



SKAGIT GEMS

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

August 2018
Volume 58, Issue 6

Next Meeting: Aug 4th, 10am

Gem of the Month: Opal

Program: Dave will present a video on Opals

Refreshments: Violet & Kevin, Linda & Virgil

Club Field Trip--Finney Creek

Date: Aug 11th 10am

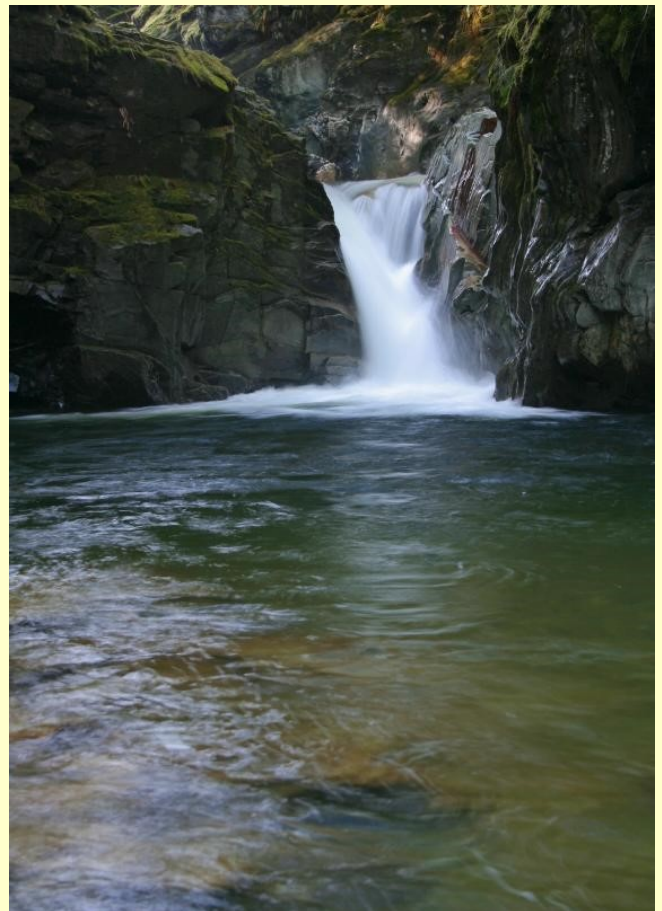
Meet: Concrete Red Apple-head East up Hwy 20. The Red Apple is about 21.5 miles from the Dairy Queen in Sedro. The road up to the creek is paved about half of the way then turns to gravel.

Bring: Buckets, small sledge, water, food, water shoes, bug spray, sun-screen

Looking for: Jade, hematite, rhodonite, serpentine

RSVP: Dave 360-755-0741

On the day of trip: Debbie's cell
360-853-6883





Field Trip on July 14 to Marblemount

It was a beautiful day on the river.

Thank you to Greg for hosting us again this year, he even fed us lunch afterwards!!!



Gem of the Month: Opal

Opal is formed from a solution of silicon dioxide and water. As water runs down through the earth, it picks up silica from sandstone, and carries this silica-rich solution into cracks and voids caused by natural faults or decomposing fossils. As the water evaporates, it leaves behind a silica deposit. This cycle repeats over very long periods of time, and eventually opal is formed. It is amorphous, without a crystalline structure, and without a definite chemical composition. Therefore it is a "mineraloid" rather than a "mineral."

Opal is a wonderful stone for earrings, pendants, brooches and rings. However, it is softer than most other gemstones. Opal has a hardness of about 5.5 to 6.0 on the Mohs hardness scale.



Most opal is "common opal" or "potch" which has a milky or pearly luster known as "opalescence." However, rare specimens of opal produce brilliant color flashes when turned in the light.

These color flashes are known as a "play-of-color." Opal specimens that exhibit a play-of-color are known as "precious opal." If the play-of-color is of high quality and large enough to cut, the material can be used to produce valuable gemstones. www.minerals.org



REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 2, 2018

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by President Wes Frank.

Introduction of Guests: Kathie Eberhardt, Alejos and AJ P. Each of them received a pyrite specimen.

New Member: Doreen Spencer was announced.

Minutes: A motion was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2018 meeting.]

Treasurer's Report: David Britten reviewed the financial statement and a motion was M/S/P to accept the report as presented.

Program: A video program about Thundereggs was ordered from the NFMS but when it arrived on Friday it was a power point presentation and there wasn't time to get the computer set up.

Display Table: There were several displayers with beautiful thundereggs. David Britten discussed the way they are formed and the different types of agate, opal and other material that is found in them. Some have several different layers of material in the same "egg". David also made a comparison to the lava temperature from Mount Saint Helen's and the Hawaiian volcano erupting currently. Donna Neff received the display prize another pyrite specimen.

Refreshments: Wes thanked David Britten and Frank Isca for the refreshments.

Field Trips: Wes reviewed the upcoming field trips listed in the GEMS and reminded everyone to contact the field trip leader to confirm dates, times and meeting places.

Silver Class: July 28th & 29th taught by Marie Claire Dole.

