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◆ **The Council Reporter** ◆

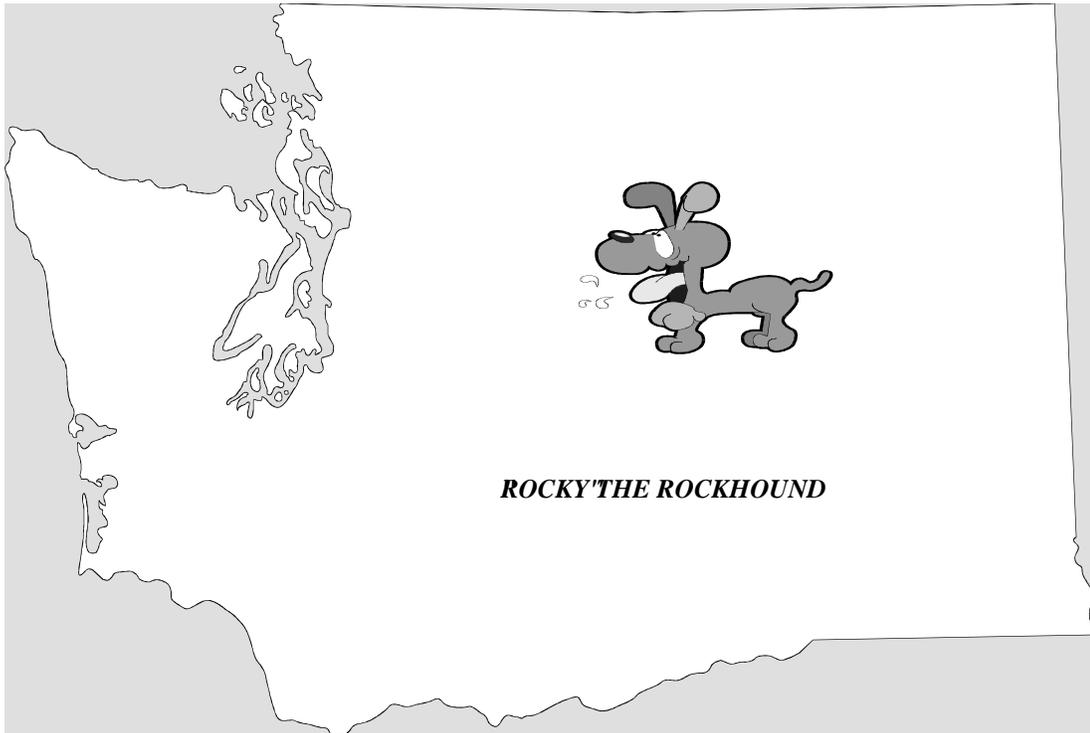
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**Official Publication of the  
Washington State Mineral Council**

**WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL  
2015 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 04/21/15

The meeting began at 7:30 with Bob Pattie opening the meeting.

Members present: Ed Lehman, Gordon & Millie Lyons, Jim Miller, and Bob & Jackie Pattie.

The minutes of the last meeting were not approved. The officers were not listed appropriately.

Old business: Stu Earnst and Bob Pattie are working on a questionnaire for all the clubs to fill out to give to our legislators to help keep our lands open. Bob would like to have the questionnaire handed out at the May meetings.

New Business: Jim Miller of the Maplewood Club approached the Mineral Council about the revival of the North West Geologist Society news letter. It would allow the members to write stories on their experiences on their rock hounding trips. It would be published on line.

Bob had a discussion on the Teanaway land use, the San Juan National Park impact study, the special restriction on rock collection and laws pertaining to the fish and game laws.

The meeting was adjourned by Bob Pattie at 8:30.  
Secretary: Millie Lyons

## May 9, 2015 Combined Board Meeting AGENDA

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

## Meeting Calendar for 2015

West side board meetings:  
1/20, 2/17, 6/16, 08/18 (new meeting), 10/20

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

General meetings :  
3/21, 5/09, 9/19, 10/31

All general meetings will be held at:

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

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via CMS Tumbler 04/15, from the USGS website, <http://www.usgs.gov>, 9/30/14

### COLLECTING AGATES AT RED TOP MOUNTAIN by DICK RANTZ



Some of the nicest agates found in Washington over the years have been found at Red Top Mountain, in the Teanaway Ridge area of Kittitas County. The mountain is composed of vesicular basalt that hosts a great number of agates, mostly blue and often fortified in structure, ranging from quite small to football size nodules.

