

September 2024 Volume 64 Issue 7

SKAGIT GEMS

Official Publication of the Skagit Rock and Gem Club
Serving Skagit County WA Since 1961

Next meeting:

September 7th, 10am @ the Mount Vernon Senior Center

Gem of the Month: Flint

Refreshments: Feel free to bring a snack!

Notice!

The location of our November Rock and Gem Show has changed!

The new location will be:

**Sedro-Woolley Eagles
1000 Metcalf St
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284**

Notice!

Opportunity Available!

Volunteer(s) needed to organize and run the Raffle for our November Rock and Gem show.

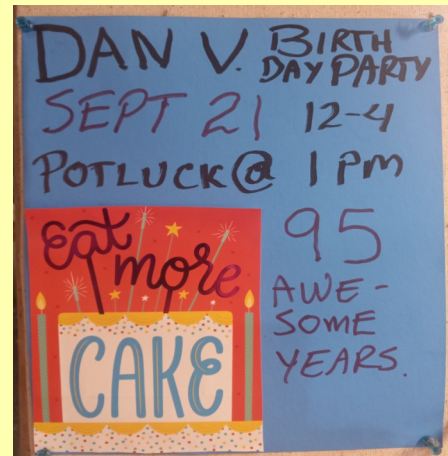
The proceeds from the Raffle go to our Scholarship Fund.

More information will be available at our September meeting.

DUES ARE DUE!

Please pay at September meeting
or by mail

Mark your calendars and join in the celebration of Dan Vandenberg's 95th Birthday!



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From the Editor:

It certainly feels like fall is in the air and that means our Annual Rock and Gem Show is right around the corner! Be sure to mark your calendars for: November 8th for set up, and November 9th and 10th for the show. We will also have sign-up sheets at the upcoming meetings with several positions available for volunteers, including someone to organize and run the Raffle that supports our Scholarship Fund. For more information on the Raffle Coordinator and other volunteer opportunities, be sure to come to the meeting September 7th. And don't forget, this year our show will be held at a different location, the Sedro-Woolley Eagles Hall, located at 1000 Metcalf Street. This is a great event where everyone can get involved and support our Club!

In case you missed our August meeting, Julie Curry brought several incredible photos of inner inclusions of quartz crystals. They were beautiful and so interesting to look at. It was easy to let your imagination get lost in them. Thanks for sharing them with us Julie!

Our September program will be presented by Jennifer Ross and will be all about flint from Neolithic Mines in Scotland. Be sure to read her piece about Flint in this newsletter and come to our September meeting for her presentation.

If you've been to our Annual Swap and Potluck our club holds in July, you won't want to miss Dan Vandenberg's 95th birthday celebration on September 21 from 12-4 with the potluck starting at 1:00! Be sure to thank him for all the years he's contributed to our Club!

And remember, it's time to renew your membership dues!

See you at the meeting and Keep Rockin',

Charlene



Time Again for Dues!

Once again, dues are due. Your yearly dues cover membership privileges from September 1st through August 31st.

Please pay dues if you would like to continue your membership and receive the newsletter. Membership dues must be paid to use the club shop.

Membership forms are available at every meeting. Invite your "rockhound" friends to our next one!

Dues are \$20.00 for single membership, \$30.00 for family, and \$25.00 for single, plus kid(s) under age 16.

Payment can be made by cash or check at a meeting or by mailing the form and payment to address below:

Dave Britten
PO Box 244
Mount Vernon, WA 98273





VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Meetings are on the FIRST Saturday of the month
(except for Jan, July and Dec) 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 a member of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Washington State Mineral Council.



We are affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Dues are \$20.00 for single membership, \$30.00 for family, and \$25.00 for single, plus kid(s) under age 16.



Visit our website: skagitrockandgem.com

Find us on Facebook

Email: skagitrockandgem@gmail.com

Mailing address: PO BOX 244

Mount Vernon WA 98273



2024 Officers & Board Members

- President · Eric Self
 360-366-6118
- Vice President · Peggy Peterson
 425-299-4123
- Treasurer · David Britten
 360-755-0741
- Secretary · Bruce Hurley
 702-336-0395
- Fed. Director · Open
- Past President · Wes Frank
 360-757-6276
- Bulletin Editor · Charlene Rhodes
 360-333-2156

Committees

- Annual Show Chair.....Eric Self
- Facilities/Field Trips..Dave Britten
- Greeter.....Peggy Peterson
- Scholarship.....Kim Kellems
 and Shelley Van Pelt
- Publicity.....Open
- Sunshine.....Open
- Swap.....Vandenberg's

Skagit Club Meeting Notes, August 3, 2024

The August meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Dave Britten.

