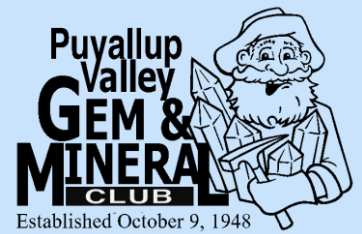


ROCK-A-TEER



Newsletter of the Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club

Jillian Higgins

Issue **13**

Volume **66**

February

2019

This Issue

What's Happening @ Club House P.2

Field Trip Report P.2

Club House Schedule P.3

Article: Why is Rough so Expensive Part 2 P.4-5

Mystery Rock P.5

2019 Show and Tell P.6

2019 Officers and Chairs P.7

Word Search P.8

JANUARY AT THE CLUBHOUSE?

BY JIM CHRISTIAN

The first few days of January were a bit slow but by mid-month activity was pretty much back to normal except for the Saturday member workshops where attendance was a bit lower than expected but we'll see what happens in February. At the January Club House committee meeting a plan to replace the cabbing tables was developed and as soon as the materials and volunteers can be gathered work will begin and during this time the Club House will be closed.



Thanks to **Dick Diedrich** the large tumbler is working again and is undergoing another trial run. We found that the pulleys were misaligned which was causing the drive belts to wear out so **Dick** spent many hours making and installing new mounts for the tumbler in order to re-align the pulleys.

Field Trip Report

February 2019

No Field Trips this Month Due to Weather.

March 16 - Salmon Creek

Meeting place - 9:00AM at Shell Station at exit 505 from I-5 to Toledo

Hunting for - Carnelian, Red & Yellow Jasper, and Coprolight (Dino Poop)

Tools you need - Rock hammer, shovel, **Rubber Boots or Chest Waiters** and a backpack/bucket for your treasures

Access - this area is fairly easy to access, 1/2 mile hike with no incline

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

Please remember that even though we love to meet new people, fieldtrips are a member benefit and part of your membership dues covers you for injury liability.

Thou injuries are rare, and we do everything we can to avoid them, we are going out into nature, and uncontrollable environment.

All individuals attending field trips will have to sign a release of liability, and if you are bringing guests, we will try to entice them into join the club by having Membership applications available.

Please see the membership section of the website if you want an application beforehand.

FEBRUARY 2019 CLUB HOUSE SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	INSTRUCTOR
1	Friday				
2	Saturday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Workshop	Club House	Glen Ripper
3	Sunday				
4	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Workshop	Club House	Bill Clark
5	Tuesday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Workshop	Club House	Ed Knoll
		7:00PM	Club Board Meeting	Fruitland Grange	Nichole Davis
6	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Workshop	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
		4:00PM-8:00PM	Wire Wrapping	Club House	Tony Johnson
7	Thursday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Workshop	Club House	Renera Barnes
15	Friday	7:30PM	Club Business Meeting	Fruitland Grange	Glen Ripper
9	Saturday	10:00AM-3:00PM	Rock Painting	Club House	Megan Hochstrasser
10	Sunday				
11	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Workshop	Club House	Bill Clark
		7:00PM-8:00PM	Opal Club Business Meet.	Club House	Tony Johnson
12	Tuesday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Workshop	Club House	Ed Knoll
13	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Workshop	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
		4:00PM-8:00PM	Opal Cutting	Club House	Tony Johnson
14	Thursday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Workshop	Club House	Renera Barnes
15	Friday				
16	Saturday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Workshop	Club House	Jim Christian
17	Sunday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Silversmithing	Club House	Dave Sanderson
18	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Workshop	Club House	Bill Clark
19	Tuesday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Workshop	Club House	Ed Knoll
20	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Workshop	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
		4:00PM-8:00PM	Wire Wrapping	Club House	Tony Johnson
21	Thursday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Workshop	Club House	Renera Barnes
22	Friday	7:30PM	Club Program Night	Fruitland Grange	Glen Ripper
23	Saturday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Gem Trees	Club House	To Be Announced
24	Sunday				
25	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Workshop	Club House	Bill Clark
26	Tuesday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Workshop	Club House	Ed Knoll
27	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Workshop	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
		4:00PM-8:00PM	Opal Cutting	Club House	Tony Johnson
28	Thursday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Workshop	Club House	Renera Barnes

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

Jim Christian (253) 720-9502
 Tony Johnson (253) 863-9328
 Renera Barnes rsb1224@netscape.com

Ed Knoll (253) 651-7453
 Bill Clark (360) 893-6919
 Glen Ripper (253) 508-7545

Dennis Batchelor (360) 870-8741
 Dave Sanderson (253) 572-8109
 Megan Hochstrasser (253) 330-2038

Gem rough is expensive... Why? Is it really? How about some perspective. – Part 2

By Jeff R. Graham

International Gem Society Article

You will seldom be able to buy the big three (Ruby, Sapphire, Emerald) as rough in good quality that you can make much money on (at least in the short run). You will often be able to buy the native cut stones better and cheaper to recut. Even then, there is often not a lot of profit. I cannot get quality Sapphire rough very often and I deal directly with the miners in a lot of cases. If you think that the miners are selling good Sapphire rough for pennies, then you are sadly miss-informed. The miners know the prices and they get a fair profit for it in most cases. Often almost what the cut stones are selling for wholesale, that is one major reason there is no rough available. People have to cut it to make money.

