



The Ms Tumbler

October
2026

The monthly newsletter of the Cascade Mineralogical Society, Inc., Kent, Washington

Next Meeting:
October 8, 2026
7:00 p.m.

American Legion Hall
25406 97th PI S
Kent, WA

The Program is using
GAIA GPS for
rockhounding

The Show & Tell
Theme is rocks with
a great story

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Connect with us!

Website: <https://www.cascademineralogicalsociety.org>
Club Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CasMinSoc/>
Facebook Groups: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1168207926650075>
Show Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cascadegemandmineralshow>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cascaderockclub/>
YouTube Channel (Please like and subscribe):
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaGIJxaWFaTV_JjgZRM9ESA

This month remember to wish a
Happy Birthday to

Allison Morrell on October 2
Mike Ludin on October 3
Katherine Koch on October 4
Sarah Michelle Searcy on October 4
Charles Benedict on October 6
Erin Anderson on October 8
Charina Naputo on October 8
Mrs. Walcott on October 8
Matthew Kalm on October 9
Gregg Harmon on October 10
Keith Alan Morgan on October 11
Sherry Wittrock on October 11
Blossom Storms on October 14
Beth Mason on October 16
Alara Walcott on October 19
Engin Polat on October 20
Price Post on October 21
Christine Bennett on October 22
Jacquelyn Reinhart on October 25

and also remember to wish a
Happy Anniversary to

Sarah Michelle & Mr. Searcy on October 11
Joshua & Ana Dobner on October 16
Les & Sheri Church on October 20



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Tips, suggestions, recipes and experiments printed in this newsletter are the experiences and/or opinions of the individuals submitting them. We are not responsible for their authenticity, safety, or reliability. Caution and safety should always be practiced when trying out any new idea.

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Renton, WA 98055

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Postal, or Email, Exchange
Bulletins are welcome.
Email preferred.
greenrockdraggin@yahoo.com

2026 Elected Officers

President Noelle Barnes	206-914-0514	geonoelle@outlook.com
Vice President Michelle Maidman	206-395-5270	maidmmm@yahoo.com
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Mineral Council Ananda Cooley	206-683-7787	cascademstreasurer@gmail.com

2026 Show Committees

Book Display Cases Roger Danneman	425-228-8781	Roger.Danneman@gmail.com
Display Cases Roger Danneman	425-228-8781	Roger.Danneman@gmail.com
Mail Flyers Bev Williams	425-891-5094	britbev1957@outlook.com
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Show & Raffle Donations Kat Koch	425-765-5408	president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
Volunteer Recruiter Roger Danneman	425-228-8781	Roger.Danneman@gmail.com
Website Kat Koch	425-765-5408	president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
Vendor Chairman Kat Koch	425-765-5408	president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
Supplies & Food Angie Bayer	253-569-0245	Text to her number (no email)

2026 Committee Chairs

Club Historian Jim Cerenzie	253-638-1478	jcerenzie@yahoo.com
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Shop Instructors (Temp) Roger Danneman	425-228-8781	roger.danneman@gmail.com
Shop Reservations – <i>Shop is closed as we are building an indoor shop</i>		
Public Relations Kat Koch	425-765-5408	president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
Refreshment Angie & Brian Bayer	253-569-0245	Text to her number (no email)
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Facebook Club Page Gina Manso	425-281-3502	ginamanso51@gmail.com
Instagram Gina Manso	425-281-3502	ginamanso51@gmail.com
All Other Social Media Kat Koch	425-765-5408	president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org

2026 CMS Dues are \$30 per year per family

Pay online, by mail, or at our meetings.

New mailing address:

*Cascade Mineralogical Society
c/o 4762 Whitworth PI S #P104
Renton, WA 98055*

You can pay your dues via credit card!! We now accept all cards through our website or at the meeting.

You can renew your membership or enroll as a new member and pay your dues all in one shot online. You will find it under the "Membership" tab on our website. <http://www.cascademineralogicalsociety.org>

The object of the Society shall be to stimulate interest in the study of the earth sciences, lapidary arts and related subjects.

This Society is affiliated with the American Lands Access Association; and the Washington State Mineral Council.

Our Club is a Member of these Federations and Associations

ALAA: The American Lands Access Association, Inc. represents the rockhounding interests of 325 gem & mineral clubs/societies in 47 States and the District of Columbia.

