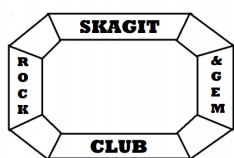




SKAGIT GEMS

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

October 2015
Volume 55, Issue 8



Coober Pedy Opal 2 by Dpultzer - Own work.
Found in Australia

16.42cts Lightning Ridge black Opal by Daniel Mekis -
Own work. New South Wales

October Gem-of-the-month: Opal is a hydrated amorphous form of silica; its water content may range from 3 to 21% by weight, but is usually between 6 and 10%. Because of its amorphous character, it is classed as a mineraloid, unlike the other crystalline forms of silica, which are classed as minerals. It is deposited at a relatively low temperature and may occur in the fissures of almost any kind of rock, being most commonly found with limonite, sandstone, rhyolite, marl, and basalt.

The internal structure of precious opal makes it diffract light; depending on the conditions in which it formed, it can take on many colors. Precious opal ranges from clear through white, gray, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, magenta, rose, pink, slate, olive, brown, and black. Of these hues, the black opals are the most rare, whereas white and greens are the most common. It varies in optical density from opaque to semitransparent. For gemstone use, most opal is cut and polished to form a cabochon. "Solid" opal refers to polished stones consisting wholly of precious opal. Opals too thin to produce a "solid" may be combined with other materials to form attractive gems. An opal doublet consists of a relatively thin layer of precious opal, backed by a layer of dark-colored material, most commonly ironstone, dark or black common opal, onyx, or obsidian. Info from Wikipedia

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President's Message

It's getting cooler out but still nice enough to get out and find some rocks. We had some nice rocks on the show-and-tell table at the last meeting. Thanks to everyone for sharing! We gained 4 new members last month and had two guests.

I am getting excited for our up-coming show. It is always a lot of fun! I hope to see everyone at the next meeting on October 3rd. Bring your Opal specimens to share!

Your Pres, Eric Self



Next Meeting Oct 3rd 10:00am

Our Program: Sculpted by Floods: The Northwest's Ice Age Legacy

We will be revisiting the area known as the Channeled Scablands in Eastern WA



During the last ice age, floods flowing with ten times the volume of all the world's current rivers combined inundated the Northwest. What left behind was a unique and often puzzling landscape that we call home.



A Little Riddle

Some people love it, others hate it. It is used for just a few seconds then can never be used again. It changes the appearance of people who have already taken great care with their appearance.

What is it?

Answer on Page 6

2015 ROCK AND GEM SHOW Nov 14-15

**We are revving up for our annual show and
we need YOUR help to make it a success!**

Raffle and door prizes: We need donations of prizes for our guests. Door prizes can be anything but Raffle prizes are rock-related and something that people will want to buy tickets for. Let us know if you have something to donate but please hang on to it until the day of Set-up, Nov. 13th.

Set-up: Friday Nov. 13th 10:30 ish we will be setting up all the display cases and tables for the show. We store the cases and lighting off-site so we need help to unload the trailer then assemble the cases, I think there are 24. We put tables around the perimeter of the room for vendors.

Greeters: Welcoming guests, handing out show brochures and door prize tickets

Raffle case: Selling raffle tickets, proceeds go to our scholarship fund.

Demonstrator: Do you have skill you could work on during the show? You don't have to give a presentation to a crowd just sit and work on your project and then answers questions if people ask.

Critter table and spinning wheel: We have a craft project using rocks, beads, feathers etc and they can make little critters to take home. The spinning wheel has little bags of rocks and candy and people pay to spin and win the rocks.

Brochures: We need our show brochures and club info flyers updated to give out to guests

We will have sign-up sheets at the October and November meetings.

BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 5, 2015

President Eric called the meeting to order at 9:00. Board Members present: Eric Self, Greg Hochmuht, Dave Britten, Susan May, Debbie Frank

Minutes of the last meeting were approved. Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Four new member applications were accepted

We received an application for our Scholarship Fund from Devon Bryant. The application was accepted and Devon will be awarded the scholarship for the 2015-16 school year at WWU.

