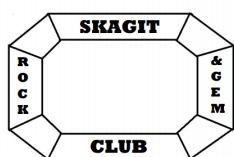




# SKAGIT GEMS

SKAGIT ROCK AND GEM CLUB PO Box 244 MOUNT VERNON WA 98273

**May 2015**  
**Volume 55, Issue 4**



## What's inside

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| President's Message  | 1 |
| Meeting info         | 1 |
| What's New           | 2 |
| Meeting Minutes      | 3 |
| Gem Article          | 4 |
| Refreshment Schedule | 5 |
| Field Trips          | 5 |
| Gem Shows            | 5 |
| Club Info            | 6 |



## **President's Message**

Spring is Here! I hope everyone had a nice Easter. We will be finishing the Mega Flood DVD and having sign-ups for our classes at our next meeting on May 2nd. I am inviting everyone to a BBQ on Saturday, June 13th at my place in Sedro Woolley. I'll have more info at the meeting.

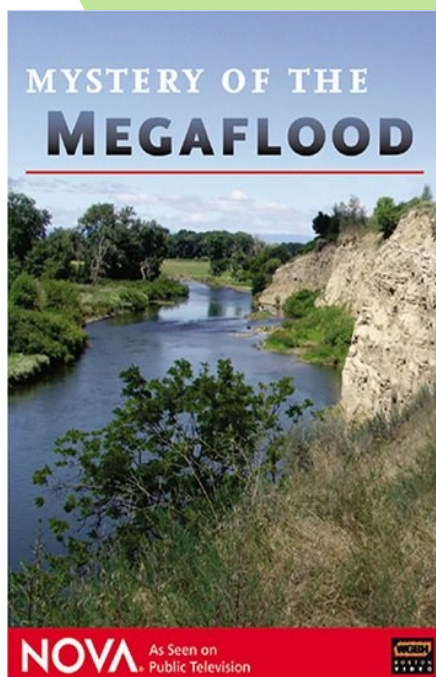
Your President, Eric Self

## **Next Meeting: May 2nd 10:00am**

**May Gem-of-the-month : Beryl**

Bring in your emeralds, aquas, morganite etc. to share

**Program:** We will show the second half of the video *Mystery of the Mega Flood*, an exciting video explaining the formation of the Channeled Scablands in Eastern Washington.





# Spring CLASSES

Marie-Claire will be teaching her Silversmithing Class again. All levels are welcome. Come with your own project or talk with Marie-Claire to get some ideas. Three classes are included. Classes should be May 30, June 6th, and June 13th. Sign-up at next meeting.

Dave Britten will teach a Cabochon class. Sign-up and we can set a date and time. Maybe make some cabochons then set them in silver in Marie-Claire's class. (That's this editor's plan)

Susan May offered to teach us to make beautiful glass or stone kaleidoscopes. Sign-up for that as well and we'll can set a day and time.

## A Trip to Leslie Gulch

Wes and I recently took a trip to Idaho and made some time visit Leslie Gulch in Malheur County, Oregon. Leslie Gulch is a part of the area known as the Owyhee Canyonlands. It's rock formations are almost other-worldly. I have never seen anything like it. We came home with a bunch of rocks that we are anxious to cut open and see what they look like. If you are in the area I highly recommend checking it out. -Debbie



The Leslie Gulch Tuff (consolidated volcanic ash), which makes up the bulk of these formations, is a rhyolite ash that erupted from the Mahogany Mountain caldera in a series of violent explosions about 15.5 million years ago. The towers of volcanic ash have been eroded and are similar to the landscape seen in the Grand Canyon. Watch for the California bighorn sheep that have been re-introduced into the area. There are also several species of endangered and/or rare plants. Info from [www.or.blm.gov](http://www.or.blm.gov)



## **Board Meeting Minutes April 4, 2015**

Meeting called to order at 9:35

Board members present: Eric Self, Dave Britten, Debbie Frank, Susan May

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Dave Britten read the treasurer's report and it was approved.

Gem-of-the month for May is Beryl which includes Emerald and Aqua

One new membership application was received and approved for Travis Malone. Welcome Travis!

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00

-Submitted by Susan May, Secretary

## **Meeting minutes April 4, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am

Guests were introduced: Rick Sadler, Jerry Cruz and Helen Jones. Thank you for joining us!

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

Dave Britten read the treasurer's report and it was accepted.

Eric Self brought a great video about formation of the Channeled Scablands in Eastern Washington.

We had a lot of great specimens for the Ugly Rock Contest. Thank you to Dave Britten, Eric Self, Joanie Self, Violet Munion, Marie-Claire Dole and Susan May. Eric won the prize for his crab fossil in a mud ball.

Thank you to Debbie Frank and Joanie Self for the refreshments. Great Pie Joanie!!!!

Old Business: The club voted to approve the amended By-laws and Standing Rules so that they correctly state the days of the meetings.

New Business: We will be getting ready to have classes again. Marie-Claire Dole, Susan May, and Dave Britten will teach classes. More info and sign-ups will be at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00

-Submitted by Susan May, Secretary

## May Gem of the Month: Beryl

Beryl is often unknown to the general public, even the gemstone-buying public. However, it is one of the most important gem minerals. Beryl in pure form is colorless, called Goshanite. It is the many different impurities that give beryl its varied coloration. Without these splendid color varieties, beryl would be a rather ordinary gemstone with only average fire and brilliance.

The green variety, Emerald, is one of the most precious gems. The color is usually caused by the element chromium. Only green Beryl with a deep green color is called Emerald; light green Beryl is simply "Green\_Beryl".

