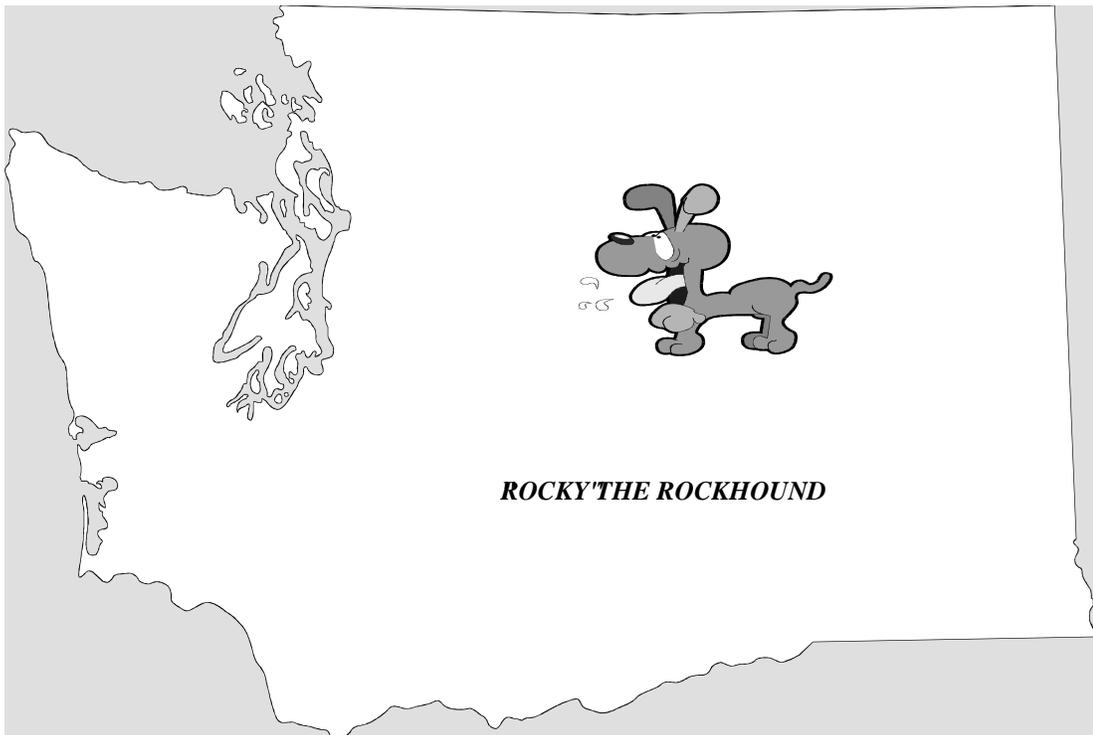

◆ **The Council Reporter** ◆

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**WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL
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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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BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH TAKE BETTER PHOTOS

Most digital cameras these days have the ability to take a good picture of your small jewelry items, but set-up is important. There are four major items to control - background, lighting, camera motion and focus control.

Lightly colored papers from an art store make reasonable starter backgrounds. Try experimenting with other products later like glass or colored plastics. Avoid fabrics because the weave can often be distracting at high magnification.

Outside lighting is the easiest. In fact for close-ups, flash never works well. Turn off your camera's flash. Choose a bright but overcast day or a lightly shaded area when the sun is full. For inside use, two gooseneck desk lamps can be used with 75 watt bulbs. Whatever you use, be sure to set the camera to match the type of lighting you use or else the color will be off.

You'll be shooting up close, so turn on the Macro mode. Now at this range, if the camera moves even a little bit during the shot, the picture will be blurry, so it's essential to use a tripod. Used ones are available inexpensively from eBay, yard sales or some camera shops. And even with a tripod, I put the camera on the self-timer mode so that any vibration from when you click the button settles down before the camera takes a picture.