There are also some large crystal filled geodes. Some are found by digging and screening the soil and others are located on the basalt outcrops and cliff faces.

Red Top was a popular destination for Washington rock clubs in the '60s to the '80s. "Gem Trails of Washington" has a page description for Red Top. Also, The All Rock hound's Pow Wow Club has had a field trip to Red Top each September for many years. Going with the Pow Wow Club or an experienced collector is a very good way to learn how and where to collect. If you go on your own, here are some suggestions:

Take US Highway 2 across the Cascades to the intersection with US 97 just beyond Leavenworth. Follow US 97 South across Blewett Pass for about 20 miles until you see Mineral Resort Cafe and camp grounds on your left. Have a cup of coffee there and ask questions of the operators about the road to Red Top. It is in fact about 100 yards or so back towards the North on your left, with a sign for the Blue Creek Road, (N.F. 9738) heading West. Follow it about 2.7 miles to a Y junction. The right fork heads west and down to the Teanaway River area. The left fork heading S.W. leads to the Red Top Lookout parking area and to the trails along the ridge for some distance where most digging collecting has been done over the years and many agates have been found.

Look for and work the old holes, the more the better. Another good area is found from the Y road junction. There you will see a small "Jeep Road" heading West between the two main roads. It is very rough and goes in about a mile and a half and ends at excellent collecting areas, both off to the right just below a cliff, and on the steep hillside to the left and South. However, I found my 15 pound agate by following a trail found maybe about 50 yards in from the Y on the jeep road. That trail goes off to the North about a hundred yards to a cliff face with a narrow path along the face. There, you look for signs of geodes or nodules in the basalt. It takes lots of hammering and chisel work to get them out and it's a rather dangerous place, not for kids or the faint of heart. Also, we found a number of agates at the bottom of the cliff in the rock fall debris. One more suggestion; look carefully as you drive along past all road cuts in the Red Top area. After the spring thaw and after heavy rains, agates and geodes are sometimes exposed and washed out. Some of the most spectacular finds have been collected with minimum effort that way! Camping is available at the Mineral Resort. Take plenty of water and the usual rockhound tools to the diggings. In May and early June, plenty of mosquitoes; so, you'll need lots of bug spray; later, not so much. (My information is 10 or more years old. You may want to do some research before setting out.) So, go and dig, and good luck!

from Rockhound Special 02/15

### MINERAL MYTHS AND MEANINGS

by Dave Wester

Throughout the ages, man has held a deeper belief of gems and minerals, considering them to bring luck or associating them with health or life facts. When you think about it, there's probably a grain of truth to some of these myths because minerals, gems, and rocks are made up of the same compositions as the human body. If you've taken a chemistry class you'll know this to be true. This column presents a gem or mineral myth (or meaning) each month so that you can become better acquainted with some of the more diverse properties of those rocks we love to collect.

This month we talk about Agate. This is such a broad mineral that  
(Continued on page 5)

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I thought a little more background on this treasured rock would be interesting.

**AGATE**

Agate is a microcrystalline variety of quartz (silica), chiefly chalcedony, characterized by its fineness of grain and brightness of color. Although agates may be found in various kinds of rock, they are classically associated with volcanic rocks but can be common in certain metamorphic rocks.



Colorful agates and other chalcedonies were obtained over 3,000 years ago from the Achates River, now called Dirillo, in Sicily. The stone was given its name by Theophrastus, a Greek philosopher and naturalist, who discovered the stone along the shore line of the river Achates

sometime between the 4th and 3rd centuries BC. Agate is one of the most common materials Used in the art of hardstone carving, and has been recovered at a number of ancient sites, indicating its widespread use in the ancient world.

Most agates occur as nodules in volcanic rocks or ancient lavas where they represent cavities originally produced by the disengagement of volatiles in the molten mass which were then filled by siliceous matter deposited in regular layers upon the walls. Such agates, when cut transversely, exhibit a succession of parallel lines giving a banded appearance to the section. Such stones are known as banded agate, ribbon agate and striped agate.



In the formation of an ordinary agate, it is probable that waters containing silica in solution— derived, perhaps, from the decomposition of some of the silicates in the lava itself— percolated through the rock and deposited a siliceous coating on the interior of the vapor vesicles. Variations in the character of the solution or in the conditions of deposition may cause a corresponding variation in the successive layers, so that bands of chalcedony often alternate with layers of crystalline quartz.