The purpose of the association is to promote and ensure the rights of amateur fossil and mineral collecting, recreational prospecting and mining. The use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes. They also carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers. <http://amlands.org>

The front page also has a lot of current news, rockhounding restrictions or lack of, etc. <http://amlands.org>

ALAA also publishes a quarterly newsletter. To keep up on the news and lobby efforts on our behalf check out <http://amlands.org/>



Washington State Mineral Council: The Washington State Mineral Council is dedicated to the location and conservation of rock and mineral sites of interest to the rockhounds of Washington state. <https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/>

You can find a database of local rock and gems shows and field trips. It's a great resource if you want to plan on outing.

Also check out "Misc. News" for all the latest updates on collecting sites around Washington. <https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/news-updates/>

When the weather is good they have regular monthly field trips. So take advantage of these great outdoor rockhounding adventures! The field trip details are under "Field Trips" on the left side of the site. Check out the link for additional details for time and place to meet and the field trip leader.

You can find all this information and a whole lot more about what is happening in our state at <https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/>



Rockhounding Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

from the AFMS website

CONTENT DISCLAIMER

This publication is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either express or implied, including, but not limited to, fitness for a particular purpose; the technical data was derived from other sources, and the author has no way of knowing their accuracy.

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To get information to the Tumbler via the Internet send it to greenrockdraggin@yahoo.com Please put the word "Tumbler" and subject in the Subject Line. The deadline is the 20th of each month.

We Need Your Canceled Postage Stamps

Our club is going to continue to collect canceled postage stamps. Even though we are no longer members of the NFMS, we will continue to collect them and turn them over to the NFMS. They have a stamp company that buys them, and these funds are donated to cancer research. Every year NFMS donates around \$2,500.

On letters that you receive, tear the corner with the stamp off. Try to leave about 1/4" of the envelope around the stamp. Be careful not to damage the stamp.

Place the stamps in a plastic baggie and bring them to the meeting. Our member, Mike Blanton, collects the stamps and will turn them over to the NFMS. You can give them to Mike as often as you want throughout the year.

Collecting the stamps is another way we Rockhounds give back to our community.



Don't Forget To Show Your Membership Card At These Retailers

JERRYS ROCK AND GEM
 804 WEST VALLEY HWY. KENT, WA. 98032
jerrysrockandgem.com jerrysrockandgem@msn.com
 Follow us on Facebook **253-852-0539**

Black Jack's Metal Detectors
 Mining Equipment, Low Pressure Dive, & Rock Shop!
www.BlackJacksMetalDetectors.com
 Your place for Metal Detecting & Mining Equipment
 101 Park Ave N,
 Renton, WA. 98057
 Store # 425-430-0290
 Direct # 253-961-3095

SoDo Rocks
 Friday thru Sunday
 10 am to 4 pm
 2700 4th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98121

These three retailers are huge supporters of our club. Please seek them out when looking for lapidary items and supplies.

Don't forget to show your membership card and receive a 10% discount on most items!

New for Members Only – New Texting Service

We are busy and often forget that CMS has an upcoming meeting or event. Therefore, we have a texting service to remind members of CMS meetings and events.

Everyone is automatically entered into this service. You can opt out anytime by responding with STOP.



For quick access, you can scan the following codes.



Access CMS Club
Instagram page



Access our CMS
YouTube channel



Access our CMSclub website for the
latest on meetings and club events



Access CMS
Facebook Groups

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	Happy Halloween! 			1	2	3
4	5 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	6	7	8 General Meeting 7:00 pm	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

CMS Show Committee Meeting:....Monday, October 5.....6:30 pm to 7:00 pm

CMS Board Meeting:.....Monday, October 5.....7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