In order to get the largest part of your jewelry in focus, you have to close the lens down to the minimum aperture (highest F-Stop number). This is done by taking the camera off of "Auto" mode and selecting Aperture Priority, usually denoted by "Av" and then setting the aperture to the largest number, which is F-8 on my camera. You'll probably have to get out the book or go back to the store to ask about this, but it's really worth it.

That's it. In recap, here are the camera settings I use:

1. Set the lens to Macro for a close-up shot.
2. Move the camera in close enough for the item to cover at least three-quarters of the frame.
3. Look for adverse reflections from the jewelry surface.
4. Try to minimize reflections with changes of light position, camera angle or white background paper.
5. Carefully check for any fingerprints or dust that might be on the piece.
6. Make any final tweaks with light and arrangement.
7. Turn the camera's flash off.
8. Select "Av" for aperture priority mode.
9. Set the lens opening to the highest number for max depth of field.
10. Set the lighting to match what you're using (daylight, overcast, light bulb, fluorescent, etc.).
11. Set the timer to delayed shooting, either 2 seconds or 10 seconds, to avoid camera movement. The delay also gives you time to hold up a piece of white paper to reduce any final reflections.
12. Take the shot.

via YRMC News 11/14

January 20, 2015 Westside Board Meeting AGENDA

Opening of Meeting
Treasurer's Report
◇ Kathy Earnst
Committee Reports
◇ Wagonmaster -Ed Lehman
Old Business
New Business
Open Comments

Tentative Meeting Calendar for 2015

West side board meetings:
1/20, 2/17, 4/14, 6/16, 10/20

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

General meetings :
4/04, 5/02, 9/19, 11/01

All general meetings will be held at:

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

Hairy Gems

We think of rocks as hard, strong and boring. Then, all of a sudden, we are faced with something unearthly, almost unnatural. How could anything like this exist in the harsh, natural world? Unfortunately, many of these crystal oddities are extremely delicate. They are seldom displayed because of the great possibility of destroying their fragile beauty. So, I have taken the idea of introducing you to some wonderful hairy gems.

Natrolite is a common and popular zeolite mineral. Its radiating sprays of ice clear acicular crystals are a hallmark of this mineral and makes a fine specimen.

Cyanotrichite is a wonderfully colored mineral. Its bright azure to sky blue color is very impressive. Cyanotrichite typically forms acicular or hair like crystals aggregated into radial clusters, tufts and sprays. The color is very impressive for such tiny crystals. It is an aptly named mineral since cyano and trich are derived from the Greek for blue and hair, respectively. It is

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

formed from the oxidation of copper ore minerals along with other oxidation zone minerals.

Millerite is one of a few sulfide minerals that form fine acicular crystals that appear as hair-like fibers aggregated into sprays. It is a real bonus to quartz geode collectors from Indiana to Kansas to open up a geode and find a spray of brassy millerite crystals tucked inside. Millerite is also called “Capillary Pyrite” since it has a brassy yellow color that is close to the color of pyrite. When found as brassy sprays inside of sparkling clear quartz geodes, millerite can make a wonderfully attractive and interesting mineral.

Tremolite is a relatively common mineral in some metamorphic rocks. One variety is composed of microscopically fibrous crystals called asbestos. Other minerals also form asbestos such as serpentine. Another variety of tremolite is called “mountain leather” or “mountain cork” and is an oddity in the mineral world. The tremolite fibers form a felted mass that has all the appearances and feel of a piece of cloth.

Rutile is an interesting, varied and important mineral. Rutile is

a major ore of titanium, a metal used for high tech alloys because of its light weight, high strength and resistance to corrosion. Rutile is also unwittingly of major importance to the gemstone markets. It forms its own interesting and beautiful mineral specimens. Microscopic inclusions of rutile in quartz, tourmaline, ruby, sapphire and other gemstones, produces light effects such as cat’s eye and asterisms (stars). A beautiful stone produced by large inclusions of golden rutile needles in clear quartz is called rutilated quartz.