Agates are thought to guard against the biting of scorpions or serpents (remember that next time you're in the Oregon desert). Additionally they're believed to soothe the mind, drive away contagion and promote eloquence. In olden times, they

were thought to secure the favor of princes (remember that ladies).

Agate is also believed to prevent insomnia and ensure pleasant dreams and to enhance personal courage.



This mineral is believed to provide a calming influence, improves perception and concentration, and helps to develop and increase one's analytical talents.

(via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 01/15, via Rocky Trails, 1/10)

**The Washington State Mineral Council web site has MOVED.**

Please update your web browsers to the new URL <https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/>

The move allows the website to use Wordpress without having to upgrade our web hosting account.

The old URL [www.mineralcouncil.org](http://www.mineralcouncil.org) will continue to re-direct you to the new location.

**Dues are due**

Download the PDF or Word version from the WSMC website in the Misc. Resources menu

Kathy Earnst will be in town all spring so send in dues as soon as possible.

**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 everyone 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.

**Attention: All Newsletter Subscribers**

If you, or someone you know should be receiving this newsletter electronically and are not, please contact Bob Pattie or myself (Glenn Morita).

We are trying to keep our mailing list current and want to make sure that everyone who wants an electronic version of the newsletter gets one.

## WSMC FIELDTRIPS 2015 ( Will be updated—see mineralcouncil.org )

The Washington State Mineral Council plans guided fieldtrips to collecting sites. Open to member clubs, and the general public. Most trips are free. Included will be Pow Wow trips (must join to go on trips). Host clubs and contact persons will be set up as I gather info. For now, go to mineralcouncil.org for updates, or contact Ed Lehman @ wsmced@hotmail.com , or home (425) 334-6282 cell (425) 760-2786.

Date	Host	Site	Meeting place and time	Material	Tools
01/10	Msvl	Beaver Valley	10:30 @ info Center BeaverValley Rd	Chert & Zeolites	Hard rock tools
01/31	Msvl	Walker Valley	9 @ Big Lake Store	Geodes, Agate nodules	Hard rock tools
02/21	Msvl	Cedar Ponds	9:00 @ 2nd Monroe Jack n Box	Jasper	Dig & Lt hard rock tools
03/07	Msvl	Cherry Creek	9:00 @ Duvall Safeway	Jasper	Dig, Lt hard rock, wading
04/18-19	POW	Saddle Mt Mattawa, WA	8:00 @ Mattawa boat launch	Petrified wood	Dues required \$7.50/each \$15/family
004/25	Msvl	Racehorse Creek	9:00 @ IGA @ Nugents Corner	Fossils	Dig & Lt hard rock tools
05/23	Elb	Saddle Mt	9:00 @ Mattawa Leprechaun Market	Petrified wood	Dig, Lt hard rock
06/15	Spk	Emerald Creek	9:00 @ Emerald Creek Star Garnet Area, Idaho	Star garnet	Tweezers
06/21-24	Spk	McDermitt, NV	Call	Picture jasper, petrified wood, agate, thunder eggs	Lt hard rock
06/25-28	POW	Madras, OR	8:00 @ Fairgrounds see dues above	Petrified wood, agate, jasper, T-Eggs -\$1 #	
07/10-13	HC	Clarkia, Idaho	One day travel each way from Western Washington	Large garnets, quartz crystals	Dig & Lt hard rock tools
07/18	Dar	Darrington	11am @ show, Darrington Grange	Travertine	Lt hard rock tools
08/15-16	NWOS	Greenwater	9:00 @ Enumclaw Ranger Station	Agate, Jasper	Dig, Lt hard rock
09/12-13	POW	Red Top	8:00 @ camp (W fork M fork jct) Dues, see above	Agate, geodes, jade, jasper	
09/26	NWOS	Little Naches	9:00 @ Enumclaw Ranger Station	Thunder-Eggs	Dig, Lt hard rock
10/17	Msvl	Money Creek	9:00 @ Money Creek Camp	Ore, picture Jasper	Lt hard rock, light
11/14	MtBkr	Blanchard Mt	9:00 @ I-5 240 exit gas Station	Stilpnomelane & Chert	Hard rock tool

