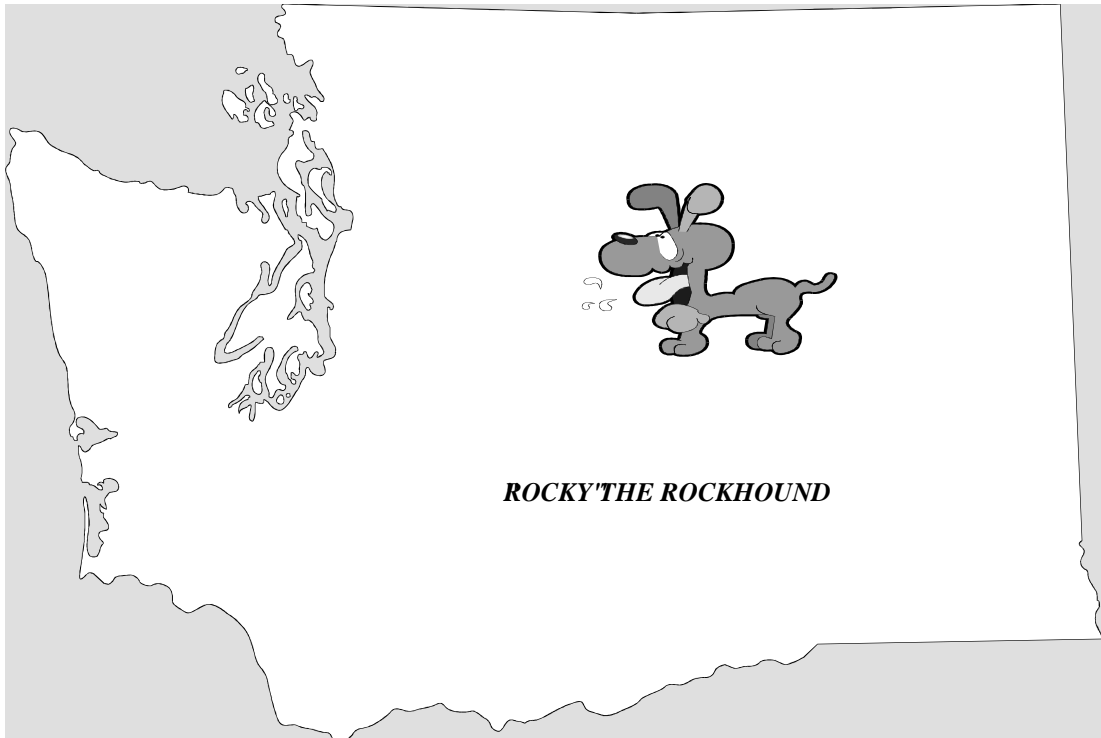

◆ **The Council Reporter** ◆

Volume 33, Issue 7

September/October 2013



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

**WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL
2013 OFFICERS**

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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SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:30AM by President Perry Gulsvig. There were 22 members present.

Kathy Earnst gave the treasurer's report.

Ed Lehman gave the Wagonmasters report, there are two field trips left. October 19 @ 9AM, Money Creek Campground, and November 16 @ 9AM, I-5 exit 240 at gas station for Blanchard Hill. The next board meeting on November 2 will be the scheduling meeting for next year's field trips, bring your ideas. Bob Pattie has had more maps printed, both color and black & white.

The DNR person we have been working with has retired, so things are at a stand still until the replacement can get up and going. This has also put a stop to the Snoqualmie Recreation Area planning. Also, what will be done to the roads will vary by location, so please get in contact with the Forest Service and let them know what roads you need to have maintained, as roads they close will not be accessible except by foot traffic only, no bikes or cars. It was suggested that we have them put up road signs "Proceed at own risk". When you write, be polite and be persistent that you want the roads maintained for all to use.

Old business: Stu said the lock system at Walker Valley is a complicated combination lock and key pad at the gate, needing the key and WSMC code to get in. Also, there is no parking at the gate and no place to turn around.

A discussion was held about notifying members about meetings being canceled when travel conditions are severe. It was determined that when this happens that you contact Steve at the Ellensburg Agate and Bead shop by phone (509-925-4998) or e-mail (ellensburgagate@elltel.net) by 5PM the day before the meeting to determine if the meeting is canceled.

Regarding planning for next year's field trips, come to the November meeting with field trip contacts, locations, meeting place, time, etc.

Brad suggested that those wanting a copy of the newsletter pay extra for it. Currently Kathy gets the membership list, it goes to Bob Pattie, then it goes to Lisa Bishop to get labeled and mailed. It costs about \$8/year to mail the newsletter.

The attendance roster for board meetings is to be kept with the secretary and a copy going to the treasurer.

