



SKAGIT GEMS

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

May 2019
Volume 59, Issue 4



Next Meeting: May 4th 10am

Gem of the Month: Carnelian

Refreshments: Frank Isca

Silversmith Class

Marie-Claire will teach a silversmith class for members. Beginners Welcome!

Dates: May 30th, 5-7 pm, Intro and design

June 1st (after the club meeting) 1-5pm

June 2nd 9-4pm

Cost: \$130

In this class, we'll have a possibility to make either a spinner ring or pendant in Sterling Silver. You will learn to solder, form, measure, twist and texture metal into a beautiful ring. The other project is to float a flat cabochon, free formed into a Sterling Silver forged frame with prongs and a bail for a chain or cord. This project will require a skillful use of the torch to solder the prongs into place. Choose the project that most suits you. I'll be helping you with either project even if it is all new to you. All materials available for sale on the first day of class. Please bring a stone you may wish to use if you have one. Questions? Call Marie-Claire at 360-336-3776 and leave a call back number.



What's Happening

Mineral Council Field Trips

5/25 w/Darrington Club- Red Bridge Verlot
Meet @ Verlot Ranger Station 9:00 Rainbow
Chert, Concretions. Bring Light & Hard Rock Tools

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

6/20-23 Pow Wow Club- Madras, Oregon
Jefferson Fair Ground 8:00 Agate, Jasper, T-Eggs,
Wood. Bring Dig & Hard Rock Tools

Larry Vess vessel3755@gmail.com or (253)473-3908

6/30 with Marysville Club- Saddle Mt Mattawa
Meet @ W Mattawa Lepricon Market 9:00am
Petrified Wood, Opal(?) Dig & HdRock Ed Lehman
wsmced@hotmail.com h# (425) 334-6282 c# (425) 760-
2786

3rd Friday Silver Group

Debbie and Wes will be hosting a silversmithing
group at their house in Burlington on the Third
Friday each month. Just a reminder that this
group is for members that have taken at least one
silver class previously . (Please provide your own
bench pin) There will be a drill and torches availa-
ble to use.

Next Group: May 17th 6-9pm

Address: 20379 Aliston Ln. Burlington

RSVP Debbie: 360-853-6883

Local Gem Shows

May 4th 10am—6pm, 5th 10am—5pm

Everett Rock and Gem Club
Everett Community College
Walt Price Student Fitness Center
2206 Tower Street, Everett WA

July 20th 10am—5pm 21st 10am—5pm

Darrington Rock & Gem Club
Rock and Gem Show and Sale
Field trip Saturday @ 11am Mansford Grange
1265 Railroad Avenue Darrington, (behind IGA)

History of Rockhounding Jose Santamaria



"You're darn right it's strange
I planted garnets!"

Gem of the month: Carnelian

Carnelian is believed to be named after the red-orange Kornel cherry. Artifacts using carnelian date back to the Bronze Age circa 1800 BC on the island of Crete. Carnelian was believed by the Romans to be a stone of courage-able to shore up confidence and strength. In ancient Egypt, the stone was placed on mummies to assist the dead in their journey to the afterlife while architects to the pharaohs wore carnelian to denote rank and status. In the Middle Ages, carnelian was used by alchemists when boiling stone to release the energy of other gemstones.



Carnelian is the birthstone for the zodiac sign of Virgo (August 23 - September 22). For most cultures, from the 15th to the 20th century, carnelian was one of four birthstones for August. In 1912, the United States adopted peridot as the August birthstone, however in 2013, Britain recognized carnelian as a secondary birthstone after ruby.

Carnelian is a variety of chalcedony and is a microcrystalline quartz. As a chalcedony, carnelian is formed from the intergrowth of two silica minerals with differing crystal structures: quartz and morganite. Carnelian appears in a vibrant range of fire-orange reds to brown-reds and has a dull, waxy luster (as opposed to the vitreous quality of crystal quartzes such as amethyst). The reddish tints in the translucent stone are due to one of its ingredients: iron oxide. Carnelian can be confused with jasper, which is usually considered a chalcedony.



The method of dyeing will vary by source, vendor and the technology. Typically, carnelian gemstones, which are porous, are placed in vats of dye containing organic or vegetable dyes. Chemical salts and natural pigments may also be used. The stones may soak for several weeks to allow the dye to fully penetrate the stone and produce uniform surface color. Dyed carnelian has excellent stability and some special care may be required.

Carnelian gemstones can also be heated to about 2900 degrees Fahrenheit, changing chemicals such as iron oxide, inclusions and impurities to produce different intensities or colors. Heated carnelian has excellent stability and can be cared for normally. Certain carnelian gemstones may fade in light or heat. In fact, in India, these stones are treated with exposure to the sun, which turns the stone's brownish tints to purer reds.

