, the reason for it is that 90% of all the rare earth minerals, which cerium oxide is one, available on the market have been being mined in China. It is not that China has most of the available rare earths, they

can be found throughout the world, but that, as in so many things, China can mine them at costs well below what it takes in most countries. As anybody that creates and sells things knows, it is next to impossible to compete with Chinese exports regarding prices. This is due to the relatively low cost of labor in China, and the fact that China rarely enforces it's own health and safety regulations.

So, a couple of years ago I read an article which stated that China was banning the export of all rare earth minerals, and that this had something to do with a dispute that China had with Japan. Obviously China did not ban their exports for very long because if they did the supply of those minerals would have ran out because as I wrote, China supplied 90% of the world market.

What I very recently found out is that China did resume the export of those minerals, but had put a very steep export tax on them, which had the effect of raising and keeping the price of those minerals high. During the last year or so I have heard of companies, including one in California, that were going to resume mining rare earth minerals because at the market rate of \$30.00 per pound they could make a profit.

That should be able to bring the price back down a little bit, but remember that the non China producing mines need the price to remain high in order for them to make a profit. However, at the end of January the World Trade Organization made a ruling that China's export taxes on rare earth minerals was an unfair barrier to free trade and stated that China must cease and desist those export taxes. The United States was the plaintiff that brought this before the WTO.

So, those of us that use cerium for polishing rocks should see the price of cerium start to drop back towards a more reasonable price. On the other hand companies like the one in California that were resuming mining of these materials because the price was so high may not be able to do so if the price drops below their profitability margin.

I have experimented with using different polishing compounds and recently used tripoli on some rocks. Tripoli seems to work ok, but not anywhere near the beautiful polish one can get with cerium. For agates, using Pro Polish gets a nice finish. For jaspers, tin oxide does very well, but tin oxide has always been much more expensive than cerium, and is also one of the above mentioned rare earth minerals. And, as I stated in an earlier article, I haven't found anything besides cerium that will put a good polish on obsidian

Anyway, I'll keep on experimenting and hope that the price of cerium starts to come down quickly.

Brian Waters
From Stone Age News 03/12

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Local Area Shows for 2012

DATE & TIME	CLUB	SHOW	LOCATION
April 2012 28th 10am - 5pm 29th 10am - 5pm	Grays Harbor Gem & Geology Society	44th Annual Earth's Treasures	Grays Harbor County fairgrounds 43 Elma/McCleary Rd. Elma, WA
April 2012 28th 10am - 6pm 29th 10am - 4pm	Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society	Annual Gem and Mineral Show	Hermiston Conference Center 415 S Hwy 395 Hermiston, OR. 97838
May 2012 4th 10am—6pm 5th 10am—6pm 6th 10am - 4pm	Spokane Rock Rollers	53rd Annual show	Spokane County Fair and Expo Center 604 N Havana Spokane, WA
May 2012 12th 10am - 6pm 13th 10am - 4pm	Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club	Annual show	Gallatin County Fairgrounds 901 N. Black Bozeman, MT
May 2012 12th 10am - 6pm 13th 10am - 4pm	Bitterroot Gem & Mineral Society	Annual show	First Interstate Center Ravalli County Fairgrounds 100 Old Corvallis Rd Hamilton, MT
May 2012 18th 10am - 5pm 19th 10am - 5pm 20th 10am - 4pm	Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club	2012 NFMS Annual Gem Show Rock'N the Country No Leaverites Here!	Benton Fairgrounds 1500 South Oak St. Kennewick, WA
May 2012 19th 10am - 6pm		Seattle Mineral Market #5	Lake City Community Center 12531 28th Ave. NE, Seattle
June 2012 1st 12pm—5pm 2nd 10am—5pm 3rd 11am—4pm	Puyallup Valley Club	Annual show	Swiss Park 9205 198th Ave. E. Puyallup, WA
June 2012 2nd 10am—6pm 3rd 10am—5pm	Everett Rock and Gem Club	59th Annual show	Everett Soccer Arena 2201 California St Everett, WA
June 2012 2nd 9am—5pm 3rd 10am—4pm	North Idaho Mineral Club	Annual show	Kootenai County Fair and Event Center Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
June 2012 9th 10am—5pm 10th 10am—5pm	Butte Mineral and Gem Club	Mineral and Gem show	Butte Civic Center Annex 1340 Harrison Ave. exit 127 North Butte, MT
June 2012 16th 10am—6pm 17th 10am—4:30pm	Oregon Coast Agate Club	49th annual show	Yaquina View Elementary School Multipurpose Room 351 SE Harney St. Newport, OR
June 2012 21st 9am—5pm 22nd 9am—5pm 23rd 9am—5pm 24th 9am—4pm	Prineville Rock Club	Annual show	Crook County Fairgrounds S. Main St Prineville, OR
July 2012 12th 10am -6pm 13th 10am -6pm 14th 10am -6pm 15th 10am -6pm	Rock Rustlers	Annual show	Marina Park Columbia River Gorge Marina Dr. Cascade Locks, OR