Board Members present were Dave Britten, Charlene Rhodes, and Bruce Hurley.

Board Members absent were Eric Self and Peggy Peterson. We had 3 guests from Mount Vernon: Sarah Miller, Teresa Miller, and Chuck Beaver. Guest Prizes were given out. Ten members were in attendance. Meeting Minutes from June 1, 2024, and the Treasurer's Report from today, were read and approved as given.

Old Business:

The 2024 Skagit Rock Club Fall Show will be held at the Eagles Club facility in Sedro-Woolley on November 9 and 10. The Show set-up will be on Friday, November 8. Dealers have been notified and are on board with the new location.

Dave and Rick have been making progress on the water system for the grinders and sanders in the Club Shop. They will soon be able to test the machines – and prepare the wheels. Still aiming for cabochon making.... but not quite there yet!

New Business: There was no new business to discuss.

The program for August was about inclusions within minerals. Julie Curry gave a presentation with poster enlargements of photos of inclusions and fractures within clear quartz crystals. The posters were enlargements of 50-power photographs through a microscope and were quite striking.

Club members also brought examples of mineral specimens containing inclusions.

We inspected the specimens during our snack break.

The program for September will be about flint from Neolithic Mines in Scotland.

The Gem of the month for September will be Flint.

Dave adjourned the August meeting at 11:15 a.m.

The AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION (ALAA) is a 501(c)(4) organization. Its purpose is to promote and ensure the right of amateur hobby fossil and mineral collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public lands managers. Your annual individual/couple membership fee is \$25 which helps support their activities. Club membership is \$50 per year.

Send to Treasurer, P.O. Box 54398, San Jose, CA 95154. Make checks payable to: American Lands Access Assn. Applications can be downloaded at: www.amlands.org on the left side of the page. For more information contact: Frank Mullaney, 408-266-1791, cell: 408- 691-2655, Rockyfiv(at) aol.com

2024 W S M C FIELD TRIPS UPDATE 3/21/24 (add 4/20 trip)

The WA St. Mineral Council plans guided fieldtrips to collecting sites. Open to member clubs, and the general public. Most trips are free. Included are the Pow Wow trips (must join to go on trips). Host clubs and contact persons will be set up as I gather info. For updated info, go to mineralcouncil.zoho.com or contact Ed Lehman at wsmced2@outlook.com or h ph# (425) 334-6282 Cell# (425) 760-2786. Pow Wow Dues are \$7.50 each or \$15 a family. They supply 2 free breakfast's on trips (what a deal).

| DATE | HOST | SITE | MATERIAL | Meet @ | TOOLS |
|-------------|------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 01/20 or 27 | MSVL | Walk Vly | 9am Agate | Blg Lake Store | Sm shovel, sm pick, Rock & 3# hammer, chisel, Bar |
| 02/17 | MSVL | W W U | 9:30 Tour | WWU Park lot "C" | Camera |
| 03/16 | MSVL | Cherry Ck | 9am Jasper | Duvall @ Cherry Val Rd | Rock hammer, Wadeing Boots |
| 04/13 & 14 | Pow | Saddle Mt | 8am Pet Wood | Matawa Boat Launch | Shovel, rock hammer, sm pick |
| 04/20 | MSVL | Racerorse Ck | 9am Fossils & Mushrooms | Sunset Hwy 10mi East I-5 | Bellingham Rock splitting tools |
| 05/18 | DAR | Bailey Trail | 9am Chert | Verlot Ranger Station | rock & large hammers, pry bar |
| 06/15 | MSVL | Saddle Mt | 9am Pet wood | Matawa Grocery Store | Shovel, rock hammer, sm pick |
| 07/20 | DAR | Sweetwater | 11am Travertinene | Darrington Rock Show | Rock & 3# hammers, chisel, sm pry bar |
| 08/24 | MSVL | Lk Wenatchee | 9am Garnets | Lake Wenatchee Park | sm shovel, 1/4" mesh box screen & tweezers |
| 08/17 & 8 ? | P V | Green Water | 9am Agate-Jasper-Opal | FR 70 @ washout bend | shovel, sm pick, Rock & 3# hammers, sm pry bar |
| 09/7&8 | POW | Red Top | 8am Atgate-Jasper-Geodes | Teanaway Camp Grnd | same as above & chisel |
| 09/21 ? | Opal | St Naches | 10am T-Eggs Fossils-Lilypad | Hwy 410 & FR 91 | same as 2 above |
| 10/19 | DAR | Index | 9am Pic Jasper | Hwy 2 & Index Rd | Rock hammer, wading boots |
| 11/16 | MSVL | Blanchard Hill | 9am Dalmation St | I-5 @ Alger RD gas & go | Heavy hard rock tools & safety glasses |

