

March 2017



Volume 57 Issue 3

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Rock-A-Teer

Newsletter of the Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club

P.O. Box 134
Puyallup, WA 98371



Helpful Hints

Don't wrap pyrite in newspaper. The acid in the paper will react with the pyrite to dissolve the paper and tarnish the pyrite.

So you just cut a rock into slabs? What are you going to do with the rest of the rock that remains in the saw clamp? SLAB IT!!! Take it out of the clamp and clean the oil off of it. Glue the rock with sodium silicate onto a wooden 2x4 that will fit into the saw clamp. Let dry. Mount the 2x4 into clamp and start cutting. Remove the last slab from the wood by placing it slab side down in a bucket of water. In a day or two it will fall off the wood.

Tony (MAD DOG) Johnson

Buying Rough Stones

Many stones you will have to take at face value, such as thunder eggs, solid agate nodules, opal in its matrix, and many others.

Slabs most of the time are in water to show you how they will look all shined-up, but water will hide cracks in the slabs and glue that was used to stabilize them. It will also hide small pits in the slab. To resolve this, wipe the slab dry and blow air over it. Even micro cracks will show up through little water trails.

Opals in jars of water make them look bigger than they really are. So ask if you can pour them out in a tray. This is not uncommon but normal.

Beware of fake stones like turqolite, which is howlite dyed a turquoise color.

Amber made out of plastic can be tested by putting it in a salt solution and it will float. Or you can heat up a stickpin and stick the amber, it should give off a pine smell.

Everyone wants a good deal. But maybe you should be looking for a fair deal.

Tony (MAD DOG) Johnson



Inside This Issue

- 2017 Officers/Chairs .. 2
- Upcoming Shows 2
- Show & Tell Themes... 3
- Brad's Bench Tips 4
- Kid's Corner 4
- Puzzle 5
- WSMC Field Trips..... 5

Articles not
bylined or
otherwise
"signed" are by
the editor.

Original artwork by Tony
(MAD DOG) Johnson

2017 Elected Officers

<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>E-mail</i>
President:	Jim Christian	(253) 720-9502	jimchristian_205@hotmail.com
Vice President	Glen Ripper	(253) 508-7545	glen311944@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Karen Lebeter	(253) 983-9093	klebeter@msn.com
Treasurer:	Larry Hoffman	(253) 922-9182	lhoffman1@comcast.net
Federation Director:	John Huber	(253) 582-8682	craftyhubers@comcast.net
1 year Director:	Alvin Wible	(253) 720-2946	alvin.wible2@gmail.com
1 year Trustee:	Tony Johnson	(253) 863-9238	

2017 Committee Chairs

<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>E-mail</i>
Clubhouse Coordinator:	Jim Christian	(253) 720-9502	jimchristian_205@hotmail.com
Club Show:	Nancy LeMay	(253) 985-5784	
Editor:	Gina Acosta	(253) 750-4421	aquamaria07@gmail.com
Field Trips:	Tony Johnson	(253) 863-9238	
Junior's Group:	Diana Acosta	(253) 862-9527	acosta10717@comcast.net
Library:	Brett Lawrence	(253) 584-1319	bandslawrence@comcast.net
Membership:	Larry Hoffman	(253) 922-9182	lhoffman1@comcast.net
Newsletter:	Brett & Sherry Lawrence	(253) 584-1319	bandslawrence@comcast.net



Upcoming Shows As Coped from the NFMS Newsletter

March 17 & 18 Fri: 8:30-6 Sat: 9-5	Panorama Gem and Mineral Club	Colville Ag & Trade Center @ Colville Fairground 317 West Astor Colville, WA	Bill Allen (509) 936-2446 sagostore2@charter.net
March 25 & 26 Sat: 10-6 Sun: 10-5	Mt. Baker Rock and Gem Club	Bloedel Donovan Community Center 2214 Electric Avenue Bellingham, WA	Lori Nettles (360) 961-7873 lorinhardy@yahoo.com www.mtbakerrockclub.org
March 24, 25, 26 Sat: 9-5 Sun: 10-5	Rock Rollers Club of Spokane WA	Spokane County Fair & Expo Center N.604 Havana at Broadway Spokane, WA	Vonnie Dillon (509) 951-8173 showchair@rockrollers.org
April 8 & 9 Sat: 9-6 Sun: 10-6	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club	Maplewood Rock & Gem Clubhouse 8802 196 th Street SW Edmonds, WA	Mary Ann Collins (206) 714-3922 collma1@comcast.net
April 22 & 23 Sat: 10-6 Sun: 10-4	Yakima Rock and Mineral Club	Central WA State Fairgrounds Modern Living Building 1301 South Fair Avenue Yakima, WA	Marti Sondgeroth Daytime: (509) 910-3484 marthams@q.com