There was a discussion about having the Mineral Council be more directly involved in the youth education of rocks and

November 2, 2013 Combined Board Meeting AGENDA

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

Tentative Meeting Calendar for 2013

West side board meetings:
1/15, 2/19, 4/16, 6/18, 10/15

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

General meetings :
3/30, 5/4, 9/21, 11/2

All general meetings will be held at:

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

minerals. The consensus was to keep it in the individual rock clubs.

Also, a discussion about updating, re-drawing, and using PGS co-ordinates for our maps. It was stated that Ed Lehman is currently struggling with and would welcome all the help he can get, especially with GPS co-ordinates. More location in Eastern Washington are also needed and most of the locations are in Western Washington. Ed's goal is to get the maps on CD.

Bob discussed using a 30 minute PowerPoint presentation showing books and photos to go along with the WSMC specimen cases. Lisa suggested adding GPS co-ordinates and photos of sites. Some people willing to work on this are Stu, Lisa, Glenn, Christina, and Bob P. Some areas that need to be considered are Kalispell (crystals), Mica Peak, fossils near Spo-

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kane, Republic (fossils), NE Washington areas near Colville (uranium minerals).

New business: The nominating committee, West side—Stu and Bob, East side—Steve Gillespie and Dave Mastin.

The North Seattle club wants to borrow the WSMC specimen case for their show in March. We also have a case of 3 boxes plus the one from Eastern Washington

Meeting adjourned,

Respectfully submitted
Diane Myers, Secretary

OCTOBER WESTSIDE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Brad Johnson. 11 people were present.

Kathy gave the treasurer's report. The CD for Walker Valley has just turned over.

Glenn said the website get about 150 hits a month.

Wagonmaster: Ed Lehman said he will check to make sure that our filed trips don't overlap with the scheduled rock shows when we plan next year's field trips at the November meeting. Two filed trips left this year, 10/19 to Money Creek and 11/16 to Blanchard Hill. Regarding garnet collecting at Lake Wenatchee, the trail head is being moved back 1/4 mile from the current location, it will be a longer hike. This should allow for more parking. We won't need trail head permits if our groups are smaller than 12 going in at a time. The DNR limit is 25 and they should be notified first.

New business: The state now owns a large portion of the Teanaway area that was once timber company land. This is the state's first Community Forest. There is a map of the area online (http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/amp_teanaway_map.pdf).

29 Pines and part of Dickey Creek are now part of the new Teanaway Community Forest. Rumors are that sometime in the future, a move will be made to include the new Teanaway Community Forest in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness area. The other side of the Alpine Lakes area has already had more land included. We should do what we can to discourage this in the Teanaway.

There is talk of private groups/companies getting leases on Forest Service and DNR land and charging fees for use by the public.

At the last meeting in Ellensburg we gave the waitress at the Palace Café a \$30 tip. We were also charged an 18% gratuity on each of our bills. We won't be giving the wait staff tips in the future if the gratuity is to be added to the bills.

Bob Pattie will be attending the DNR meeting this Friday (10/18) and will report back to the Mineral Council at the November meeting.

There is a 160 acre site set aside at the top of Red Top Mtn. for rock-hounding. Brad said that Red Ellensburg Blue had been found at Yellow Hill in the past.

Nominating committee: Suggested that Brad move up to President, Perry will be Past President. Vice president needs to be filled from the west side, Lisa or her dad will possibly fill the position. Ed Lehman will continue as Wagonmaster, David Prado as west side trustee. Glenn will continue as editor.

Misc: Brad asked if anyone has approached the Wildhorse Windmill Project as a possible site for rockhounding. There was also discussion about finding more petrified wood sites. A map of the area would be helpful in finding new sites.

There is a distinction between the State and Federal Fish and Games lands. The area is "checkerboarded" and a map would be helpful.

Brad asked if Bob could put together a calendar of rock photos to sell as a fund raiser. Bob said he'd need another 24 hours a day to do that project!

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Myers, Secretary

SEPTEMBER BIRTHSTONE – SAPPHIRE

Following are excerpts from an article at www.earthsky.org

The sapphire, birthstone for September, is a relative of July's birthstone, ruby. Like ruby, it is a form of the mineral corundum, a normally drab grey mineral. Red corundum is called the ruby, while all other gem quality forms of corundum are called sapphires.



Typically, sapphires appear as blue stones, ranging from very pale blue to deep indigo, due to the presence of small amounts of titanium and iron within the crystal structure. The most valued shade of blue is the medium-deep cornflower blue. Sapphires also occur in other natural colors and tints – colorless, gray, yellow, pale pink, orange, green, violet and brown –

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called fancy sapphires. These different colors are caused by different kinds of impurities within the crystal. For example, yellow sapphires get their color from ferric iron, and colorless gems have no contaminants.

