

# Rock-A-Teer

Newsletter of the  
Puyallup Valley  
Gem & Mineral Club

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98371

(253) 987-6751

## CLUB HISTORY

BY TONY JOHNSON

Happy Birthday Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club!!! On the 9th of October, 1948 our club was made official. But it really started before that. PCG&MC was started by people who were interested in rockhounding and lapidary arts. These people met together at a cafe in Tenino, WA. The best known of these individuals was Mr. D.A. Burns, who was always willing to show his material and teach how to cut and polish it. This group of people was growing, and soon they outgrew the cafe.

On September 11, 1948, eleven people met at the home of Joel Boon to discuss the idea of starting a rock club, and this discussion led to the first meeting on October 9, 1948. This meeting was held at the Boon's store and by February of 1949 the club had grown to thirty members. By March of 1949 the membership had swelled to forty people, so it now had outgrown the store and the meetings moved to the International Order of Forretries Hall.

From the start, this club has been known as a friendly, informative, and highly active group. The club has helped with civic activities, like working with the Bureau of Land Management to pick up litter on roadsides, parks and camping areas. The club has also had window displays of polished stones during the daffodil festivals and at the State Fair held annually in Puyallup.

To this day, we are the most active club in the state. We meet twice a month, hold 3-4 classes a week at our Club house, go on monthly field trips, two of which are in conjunction with the Washington State Mineral Council, hold an annual Rock Show, have school geological education, and participate in the hobby hall at the Puyallup Fair where we hand out buckets of tumbled rocks to children. We keep getting better every year with the number of activities continually growing.

Thank you to everyone in the club, doing their best to continue this impressive legacy. We will be around for another 70 years!

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**PUYALLUP VALLEY GEM MINERAL CLUB  
SEPTEMBER 2018 ACTIVITIES**

| DATE | DAY       | TIME           | ACTIVITY              | LOCATION         | INSTRUCTOR       |
|------|-----------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1    | Saturday  | 10:00AM-2:00PM | Open House            | Club House       | Glen Ripper      |
| 2    | Sunday    |                |                       |                  |                  |
| 3    | Monday    | 10:00AM-2:00PM | Open House            | Club House       | Bill Clark       |
| 4    | Tuesday   | 5:00PM         | Cabbing               | Club House       | Ed Knoll         |
| 5    | Wednesday | 10:00AM-2:00PM | Open House            | Club House       | Dennis Batchelor |
| 6    | Thursday  | 5:00PM         | Cabbing               | Club House       | Renera Barnes    |
| 7    | Friday    | 10:00AM        | Club Show Comm. Mtg   | Club House       | Jim Christian    |
| 8    | Saturday  | 10:00AM        | Flint Napping         | Club House       | Craig Oda        |
| 9    | Sunday    |                |                       |                  |                  |
| 10   | Monday    | 10:00AM-2:00PM | Open House            | Club House       | Bill Clark       |
|      |           | 7:00AM         | Opal Club Meeting     | Club House       | Tony Johnson     |
| 11   | Tuesday   | 5:00PM         | Cabbing               | Club House       | Ed Knoll         |
|      |           | 7:00PM         | Club Board Meeting    | Fruitland Grange | Glen             |
| 12   | Wednesday | 10:00AM-2:00PM | Open House            | Club House       | Dennis Batchelor |
|      |           | 4:00PM         | Opal Cutting          | Club House       | Tony Johnson     |
| 13   | Thursday  | 5:00PM         | Cabbing               | Club House       | Renera Barnes    |
| 14   | Friday    | 7:30PM         | Club Business Meeting | Fruitland Grange | Glen Ripper      |
| 15   | Saturday  | 10:00AM-2:00PM | Open House            | Club House       | Jim Christian    |
|      |           | 9:00AM         | Field Trip            | Little Naches    | Dennis Batchelor |
| 16   | Sunday    |                |                       |                  |                  |
| 17   | Monday    | 10:00AM-2:00PM | Open House            | Club House       | Bill Clark       |
| 18   | Tuesday   | 5:00PM         | Cabbing               | Club House       | Ed Knoll         |
| 19   | Wednesday | 10:00AM-2:00PM | Open House            | Club House       | Dennis Batchelor |
| 20   | Thursday  | 5:00PM         | Cabbing               | Club House       | Renera Barnes    |
| 21   | Friday    |                |                       |                  |                  |
| 22   | Saturday  | 10:00AM        | Silversmithing        | Club House       | Dave Sanderson   |
| 23   | Sunday    |                |                       |                  |                  |
| 24   | Monday    | 10:00AM-2:00PM | Open House            | Club House       | Bill Clark       |
| 25   | Tuesday   | 5:00PM         | Cabbing               | Club House       | Ed Knoll         |
| 26   | Wednesday | 10:00AM-2:00PM | Open House            | Club House       | Dennis Batchelor |
|      |           | 4:00PM         | Opal Cutting          | Club House       | Tony Johnson     |
| 27   | Thursday  | 5:00PM         | Cabbing               | Club House       | Renera Barnes    |
| 28   | Friday    | 7:30PM         | Club Program Meeting  | Fruitland Grange | Glen Ripper      |
| 29   | Saturday  | 4:00PM         | Opal Cutting          | Club House       | Tony Johnson     |
| 30   | Sunday    |                |                       |                  |                  |