Gem of the month for October will be Opal.

We still need a trailer for our display case storage.

We will offer an incentive for buying raffle tickets this year at the Gem Show. There will be a few items that people can buy tickets for and specify which prize they want. We will also offer 6 tickets for \$5.00.

MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 5, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am

New member were introduced: Jenny Miller, Margo and Isabella Perry, and Janet Garner. Welcome!

Guests this month: Jennifer Meadows and Robin Brooks, Robin won a guest prize.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

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

The program this month was club field trip to Jordan Creek in Marblemount. Many of the members that went brought specimens from the trip. Thank you for sharing!!!!

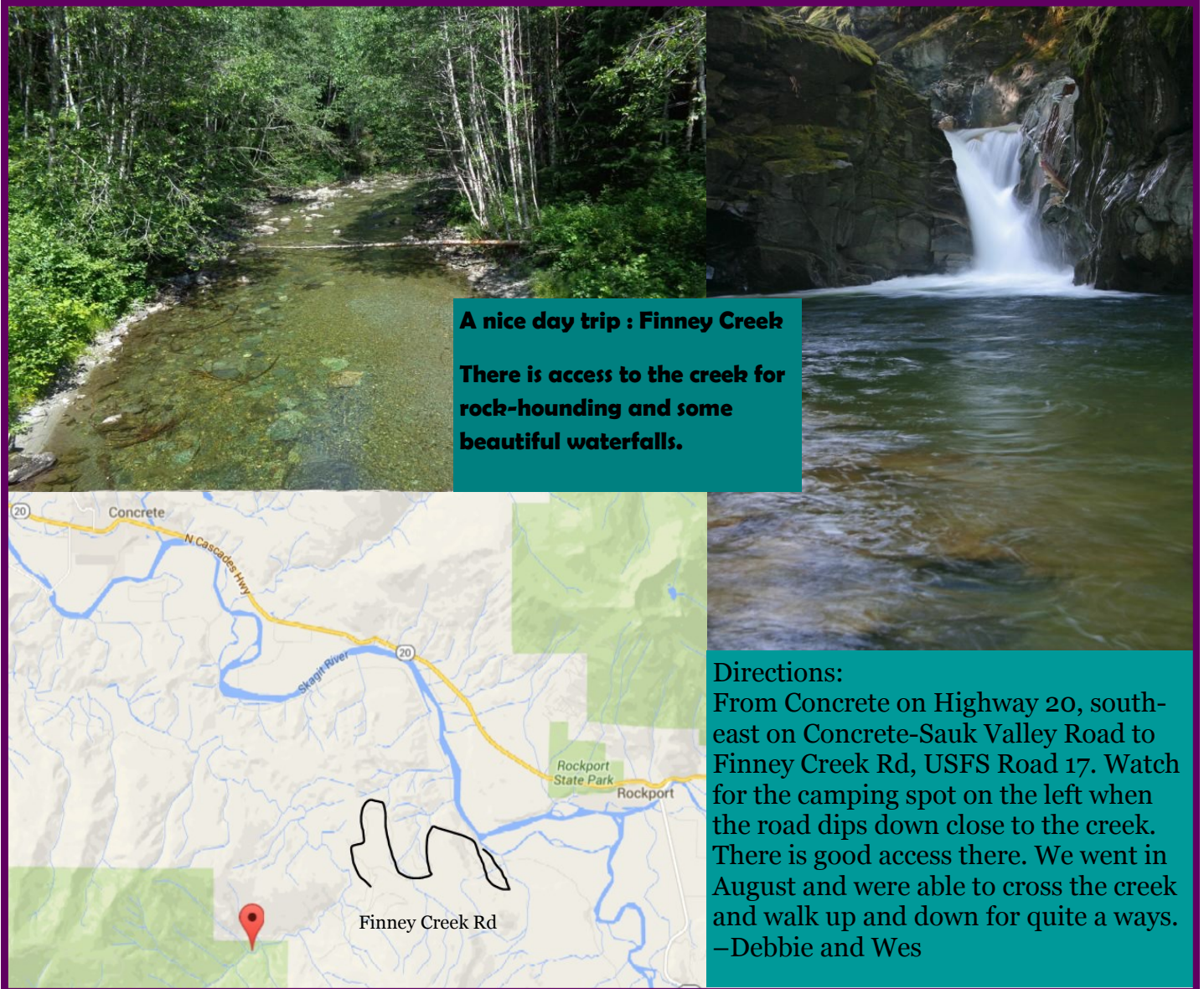
Bev Dillon explained that one of our former members had a display case that belonged to the Faceters Club. The member has since passed away and she was not able to get it back. She asked to trade us one of the Faceters cases for one of ours that is comparable to one they are missing. A vote was taken and it was agreed to make the trade.

