

Rock-A-Teer

Newsletter of the
Puyallup Valley
Gem & Mineral Club

P.O. Box 134
Puyallup, WA
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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CLUBHOUSE?

BY JIM CHRISTIAN

Well -- quite a lot. As we see from looking at the club activities calendar there's something going on at the clubhouse almost every day of the month and this is tending to be a "problem". How can that be, you might ask? First, let's establish that this "problem" is a good thing in that it shows that our members are interested in what's going on there but this interest brings a challenge. For a while now, there have been requests for more classes and open house sessions and we want to provide those but we need more resources. We have time to schedule more activities but the resource we need is club members to make them happen. So, if you're interested in hosting open house activities or teaching a class please call or email me at, 253-720-9502 or, jimchristian_205@hotmail.com and let's talk about your interests.

A couple of other things.

There has been a portable air conditioner installed in the clubhouse and currently we are "testing" to determine the best location for it.

For those of you who use the clubhouse, there is going to be a change in the towel process. First choice is to have a member assume the responsibility of washing and restocking the towels. If such a person is not available then we will probably move to a process where those who use the clubhouse will need to bring their own towels. We'll post the change information on an information board at the clubhouse when the process changes.

And finally, there is a vacuum cleaner at the clubhouse but it's old, tired, and wants to retire. If you have one that is available, please call me. Also, we're still collecting gallon containers so please bring any that you would like to donate to a club meeting or the clubhouse.

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PUYALLUP VALLEY GEM MINERAL CLUB

AUGUST 2018 ACTIVITIES

DATE	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	INSTRUCTOR
1	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Open House	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
		4:00PM	Opal Cutting	Club House	Tony Johnson
2	Thursday	5:00PM	Cabbing	Club House	Renner Barnes
3	Friday	10:00AM	Clubhouse Committee Meeting	Club House	Jim Christian
4	Saturday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Open House	Club House	Glen Ripper
5	Sunday				
6	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Open House	Club House	Bill Clark
7	Tuesday	5:00PM	Cabbing	Club House	Ed Knoll
		7:00PM	Club Board Meeting	Fruitland Grange	Glen Ripper
8	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Open House	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
		4:00PM	Wire Wrapping	Club House	Tony Johnson
9	Thursday	5:00PM	Cabbing	Club House	Renner Barnes
10	Friday	7:30PM	Club Business Meeting Show&Tell "Something Cool"	Fruitland Grange	Glen Ripper
11	Saturday	10:00AM	Silversmithing	Club House	Dave Sanderson
12	Sunday				
13	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Open House	Club House	Bill Clark
		7:00PM	Opal Club Meeting	Club House	Tony Johnson
14	Tuesday	5:00PM	Cabbing	Club House	Ed Knoll
15	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Open House	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
		4:00PM	Opal Cutting	Club House	Tony Johnson
16	Thursday	5:00PM	Cabbing	Club House	Renner Barnes
17	Friday				
18	Saturday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Open House	Club House	Jim Christian
		9:00AM	Overnight Field Trip Day 1	Greenwater	Dennis Batchelor
19	Sunday		Overnight Field Trip Day 2	Greenwater	Dennis Batchelor
20	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Open House	Club House	Bill Clark
21	Tuesday	5:00PM	Cabbing	Club House	Ed Knoll
22	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Open House	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
		4:00PM	Wire Wrapping	Club House	Tony Johnson
23	Thursday	5:00PM	Cabbing	Club House	Renner Barnes
24	Friday		No meeting at Fruitland Grange		
25	Saturday	11:00AM	Annual Club Picnic	Swiss Park	Glen Ripper
26	Sunday				
27	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Open House	Club House	Bill Clark
28	Tuesday	5:00PM	Cabbing	Club House	Ed Knoll
29	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Open House	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
		4:00PM	Opal Cutting	Club House	Tony Johnson
30	Thursday	5:00PM	Cabbing	Club House	Renner Barnes
31	Friday				

For questions about a specific class or event, contact the instructor

Glen Ripper (253) 508-7545

Tony Johnson (253) 863-9328

Dennis Batchelor (360) 870-8741

Ed Knoll (253) 651-7453

Dave Sanderson (253) 572-8109

Bill Clark (360) 893-6919

Renner Barnes (206) 383-3465

Jim Christian (253) 720-9502

LaVon Siperek (253) 531-7294

Field Trip Report

Field Trip Report:

August 18 & 19 Overnight

This fieldtrip is with the Washington State Mineral Council - overnight camp out & pot luck

Meeting place - 9:00AM at the Enumclaw Ranger Station for those not camping out

Hunting for - Jasper, Agate, Petrified wood, common opal

Tools you need - Rock hammer, shovel, pry bar, hammer, chisel and a backpack/bucket for your treasures

Access - this area is fairly easy to access

Additional items - lunch/snacks and water, water, water. Dress in layers

September 15

Meeting place - 10:00AM on Hwy 410 at Forest Rd 19, mile marker 92

Hunting for - Jasper, Agate, Petrified wood, Thundereggs

Tools you need - Rock hammer, shovel, pry bar, hammer, chisel, treasure scoop, waders, and a backpack/bucket for your treasures

Access - moderate terrain, 1/2 mile hike to thunderegg site

Additional items - lunch/snacks and water, water, water. Dress in layers. Be prepared for ticks/mosquitoes

STABILIZING PROCEDURE FOR CRUMBLY LAPIDARY ROUGH

Post by desertdwelller on forum rocktumblinghobby.com

This is a good method for stabilizing lapidary rough that is porous or crumbly.

Since most stones are cut in water and will probably be subjected to immersion and water-based cleaners, waterglass isn't a satisfactory stabilizer. Various chemical processes can cause silicates to polymerize into opal or agate, as occurs in petrified wood. The hardened silicate from my procedure is clear and colorless. It's not as fast as epoxy, but treated material is "rock- solid" --- no undercutting or discoloration with age. In the end, it's also safer, cleaner and a lot cheaper than Opticon or other epoxies.

Here's the general procedure that seems to be working now. It's not as involved as it may seem at first glance, and gets easier with practice.

- 1) Clean slabs (or rough less than 1" thick) in a solution of hot water and trisodium phosphate (available in most paint departments for wall cleaning) prepared in the concentration specified for grease removal. I let them soak overnight. This may cause some slight color change - deeper blues and greens on chrysocolla and turquoise. Rinse slabs thoroughly and allow to air-dry.
- 2) For this step, you need a shallow, lidded stainless steel (not iron or aluminum) pot or pan and a means of holding temperature at around 180 F, substantially below boiling. I found a thrift store electric buffet warming plate which worked nicely. The stabilizing formula is based on sodium silicate solution with a weight ratio of around 3.2 (available at www.chemistrystore.com/sodium_silicate.htm and other similar sources). Read the MSDS! This solution is caustic, and you should wear eye and skin protection to handle it. Spray the pot lid edge with PAM or other cooking spray to keep it from adhering to the pot. Clean up drips and used utensils immediately with warm water. If the solution gets on fabric, rinse and wash it before the silicate dries.
- 3) Now, this is where things get a little weird... it takes a combination of very low activity organic acid and alkali mineral salts (carbonates, phosphates and sulfates of calcium, potassium, etc.) to get the silicate to polymerize in a non- water-soluble form, e.g. as agate. Though this can be done with very concentrated mineral water (about 1 gallon boiled down to 1 cup) and aspirin or citric acid, I found the easiest and cheapest way to do this was with Emer- Gen-C Lite mineral supplement packets. ***It's important to get the Lite sugar-free version --- sugar or fructose will oxidize and may discolor the stones.*** Dissolve one packet of Emer-gen-C in 1 cup (approx. 250 ml) of water and allow the fizzing to disperse. Add this solution to 8 oz. of sodium silicate in the stainless steel pot and stir to mix. For stones with very fine porosities or hairline cracks, add about 1 teaspoon of liquid dish soap to reduce the viscosity of the solution.

4) Submerge the slabs in silicate solution in a single layer. Stacked slabs may stick together. Cover and let stand on the heat source for at least 24 hours. Longer cooking won't hurt... I've left some material in for up to 4 days. [For very thick material, a pressure cooker has been suggested, but the risks of silicate splash clogging the vent mechanism are too great for my peace of mind.] Remove the slabs and set them on a spray-greased baking rack over newspaper. Allow the slabs to drip dry. The dried slabs are safe to handle bare-handed, and can be gently pried off the rack if they stick. A word of caution --- dried silicate can be as sharp as glass!