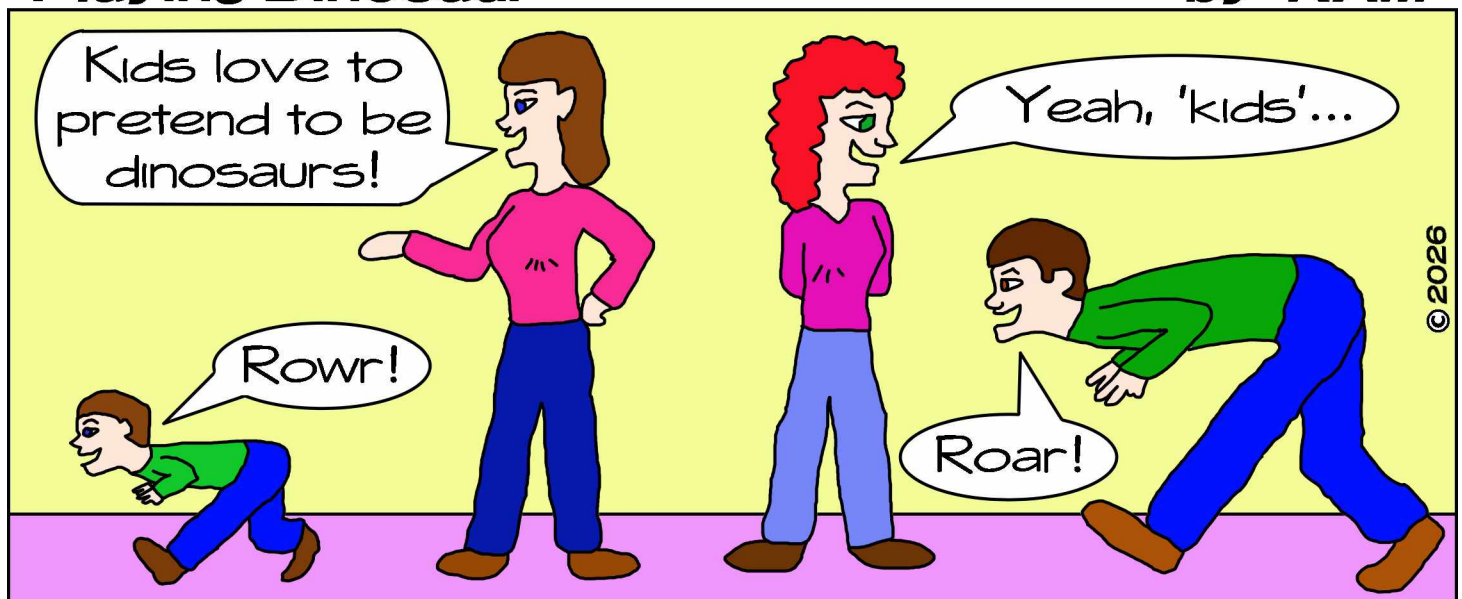
CMS General Meeting:.....2nd Thursday, October 8.....7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

More Field Trip info can be found on Page 11

More Show info can be found on Page 12

Playing Dinosaur

by KAM



The Tumbler has received One-Time Rights to publish this cartoon

CMS Board Meeting Minutes August 10, 2026

by Pete Williams, 2026 Secretary

Attendees: Noelle Barnes, Pete Williams, Roger Danneman, Lee Oliver, Michelle Maidman, Ananda Cooley

Meeting Called to order: 7:01

Our club's rock and gem show for next year is set for the last weekend in June 2027. A deposit has been paid.

The August picnic will replace the regular monthly meeting. The club will provide plates, utensils, etc. We will need extra tables for the auction. Noelle will bring water and arrange for a cooler.

The Board agreed to buy a 8 inch Kinglsey North cabber for \$2499. Pete will place the order with the club credit card and have it shipped to Roger's house.

The October field trip may be changed to Saddle Mountain depending on the weather. The club Christmas party will be on Saturday December 5 at our monthly meeting room. The September program has not been firmed up yet. It may be members showing their best rock finds or some variant of that.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39

CMS Club Picnic Minutes August 15, 2026

by Roger Danneman

August 15th was our summer picnic and auction. This year we held it at Coulon Park on the south shore of Lake WA. It was a gorgeous day. Lots of good food. Beautiful setting and view of the lake. Our club auction had precious opal, fossils, AZ petrified wood, crystals, various agates and jaspers rough and semi polished, amber, a carved wood bowl, a faceted gemstone necklace, and 6 buckets of mixed jasper/agate/mineral-specimens. Great deals for club members.