The biggest source of sapphires world-wide is Australia, especially New South Wales and Queensland. Found in alluvial deposits of weathered basalt, Australian sapphires typically are blue stones with a dark and inky appearance. Kashmir, in India, used to be a well-known source of the cornflower-blue stones. In the United States, a major source is the Yogo Gulch Mine in Montana that mostly yields small stones for industrial use.

The word sapphire has its roots in several ancient languages: the Arabic safir, the Latin sapphirus (meaning blue), and the Greek word sappheiros for the island of Sappherine in the Arabian Sea where sapphires were found in ancient Grecian times. Ancient Persians called sapphire the "Celestial Stone." It was the gem of Apollo, Greek God of prophesy and was worn by worshipers visiting his shrine in Delphi to seek his help. It was used by ancient Etruscans as far back as the 7th century B.C.

The sapphire was said to represent the purity of the soul. Before and during the Middle Ages, it was worn by priests as protection from impure thoughts and temptations of the flesh. Medieval kings of Europe valued these stones for rings and brooches, believing that it protected them from harm and envy. Warriors presented their young wives with sapphire necklaces so they would remain faithful. It was believed that the stone's color would darken if worn by an adulterer or adulteress, or by an unworthy person.

Sapphires were once believed to be protection against snakes. It was said that if poisonous reptiles and spiders were placed in a jar containing the stone, the creatures would immediately die. The French of the 13th century believed that sapphire transformed stupidity to wisdom, and irritability to good temper.

One of the most famous sapphires rests on the Imperial State Crown, worn by Queen Victoria in 1838. It resides in the British Crown Jewels in the Tower of London. This gem is called the St. Edward's Sapphire because it once belonged to Edward the Confessor, who wore the stone on a ring during his coronation in 1042.

Article from www.earthsky.org . Visit the web site for more fascinating information.

From Petrified Digest 09/13

Walker Valley

In July, someone asked for directions to Walker Valley. I dutifully gave them directions and asked that they report on the condition of the site. A few weeks later, lo and behold a report found it's way to my in box. Here are couple pictures and report.



"Thanks again for the help and information. We visited the Walker Valley site and had a great time. We found a few geodes and even found an amethyst one. I have included some photos of the specimen and the site... There was some garbage lying around so we had brought some garbage bags and hauled some out. "



It's nice to know that at least some folks are willing to take a few moments to report on the sites they visit..

Glenn

Rockhounding Clues And Tips by C.E. Johnson

There are many clues out there in the field to guide us, so we just need to know what they are and what they mean, and of course we need to be observant and curious, or we will be just wasting our time.

Assuming that we are already out there in the field, anything that appears uncommon or odd such as rust or stains, sudden changes in color of rock or its grain-size, or differences in compositions, may be worth investigating closely. For instance, rust or stains could be oxidation products of mineral deposits containing one or more metal-bearing minerals such

(Continued on page 6)

TENTATIVE LIST OF WSMC FIELD TRIPS FOR 2013

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: January 17, 2013

| Date | Host | Site | Meet @ | Material | Tools |
|-------|------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 11/16 | Msvl | Blanchard Hill | 9:00 @ I-5 240 exit gas station | Stilpnomelane | 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 | http://www.allrockhoundspowwowclubofamerica.com/ | |
| Spkn | Rock Rollers of Spokane | Mike Shaw (509) 251-1574 | mikeshawmoose@yahoo.com |
| WSea | West Seattle Rock & Gem Club | | |
| 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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as those of iron, copper, lead, zinc, uranium, tungsten, manganese, nickel, cobalt, molybdenum, bismuth, and silver (in the form of a chloride). Metal-bearing deposits, of course, indicate a mineralized area, so whether or not you are interested in the metals, such an area is very much worth investigating for other types of minerals. However, even many of those metallic minerals often occur in very attractive forms, whether beautifully crystallized or not.

Sudden changes in color of a rock formation could mean segregations or differentiations of some of the rock's accessory minerals (which are more desirable or valuable than the usual common rock-making minerals), or hydrothermal alteration of parts of the rock formations (which is a good indicator of mineralizing solutions in the area). Any increase in texture or grain size of an intrusive igneous rock formation such as one of the granite family, would be especially encouraging for several reasons: because one or more of the rock's accessory minerals would be especially valuable in larger sizes; and such rock formations often breed pegmatites, which are always very much worth exploring because of their very special valuable minerals typically occurring in very large sizes, and often very well crystallized. Of course, probably most of us are familiar with quartz or calcite vein material, and the significance of it, and the presence of certain indicator minerals, and other clues are always a plus, but I can't include them all in this article.

Lava flows with many cavities (or bubble-holes), are fairly obvious, and they are often happy-hunting-ground for agate material and zeolite crystals, etc. Our best clues are rock formations, to begin with, if we are familiar with them, because areas can be chosen before leaving home, simply by using geologic maps, which describe the types of rock formations shown in any particular area. However, with or without a geologic map, the usual clues as shown above are standard procedure for rockhounds and prospectors.