Aquamarine, another important gemstone, is the greenish-blue to blue variety of Beryl. Its color is usually caused by iron. Green Beryl from certain localities can be heat\_treated to produce sky-blue Aquamarine. Other popular gem varieties of Beryl are the pink Morganite, and the yellow Heliodor and Golden\_Beryl. A deep red variety of Beryl, known as Red\_Beryl (or Bixbite) is extremely rare, and only comes from two localities in Utah. When in good specimens, Red Beryl commands an outstanding premium and is very difficult to obtain.

### CHARACTERISTICS:

- **Color** is varied and includes emerald green, blue to blue-green, yellow, greenish-gold, red, colorless and pink.
  - **Luster** is vitreous.
  - **Transparency:** Crystals are transparent to translucent.
  - **Crystal System** is hexagonal;  $6/m\ 2/m\ 2/m$
  - **Crystal Habits** typically include the hexagonal prism with pincoid terminations. The terminations are often modified by many different pyramidal faces which can sometimes produce a rounded termination in the rough shape of a used pencil eraser.
  - **Cleavage** is imperfect in one direction (basal).
  - **Fracture** is conchoidal.
  - **Hardness** is 7.5 - 8.
  - **Notable Occurrences** include Colombia and some African localities for emerald; Brazil, Russia and Pakistan for aquamarine; California, Brazil, Africa, and many other localities for other beryls.
- See more at: <http://www.minerals.net/beryl>

Three varieties of beryl: morganite, aquamarine and heliodor



## Field Trips with Local Clubs

- 05/23      Ellensburg Club — Saddle Mt — MATAWA, WA**  
 Meet at 9:00 @ MATAWA Leprechaun Market - Petrified wood — Dig, Lt hard rock  
 CONTACT: Steve Townsend—srtrocks@aol.com (509) 933-2236
- 06/15      Spokane Club — Emerald Creek**  
 Meet at 9:00 @ Emerald Creek Star Garnet Area, Idaho - Star Garnet - Tweezers  
 CONTACT: Mike Shaw— mikesshawmoose@yahoo.com (509) 244-8542

**\*\*\*ALWAYS CALL the HOSTING CLUB BEFORE TRIPS FOR CANCELLATION OR CHANGES**

## Local Gem Shows

- May 2nd 10am—6pm**      Everett Rock and Gem Club 62nd Annual show
- May 3rd 10am—6pm**      Everett Comm. College Student Fitness Center  
 2206 Tower St Everett, WA
- May 16th 10am - 6pm**      9th Annual Mineral Mart
- May 17th 10am - 5pm**      Lake City Community Center  
 12531 28th Ave NE Seattle, Washington

| Refreshment Schedule                                  |                     |                   |                 |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| April   | Debbie Frank        | Eric Self         |                 |
| May   | Nona Avery          | Marie-Claire Dole | Marion Melville |
| June  | Greg Hochmuht       | Linda Keltz       | Lee Tennefoss   |
| July  | Potluck + Swap Meet |                   |                 |
| August  | Susan May           | Frank Isca        |                 |
| Sept  | Violet Munion       | Francie Hansen    |                 |
| Oct   | Susan Conta         | Linda Kantor      | Angie Bossarte  |
| Nov   | Joanie Self         | Travis Malone     | Dave Britten    |
| Dec   | Xmas Potluck        |                   |                 |
| Bringing snacks is not mandatory, only if you're able |                     |                   |                 |





## Skagit Rock and Gem Club Info

|                       |               |              |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>President</b>      | Eric Self     | 360-840-8342 |
| <b>Vice President</b> | Greg Hochmudt | 360-873-4809 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | David Britten | 360-755-0741 |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | Susan May     | 360-420-2572 |
| <b>Fed Director</b>   | Virgil Keltz  | 360-424-6525 |
| <b>Bulletin Ed</b>    | Debbie Frank  | 360-757-6276 |
| <b>Past President</b> | Linda Keltz   | 360-424-6525 |

### Standing Committees

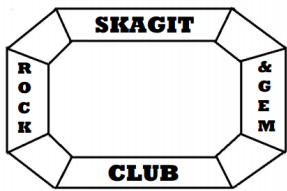
|                               |                 |                                   |                        |                            |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Annual Show Chair</b>      | Open            | <b>Memorial Scholarship</b>       | 755-9818               | Nona Avery                 |
| <b>Banquet</b>                | The Men         |                                   | 714-0054 -Don Phillips | 293-4299                   |
| <b>Classroom Visitation</b>   | Donald Phillips | <b>Mineral Council &amp; PLAC</b> |                        | Open                       |
|                               | Susan Conta     | <b>NFMS Competition</b>           |                        | Open                       |
| <b>Display Table</b>          | Open            | <b>Nominating Committee</b>       |                        | Executive Board            |
| <b>Education Coordinator</b>  | Open            | <b>Program</b>                    |                        | Open                       |
| <b>Facilities/Field Trips</b> | Dave Britten    | <b>Publicity</b>                  |                        | Open                       |
| <b>Greeter</b>                | Linda Keltz     | <b>Stamps</b>                     | 424-6525               | Virgil Keltz               |
| <b>Library</b>                | David Britten   | <b>Sunshine</b>                   | 299-8794               | Susan Conta                |
|                               |                 | <b>Swap</b>                       | 856-1362               | Danny & LaVonda Vandenburg |
|                               |                 | <b>Ways &amp; Means</b>           |                        | Executive Board            |

## 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 members of Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
- Our Address: Skagit Rock and Gem Club PO BOX 244 Mount Vernon, WA 98273
- Contact Eric Self-President for more info: 1-360-840-8342





Skagit Rock and Gem Club

Debbie Frank, Editor

20379 Aliston Ln.

Burlington WA 98233

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## Mr. and Mrs. Rockhound

by KAM