5) Place the dry slabs on a cookie sheet and set in a cold oven. Turn the oven to "warm" and leave it on overnight. Turn the oven off and allow the stones to cool to room temperature with the door closed. The slabs should look shiny and any deep cracks will be partially filled. Porous stones should feel noticeably heavier after this treatment. At this point, you can re-clean the stone and "paint" silicate formula to fill larger cracks and voids. Repeat the drying and baking processes to set the added silicate.

The whole cleaning, soaking, drying and baking process can be repeated as many times as you feel necessary. There may be some brownish surface discoloration on the stone, but this comes off with polishing.

Silicate solution can be reused multiple times, adding a little water to replenish the volume. The solution may have some precipitated white silica gel and will turn tea-colored. When a thick layer of silica gel has precipitated and the solution seems thin, treat it by pouring out on about a pound of scoopable cat litter, allowing the litter to dry, then discarding it in regular trash. Don't pour it down the sink.

I've tried to explain in as much detail as I've gleaned from a half dozen or so different trials. So far, it's worked on slabs and rough of many different jaspers, chrysocolla, turquoise, Laguna, Botswana, plume and moss agates, Koroit opal, petrified woods and fossil coral.

2018 SHOW & TELL THEMES and PROGRAM NIGHT EVENTS

MEETING	DATE	SHOW & TELL THEME	PROGRAM NIGHT EVENT
January – 1 st Meeting	January 12, 2018	Crystals + any field trip finds	
January – 2 nd Meeting	January 26, 2018	Green rocks & minerals + any field trip finds	Rockhounding tools and their use (Tony)
February – 1 st Meeting	February 9, 2018	Naturally heart-shaped material + any field trip finds	
February – 2 nd Meeting	February 23, 2018	Brown material + any field trip finds	Rock sorting at the Grange & Washington State Fair preparation
March – 1 st Meeting	March 9, 2018	Montana material + any field trip finds	
March – 2 nd Meeting	March 23, 2018	No show & tell	Jerry's Rock & Gem (Joan & Glen)
April – 1 st Meeting	April 13, 2018	Personal hand-crafted lapidary projects + any field trip finds	
April – 2 nd Meeting	April 27, 2018	No show & tell	Auction / Potluck
May – 1 st Meeting	May 11, 2018	"Pocket" rocks + any field trip finds	
May – 2 nd Meeting	May 25, 2018	Birth stones + any field trip finds	Metal detecting (The Outlaws) ??? & rocks found while metal detecting
June – 1 st Meeting	June 8, 2018	Club Show purchases and finds + any field trip finds	
June – 2 nd Meeting	June 22, 2018	Thundereggs, geodes & nodules + any field trip finds	Jerry's Rock & Gem (Joan & Glen) ???
July – 1 st Meeting	July 13, 2018	Gem trees and "get wired" + any field trip finds	
July – 2 nd Meeting	July 27, 2018	No show & tell	Tail gate party in Grange parking lot
August – 1 st Meeting	August 10, 2018	Something "COOL" + any field trip finds	
August – 2 nd Meeting	August 25, 2018	No show & tell	Picnic & tail gate party at Swiss Park (Sat.)
September – 1 st Meeting	September 14, 2018	Field trip finds	
September – 2 nd Meeting	September 28, 2018	No show & tell	Mini lapidary demonstrations (club members)
October – 1 st Meeting	October 12, 2018	Fall colored rock & minerals + any field trip finds	
October – 2 nd Meeting	October 26, 2018	No show & tell	Auction / Potluck
November – 1 st Meeting	November 9, 2018	"Woodn't" you know or "wood" you? + any field trip finds	
November – 2 nd Meeting	November 23, 2018	No show & tell	BINGO night
December – 1 st Meeting	December 15, 2018	No show & tell	Holiday Banquet/Officer install. (Saturday)