Show & Tell Themes and Program Nights

Date	Show & Tell Theme (always + field trip finds)	Program Meeting
March 10 th	Oregon State Material	
March 24 th		Jerry's Rock and Gem (Joan & Glen)
April 14 th	Rocks that look like flowers	
April 28 th		Auction/Potluck
May 12 th	Wire Wrapped Jewelry	
May 26 th	Metallic Material	Agates (Mike Wendt) ???

Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club

The Rock-A-Teer, our club bulletin, along with our club activities are dedicated to the encouragement of friendliness, good fellowship, and to inform the members of earth sciences.

Meetings are the second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Friday of each month except:

August (Potluck Picnic 2nd Meeting).

December (Holiday Dinner 1st Meeting, 2nd Meeting cancelled).

Time: 7:30 PM, except for Potluck nights (times to be announced)

Where: Fruitland Grange (112th & 86th Puyallup, WA) unless stated otherwise.

Board Meetings are held on the Tuesday prior to the 1st meeting of the month.

Dues are \$20.00 for a single membership and \$25.00 for a family membership.



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. <http://www.amfed.org/nfms>



March Birthdays

Thomas Berge (9th)
 Rachel Dietz (14th)
 Steve Hingley (14th)
 Peryl Linville (14th)
 Victoria Bower (19th)
 Scott Cannaday (23rd)
 Megan Hochstrasser (25th)
 Rick Brooker (27th)
 Teresa Stone (28th)
 Rachel Stickney (29th)
 Earlene Skinner (31st)

WELCOME NEW MEMBER AND GUESTS

BE SURE TO EXPLORE JOHN HUBER'S ROCK GARDEN IN LAKEWOOD.

LAPIDARY QUALITY MATERIAL NOW FIFTY CENTS PER POUND.

YOU PICK. CALL JOHN AT [253-582-8682](tel:253-582-8682) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

H & I Lapidary

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

Mike & LaVon Siperek
 (253) 531-7294

4203 East 99th St. Tacoma, WA 98446
yankees_diesel@comcast.net

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Brad's Bench Tips Brad Smith

BENCH SHEARS

When cutting sheet metal, it's quicker and easier to use a set of shop shears as compared with using a hand saw. The cut is not as precise, but many times you don't need that. Shears will easily cut up to 24 gauge sheet, and some will cut 22 or even 20 gauge.

Current prices for shears run from \$13 - \$22 in jewelry catalogs, and the Joyce Chen scissors recommended on some jewelry blogs run more than \$20. But we found a cheaper alternative at the 99 Cent Store - some gardening utility scissors that were only \$1.07.

I buy a half dozen of them at a time for use in my jewelry classes. They're great for cutting bezels, trimming around a bezel cup and cutting a piece off a larger sheet.

BEZEL CLOSER

A bezel closer is a steel punch that makes quick work out of pushing the metal down over a round stone and burnishing it. The working end is a concave cavity that fits over your bezel or prong setting and is pushed and twisted to capture the stone. Sets can be purchased but are expensive and contain many sizes you will probably never use. If all you need is

Find a good quality, round steel rod a little larger in diameter than your bezel cup or prong setting. Cut a 5 inch length. File both ends flat. Locate the center of one end, center punch a divot, and drill a small pilot hole about 5 mm deep. Remember to use a little oil as lubricant when cutting steel.

Select a ball bur a bit smaller than the steel rod but slightly larger than the bezel. Enlarge the pilot hole to a full hemispherical cavity. Test for proper fit with your bezel. Bezel should first contact the cavity about a third of the way in. When the size is correct, polish the cavity using Zam on a length of chopstick in your flexshaft. If the tool is not polished, it will leave scratches on your bezel or prongs.

When using the tool, the first step is to capture the stone correctly. I usually work by hand and push the punch straight down over the bezel or prongs. This causes the metal to start bending over the stone. Next I inspect with a lens to be sure the stone is staying level. This is repeated until the stone is seated on its bearing and can't move anymore.