Attendees: Michele M. & Gerry P., Kat K. & Mike B., Becky P., Teri G., Vanessa L. & hubby, Jeff C., Karen J. & Carrie L., Roxanne & Wayne O., Jim G., Rich R., Pete & Bev W., Phillip & Becky T., Keith M., Scott & Lauri M. & friend Casey, Blossom & Ruby & June S., Linda J. & 2 granddaughters, Jeanie L., Olivia H., Aubrey S., and me.

Special thanks to:

Kat for reserving the Coulon Park gazebo

Mike B. for the grilled hot dogs and rock donations

Rich for doing the auction and the pendant donation

Pete and Bev for their accounting skills

Angie for donating 6 buckets of rocks from a friend's collection

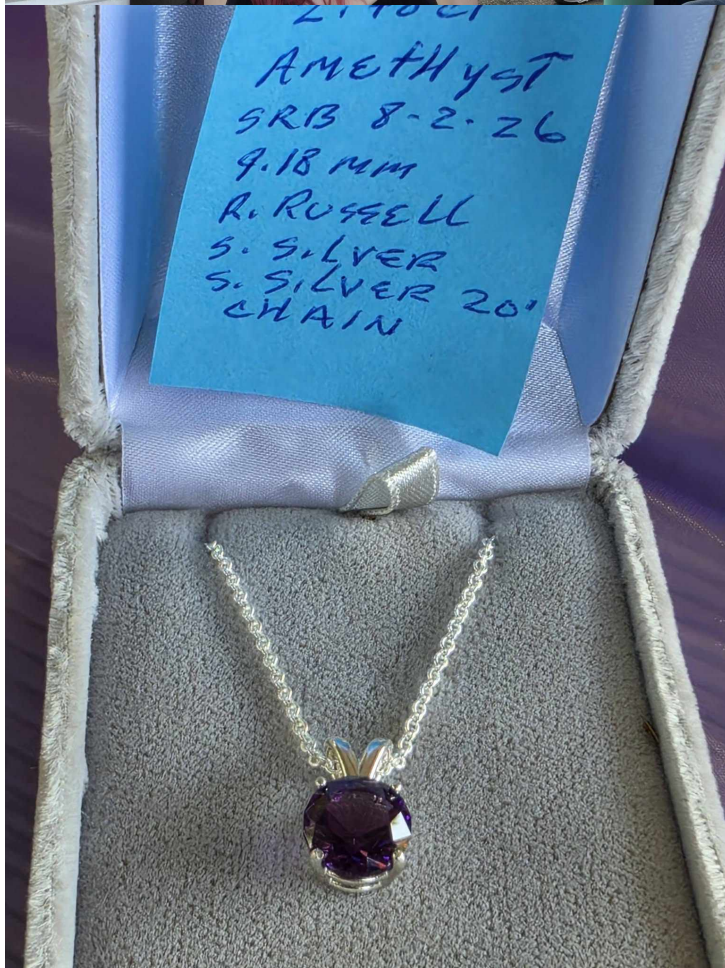
Lauri for taking good pictures

Everyone for bringing good food and making generous purchases. The club auction raised \$750.

Our annual Holiday Party is being planned for Sat. Dec. 5th at our usual meeting location - American Legion Hall in

Kent.





Digging It!

by Noell Barnes, 2026 President

Thank you to everyone who helped make our August picnic and club auction such a success. The delicious food, generous donations, volunteer help and spirited bidding made it a great afternoon, and the auction raised \$750 for the club.

Editor's Note

Sorry about cutting down Noelle's September message, but most of it referred to September dates that have already passed.

My computer died as I was finishing up The September Tumbler, so apologies for no September issue.

CMS Board Meeting Minutes September 7, 2026

by Pete Williams, 2026 Secretary

Attendees: Noelle Barnes, Pete Williams, Roger Danneman, Michelle Maidman, Ananda Cooley, Rich Russell, Scott Miles, Paul Ahnberg

Meeting Called to order: 7:03

Scott Miles attended the Board meeting as our new club webmaster. There will be no Tumbler newsletter this month as Keith's PC gave out. Keith has volunteered to be the club's newsletter editor for as long as anyone could remember. To help him purchase a new computer, the club will send him a check for \$500.

The picnic in August was successful with 33 in attendance. The location was excellent with the only concern being other parties playing loud music as the day wore on. Other possible sites for next year's picnic will be explored.