Mineral Council Field Trips Contact Information

HOST CLUB CONTACT INFO

MSVL = Marysville Rock Club Ed Lehman wsmced@hotmail.com h# (425) 334-6282 c# (425) 760-2786

MSVL = Nique Wicks nwhopyfrog41@gmail.com (509) 670-0630

DARR = Darrington Rock Club " " " " " " :

Opal = Tony Johnson (253) 863-9238 ynotopals@outlook.com

PVGM = Dennis Bachelor (360) 870-8741

POW = All Rockhounds Pow Wow Larry Vess vessel3755@gmail.com or (253) 473-3908

Keep updated on <http://www.mineralcouncil.zoho.com> Land management changes, and roads close regularly. There is a area on web page with tool category in pictures and names of tools.

Always have proper cloths and gear for conditions. Be prepared with safety, first aid, food and drink.

A week before trips I (Ed Lehman) will have a pdf file with map and info for that trip I can send you on request. I will do the same for trip host.

Try to be at the meeting site 30 minutes before trip time for details and instructions with a full tank of gas.

Use code of ethics, keep our lands open to rockhounding.

ALWAYS contact host for updated info a week before your trip!!!

Flint

By Jennifer Ross



What is it?

Flint, also referred to as flint stone, is a sedimentary rock consisting of microscopic, nearly undetectable (cryptocrystalline) crystals of the mineral quartz (SiO_2). (1) Flint is a variety of chert that occurs primarily in chalk. (3) Flint's fracture pattern is conchoidal, like glass, and allows extremely sharp edges to be created. (9)

Flint (2)

How does it develop?

Flint formation occurred largely during the Cretaceous Era, 145 mya to 66 mya, when sea levels were at nearly the highest level in the Earth's history. Marine life was abundant. Chalk, calcium carbonate, was first laid down through the deposition of the skeletons of sea creatures. Acidic conditions due to bacterial activity allowed for chalk to dissolve and silica to precipitate in nodules, layers and lenses. (3)

Where is it found?

Flint is found anywhere that has chalk. Chalk is widespread globally with notable formations in the British Isles, United States midwestern states, Egypt and in Europe. (4), (5) Neolithic pit mines are found in these and other areas around the world.



Flint nodule weathering out of chalk near Dover, UK. (6)

Why is it important?

Flint, as well as chert, obsidian and tektites, was an important resource to early hominids and humans. Flint and other knappable stones were mined, traded and worked all over the world until the end of the Stone Age, approximately 2000 BCE. (7). The earliest evident for flint tool manufacturing (“knapping”) by a member of the genus Homo is 2.6 million years old and was discovered at Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. (8) Conchoidal fracturing allowed knappers to make tools that had a sharp cutting edge. (9) Modern uses for flint include building and paving material, for fire making and in early firearms.