We always have rock formations wherever we go, and the types of formations determine whether or not any of the above clues will exist in any given area, what those clues will be, and what minerals to expect, so learning enough about rocks and minerals to be able to use geologic maps as a very valuable tool is, of course, the best approach to rockhounding and prospecting, and I highly recommend it. This and your usual visits to the usual pay-to-dig collecting sites compliment each other perfectly. There are many potential areas out there, and geologic maps are a great help in choosing which areas are favorable for which type of minerals before leaving home, and, of course, will guide you in the field.

It's not necessary, of course, to be familiar with rock formations to explore for minerals, but if you are naturally curious

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Local Area Shows for 2013/2014

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 2013 26th 9am—6pm 27th 10am—5pm | Clackamette Mineral & Gem | Golden Jubilee | Clackamas County Fairgrounds 694 NE 4th Ave. Canby, OR |
| November 2013 9th 9am—5pm 10th 10am—4pm | Maplewood Rock And Gem Club | 62nd Annual Fall show | Maplewood clubhouse 8802 196th St SW Edmonds, WA |
| November 2013 23rd 10am—5pm 24th 10am - 5pm | Kitsap Mineral and Gem Society | 2013 Fall Festival of Gems | President's Hall Kitsap County Fairgrounds 1200 NW Fairgrounds Rd. Bremerton, WA 98311 |
| February 2014 8th 9am—5pm 9th 9am—4pm | Whidbey Island Gem Club | 49th Annual Sweetheart of Gems Show | Oak Harbor Senior Center 51 SE. Jerome Street Oak Harbor, WA |
| February 2014 14th 9:30am – 5:30pm 15th 9:30am – 5:30pm 16th 9:30am – 5:30 pm | Oregon Agate and Mineral Society | OAMS Gem and Mineral Show | OMSI 1945 SE Water Avenue Portland OR 97214 |
| March 2014 1st 10am - 6pm 2nd 10am - 5pm | East KingCo Club | Annual Rock and Gem Show | Pickering Barn 1730 10th Ave NW Issaquah, WA |
| March 2014 7th 9am - 5pm 8th 9am - 5pm 9th 10am - 5pm | Tualatin Valley Gem Club | Annual Show | Washington County FairPlex 873 NE 34th Ave. Hillsboro, OR. |
| March 2014 28th 10am – 6pm 29th 10am – 6pm 30th 10am – 4pm | Rock Rollers Club of Spokane | 55th Annual Gem, Jewel- ry and Mineral Show | Spokane County Fair & Expo Center N.604 Havana Spokane WA |
| March 2014 29th 10am - 6pm 30th 10am - 5pm | Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society | 66th Annual Rock & Mineral Show | Sweet Home High School Activity Gym 1641 Long St. Sweet Home, OR |
| April 2014 12th 10am - 6pm 13th 10am - 4pm | Yakima Rock & Mineral Club | Annual Parade of Gems Adults \$3.50, Students \$2.00 Under12 free w/adult | Washington National Guard Armory 2501 Airport Lane Yakima, WA |
| April 2014 26th 10am - 5pm 27th 10am - 4pm | Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club | Annual Rock & Mineral Show | Benton Franklin County Fairgrounds 1500 S. Oak Kennewick, WA |
| April 2014 26th 10am - 5pm 27th 10am - 5pm | West Seattle Rock Club | 47th Annual Rock Show | Alki Masonic Temple 4736 40th Ave. SW. (W Seattle), WA |
| May 2014 3rd 10am—6pm 4th 10am—5pm | Everett Rock and Gem Club | 61st Annual show | Everett Community College Student Fitness Center, 2206 Tower St Everett, WA |

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and you enjoy exploring, at least do yourself a favor and take samples and make notes of those curious-looking areas while traveling to and from those pay-to-dig collecting sites, and find out what your rock samples are and what relationship they may have with what kinds of minerals.

Surely there's someone in your community that you can ask about it, at schools or libraries, universities or colleges, local

U. S. G. S. Offices, or Bureau of Land Management, or forestry service offices, etc.

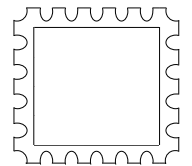
Happy Hunting.

via The Tumbler, 09/13, Quarry Quips, 6/13; via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 6-7/10; via Gem Cutters News, 5/10; via The Rock Collector, 4/10; from El Gambrosino, 4/10

Combined Board Meeting
November 2, 2013
9:30 AM

Palace Café
4th & Main
Ellensburg

COUNCIL REPORTER, Monthly publication of The
Washington State Mineral Council



WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL
27871 Minkler Road
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