Thank you to Susan, Violet, Joanie, Francie and Peggy for refreshments.

November Gem Show: We are still looking for a trailer, 14-16ft to store items for the Gem show. Sign-ups for working the show started. We also still need a food vendor to provide lunch and snacks during the show.

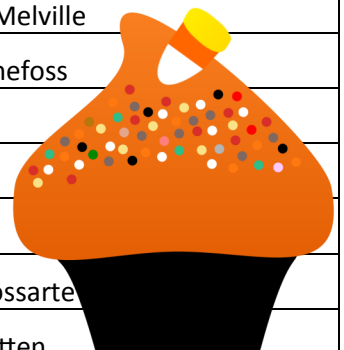
Meeting adjourned at 11:30

-Submitted by Susan May, Secretary



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 are able



Field Trips

These trips are with other local clubs.

***Be sure to contact the host Club if you plan on attending



<u>Date</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Info</u>
10/17	MSVL	Money Creek 9:00 @ Money Creek Camp Ore, picture Jasper Lt hard rock, light

11/14	MtBkr	Blanchard Mt 9:00 @ I-5 240 exit gas Station Stilpnomelane & Chert Hard rock tool
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Host Club Contact info

<u>Dar</u>	Darrington Rock Club Ed Lehman—wsmced@hotmail.com (425) 334-6282 or (425) 760-2786
<u>Msvl</u>	Marysville R & G Club Ed Lehman— wsmced@hotmail.com (425) 334-6282 or (425) 760-2786
<u>POW</u>	All Rockhounds Pow Wow Club of America Larry Vess –vessel3@comcast.net (253) 473-3908
<u>Elb</u>	Ellensburg Rock Club Steve Townsend—srtrocks@aol.com (509) 933-2236
<u>Spk</u>	Spokane Rock Rollers Mike Shaw— mikesshawmoose@yahoo.com— (509) 244-8542
<u>NWOS</u>	Northwest Opal Society Tony Johnson— (253) 863-9238 HC Hells Canyon Gem Club Dan Cease— rockmangem@q.com (509) 254-1720

Local Gem Shows

October 10th 10am - 5pm
October 11th 10am—5pm

Marysville Rock and Gem club 41st Rocktoberfest

Totem Middle School Cafeteria 7th Street and State Avenue Marysville WA

October 24th 10am - 6pm
October 25th 10am - 5pm

Bellevue Rock and Gem club Annual show

Vasa Park 3560 W Lake Sammamish Pkwy
SE Bellevue, Washington 98008

November 7th 9am - 5pm
November 8th 10am-5pm

Maplewood Rock and Gem Club Annual Fall Show Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse 8802 196th ST SW Edmonds WA

December 5th 9am - 6pm
December 6th 10am - 5pm

Maplewood Rock and Gem Club Annual Winter Bazaar Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse 8802 196th ST SW Edmonds WA

Riddle Answer: It's Confetti!



Skagit Rock and Gem Club Info

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

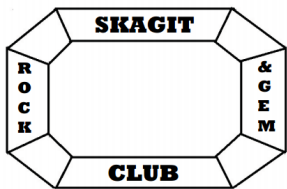
Standing Committees

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