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

Jim Christian (253) 720-9502

Ed Knoll (253) 651-7453

Dennis Batchelor (360)

870-8741

Tony Johnson (253) 863-9328

Bill Clark (360) 893-6919

Dave Sanderson (253)

## *H & L Lapidary*

Mike and LaVon Siperek (253) 531-7294  
4203 E 99th Street Tacoma, WA 98446  
[yankees\\_diesel@comcast.net](mailto:yankees_diesel@comcast.net)

Amber, Jewelry, Beads, Findings,  
Gemstones, Slabs, Rough Material,  
Fossils and Aussie items

# Field Trip Report

## Field Trips:

### September 15 - Little Naches

Meeting place - 9:00AM 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

### October 13 - Clipper Mine

Meeting place - 9:00AM on Hwy 410 at Buckley Chevron Station

Hunting for - Chrysocolla

Tools you need - Rock hammer, shovel, pry bar, hammer, chisel, treasure scoop, waders, and a backpack/bucket for your treasures - **rubber boots, hard hat and light if you want to go inside the mine**

Access - moderate terrain, climb up slope if you want to go through talus material

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

### August Greenwater Field Trip Review

The August 2018 Greenwater field trip was a wonderful success. This was a combined field trip between PVG&MC and Washington State Mineral Council, so there were many persons who are not necessary PVG&MC members that we got to get to know. There were thirteen cars with many couples and families on Saturday and then seven cars on Sunday. This was an overnight cookout and we have been told the Spaghetti was a hit! Everyone had a good time and found material, some unique pieces like herringbone petrified wood and earth tone seem agate. Stay tuned for pictures of member found material and what it gets turned into.

# Cutting & Grinding Obsidian

By Glen Ripper

Before you start this I would recommend you read my tutorial on Orientation of Sheen Obsidian.

With all Obsidian you want to cut to the best color, usually that is along parallel flow lines. Line up the flow lines parallel to your saw blade, then tilt it at a 5 or 10 degree angle to the color plane. You have to cross through different planes of color to expose other layers.

Each flow line has one color in it, so cutting through multiple bands will usually give you the most and best color. If you cut at too steep of an angle, you will lose the color because it shows parallel to the flow lines. On Lassen Creek Electric Blue, Fire from Glass Butte and some Rainbow cut parallel with the face showing the best color, no matter where the flow lines are. If you cut right, your slab will show color when held straight up and down, not tilted. This is important if you are making a pendant or bola. You'll want the color to show as the person wears it. I prefer to work a relatively flat cab in order to get more return on the color.