The September program will be opening it up to anyone showing material and what they plan to do with it, including possibly discussing lapidary equipment.

The next field trip will be to Frost Mountain. The October field trip will likely switch from Crystal Mountain to Saddle Mountain. The October program will be about using GAIA GPS for rockhounding. A program for the month of January is still needed.

The saws in our new shop are operational. A new cabbing machine is on order. The existing one needs a new motor. The pergola has arrived and a work party will be needed to set it up to protect equipment not in the shop.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36

CMS General Meeting Minutes September 10, 2026

by Pete Williams, 2026 Secretary

Called to order: 7:04

Noelle was ill so Michelle ran the meeting. Since several new members were in attendance so Michelle introduced the officers. There were many positive comments about the location of the August club picnic. The only concern being the loud music from nearby parties. The auction made \$671.50 for the club. The Christmas party will be on December 5 from 11:15-4:00 at the regular meeting location in Kent. There will be an auction, and the club will provide turkey and ham.

The upcoming field trip will be to Frost Mountain. At the end of September there will be a campout at Teanaway. The October field trip will likely be moved to Saddle Mountain.

There are 3 saws that are operational in the new club shop. The existing cabbing machine needs a new motor, and a new one is on order.

Program: Club members presenting any material or equipment they wished to discuss making or doing something with.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40.

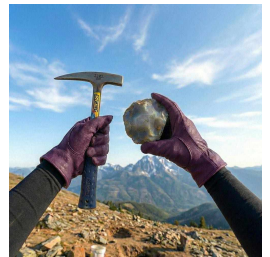
Digging It!

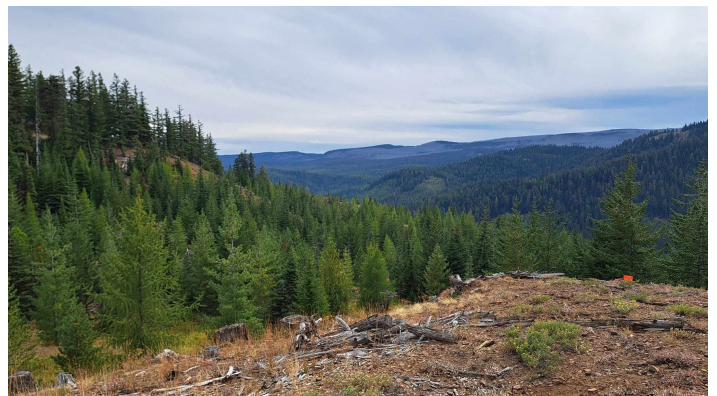
by Noell Barnes, 2026 President

Thanks to everyone who came to the club camp out at Teanaway campground near Cle Elum last month. After a brief spell of rain the first night, we were blessed with sun, clear skies, and rockhounding the rest of the weekend. And a big thanks to Roger Danneman for doing all of the trip organizing, and keeping us all warm and well fed during the weekend.

This month I'll be giving a talk at our club meeting about how to use Gaia for rockhounding. If you have specific questions, please bring them along or feel free to email me prior to the meeting. I hope you'll be able to make it.

Enjoy fall, and thanks for being a club member!



Field Trip Report for Sept 12th at Frost Mountain by Roger Danneman, Field Trip Guide

On Sat. Sept 12th we went to Frost Mtn south of Cle Elum for jasper/agate/chert and crystal. The material from here has some unique patterns and colors not found at any of our other sites. This is a long drive to get into, but still one of

my favorite areas. We had a fairly big group with 12 vehicles in the caravan. I missed a crucial turn and took everyone on a scenic route realizing it after 30 minutes of driving. With a lot of help from the group we backtracked to the missed turn and made our way up the correct side of Taneum Ridge. That area does have a confusing web of roads. After making it to the parking spot and hiking up the trail 3/4 mile, we were all finding nice jasper, agate, and crystal. Temperatures stayed near 60 degrees and made it a nice day for the hike and collecting. The last part of the group made it back to the cars at 5:00 when a few raindrops started showing up. The rock pics show some of the material I collected with the last pic showing rocks I've collected and polished from the last 2 years. Some of the rocks look a bit junky on the outside, but cut pieces can reveal beautiful patterns inside and is generally nice and solid and takes a great polish. Special thanks to Jeff for radio assist and to Nicole & Ryan for GPS mapping assistance. I should also mention that after much discussion the next day with Gregg & Victor, the trail we end up taking is on maps as 3100-115. The Jeep Trail is just a bit north and is 4W310. And the Frost Hiking trail is 1366. These are some details that I've previously miscommunicated.