Fragile, ethereal crystals, nature always surprises us with something new and delightful. Keep your eyes open, you never know what nature will show you next.

via CMSE eTumbler, 11/14, The Rockhouser, 10/14; via Chipper’s Chatter 9/14; from Port Moody Rock & Gem Newsletter 11/06

**LITTLE NACHES
MINERAL COUNCIL TRIP**

Christina Morrissey, Daina Sandhop and I went on the Mineral *(Continued on page 5)*

Daina



Christina



Ed Lehman digging at little Naches

Checking on Ed to see if he's reached China



(Continued from page 4)

Council trip to find Thundereggs at the Little Naches. We sure had fun and I think everyone got an egg or two. The scenery was beautiful because it was a sunny, mild blue sky kind of day and a great day to go through Mt Rainier. Ed was there also as you can see from the pictures, we were afraid we'd have to dig him out of the tunnel he was making for himself. I even made it to the sight with my bad knees AND made it back down to the car. What a day!!!! Too bad not more of you were able to go, but there is always next year. So that's how I spent my summer, going to Pennsylvania, Montana, and Little Naches. I'd say a very productive summer!

Photos and article by Cindy Barich
Via Stone Age News, 10/14

Jade (Nephrite) - Wyoming's Official Gemstone (from the Rock-It, 11/14 issue)

Nephrite jade was adopted as Wyoming's official gemstone on January 25, 1967. Governor Stanley K. Hathaway signed legislation introduced by the 39th legislature, which established jade (nephrite) as the State Gemstone of Wyoming. The famed Wyoming jade fields occur in a rectangular band that runs roughly from Lander southwest to Farson, down to the Red Desert in Sweetwater County, east to Seminole Dam, north to Alcova, and westward back to Lander.

Wyoming jade is black, olive green, emerald green, light apple green and sometimes gray to white. The lighter colors of jade, especially apple green, are most in demand for gemstones.

Today, most people believe that Wyoming's jade fields have been scoured so thoroughly by six decades worth of jade hunters that the light green variety of nephrite can no longer be found. The 1930s and 1940s were the "glory days" of jade hunting in Wyoming. Many sources cite 1936 as the year of jade discovery near Lander. From 1936 until 1945, jade hunting was principally done by Wyoming residents. The end of World War II plus a 1945 article in Popular Science titled "Green Gold of Wyoming" changed all that. Something akin to a gold rush was on in central Wyoming and competition for Wyoming jade became intense. Some 7,000 to 8,000 pounds of jade were collected during the summer of 1945 alone. The link to gold was not unfounded.

Famed Wyoming jade hunter Allan Branham once stated that "...jade lures and lures as no other stone. It is as bad as the 'gold fever,' and once entangled with jade one seldom recovers." The term JADE is a generic term that actually covers three minerals. They are Jadeite, Nephrite, and Chloromenlanite.

Jade is chiefly valued by its color and freedom from cracks. It should have a 'greasy' appearance when it is polished. Colors will range from the many shades of green, to yellow, red, black, and white. Lavender Jade is the most highly valued, and also the most rare forms of the stone.

Jadeite is composed mainly of silica and alumina, its green color is determined by the amount of iron present. Jadeite is generally brighter and more vivid in color than nephrite. Its body is more translucent and sometimes partially crystallized. The white variety of Jadeite with the brilliant streaks of deep emerald green, gets its color from the element 'CHROMIUM'.

Nephrite is composed mainly of silica and magnesia; it is also dependent on its color by the amount of iron present. Nephrite is usually some shade of green: it may range from sea green, gray green, celadon, lettuce green, grassy green, and spinach green. Other colors of nephrite include blue gray, reddish gray, greenish gray, yellow, and black.