After slabbing, work with a template to make the shape you want. If you are doing a free form make a template so that you can outline the shape. Trim out and start your per-form on a grinding wheel. I think most now use diamond, but if are still using carborundum wheel do not start with the 100 grit it is too rough and will chip the obsidian instead of grinding it. Use 220 wheel instead. Diamond ushers start with 80 or 100 grit. Now you have to put a 45 degree bevel all the way round the stone. Some people can do this free hand, but I found it is much easier to have a cab rest or platform that is at a 45 degree angle. Diamond Pacific makes one for their Genie machines. I use a Genie cab rest that I modified to fit my Crystalite unit. You can make your own with a wood block 4 x 4 cut with a miter box guide at 45 degree. Glue a piece of plastic on top so the stone will move easy as you turn it against the grinding wheel. The rest should hit at the center of the grinding wheel. Next mark your girdle line about 1/3 up from the bottom using a aluminum or brass marking rod. You can use a marking pen, but usually the line is too thick. Now mount your stone to a dop stick using wax, glue or what ever you like using. Start grinding at the girdle line and work to the center going in a circle slowly and carefully all the way around. I like to put a solid oval in the middle of the stone that way you can be sure not to have a flat spot on top. Check the profile view the cab often, so you can keep the correctly proportioned dome as you work towards the center. This is important if you are to make a low dome cab. I always cut my slabs thicker than what you get from most dealers, approx 5/16. That way it is easier to make a perfect cab since obsidian is so soft and grinds away quickly.

All my grinding and shaping is done on the 80 grit diamond wheel. After that go to a 220 diamond or 140 Nova then 280 Nova and last 600 Nova for final sanding. On each wheel you want to get rid of any low spots and deep scratches before moving to the next wheel. As you are working dry off the cab and look for any imperfection, before changing wheels the cab should have a uniform look from that grit.

The 600 is the most most important wheel, this is where you will spend the most time. As you work the 600 and have a low spot or deep scratch and it is not coming out, go back to the 280 and rework whole cab again. Remember to keep drying your cab as you work, look and look under a bright light turning at all angles to see if there is spots that need reworking. The whole cab should have a uniform velvet, smooth and semigloss look to it.

Polish is the next step. There are all types of polish that will work on obsidian, some better than others. The best I have found is "Optical grade Cerium Oxide 3 micron 8 mohs pale tan not the regular Cerium which is orange color on leather. My wheel turns at around 300 RPM There are charts for what size pulley to use on your motor and arbor shaft to get the right RPM's. My leather is backed with a piece of indoor outdoor carpet to make it give a little so the piece goes into the leather and wrap around the stone a little bit. You can also use a piece of hard foam that is put under the leather. The best polishing is achieved when the polish is getting warm, but not yet dry. There is a fine line between too wet and too dry. As the polish starts to dry out hit it with a water spray bottle. A spritz of water every few minutes. Keep checking your stone to see how the polish is developing. Now when are sure you are done, go three times longer than you just went. This bring out that extra glass like shine. Note about obsidian. It is a softer stone than agate or jasper, but it takes at least three or four times longer to get a good polish. You will have to keep working obsidian longer than you may have thought.

You want to apply pressure and build up some heat as that makes the surface microscopically melt. Be careful and do not let it get too hot when polishing as some obsidian will get little chips on the surface. This can vary from stone to stone. I have had some stones that can take the heat and no problem. If you do get those little white spots AKA chips you will have to go back to the 600 or maybe even the 280 wheel to get them out. You will have to rework the whole stone, it will not work if you just try to work those spots because it will put scratches at the edges on the polished surface and you will not be able to polish them out.

I hope this has been some help to you. Obsidian is a tough material to work, but oh so beautiful if done right.

