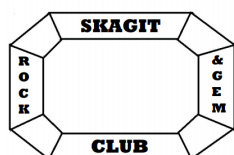


SKAGIT GEMS



March 2015

Volume 55, Issue 2

Finding Carnelian in Oregon & Washington

When you think about where the yellow to red chalcedony, known as Carnelian comes from, one normally doesn't think about Washington and Oregon as sources, however some of the most beautiful and gemmy carnelian IN THE WORLD comes from the foothills of the Cascade Mountains stretching from B.C. to California with the most concentrated occurring in the 225 miles between Olympia, WA & Eugene, OR.

So how do you find carnelian?

First, BE in carnelian country. Carnelian is a sedimentary deposit of silica in a pocket, gas bubble or amygdule cavity. The cavities in which this carnelian grows in are volcanic in nature so when planning your trip, check out a geologic map and make sure that you are in an area of volcanic origin.



Second, carnelian will never be found "in situ" in it's original formation. It just doesn't happen! The red coloration in carnelian occurs from a combination of iron inclusions in the chalcedony and exposure to heat & UV radiation. This turns the carnelian red and the carnelian's exposure to heat/radiation have a direct impact on the depth of the color in the stone. Often you will find a very pretty piece of carnelian only to cut it open and find a colorless center.

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Presidents Message

We had lots of members come to the February meeting and we even got some new members. I'd like to see so many show up to the next meeting on March 7th. It was nice to see everyone. Washington is having some strange weather. It's been so nice out and I've been out looking for rocks.

Don't forget if you can or would like to get the newsletter by email contact Debbie Frank to get on the list (newmoon2323@hotmail.com)

Thank you for your support.

Your President, Eric Self

Next Meeting: March 7th 10:00am

March Gem-of-the-month : Carnelian - Bring in your specimens to share!

Program: Greg will continue the video on flint-knapping

Refreshments schedule for February:

Dave Britten, Marie-Claire Dole, Susan Conta

Continued from front page...

This is why MOST carnelian from India and Brazil have to be heat treated for best color, you can heat treat the stuff from Oregon

and Washington, but often it doesn't need it. Carnelian agate is almost always found in alluvial deposits and this is where it earns its color, from exposure after wearing from its host rock. Some carnelian in Washington state is currently wearing out of the Wilkes formation which is a conglomerate, which explains why a lot of Washington carnelian looks river worn even when dug miles from any river. It's had to wear out of a formation twice!

So what does this mean? It means that it's not very likely you are going to find carnelian in a basalt quarry. Go low, start in a river or creek and look for little chips then go up from there. Some of the BEST carnelian I have ever found has been between 2'-4'ft below the surface in a VERY sticky clay. Chalcedony is heavy and it will sort out of other stones leaving the best usually at the bottom! Bottom of the gravel bar, a few feet down in the soil, towards the bottom of the hill. The only time I have seen carnelian readily exposed and not in a creek is at the base of a tree where the root system pushed it skyward.

Third, go during the right season for the type of looking you are doing. The BEST time to go creeking is in the late summer, bar none, when the creeks are low and a splash or two won't send you running home to warm up. If you can handle it, there is an often a "secret" season in late winter when it hasn't rained and the creek levels are low and COLD, however this is a great time of year to catch the pieces worn out during the fall churn.

And now we talk about conservation, first off if you are going to do ANYTHING in a creek in Washington, make sure to print out Washington's Gold and Fish pamphlet and read it. Second, if you dig a pit, fill it in. Pack out your garbage and think about packing out the garbage you see, through good



stewardship we can keep areas open. Dig safely and don't compromise the roots of trees. Don't dig in creeks, just don't, scratching gravel bars is one thing but digging in creeks is what got Lucas Creek and Adna shut down, let's not let another one be closed.

Finally if you are just looking to get out and get yourself some carnelian, you can try the following locations (google for more information, it's out there)

Pigeon Springs (Washington)

Salmon Creek (Washington)

Beaver Creek (Washington)

Meeting minutes February 7, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am

Guests were introduced: Peggy Peterson, Francine Hansen, Ben Barker, Kyle Mischenko, Angie Bossarte. Francine and Angie won guest prizes.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

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

Greg Hochmuht showed an interesting video on flint-knapping obsidian from Oregon.

Our displayers: Dave Britten, Eric Self, Greg Hochmuht, Violet Munion, Linda and Virgil Keltz, Kyle Mischenko, and Susan May. Susan won the displayers prize.

Thank you for the refreshments: Joanie Self, Linda Cantor, Nona Avery, Debbie and Wes Frank

New Business: The club needs to buy a storage trailer for the display cases etc. for the gem show. The current box truck does not run and is too costly to fix and maintain.

Linda Keltz volunteered to be the greeter at meetings.