There are buyers set up with card tables right at the mines buying the rough as it comes out of the ground. The miners often go from table to table to get the best price. There is competition for the rough right at the mine(s). Miners get a decent price and they know the going rate. Wouldn't you if you were a miner? Especially in the Internet age? The idea that the middle men are making all the money is ridiculous. Yes, they make some money, it is called earning a living, some do better than others. But that is life. Nobody gets into a business to not make money.

Are you giving your cut stones away to strangers free? I doubt it. Although my girlfriend gets her share. The reality of rough gemstones is. There is a certain point that a person (rough dealer, miner, faceter) will be willing to sell a piece of rough and a point where they will not. This point is usually pretty close to what the going wholesale rate is on the cut stones, especially if the rough is a commercial variety with a good market (Sapphire for example). This point often changes as the dollar amount gets large, but it still exists.

The hobby market is hardly a drop in the bucket to the gemstone/rough market. It takes money to make money and as the jewelry and gemstone market gets larger and larger, this will be even more of a factor. Big guys with the money are going to get more, and pay more because they have the market. Rough, if it is even available, is going to be more expensive, it is a market force and frankly rough dealers have no control over it. No matter what some people would like to think.

Sorry, all the hobby factors, rough dealers, cutters, pro cutters and anybody else on this side of the equation together are not going to have very much influence on the rough market. The big commercial interests (or governments) will control the market and the ultimate price of rough. People buying a few select stones, are going to have to pay for the privilege. That includes rough dealers buying smaller amounts than the big guy too.

I can tell you that it is a poor businessman that sells a stone rough for \$5 when he could cut it and get \$10. What would you do? That is what is happening, not only at the dealer level but more and more mines and countries that have a lot of mines are developing their own cutting houses and marketing directly. Some are private parties buying direct at the mine(s) in the country where the mines are located and then cutting locally, but there are a lot of governments getting involved too.

Sri Lanka is a good example. They used to export rough and cut stones, now it is basically illegal to take rough out of the country (the government wants all the rough cut

in the country for the extra profit). I have not seen a piece of Sri Lanka rough in a long time. What do you think the effect of this government law has been on the rough market? How about on the cut market? Right, things are more expensive and not available. Other governments are doing this too, I am hearing about it and have seen it in many gemstone producing countries, prices are going to go up on rough, that is if it is even available.

I have said before that a lot of rough dealers are cutting their cherries (top stones) and selling them cut. Why shouldn't they? The only way a faceter is going to get that type of rough. is to make it worth the dealers/miners while. The dealer selling the rough for a little less money than he could get for the same stone cut, but without having to cut it. Then it is worth the dealer's while to sell it rough. Say, sell it for \$8. to a faceter, instead of \$10 cut into a gemstone. That is business.

As far as mark up, if you have ever been in business then you know that the market finds it's own level. If the rough is not of the right quality for the price then it will not sell. Buyers let their wallets vote for them. As far as a high mark up, well most businesses have about a 20-40% overhead (majority of them are in the low 30's) so you do the math. That overhead is not counting, income taxes (20-40% for the average person, FICA...), loss, and all types of other costs too numerous to list. Most people are making a living, some of them a very good living, but I would not say they are getting rich. Whether you like it or not this is how the market forces are driving gemstones/rough/supplies. You can always cut man-made materials... make your own laps, and faceting machines. But in general the market sets the price of about anything, and I know some people will not believe me but the customer is usually getting an honest fair price. Sometimes customers are getting prices so low the guy selling to them is going out of business, he just is not gone yet.

Did you guess what this is from January 2019 Newsletter?
Bogwood from Johnny Pierce