## 2018 SHOW TELL THEMES and PROGRAM NIGHT EVENTS

| MEETING                 | DATE               | SHOW & TELL THEME  | PROGRAM NIGHT  |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| January - 1st Meeting   | January 12, 2018   | Crystals + any field trip finds                                |  |
| January - 2nd Meeting   | January 26, 2018   | Green Rocks/Minerals + any field trip finds                    | Rockhounding Tools & Their Use                                 |
| February - 1st Meeting  | February 9, 2018   | Naturally Heart-Shaped Material + any field trip finds         |  |
| February - 2nd Meeting  | February 23, 2018  | Brown Rocks/Material + any field trip finds                    | Rock Sorting at the Grange & Washington State Fair Preparation |
| March - 1st Meeting     | March 9, 2018      | Montana Rocks/Material + any field trip finds                  |  |
| March - 2nd Meeting     | March 23, 2018     | No Show & Tell   | Jerry's Rock & Gem Shop  |
| April - 1st Meeting     | April 13, 2018     | Personal Hand-Crafted Lapidary Projects + any field trip finds |  |
| April - 2nd Meeting     | April 27, 2018     | No Show & Tell   | Auction/Potluck  |
| May - 1st Meeting       | May 11, 2018       | "Pocket" Rocks + any field trip                                |  |
| May - 2nd Meeting       | May 25, 2018       | Birth Stones + any field trip finds                            | Metal Detecting & Rock's Found                                 |
| June - 1st Meeting      | June 8, 2018       | Club Show Purchases/Finds + any field trip finds               |  |
| June - 2nd Meeting      | June 22, 2018      | Thundereggs, Geodes & Nodules + any field trip finds           | Jerry's Rock & Gem Shop  |
| July - 1st Meeting      | July 13, 2018      | Gem Trees and "Get Wired" + any field trip finds               |  |
| July - 2nd Meeting      | July 27, 2018      | No Show & Tell   | Tailgate Party @ Grange Parking Lot                            |
| August - 1st Meeting    | August 10, 2018    | Something "COOL" + any field trip finds                        |  |
| August - 2nd Meeting    | August 25, 2018    | No Show & Tell   | Picnic & Tailgate Party at Swiss Park on Saturday              |
| September - 1st Meeting | September 14, 2018 | Field Trip Finds   |  |
| September - 2nd Meeting | September 28, 2018 | No Show & Tell   | Mini Lapidary  |
| October - 1st Meeting   | October 12, 2018   | Fall Colored Rock/Materials + any field trip finds             |  |
| October - 2nd Meeting   | October 26, 2018   | No Show & Tell   | Auction/Potluck  |
| November - 1st Meeting  | November 9, 2018   | "Woodn't" You Know or "Wood" You + any field trip finds        |  |
| November - 2nd Meeting  | November 23, 2018  | No Show & Tell   | BINGO Night  |
| December - 1st Meeting  | December 15, 2018  | No Show & Tell   | Holiday Banquet/Officer Installation on Saturday               |
| December - 2nd Meeting  | No Meeting         | No Show & Tell   |  |

## 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 Coordinator   | Jim Christian    | (253)720-9502 | Jimchristian_205@hotmail.com |
| Field Trips Coordinator | Dennis Batchelor | (360)870-8741 | hobbyhorse51@gmail.com       |
| Website Coordinator     | Jillian Higgins  | (253)355-3146 | J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com        |
| Editor                  | Jillian Higgins  | (253)355-3146 | J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com        |
| Library                 |                  |               |                              |
| Membership              | Larry Hoffman    | (253)922-9182 | lhoffman1@comcast.net        |
| Sunshine                |                  |               |                              |
| Newsletter              | Jillian Higgins  | (253)355-3146 | J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com        |
| 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](http://www.amfed.org/nfms)

# COOL CABOCHONS

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



## September Birthdays

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Jesse Hubbard      | 5th  |
| Johnny Pierce      | 5th  |
| Peter Hammond      | 7th  |
| Sharon Sasseen     | 7th  |
| Greg Franklin      | 8th  |
| Piotr Wiszwiewski  | 8th  |
| Aurora Preston     | 12th |
| Claudia Vellandi   | 12th |
| Elizabeth Carlson  | 14th |
| Allen Henneberry   | 14th |
| Sophie Carlson     | 15th |
| Erica Davis        | 16th |
| Jacob Hochstrasser | 18th |
| Linda Batchelor    | 20th |
| Shawna Reid        | 22nd |
| Marilyn Clampitt   | 23rd |
| Adam Levine        | 24th |
| Melissa Witt       | 26th |
| Kelsey McLaughlin  | 27th |
| Michell Flint      | 30th |

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

- |                |                   |                    |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. AGATE       | 11. DRUZY         | 20. PETRIFIED WOOD |
| 2. AMBER       | 12. FORTIFICATION | 21. PLUME          |
| 3. AMETHYST    | 13. HEMATITE      | 22. RECTANGLE      |
| 4. AZURITE     | 14. HOWLITE       | 23. RHODOCHROSITE  |
| 5. CARNELIAN   | 15. JADE          | 24. RHODONITE      |
| 6. CHAROITE    | 16. JASPER        | 25. SERPENTINE     |
| 7. CHRYSOPRASE | 17. LAPIS         | 26. SARD           |
| 8. CORAL       | 18. MALACHITE     | 27. SQUARE         |
| 9. CRAZYLACE   | 19. OBSIDIAN      | 29. TUGTUPITE      |
| 10. DENDRITIC  | 20. ONYX          | 30. TURQUOISE      |



# Rock-A-Teer

## **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 prospection 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.