



# SKAGIT GEMS

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

April 2018  
Volume 58, Issue 3

Next Meeting: April 7th, 10am

Gem of the Month: Fluorite

Refreshments: Nona Avery, Greg Hochmuht



## Field Trips

3/31/2018 Blanchard Hill for Stilpnomelane. Meet at the Alger exit gas station off I-5 @ 10am. Bring a bucket and Hard rock tools. Contact Dave for more info: 360-755-0741

4/14/2018 Fossils & Morell mushrooms. Meet @ Racehorse Creek Hwy 542 @ Round About, 10 miles from I-5 @ 9:00 Bring Dig & Hard Rock. Contact: Ed Lehman wsmced@hotmail.com h# (425) 334-6282 c# (425) 760-2786

4/21/2028 Petrified Wood. Saddle Mt - Meet @ Mattawa W Boat Launch 8:00 Bring Dig & Hard Rock. Contact: All Rockhounds Pow Wow Larry Vess vessel3755@gmail.com or (253)473-3908

5/12/2018 Talc, Chrysoprase, Garnierite. Meet @ Marblemount Grocery right before 20 bend & bridge Bring Saw & Hard Rock. Contact: Ed Lehman wsmced@hotmail.com h# (425) 334-6282 c# (425) 760-2786

## Gem Shows

April 14th 9am - 5pm 15th 10am - 5pm Maplewood Rock and Gem Club April Sale Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse 8802 196th ST SW Edmonds WA

April 27th 10am - 6pm, 28th 10am - 6pm, 29th 10am—4pm. Yakima Rock & Mineral Club 80th NWFMS Show and Convention Adults—\$4 Students—\$2.00 Central Washington State Fair Ground Modern Living Building 1301 South Fair Avenue Yakima ,WA 98901

May 5th 10am—6pm, 6th 10am—5pm Everett Rock and Gem Club 65th Annual show Everett Community College Walt Price Student Fitness Center 2206 Tower Street, Everett WA

## Gem of the Month: Fluorite

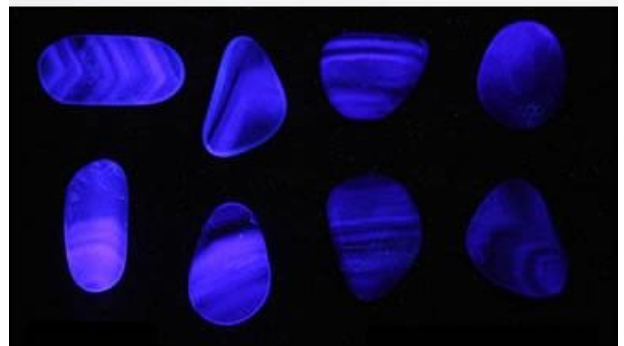


Fluorite is very easy to identify if you consider cleavage, hardness, and specific gravity. It is the only common mineral that has four directions of perfect cleavage, often breaking into pieces with the shape of an octahedron. It is also the mineral used for a hardness of four in the Mohs Hardness Scale. Finally, it has a specific gravity of 3.2, which is detectably higher than most other minerals.

Fluorite is an important industrial mineral composed of calcium and fluorine ( $\text{CaF}_2$ ). It is used in a wide variety of chemical, metallurgical, and ceramic processes. Specimens with exceptional diaphaneity and color are cut into gems or used to make ornamental objects.

Fluorite is deposited in veins by hydrothermal processes. In these rocks it often occurs as a gangue mineral associated with metallic ores. Fluorite is also found in the fractures and cavities of some limestones and dolomites. It is a very common rock-forming mineral found in many parts of the world. In the mining industry, fluorite is often called "fluorspar."

Fluorite typically glows a blue-violet color under short-wave ultraviolet and long-wave ultraviolet light. Some specimens are known to glow a cream or white color. Many specimens do not fluoresce. Fluorescence in fluorite is thought to be caused when trace amounts of yttrium, europium, samarium, or other elements substitute for calcium in the fluorite mineral structure. Info used from [geology.com](http://geology.com)



No Board meeting was held in March

### **General meeting Minutes March 3, 2018**

VP, Greg and Acting Secretary, Debbie ran the meeting today. It was called to order at 10:05

There were a lot of guests this month- Eli and Rachelle, Donna, Linda and David, and Madelyn. Everyone got a guest prize. We hope to see you again!

The minutes from February's meeting were approved.

Treasurer, Dave was out today so he will read the report at the next meeting.

Greg was back from his trip to Arizona and he shared about his adventures. He brought back bags of rocks for everyone from the Mojave Desert. Thanks Greg!

Display table: Our gem of the month was picture jasper. Rick brought a some great pieces from his collection and was gracious enough to give a presentation about it. Thank you Rick!

Thank you to Peggy, Greg and Jim and Gena for bringing snacks.

The club will have a field trip to Blanchard Hill on March 31st. Meet at the Alger Exit gas station at 10am. Call Dave for more info 360-755-0741

Marie-Claire may have time in June for a Silversmith Class. More info to follow.

Meeting adjourned 11:25





Skagit Rock and Gem Club  
Debbie Frank, Editor  
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## 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](http://skagitrockandgem.com)
- Email: [skagitrockandgem@gmail.com](mailto:skagitrockandgem@gmail.com)
- Mailing address: PO BOX 244 Mt. Vernon 98273