LIST OF WSMC FIELD TRIPS FOR 2012 - (May be altered during the year. Please check back often.)

The WSMC sponsors field trips through various rock clubs in the state. These trips offer the general public as well as the experienced rockhound the opportunity to collect a wide variety of materials from agate and jasper to crystals and fossils. Experienced guides familiar with the sites are on-hand to help find good quality material. Check with the local clubs in your area for further information. **AREAS CURRENTLY CLOSED TO COLLECTING: LUCAS CREEK, ADNA, DIATOM PITS (FRENCHMAN HILLS).** No motorized vehicles allowed: Green Mountain (Kalama) and First Creek.

Check out the trip info, and tool listings at: mineralcouncil.org.

Updated: November 14, 2011

Date	Host	Site	Meet @	Material	Tools
1/28	Msvl	Bvr Valley Quarry	10:30 @	Pt Ludlow C of Comm	Chert, Zeolites, Geodes Hard rock tools
2/18	Msvl	Cedar Ponds	9:00 @	Monroe, WA Jack 'n Box	Red & Yellow Jasper Dig & light hard rock
3/11	Evt/LkSd	Sadl Mtn/Dtm Pts	9:00 @	Mattawa, WA-Harvest Foods	Pet. Wood & Diat. opal Light & dig tools
4/14	MtBk	Racehorse Crk	9:00 @	Nugent's Corner, E of Bellnham	Fossils; Morel mshrms Dig, light, & split tools
4/21-22	Pow-Wow	Saddle Mtn	8:00 @	Boat launch: S. Mattawa	Petr. Wood Light hard rock & dig tools
5/19-20	Msvl	Wasco, OR	8:00 @	Biggs Junction, OR; Shell Gas	China Hollow Pic Jasp(\$) Regstr. Opens 3/16/ - 5/1 \$25 Deposit
6/13-16	Tri-Fed	Idaho		Canceled	Contact Fed. Representative
6/23	Spkn	Emerald Creek, ID	8:00 @	Emerald Creek Parking Area	Star Garnets (\$ Fee dig) Old clothes, Ziploc bag/\$fee dig
6/27-7/1	Pow-Wow	Madras, OR	8:00 @	Jefferson Fair Grounds	Agate, jasper, wood, T-eggs(\$) Dig & light tools
7/21	Msvl/Dar	Darrington	10:00 @	Rock Show behind IGA Store	Travertine & Spelunking Hard rock dig, dress for water
7/28	WSea	Lake Wenatchee	9:00 @	Coles Corner Gas Sta.	Garnets, actinolite, talc Screen, wood saw, dig tools
8/4	Yak	Timberwolf Mtn	9:00 @	Ace Hardware, Naches, WA	Quartz Crystals Shovel, pick, rock hammer
8/11	Spkn	Lolo Pass, ID	8:00 @	Lolo Hot Springs Parking Lot	Smoky Quartz Crystals Shovel & pick (lots of digging)
8/18-19	NW Op	Greenwater	9:00 @	Enumclaw Ranger Station	Agate, Jasper Dig & light hard rock
9/8-9	Pow-Wow	Red Top	8:00 @	W Fork Teanaway Camp	Geodes, Agate, jade Dig & light hard rock
9/15	NW Op	Little Nachese	9:00 @	TBD (Kaner Flats?)	Thunder eggs, Rhyolite Dig & light hard rock
9/29-30	Msvl	Wasco, OR		Canceled	
10/6	Spkn	Chewelah Area	9:00 @	Chewelah Safeway	Magnesite, Var. Minerals Container, and rock hammer
10/27	Msvl	Happy Thought Crk	9:00 @	Hwy 2, Money Creek Campgrnd	Picture Jasper Rock Hammer & Container
11/10	MtBk	Blanchard Hill	9:00 @	I-5 exit 240, Gas Mart	Stilpnomelane in Quartz Hard rock tools