Host	Club	Contact info
Dar	Darrington Rock Club	Ed Lehman—wsmced@hotmail.com (425) 334-6282 or (425) 760-2786
Msvl	Marysville R & G Club	Ed Lehman— wsmced@hotmail.com (425) 334-6282 or (425) 760-2786
POW	All Rockhounds Pow Wow Club of America	Larry Vess –vessel3@comcast.net (253) 473-3908
Elb	Ellensburg Rock Club	Steve Townsend—srtrocks@aol.com (509) 933-2236
Spk	Spokane Rock Rollers	Mike Shaw— mikeshawmoose@yahoo.com— (509) 244-8542
NWOS	Northwest Opal Society	Tony Johnson— (253) 863-9238
HC	Hells Canyon Gem Club	Dan Cease—rockmangem@q.com (509) 254-1720

This is just a project in works. Participants please respond with corrections and updates.

Thanks, Ed

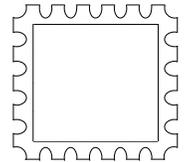
## Local Area Shows for 2015

May 2015 2nd 10am—6pm 3rd 10am—5pm	Everett Rock and Gem Club	62nd Annual show	Everett Community College Student Fitness Center, 2206 Tower St Everett, WA
May 2015 2nd 9am—5pm 3rd 10am—4pm	Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club	45th Annual Show	Douglas County Fairgrounds I-5 Exit 123 Roseburg, OR
May 2015 2nd 10am—5pm 3rd 10am—4pm	Billings Gem and Mineral Show	Annual Show	Al Bedoo Shrine Auditorium 1125 Broadwater Avenue Billings MT
May 2015 9th 10am - 6pm 10th 10am - 4pm	Bozeman Gem & Mineral Club	Annual Rock Show \$3 adults, 12 & under free w/adult	Gallatin County Fair Grounds 901 N. Black, Bldg. #1 Bozeman, MT
May 2015 16th 10am - 6pm 17th 10am - 4pm	Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society	Treasures from the Universe	Ravalli County Fairground First Interstate Center 100 Old Corvallis Road Hamilton, MT
May 2015 16th 10am - 6pm 17th 10am - 5pm		9th Annual Mineral Mart	Lake City Community Center 12531 28th Ave NE Seattle, Washington
June 2015 5th 10pm—5pm 6th 10am—5pm 7th 10am—5pm	Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club	Annual show	Swiss Park 9205 198th Ave. E. Puyallup, WA
June 2015 6th 9am—5pm 7th 10am—4pm	North Idaho Mineral Club	Annual Show \$3 adults, 12 & under free w/ Adult	Kootenai County Expo and Event Center Kathleen and Gov't Way, 1 block off Highway 95, Coeur d'Alene ID
June 2015 6th 10am—6pm 7th 10am—4:30pm	Oregon Coast Agate Club	52nd Annual Gem & Mineral Show, \$2 adults, 12 & under free w/Adult Service personnel in uniform free	Yaquina View Elementary School Multipurpose Room 351 SE Harney Street Newport OR 97365
June 2015 13th 10am—5pm 14th 10am—5pm	Butte Mineral and Gem Club	Annual Show \$3 adults, 12 & under free w/ Adult	Butte Civic Center Annex 1340 Harrison Avenue Butte MT
July/August 2015 31st 10pm—5pm 1st 10am—5pm 2nd 10am—4pm	Far West Lapidary & Gem Society	53rd Annual Gem and Mineral Show \$1 adults, 12 & under free w/ Adult	North Bend Community Center 2222 N. Broadway North Bend, OR
July 2015 17th 10am—5pm 18th 10am—5pm 19th 10am—4pm	Lower Umpqua Gem & Lapidary Society	Treasures from the Earth Rock and Gem Show	Reedsport Community Building 415 Winchester Avenue Reedsport OR
July 2015 18th 10am—5pm 19th 10am—5pm	Darrington Rock & Gem Club	Rock and Gem Show and Sale	Manford Grange 1265 Railroad Avenue Darrington, WA (behind IGA)
July 2015 24th 9am—6pm 25th 9am—6pm 26th 9am—5pm	Washington Agate and Mineral Society	Rock and Gem show during Oregon Trail Days	Parkside Elementary School 301 Central Avenue E (corner of Central Avenue and Stage St. South) Tenino WA 98589

Combined Board Meeting  
May 9, 2015  
9:30 AM

Palace Café  
4th & Main  
Ellensburg

COUNCIL REPORTER, Monthly publication of The  
Washington State Mineral Council



WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL  
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