Attendees: Jeff C. +3, Vanessa L. +dog Lily., Randy P. & Jennifer, Nicole & Ryan A. + kids Cuyler & Ellie, Michele M., Amy D. & Mark, Jeramy P., Kerri Lyn D. & John, Steve F., Gregg H. & Victor, Savanna & Alex, guest Kacey H., and me. Our next scheduled outing is our weekend campout to Teanaway and Redtop Sept 25-27.



The Canadian Mint produced a coin that features a confrontation between a Tyrannosaurus rex and a Quetzalcoatlus northropi (one of the largest pterosaurs) and when put under a black light shows the animals skeletons.

You might be a rockhound if... You describe your vacations by the rocks you brought home.

from The Geode, 8/26

Young Tumblers News

Rock Bucks

Just a reminder that all Young Tumblers under 15 can easily earn "Rock Bucks."

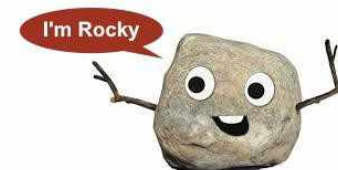
Earn \$3 "Rock Bucks" to attend a meeting.

You can earn an additional \$5 in "Rock Bucks" if you bring something for Show 'n Tell and tell us about your item.

The "Rock Bucks" can be spent like real money at our meetings or club auctions.

You can save your "Rock Bucks" during the year and spend them just like cash on auction items you would like, or you can buy raffle tickets at our monthly meeting.

Join us at our meetings and build your rock-buying piggy bank!



About 75% of the world's volcanoes are located in the Ring of Fire, a 25,000-mile horseshoe-shaped region in the Pacific Ocean.

Earth is the only known planetary body in our solar system that exhibits plate tectonics.

Tectonic plates only move about as fast as your fingernails grow.

Lava from a volcano can reach 2282 degrees Fahrenheit.

from Rocket City Rocks & Gems, 6/26

Scientists discovered fossils of a giant frog, called Beelzebufo, that lived 68 million years ago in Madagascar that was large enough to eat young dinosaurs. Its giant bite could exert a force similar to that of a wolf!

The word fossil comes from the Latin word fossilis, which literally means "dug up."

Fossils found in Wyoming show us that 50 million years ago, ants the size of hummingbirds roamed the area.

from Rocket City Rocks & Gems, 7/26

Clay is basically just 'soft rock' formed as rocks break down. The ultra-fine particles composed of silica, aluminum, and water form clay.

The earliest humans began using clay 30,000 years ago, but it has been part of Earth's history since the beginning.

Clay is famous for its detox properties. It can be used to absorb toxins on the skin or internally.

Before it is fired, clay can be recycled by wetting and reshaping it.

from Rocket City Rocks & Gems, 8/26

Glaciers are like giant bulldozers. They are so heavy they can push boulders, pick up rock debris, and turn the land behind them into massive u-shaped valleys.

The Grand Canyon is like a giant time-lapse. The 5,000-foot deep canyon was carved out by the Colorado River over millions of years.

Beaches are created by erosion. All of the sand on the beach is created by ocean waves continuously pounding on rocks until they are broken down and deposited on the shore.

from Rocket City Rocks & Gems, 5/26

Rock Science Spotlight - What is Beryl, Really?

Beryl is a single mineral species with a surprisingly simple base formula: beryllium + aluminum + silicon + oxygen. Those ingredients arrange themselves into ring-shaped silicate structures called cyclosilicates. On its own, pure beryl is actually colorless.

That's the science... the magic happens when trace elements sneak into the crystal:

Iron - aquamarine (blue-green)

Chromium or vanadium - emerald (green)

Manganese - morganite (pink) or red beryl (very rare)

So all those different gemstones - aquamarine, emerald, morganite, heliodor, goshenite, red beryl - are simply color variations of the same mineral, transformed by tiny chemical 'guest stars.'

from CBRGC Newsletter, 3/26

Field Trips

The club or clubs sponsoring the field trips are shown in italics. When known I have listed a phone number and contact person for each sponsoring club below the listed trips. If you are not a member of the sponsoring club, you should phone and ask permission to go on their field trip.