Carnelian is most commonly found in India, Brazil, Siberia and Germany.

Mineral Information Chalcedony, microcrystalline quartz group

Chemical Composition SiO_2

Specific Gravity 2.58 - 2.64

Color Flesh-red to brown-red

Refractive Index 1.530 - 1.539

Hardness 6 1/2 to 7 (Mohs)

Info found on firemountaingems.com

SKAGIT ROCK & GEM CLUB

Board Meeting

April 6, 2019

The Board meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by President Wes Frank. Board Members present were: Wes Frank, Debbie Frank, Eric Self, Greg Hochmuht, Virgil Keltz and Linda Keltz. Club members present: Frank Isca.

There was discussion regarding the inclusion of a fluorescent display at our annual show.

Gem of the Month for May: Carnelian Agate

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am

Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Linda Keltz

SKAGIT ROCK & GEM CLUB

Regular Meeting

April 6, 2019

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

Introduction of Guests: Greg Hochmuht introduced the guests: Pamela Parmenter, Rick VanWinka, Jane McLane and Jim Fackler. Each of the guests received a prize.

Introduction of New Members: Chris and Gem.

Minutes: The minutes of the March 2, 2019 were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Britten reviewed the March financial report. A motion was made S/P to accept the report as presented.

Program: Mining of Metals video was shown and information about the next Hubble telescope was presented including coating the mirrors with gold. The launch scheduled for 2018 has been delayed until 2021 due to issues with the gold coating.

An interesting medical experiment using copper to kill "superbugs" was shown with amazing results.

Display Table: There were 8 displayers with a wide variety of mineral specimens. One of the most outstanding was a piece of basalt with streaks of copper from Michigan displayed by Frank Isca.

After a short break President Wes thanked Gina and Greg for the refreshments.

Field Trips: The upcoming field trips are listed in the GEMS.

Dave Britten will be holding a cabochon class after the meeting today.

Silver Class: Marie Claire Dole will be teaching a silver class on May 31st (for design) and June 1st after the regular meeting and June 2nd to finish the project.

Flintknapping Class: Greg Hochmuht will teach a flintknapping class when the weather is warmer.

Sunshine Report: Member Susan May is currently at LifeCare Center in Sedro-Woolley and would welcome visitors.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Linda Keltz

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Meetings are on the FIRST Saturday of the month (except for Jan, July and Dec when we have other activities scheduled)

10:00 am at the

Mount Vernon Community (Senior) Center
1401 Cleveland St. Mount Vernon WA 98273



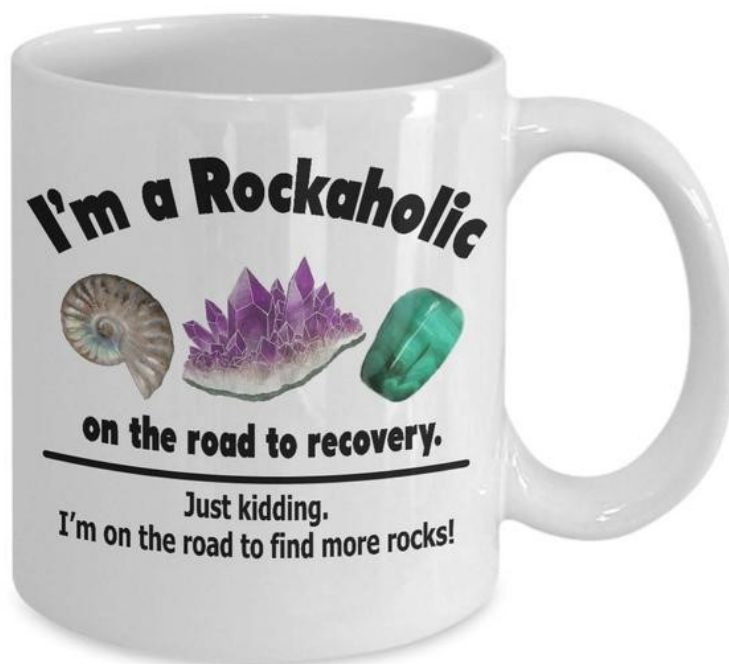
- The purpose of this non-profit earth society shall be to stimulate interest in the study of geology, lapidary, and the collection of geological specimens
- We are a member of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Washington State Mineral Council. We are affiliated with the American 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

2019 Officers

President	Wes Frank
VP	Greg Hochmuht
Treasurer	David Britten
Secretary	Linda Keltz
Fed. 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



Welcome new members

Gem

Ray

Chris

Jim

Jane