Next you want to force the metal down onto the stone uniformly all the way around. While this can be done by hand, I often gently tap the punch with a hammer. Finally, burnish the bezel by twisting the punch around.

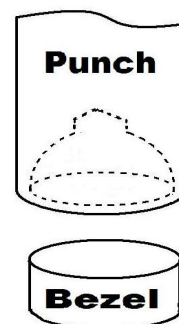
KID'S CORNER Diana Acosta

The Juniors had a terrific time decorating wooden and gourd bird houses with polished stones attached for their lapidary project. We were lucky enough to have Tony Johnson present this project for the kids. He grew his own gourds, dried them for months, cleaned them and drilled holes where needed, all the kids had to do was glue on their rocks and make them unique. Tony didn't have enough gourds so he made wooden bird houses so the kids had choices on one or the other styles. We had seven children attend the meeting and everyone went home happy. Thank you so much Tony! You went out of your way to make our kids these wonderful lapidary projects and I know the parents and kids appreciate all your hard work. We'll look forward to having you back again in the near future!

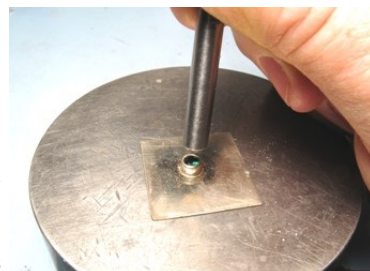
Our next meeting will be on March 10th @ 7:00 pm upstairs in the Fruitland Grange Hall. Hope to see you there.



Shears



Bezel Closer



Mineral Riches - American Mines XIII Brett Lawrence

March 2017

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

1. ADELAIDE
2. ADVANCE
3. ARISTA
4. BLACK HORSE
5. BURCHARD
6. CRYSTAL QUEEN
7. DIANA
8. DREAMLAND
9. FORLORN HOPE
10. GOPHER
11. GYPSY QUEEN
12. HUBBARD
13. JENNY LIND
14. LADY ADAMS
15. LEMAIRE
16. LIBBY CLARK
17. LOWARY
18. LUCERNE
19. NO MONEY
20. PALMETTO
21. PANTHER
22. RAMBLER
23. REDEMPTION
24. SANDULA
25. SILVER MOON
26. STREATOR
27. TRINITY
28. UTOPIA
29. VIRGINIA LOUISE
30. WINDY DAY

WA State Mineral Council Field trips As Copied from The Council Reporter

Date	Host	Site	Meeting Time & Place	Material	Tools
March 11	Marysville	Cedar Ponds	9AM @ East Monroe Jack in the Box	Jasper	Dig & Hard Rock
April 15	Darrington	Racehorse Creek	9AM @ Nugent's Corner IGA	Fossils & Morell mushrooms	Dig & Hard Rock
April 22 & 23	POW	Saddle Mt. Mattawa W	9AM @ Mattawa Lep-Re-Kon Market	Petrified Wood	Dig & Hard Rock
May 13	Ellensburg	Saddle Mt. Mattawa W	9AM @ Mattawa Lep-Re-Kon Market	Petrified Wood (possibly opal)	Dig & Hard Rock
June 15-18	POW	Prineville, OR	"Meet @ Fairgrounds"		
June 22-25	POW	Madras, OR	8AM @ Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds		

Washington State Mineral Council guided field trips are open to member clubs and the general public. Most trips are free. For general updated information, go to: mineralcouncil.wordpress.com or contact Ed Lehman at wsmced@hotmail.com or Home: (425) 334-6282, Cell: (425) 760-2786. Ed is also the contact for both the Darrington and Marysville Rock Club. The POW contact is Larry Vess, vessel3755@gmail.com, (253) 473-3908. Steve Tomns can be contacted at (509) 607-1446 regarding the Ellensburg Rock Club hosted field trip.

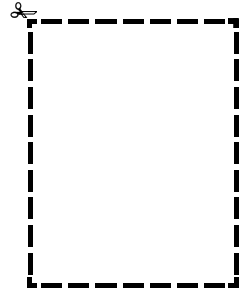


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Clip and Donate stamp to the
Club for Cancer Research.
Please leave about 2" of paper
around the stamp if possible.