Flint knife



References

- 1) Ohio Department of Natural Resources. “Flint”. <https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/rock-minerals-fossils/minerals/flint>
- 2) Attribution: Wikipedia. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flint>
- 3) Lane, Amanda “Flint Formed in Chalk”. <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Education-and-Careers/Ask-a-Geologist/Earth-Materials/Flint-Formed-in-Chalk>
- 4) Nature News. 1/25/24 “Earth Treasures, Flint Stone”. <https://naturenews.africa/earth-treasures-flint-stone/>
- 5) Ohio Department of Natural Resources. “Flint”. <https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/rock-minerals-fossils/minerals/flint>
- 6) Attribution: Richard Milton, 2018. Museum of The Stone Age. <https://www.stoneagetools.co.uk/what-is-flint.htm>
- 7) Classifications: Prehistoric Eras. <https://harvardartmuseums.org/tour/2/slide/3>
- 8) Flenniken, J. Jeffery. “The Past, Present, and Future of Flintknapping: An Anthropological Perspective.” *Washington State University*. 1984 <http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev.an.13.100184.001155>
- 9) “Conchoidal Fracture: A Lucky Break”, *Rock and Gem Magazine*, 3/4/2024. <https://www.rockngem.com/conchoidal-fracture-lucky-break/>



Upcoming Washington Rock & Gem Show Dates

September 2024

8-10—LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON: Southern Washington Mineralogical Society Show, Cowiltz County Fairgrounds, 1900 7th Ave, Longview, WA; Hours: Fri 11:00-5:00 Sat 9:00-5:00 Sun 9:00-4:00; Food, Door Prizes, Spin Table, Display Cases, Silent Auction, Vendors, Demonstrations. Contact: Crystal Show and Dealer Chairman swmineralogicalsociety@gmail.com

21-22—PORT ANGLES, WASHINGTON: 308 E 4th St; Clallam County Gem and Mineral Association, Fall Show; Vern Burton Community Center; Saturday 9-5 Sunday 10-4; Free Admission; Show Coordinator: Kelly Hagood, kmhagood@gmail.com Website: sequimrocks.org

October 2024

5-6—MONROE, WASHINGTON: Evergreen Fairgrounds, Bldg. 500, 14405 179th Ave. SE; Saturday 10-5 Sunday 10-5; Marysville Rock and Gem Club present: 48th Annual "Rocktoberfest" Gem and Mineral Show. Contact: Christine Morrissey cmvw@frontier.com or <http://www.marysvillerockclub.com>

November 2024

8-10—PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc; Washington State Fair Events Center, 110 9th Ave SW; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$7 weekend pass; Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, pearls, minerals, fashion accessories & much more at manufacturer's prices. Jewelry repair & cleaning while you shop. For more info, visit www.gemfaire.com or call (503) 252-8300 or email: info@gemfaire.com; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; Email: info@gemfaire.com; Website: <http://www.gemfaire.com>

9-10—SEDRO-WOOLLEY, WASHINGTON: Treasures of the Earth; A Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show; Sedro-Woolley Fraternal Order of the Eagles Hall, 1000 Metcalf St; Friday 9-5 and Saturday 10-4. Free Admission Hourly door prizes, Dealers, Demonstrations, Raffle, Children's Activities, and more! Contact: Email: skagitrockandgem@gmail.com. Website: skagitrockandgem.com

23-24—BREMERTON, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Kitsap Mineral & Gem Society; Kitsap Fairgrounds & Event Center, 1250 NW Fairgrounds Road; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Free admission; Come for our Silent Auction, Junior's Activity tables, Demonstrators, Raffle Prizes and so much more; contact Danielle Foss; Email: kmgfallshow@gmail.com; Website: www.kmgrockclub.com

SOUTHERN WASHINGTON MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY



58TH ANNUAL

ROCK & GEM SHOW

WHERE

**COWLITZ COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS EVENT CENTER**
1900 7TH AVE
LONGVIEW, WA 98632

WHEN

SAT SEP 7TH 10am – 5pm
SUN SEP 8TH 10am – 4pm

MORE INFO

CRYSTAL TEEL, Show Chair
swmineralogicalsociety@gmail.com
(360) 355-6424

ALL AGES EVENT

**FREE
ADMISSION &
PARKING**

FEATURING

- Silent Auction
- Door Prizes
- Spin Table
- Demonstrators
- Member Display Cases
- Black Light Display
- Dealers
- Food

