



SKAGIT GEMS

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

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Volume 60, Issue 5

Meetings and events are postponed until further notice. Please reach out to your fellow members if you need anything. Phone #s on pg. 5

Skagit Rock & Gem Club: May-June-July-August 2020

As the new corona virus hit this past winter, the entire world changed rapidly. This extremely contagious virus has made physical distancing necessary to control the rapid spread. Even though many individuals display no symptoms what-so-ever, these individuals can still spread the disease.

Many organizations and businesses are using communication methods which involve internet or phone lines to conduct their business. Due to the various vulnerable conditions each of us in the club may have, in-person meetings inside buildings will be unlikely for a while but Outside Field Trips may be possible later in the summer.

If you are missing your monthly dose of geology information, please tune in to programs on PBS, or on the internet. Nick Zentner (PBS's Nick on the Rocks) presents 1 hour plus shows 5 days per week. You can even interact and ask questions! Totally informal. (Check out: Nick Zentner Channel on You Tube) (Nick is a geology professor at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, WA and has been conducting lessons live on You Tube since mid-March: "Nick at Home". All these lessons and more are available on his You Tube channel.)

We are hoping to have activities resembling a show in November although some changes may need to be made. We will learn if the show is possible by the end of August. In the meantime, enjoy your rocks! David Britten

By Wayne Farley and Faith Farley

BITTERROOT GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA

Jasper is an opaque form of Chalcedony (silicon dioxide), which is a microcrystalline variety of the mineral Quartz. It often contains an abundance of impurities, and therefore some regard it as a rock instead of a mineral. Distinguishing certain specimens as Chert versus Jasper is subjective and based on the experiences of the person naming them. Jasper is usually associated with brown, orange, yellow, green or reddish colors, but may be used to describe other opaque colors of Chalcedony such as dark or mottled green and orange. Jasper is often associated with iron ores. Color leads to some of the problems that arise when one is naming some materials jasper rather than chert: a "rule of thumb" (albeit based on one's subjective sense of and feelings about color) to which I subscribe, is "if the given rock exhibits attractive colors call it jasper, otherwise call it chert.

As one might suspect for a gemrock of such widespread occurrence, jasper has been given many names. Adjectives and monomial terms applied have been based on such things as color and arrangement of colors, localities of occurrence, names of persons who were connected with the material, names thought to appeal to potential purchasers of items made from jasper, etc. Jasper occurs in all mineral environments such as, quartz, hematite, chalcedony, agate, petrified wood and pyrite. It does not occur in visible crystals. It most often is in massive form, but may also be botryoidal, mammillary and stalactitic formations, as smooth rounded pebbles, and as nodules.

Some forms of Jasper are banded, and these banded Jasper's may appear similar to Agate, but unlike Agate they are opaque. Some can be found with plume, moss, or flame-shaped patterns.

H. ~ 7 S.G. 2.5-2.9

Light transmission - typically opaque

Luster - dull to pearly

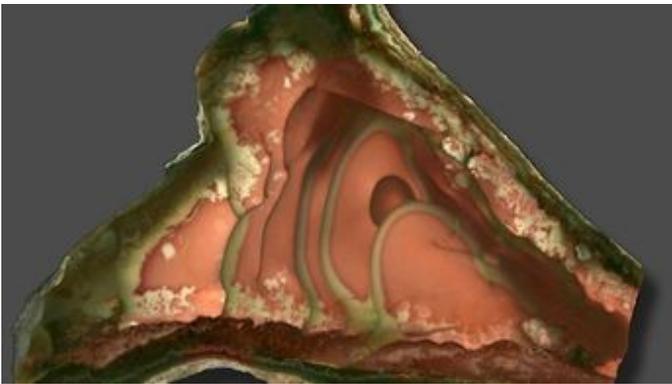
Breakage – sub-conchoidal fracture.

Deschutes Jasper: Deschutes is a specific deposit location with its own unique characteristics,

while **Biggs** encompasses a huge area with multiple deposits of varying jasper types (rather than a single deposit locale). Known for its brown and tan colors, and orbs or scenic patterns in each slab. Deschutes picture jasper was mined east of Biggs Junction, Oregon, near Deschutes River.

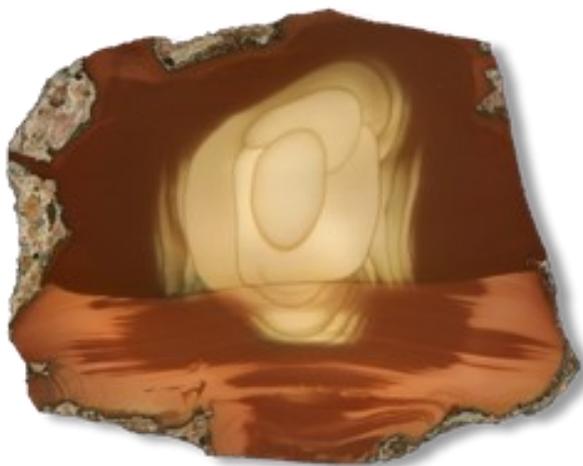


Biggs jasper: one of the more recently discovered picture rock materials. The first piece was found about 1960 in a creek bottom south of Biggs Junction, Oregon. It is one of the more distinctive jasper's even though it lacks brilliant colors; its design is unique among siliceous rocks. It takes an excellent polish.



Morrisonite: A marketplace name for a varicolored jasper, which apparently had a volcanic ash precursor, from near the southern end of Lake Owyhee, Malheur County, Oregon.

Cripple Creek Jasper: From the Owyhee mountains in Eastern Oregon. The scenes in the rock is reminiscent of the area.