(* Deposit must be received no later than 30 days before trip date to reserve spot; deposit fully refundable.) Participants must be age 16 or older; no children or pets, please; maximum of 40 participants so get your reservations in early!)

ALWAYS CALL TO CONFIRM TRIP DATES AND DETAILS!!— SEE BELOW

Abbreviation	Host	Contact	E-mail
Evt	Everett Rock & Gem Club	Brad Johnson (206) 403-3073	cavemanrocks@yahoo.com
LkSd	Lakeside Gem & Min Club	Andy Johnson (509) 546-1950	cbagates@hotmail.com
Msvl	Marysville Rock Club	Ed Lehman (425) 334-6282	wsmced@hotmail.com
Msvl-Wasco trip		Stu & Kathy Earnst (360) 856-0588 27871 Minkler Rd, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284	earnstkk@comcast.net
MtBk	Mt Baker Rock Club	Kris Menger (360) 927-0994	kmenger@comcast.net
Nw Op	NW Opal Association	Tony Johnson (253) 863-9238	ynotbandit@earthlink.net
Pow-Wow	All Rockhounds Club	Cliff Matteson (253) 475-8433	cliff.conniematteson@gmail.com
Spkn	Rock Rollers of Spokane	Mike Shaw (509) 251-1574	mikeshawmoose@yahoo.com
WSea	West Seattle Rock & Gem Club	Brian Waters (206) 290-2312	bwaterss2011@gmail.com
Yak	Yakima Rock & Min Club	Jerry Wichstrom (509) 653-2787	jewtmew@aol.com

Trips are open to all. Most 2 day trips include Sat potluck, Sun free breakfast, tailgating, swap, and horse shoes. Small fee required for Pow Wow and Madras trips. FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Ed Lehman at wsmced@hotmail.com or (425) 334-6282. Or see mineralcouncil.org

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DAMAGE REPORT

This damage report is to let you know that members of the clubs associated with the Washington State Mineral Council have observed behavior that could or has caused damage at the following described site. This information is provided as a public citizens concern with our environment and the proper use of our public and private lands.

Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Vehicle License Number: _____

Make and color of vehicle: _____

Number of persons involved: _____

Names of individuals (if known) _____

Describe what you observed: _____

Would you be willing to testify if necessary? Yes ___ No ___

Your name _____

Your phone number: _____

Below are contacts for public lands management agencies. If you're not sure of which one to contact ask your club officers or contact the Washington State Mineral Council

Colville National Forest: Colville National Forest 765 South Main Street Colville, WA 99114

Gifford Pinchot National Forest: 10600 N.E. 51st Circle Vancouver, WA 98682

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest: 2930 Wetmore Ave., Suite 3A Everett, WA, 98201

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest: 215 Melody Lane Wenatchee, WA 98801

Olympic National Forest: 1835 Black Lk Blvd SW Olympia, WA 98512

Bureau of Land Management Oregon/Washington: 1103 N Fancher Road Spokane, WA 99212

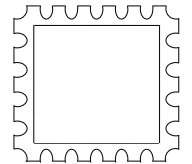
Washington State DNR: PO Box 47000 1111 Washington Street SE Olympia, WA 98504-7000

Washington DFW: 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Combined Board Meeting
May 5, 2012
9:30 AM

Palace Café
4th & Main
Ellensburg

COUNCIL REPORTER, Monthly publication of The
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WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL
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