VENDORS

Click on QR code below
if you are interested in
reserving a space



2024



FREE

Presents

**THE 48TH ANNUAL
"Rocktoberfest"
Gem and Mineral Show**

October 5th & 6th

Saturday: 10am-5pm
Sunday: 10am-5pm

EVERGREEN FAIRGROUNDS
Bldg 500
14405-179th Ave SE
Monroe, WA

Door Prizes • Exhibits • Raffle Drawing
Demonstrators • Dealers • Food Service

For More Information, Contact:
Brien Murril (425)348-9313 Email: bsmurril@aol.com
www.marysvillerockclub.com or find us on Facebook

MT. BAKER ROCK & GEM CLUB

PRESENTS

**ROCKHOUND
RENDEZVOUS**

Members SALE



**ROCKS, JEWELRY, TOOLS,
& ROCK RELATED ITEMS**

DATE

- SATURDAY September 14

LOCATION

- Ferndale Community Center

2007 Cherry Street

TIME

- 9:00 AM UNTIL 5:00 PM

Information

- call Ralph 281-806-4909 , Mike 360-354-7083

www.mtbakerrockclub.org

Upcoming things to do!

COMPLETE LAPIDARY SHOP LIQUIDATION SALE FROM 40-YEAR ROCKHOUND COLLECTION

SALE DATE (ONE DAY ONLY)

SATURDAY SEPT. 28, 2024

10:00AM – 4:00PM

ONE DAY ONLY! CASH ONLY!

SALE LOCATION

2124 EAST GRAND AVE (BLUE HOUSE)

EVERETT, WA 98201

(PARK ON STREET)

FEATURING CABS, EQUIPMENT, AND ROUGH ROCK, INCLUDING:

16" SLAB SAW (H-P)

14" SLAB SAW LORTONE LSS 14P

COMBO SAW/ARBOR 8" WHEELS (H-P)

TRIM SAW (PRO SLICER)

ACETYLENE TIPS & TANKS

8-WHEEL CABGING UNIT (KINGSLEY)

2-WHEEL GRINDER W/ TRIM SAW (H-P)

2-WHEEL SANDER

2-WHEEL POLISHER

8" LEATHER POLISHER

BUCKETS & BUCKETS OF ROUGH!!

RING SAW

DRILL PRESS

EXTRA WHEELS (NEW)

STORAGE CABINETS

MISC. HAND TOOLS

JEWELER'S BENCH

MISC. PARTS & SUPPLIES

12-FT WORK BENCH

CABOCHONS (HUNDREDS!)

DISPLAY STANDS

NOTE: ALL EQUIPMENT IN GOOD USABLE CONDITION W/ MOTORS!!

CASH ONLY! BRING A FRIEND, BRING YOUR TRUCK, SHARE THE LOAD!! PRICED TO SELL \$\$\$
SPONSORED BY: EVERETT ROCK & GEM CLUB EVERETTROCKCLUB.COM FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Skagit Rock & Gem Club *Presents*

A Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

New Location!

New Location!

Nov. 9th 9 - 5 & Nov. 10th 10 - 4

Sedro Woolley Eagles Hall 1000 Metcalf St.



Hourly door prizes · Dealers · Demonstrations

FREE ADMISSION

Raffle · children's activities

skagitrockandgem@gmail.com · skagitrockandgem.com

GPS Co-ordinates Needed

The WSMC needs the GPS co-ordinates of any and all of the collecting sites in the state. In an effort to make the map booklets as accurate as possible the Mineral Council is asking for everyone to record GPS readings while on field trips The data can also be used to help in our fight to keep our collecting areas open.

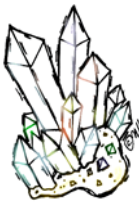
2024 Skagit Rock and Gem Club Schedule

January 13 – Installation Banquet
February 3 – General Meeting
March 2 – General Meeting
April 6 – General Meeting
May 4 – General Meeting
June 1 – General Meeting
July 13 – Annual Potluck and Swap Meet
August 3 – General Meeting
September 7 – General Meeting
October 5 – General Meeting
November 2 – General Meeting
November 9th & 10th – Skagit Rock & Gem Annual Show

If you have articles or information for the newsletter, please submit to:

Charlene Rhodes
piratequeen@centurytel.net

Skagit Rock and Gem Club
Charlene Rhodes, Editor
PO BOX 244
Mount Vernon, WA 98273



It's that
time of year!

Your annual
Club Membership
dues are due!