2018 Elected Officers

Title	Name	Phone	Email
President:	Glen Ripper	(253)508-7545	glen311944@yahoo.com
Vice President:			
Secretary:	Teresa Rodrick	(253)531-4062	gtrodi@comcast.net
Treasurer:	Larry Hoffman	(253)922-9182	lhoffman1@comcast.net
Federation Director:	John Huber	(253)582-8682	craftyhubers@comcast.net
1 year Director:	Karen Lebeter	(253)983-9093	lebeterk@gmail.com
2 year Director:			
1 year Trustee:	Glenn Rodrick	(253)531-4062	gtrodi@comcast.net
2 year Trustee:	Tony Johnson	(253) 863-9238	

2018 Committee Chairs

Title	Name	Phone	Email
Clubhouse Coordinator	Jim Christian	(253)720-9502	Jimchristian_205@hotmail.com
Club Show			
Editor	Stephanie Carlson		carlsonsa.351@gmail.com
Field Trips	Dennis Batchelor	(360)870-8741	hobbyhorse51@gmail.com
Library			
Membership	Larry Hoffman	(253)922-9182	lhoffman1@comcast.net
Sunshine			
Newsletter	Brett & Sherry Lawrence	(253)584-1319	bandslawrence@comcast.net
Mineral Council	Tony Johnson	(253) 863-9238	

The Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club is a member of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Washington State Mineral Council and affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. www.amfed.org/nfms



BRING ON THE BLING

Do you or someone you know have a collection of rocks and/or equipment and you don't know what to do with it??? PVG & MC can help. Call Tony Johnson 253-863-9238 or Jim Christian 253-720-9502 for



August Birthdays

Richard Hernandez	3rd
Anthony Witt	3rd
Paul Giese	4th
Tina Hart	5th
Philip Owens	7th
Thomas Patch	7th
Joan Engle	9th
Blyth Hinson	10th
John Engle	15th
Roxie Nichols	15th
Joan Lockyer	16th
Meg Barnstien	17th
Teresa Rodrick	20th
Becca Dagustino	24th
Erin Davis	31st
Dana James	
Randy Summers	

T G A K O T E D L A R E M E A J A
 O A E U Y M M E R E D N O M A I D
 P R N N V A E N O C R I Z D S E P
 A N X Z H P N F I R E T E A S E A
 Z E R I A O G I H O E O N E P E R
 E T T T C N A R T N I I E R H F A
 T A E E A C I A O E Y T L I E E D
 I Q M E A M E T R I N E F H N T S
 S U T R Z L S M E T I R H P E N C
 U A P O D N A R E E S L L P L O H
 L M T P U U L P I I I Y H A I C A
 A A G S I R O D O I L E H S T O Y
 D R U A V I N D I C O L I T E R B
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 A N A D B W E T I R O V A S T M R
 L E N I P S E T I R D N A X E L A

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|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. ALEXANDRITE | 11. GARNET | 21. RUBY |
| 2. AMETHYST | 12. HELIODOR | 22. SAPPHIRE |
| 3. AMETRINE | 13. INDICOLITE | 23. SPHENE |
| 4. ANDALUSITE | 14. JADE | 24. SPINEL |
| 5. AQUAMARINE | 15. KUNZITE | 25. SUNSTONE |
| 6. BENITOITE | 16. KYANITE | 26. TANZANITE |
| 7. DEMANTOID | 17. NEPHRITE | 27. TOPAZ |
| 8. DIAMOND | 18. OPAL | 28. TOURMALINE |
| 9. DIASPORE | 19. PADPARADSCHA | 29. TSAVORITE |
| 10. EMERALD | 20. PARAIBA | 30. ZIRCON |

GOLD & FISH RULES

There has been a bit discussion about the **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Gold and Fish Rules for Mineral Prospecting and Placer Mining pamphlet**. Does it or does it not apply to rockhounding and if it does, how/when does it apply? Although these rules were primarily developed for gold prospecting in the areas adjacent to streams and lakes some of them do apply to rockhounding. The most common questions rockhouncers have is - when do you have to have a copy of the pamphlet with you? The answer has to do with “timing restrictions”. Page 10 of the pamphlet deals with “mineral prospecting without timing restrictions” (see tables starting on page 16 of the pamphlet) and in this case, you do not need to have a copy of the pamphlet with you. Page 13 of the pamphlet deals with “mineral prospecting with timing restrictions. In this case, you must have a copy of the pamphlet on the dig site, not one for each person as has been suggested. To print your own PDF copy, go to <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/mining/> and click on the gold and fish download on the right side of the page.