Susan May suggested getting photos of the club members and making a directory. It will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Francine Hansen lives in Friday Harbor and wants to carpool with a member from Anacortes

Meeting adjourned at 12:00



Board Meeting Minutes February 7, 2015

Meeting called to order at 9:15

Board members present: Eric Self, Dave Britten, Greg Hochmuht, Susan May, Debbie Frank, Linda Keltz, Virgil Keltz

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

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

A new member application was received from Francine Hansen and approved for membership.

Gem-of-the month for March is Carnelian.

Virgil Keltz, Federation Director, reminded to save stamps to donate.

The by-laws need to be updated. They will be retyped and discussed at the next board meeting.

Eric suggested getting a new trailer to store our gem show equipment. Also getting new plastic tubs instead using the old cardboard boxes.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50



Skagit Rock & Gem Workshops for 2015

Jewelry – Marie Claire will be available for another class. Beginners can learn the use of various tools of the trade to produce necklaces, rings, bracelets, pendants, etc. Graduates of past classes may bring their own projects and get Marie Claire's excellent instruction.

Enameling – Susan Conta will teach the enameling class. Enameling is the process of fusing colored glass to metal sheet (for bracelets, pendants, or earrings) or tubing (for beads). Class is a fun way try new methods.

Thunder Eggs – We will use the Richardson's Rock Ranch Sanding Machines to polish cut thunder eggs, geodes, and rock slabs.

Flint Knapping – Greg will show the various methods used to produce arrowheads, spear heads, and knife blades.

Cabochons – The lapidary shop will be open to shape, form, and polish agates, jaspers, and other semi-precious gemstones.

WHEN? – so far our winter has been exceedingly mild – but we know not to count on these temperatures. Classes will start when winter coats aren't needed and fingers won't go numb.

Have an interesting article to share???

How about stories and pictures from your last rock-hounding trip or something neat you saw about rocks or minerals on Facebook?

We welcome submissions from all our members.

Deadline for the newsletter is the 18th of each month.

Send your submission to Debbie Frank (newmoon2323@gmail.com) or

20379 Aliston Ln Burlington, WA 98233

Field Trips

03/07/15—Msvl—Cherry Creek—9:00 @ Safeway in Duvall— Jasper— Light hard rock, & wade shoes

04/18-19 -POW- Saddle Mt -8:00 @ Mattawa boat launch -Petrified wood- Dues required \$7.50/each \$15/family

04/25 -Msvl- Racehorse Creek -9:00 @ IGA @ Nugent's Corner -Fossils -Dig & Lt hard rock tools

Msvl = Marysville R & G Club—Ed Lehman— wsmced@hotmail.com (425) 334-6282 or (425) 760-2786

POW= All Rock hounds Pow Wow Club of America- Larry Vess –vessel3@comcast.net (253) 473-3908

*****ALWAYS CALL the HOSTING CLUB BEFORE TRIPS**

FOR CANCELLATION OR CHANGES

Upcoming Local

Gem Shows

March 21st 10am - 5pm

March 22nd 10am - 5pm

North Seattle Lapidary & Mineral Club

Lake City Comm. Center 12531 28th Ave. NE,
Seattle

March 28th 10am - 6pm

March 29th 10am - 5pm

Mt. Baker Rock & Gem Club: 54th Annual Rock and Gem Show

Bloedel-Donovan Park

2214 Electric Ave. Bellingham WA



May 2nd 10am—6pm

May 3rd 10am—6pm

Everett Rock and Gem Club 62nd Annual show

Everett Comm. College Student Fitness Center,
2206 Tower St Everett, WA



Skagit Rock and Gem Club Info

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

Standing Committees

Annual Show Chair	Open	Mineral Council & PLAC	Open
Banquet	The Men	NFMS Competition	Open
Classroom Visitation	714-0054 Donald Phillips	Nominating Committee	Executive Board
	299-8794 Susan Conta	Program	Open
Display Table	Open	Publicity	Open
Education Coordinator	Open	Stamps	424-6525 Virgil Keltz
Facilities/Field Trips	755-0741 Dave Britten	Sunshine	299-8794 Susan Conta
Greeter	424-6525 Linda Keltz	Swap	856-1362 Danny & LaVonda Vandenburg
Library	755-0741 David Britten	Ways & Means	Executive Board
Memorial Scholarship	755-9818 Nona Avery		
714-0054 -Don Phillips	293-4299 Joe Kantor		

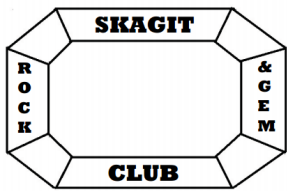


VISITORS ARE ALWAYS
WELCOME



Meetings are on the FIRST Saturday of the month (except for January and July) 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



Skagit Gems

Debbie Frank, Editor

20379 Aliston Ln.

Burlington WA 98233

DON'T FORGET

Daylight Savings Starts

March 8th

Set your clocks ahead
one hour