Next Meeting: July 14th Swap at 10 am and Potluck at 12 noon at Danny Vandenburgs.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Linda Keltz, Acting Secretary

BOARD MEETING – JUNE 2, 2018

Board Members present: Wes Frank, Debbie Frank, Dave Britten, Greg Hochmuht, and Virgil Keltz.

Members Present: Frank Isca, Linda Keltz and Leo Waldschmidt

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by President Wes Frank.

New member application for Doreen Spencer was approved.

Show publicity was discussed including how we want to advertise the show and a budget was set.

Swap and Potluck at Danny Vandenburg's will be on July 14th. There is no regular meeting in July.

Field Trip to Greg's on July 21st.

Silver Class: Marie Claire Dole will teach the class on July 28th & 29th from 10 am – 4 pm each day. Cost is \$130.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am

Linda Keltz, Acting Secretary

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Meetings are on the FIRST Saturday of the month (except for Jan, July and Dec) at 10:00 am at the
Mount Vernon Community (Senior) Center
1401 Cleveland St. Mount Vernon WA 98273



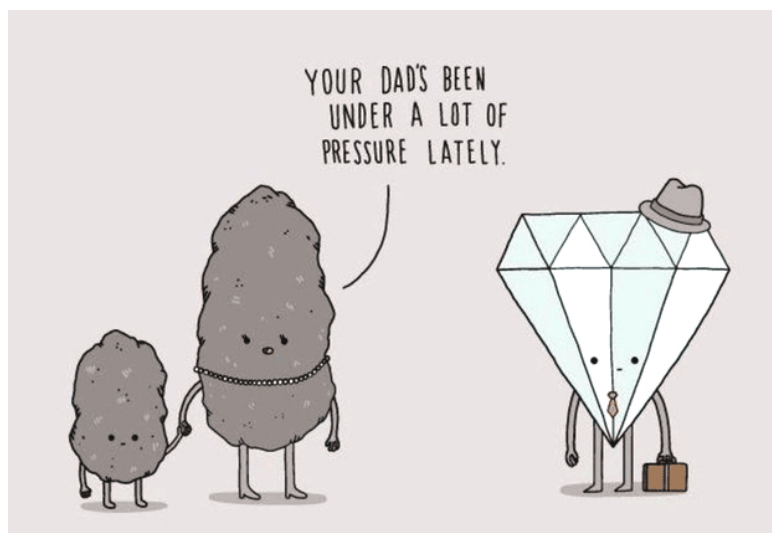
- The purpose of this non-profit earth society shall be to stimulate interest in the study of geology, lapidary, and the collection of geological specimens
- We are a member of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Washington State Mineral Council. We are affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.
- Dues are \$15.00 per year for adults and \$7.50 for those under age 16
- Visit our website: skagitrockandgem.com
- Email: skagitrockandgem@gmail.com
- Mailing address: PO BOX 244 Mt. Vernon 98273

2018 Officers

President	Wes Frank
Vice President	Greg Hochmuht
Treasurer	David Britten
Secretary	Open
Federation Director	Virgil Keltz
Bulletin Editor	Debbie Frank
Past President	Eric Self

Committees

Annual Show Chair-Eric Self
Facilities/Field Trips- Dave Britten
Greeter-Linda Keltz
Library-David Britten
Scholarship-Noni Avery, Joe Kantor
Publicity-Frank Isca
Stamps-Virgil Keltz
Sunshine- Noni Avery
Swap-Vandenburs





Skagit Rock and Gem Club
Debbie Frank, Editor
20379 Aliston Ln.
Burlington WA 98233

Field Trips

8/4/2018	DARR	Sweetwater	Darrington Rock Show 11:00	Travertine, Sauk R Bars	Dig & Hard Rock
8/11/2017	MSVL	Lake Wenatchee	Rest Stop west of Lake Wenatchee on Hwy 2 9:00	Garnets, Talc & Actinolite	Dig & 1/4" screen
08/18&19	NOA	Greenwater	Enumclaw Ranger St. 9:00am	Agate, Jasper, Opal & Wood	Dig & lite hard rock

NOA = Northwest Opal Tony Johnson (253) 863-9238

MSLV and DARR= Ed Lehman wsmced@hotmail.com h# (425) 334-6282 c# (425) 760-2786

ALWAYS contact host for updated info a week before trip !!!

Local Gem Shows

August 2018 4th 10am—5pm 5th 10am—5pm	Darrington Rock & Gem Club	Rock and Gem Show and Sale	Mansford Grange 1265 Railroad Avenue Darrington, WA, (behind IGA)
August 2018 11th 9am—5pm 12th 10am—5pm	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club	12th Annual Rock and Mineral Sale	Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse 8802 196th ST SW Edmonds WA
August 2018 18th 9am—5pm	Shelton Rock and Mineral Society	9th Annual Tailgate Rock Sale and Swap Meet Tailgate spots \$40	MCRA 2100 E Johns Prairie Rd Shelton, WA To register contact Susan @ 360-275-9432 or SRMS242@yahoo.com