Via Hard Rock News, 12/14

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 2014 (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 Beaver Valley 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
06/13	Spk	Emerald Creek	9:00 @ Emerald Creek Star Garnet Area, Idaho	Star garnet	Tweezers
06/21-23	Spk		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	Somewhere in Idaho	One day travel each way from Western Washington	Large garnets, quartz crystals	Dig & 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
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—srrocks@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

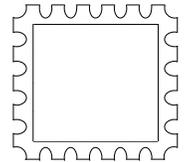
Local Area Shows for 2015

February 2015 7th 9am—5pm 8th 9am—4pm	Whidbey Island Gem Club	50th Annual Sweetheart of Gems Show	Oak Harbor Senior Center 51 SE. Jerome Street Oak Harbor, WA
February 2015 21st 10am—6pm 22nd 10am—5pm	Idaho Gem Club	Annual show Adults \$3.00 Children 12 & under free	Expo Idaho 5610 Glenwood Boise ID 83714
February/March 2015 28th 10am - 6pm 1st 10am - 5pm	East KingCo Club	Annual Rock and Gem Show	Pickering Barn 1730 10th Ave NW Issaquah, WA
March 2015 7th 10am - 6pm 8th 10am - 5pm	Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society	61st Annual Rock and Gem Show	O'Conner Field House 2200 Blaine Caldwell, ID
March 2015 13th 9am - 5pm 14th 9am - 5pm 15th 10am - 5pm	Tualatin Valley Gem Club	Annual Show	Washington County FairPlex 873 NE 34th Ave. Hillsboro, OR.
March 2015 14th 9am - 5pm 15th 9am - 5pm	Magic Valley Gem Club	64th Annual Show	Twin Falls County Fairgrounds 215 Fair Ave. east of Filer on US Hwy. 30
March 2015 14th 10am - 5pm 15th 10am - 4pm	Northwest Montana Rock Chucks	8th Annual Rock and Mineral Show \$1, kids free	Flathead County Fairgrounds Grandstand Bldg. 265 N. Meridian Rd Kalispell, MT
March 2015 21st 9am - 6pm 22nd 10am - 5pm	Hellgate Mineral Society	Gems Of Montana 21 st Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show \$2, kids under 14 free	Hilton Garden Inn 2730 North Reserve St. Missoula MT
March 2015 27th 10am – 6pm 28th 10am – 6pm 29th 10am – 4pm	Rock Rollers Club of Spokane	56th Annual Gem, Jewelry and Min- eral Show	Spokane County Fair & Expo Center N.604 Havana Spokane WA
March 2015 28th 10am - 6pm 29th 10am - 5pm	Mt. Baker Rock & Gem Club	54th Annual Rock and Gem Show	Bloedel-Donovan Park 2214 Electric Ave. Bellingham WA
March 2015 28th 10am - 6pm 29th 10am - 5pm	Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society	67th Annual Rock & Mineral Show	Sweet Home High School Activity Gym 1641 Long St. Sweet Home, OR
April 2015 11th 10am - 6pm 12th 10am - 4pm	Yakima Rock & Mineral Club	Annual Parade of Gems Adults \$3.50, Students \$2.00 Under12 free w/adult	Central Washington State Fair Ground Modern Living Building 1301 South Fair Avenue Yakima WA 98901
April 2015 17th 9am - 6pm 18th 10am - 6pm 19th 10am - 4:30pm	Willamette Agate & Mineral Society	Annual River of Gems Show	Polk County Fairgrounds 520 S. Pacific Hwy Rickreall, OR
April 2015 18th 10am - 5pm 19th 10am - 4pm	Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club	Annual Rock & Mineral Show	Benton Franklin County Fairgrounds 1500 S. Oak Kennewick, WA
April 2015 24th 10am - 5pm 25th 10am - 5pm 26th 10am - 4pm	Mt. Hood Rock Club	58th Annual Rock and Gem Show	Kliever Memorial NG Armory On 10000 NE 33 rd Dr., Portland OR (just west of the PDX airport in between NE Marine Dr. & NE Columbia Blvd.)

Westside Board Meeting
January 20, 2015
7:30 PM

Maplewood Clubhouse
8802 196th St SW
Edmonds

COUNCIL REPORTER, Monthly publication of The
Washington State Mineral Council



WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL
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