Bruneau jasper: A beautifully patterned brown or reddish brown and cream colored jasper from Bruneau River Canyon, Owyhee County, Idaho.

AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION (ALAA)

The Time is Right to Enliven Recreational Rockhounding

by Jennifer Haley, ALAA Director-California

This year the BLM and the Department of the Interior are on a huge enthusiastic campaign to encourage the public to enjoy their public lands, Recreationally, more than ever. I receive one if not more announcements every week from both agencies which include photographs in support of their efforts regarding this. Why?

After reading the Revenues to Federal Government Programs report, it is very clear Recreational use fees amounts for over half of all the combined revenues collected from Forest Products Permits; Forest Service Maps; Grazing Fees and Recreation Fees. None of the other uses mentioned above comes close to Recreational use revenues, and that is what BLM and the Department of the Interior realize. What used to be common uses, isn't any more for a variety of reasons. Recreation Fees and Recreation Special Use Permits amounts to \$530,851 of the \$945,471 received last year. Second to Recreation is Grazing at \$265,275. Times have changed and the Public Lands agencies have woken up to this fact by looking at the numbers in dollar signs.

We have a great opportunity here as Recreational Rockhounding Clubs/Societies to enliven our hobby. The timing is right, so get out there and do what you do best while enjoying your public lands. Reintroduce yourselves to BLM and other park agencies where collecting is allowed. You might even think about talking to a local ranger station or park office about bringing your junior members out for a program to help earn a badge from the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program, or offering a field trip or a short earth science program for the day.

If we don't get involved ourselves and create our own excitement, there isn't anyone who is going to do it for us. We have to create our own public awareness for our hobby, to get the name, Recreational Rockhounding, in the same sentence as other the other common recreational activities; camping; hunting; boating; fishing; hiking. BLM and the Department of the Interior do have an area on their websites recognizing Rockhounding, but it's not usually mentioned in the same sentence as the other recognized activities. I think it is because we are less known as the historical American hobby that we are.

Our favorite Rockhounds who came before us, carried the hobby for many years on our behalf. They were wise enough to see changing times coming for our hobby, and created the American Lands Access Association to help keep public lands open to us. We've lost and won some battles along the way.

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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
- Email: skagitrockandgem@gmail.com
- Mailing address: PO BOX 244 Mt. Vernon 98273

2020 Officers

President	• Wes Frank 360-757-6276
Vice President	• Greg Hochmuht 360-630-7893
Treasurer	• David Britten 360-755-0741
Secretary	• Linda Keltz 360-424-6525
Fed. Director	• Virgil Keltz 360-424-6525
Bulletin Editor	• Debbie Frank 360-853-6883
Past President	• Eric Self 360-840-8342

Committees

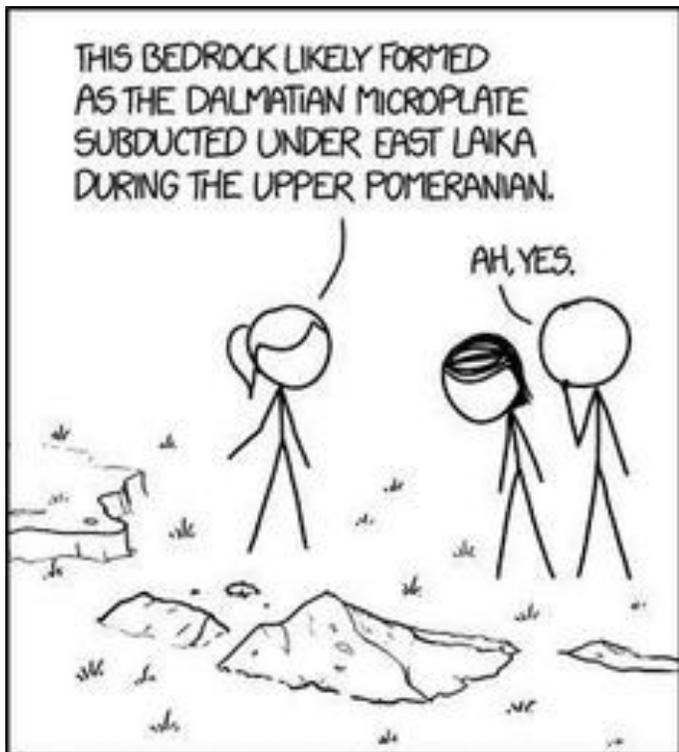
Annual Show Chair	-Eric Self
Facilities/Field Trips	- Dave Britten
Greeter	-Linda Keltz
Scholarship	-Noni Avery & Linda Keltz
Publicity	-Frank Isca
Stamps	-Virgil Keltz
Sunshine	- Noni Avery
Swap	-Vandenburgs

Fieldtrips and various programs have been the highlight of our hobby for close to 83 years when the Recreational Rockhounding community formally began organizing their Clubs and Societies. Please do your part. Finding a way is actually easy.

want to emphasize as I did in our most recent ALAA newsletter, that every Federation needs the involvement and support of each other when it comes to our collecting sites. The potential closure of roads to any collecting site actually threatens the closure of that site to every society and individual, who is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and the public who will become our future club members. We have a future to fulfill for our hobby. Let's stay involved as societies and people working together to accomplish that goal and enjoy the hobby with others as we go about it. Public education is also about doing great public relations for our hobby.



Skagit Rock and Gem Club
Debbie Frank, Editor
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GEOLOGY TIP: THERE ARE SO MANY MICROPLATES AND AGES THAT NO ONE REMEMBERS THEM ALL, SO IN A PINCH YOU CAN BLUFF WITH DOG BREEDS.



WHY WASN'T THE GEOLOGIST HUNGRY?

THEY'D LOST THEIR APATITE.