2019 SHOW & TELL THEMES and PROGRAM NIGHT EVENTS

MEETING	DATE	SHOW & TELL THEME	PROGRAM NIGHT EVENT
January – 1 st Meeting	January 11, 2019	Fortification Agates + any field trip finds	
January – 2 nd Meeting	January 25, 2019	Thundereggs, Geodes, & Nodules + any field trip finds	Field Trip Preparedness Tony Johnson
February – 1 st Meeting	February 8, 2019	Heart-Shaped & Red Material + any field trip finds	
February – 2 nd Meeting	February 22, 2019	Pink and Lace + any field trip finds	Carlson Jewelry Store, Carl Carlson
March – 1 st Meeting	March 8, 2019	Green Minerals + any field trip finds	
March – 2 nd Meeting	March 22, 2019	No Show & Tell	Jerry's Rock & Gem Shop
April – 1 st Meeting	April 12, 2019	Creaks & River Materials + any field trip finds	
April – 2 nd Meeting	April 26, 2019	No Show & Tell	Auction/Potluck
May – 1 st Meeting	May 10, 2019	Rocks only a Mother Could Love + any field trip finds	
May – 2 nd Meeting	May 24, 2019	Fossils, Meteorites, & Pocket Rocks + any field trip finds	To Be Determined
June – 1 st Meeting	June 14, 2019	Club Show Purchases + any field trip finds	
June – 2 nd Meeting	June 28, 2019	Petrified Wood + any field trip finds	Jerry's Rock & Gem Shop
July – 1 st Meeting	July 12, 2019	Crystals & Silversmithing + any field trip finds	
July – 2 nd Meeting	July 26, 2019	No Show & Tell	Tailgate Party @ Grange Parking Lot
August – 1 st Meeting	August 9, 2019	Fair Entries and Wire Wrapped Items + any field trip finds	
August – 2 nd Meeting	August 23, 2019	No Show & Tell	Picnic & Tailgate Party at Swiss Park on Saturday
September-1 st Meeting	September 13, 2019	Polished Slabs + Field Trip Finds	
September-2 nd Meeting	September 27, 2019	No Show & Tell	Mini Lapidary Demonstrations
October-1 st Meeting	October 11, 2019	Obsidian & Opals + any field trip finds	
October-2 nd Meeting	October 25, 2019	No Show & Tell	Auction/Potluck
November-1 st Meeting	November 8, 2019	Fall Colors & Faceted Stones + any field trip finds	
November-2 nd Meeting	November 22, 2019	No Show & Tell	BINGO Night
December – 1 st Meeting	December 14, 2019	No Show & Tell	Holiday Banquet/Officer Installation on Saturday
December – 2 nd Meeting	No Meeting	No Show & Tell	

2019 Elected Officers

Title	Name	Phone	Email
President:	Glen Ripper	(253)508-7545	glen311944@yahoo.com
Vice President:	Nichole Davis	(253)466-7090	ayckb0urn@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Teresa Rodrick	(253)531-4062	gtrodi@comcast.net
Treasurer:	Jillian Higgins	(253)355-3146	J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com
Federation Director:	Bill Clark	(360)893-6919	clarkwa@comcast.net
1 Year Director:	Paul Giese	(253)219-6168	steelhdfsh@yahoo.com
2 Year Director:	Karen Lebeter	(253)579-7768	lebeterk@gmail.com
1 Year Trustee:	Glenn Rodrick	(253)531-4062	gtrodi@comcast.net
2 Year Trustee:	Tony Johnson	(253)863-9238	

2019 Committee Chairs

Title	Name	Phone	Email
Club House 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
Web Master	Jillian Higgins	(253)355-3146	J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com
Editor	Jillian Higgins	(253)355-3146	J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com
Membership	Larry Hoffman	(253)922-9182	lhoffman1@comcast.net
Sunshine	Karen Lebeter	(253)579-7768	lebeterk@gamil.com
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 affiliated with the American
 Federation of Mineralogical Societies.
www.amfed.org/nfms



INTERNATIONAL GEM TREASURES

D N A L T O C S P A I N O S P C M
 A B I R S A M O R O C C O R I Z Y
 P S A R T H N F L R E E E N J E A
 N A U I C N W Z G O T A D A U C N
 Y E K R U T O A A T M I I D G H M
 U E N I E L E O I N A B A A M R A
 N T A G S R Y R A S I T I N A E R
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 T D S A C A A M A E B U I C L U E
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|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. AFGHANISTAN | 11. INDIA | 21. SCOTLAND |
| 2. ARGENTINA | 12. IRAN | 22. SOUTH AFRICA |
| 3. AUSTRALIA | 13. JAPAN | 23. SPAIN |
| 4. BOLIVIA | 14. MEXICO | 24. TANZANIA |
| 5. BRAZIL | 15. MOROCCO | 25. THAILAND |
| 6. CANADA | 16. MYANMAR | 26. TURKEY |
| 7. CHINA | 17. NAMIBIA | 27. UNITED STATES |
| 8. COLOMBIA | 18. NIGERIA | 28. URUGUAY |
| 9. CZECH REPUBLIC | 19. PAKISTAN | 29. VIETNAM |
| 10. ENGLAND | 20. RUSSIA | 30. ZAIRE |

Do you or someone you know have a collection of rocks and/or equipment and you don't know what to do with it??? Puyallup Valley Gem and Mineral Club can help. Contact Tony Johnson (253) 863-9238 or Glen Ripper (253) 508-7545 for information or advice.

February 2019

Johanna Crichton	5 th	Brett Lawrence	21 st
Lloyd Poehler	5 th	Paul Lenichek	23 rd
Daniel Giles	7 th		
Bentley Clark	9 th		

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!