Some information from the Washington State Mineral Council webpage (<https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com>).

October 11 *Marysville Rock & Gem Club - Walt Bailey - Rainbow Chert* - Hard rock chisels, rock hammers, pry bars
Nique Wicks nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com (509) 670-0630

Sunstone by Leslie Malakowsky

What better mineral to feature this time of year than sunstone? Sunstone is a plagioclase feldspar with the formula $(Ca,Na)((Al,Si)_2Si_2O_8)$. Feldspars are a group of rock-forming aluminum tectosilicate (having a three-dimensional framework of silicate tetrahedra) minerals. The most common members of the feldspar group are the plagioclase feldspars. (Plagioclase that contains sodium or calcium is called oligoclase, while plagioclase that contains potassium is called orthoclase.) Plagioclase is a major constituent of Earth's crust, making it a useful diagnostic mineral for identifying the composition, origin, and evolution of igneous rocks. Fun fact: Plagioclase is also a major constituent of rocks on the Moon and Mars!

Sunstone is aptly named after the largest object in our solar system - the Sun (or Sol from Latin meaning 'the sun' or 'sunlight'). This mineral can be colorless, orange, yellow, red, green, blue, or brown. The color tends to be darkest in the center of the mineral and lightens toward the outer edges. Sunstone has a Mohs hardness of 6 to 6.5 (not quite as hard as quartz), a vitreous (glassy) luster, and crystallizes in the triclinic system (featuring 3 axes of unequal length and 3 oblique angles). Sunstone's most well-known characteristic is its distinctive glittery appearance when viewed from different angles. This optical effect is due to light reflecting from copper, hematite, or goethite inclusions. The inclusions occur as minute hexagonal, rhombic or irregularly-shaped scales oriented parallel to the principal cleavage plane of the mineral giving it an appearance similar to aventurine (a type of quartz) called aventurescence. This type of sunstone is known as 'aventurine-feldspar' or 'oligoclase sunstone'. Fun fact: In a variety of labradorite feldspar known as 'Oregon Sunstone', reflections from native copper inclusions create a shimmering metallic sparkle known as schiller. (For more information on the properties of sunstone, please consult your favorite mineral reference.)

The best localities for finding sunstone in the United States are Middleton Township, Pennsylvania; Plush, Oregon; Statesville, North Carolina; and Sunstone Knoll, Utah. At Sunstone Knoll, sunstone occurs in Pleistocene basalt flows (the Pleistocene is a geologic epoch that lasted from about 2,580,000 to 11,700 years ago). The "orthoclase sunstone" variety is found near Crown Point, New York, Virginia at Glen Riddle, Pennsylvania. The Oregon Sunstone variety is found in Harney County, Oregon and at Amelia Courthouse, and in eastern Lake County North of Plush. This variety is unique because the native copper crystal inclusions can be as large as 3" wide! The presence of copper causes various colors when the stone is rotated. The more copper within the stone, the darker its complexion. Fun fact: On August 4, 1987, the Oregon State Legislature designated Oregon Sunstone as its state gemstone. Internationally, the best place to find sunstone is Southern Norway, where masses of the mineral occur embedded in veins of quartz running through a metamorphic rock called gneiss. Other international localities include Sweden, Siberia, and South Australia.

The finest gem quality sunstone comes from Oregon. These stones are never heat treated, irradiated, or colored; they're left completely natural. They have a deep red color similar to ruby or spinel. The next best quality has a green secondary color. But the most commonly affordable sunstones are colorless, yellow, orange, or brown. A tip for identifying authentic sunstone is that its color is stable and won't fade when exposed to light. (Always buy from a reputable source.) Peach moonstone, another feldspar mineral, can look similar to sunstone. You can tell them apart because they reflect light in different ways. Peach moonstone has a soft, billowy under-the-surface glow. The finest gem quality sunstone comes from Oregon. These stones are never heat treated, irradiated, or colored; they're left completely natural. They have a deep red color similar to ruby or spinel. The next best quality has a green secondary color. But the most commonly affordable sunstones are colorless, yellow, orange, or brown. A tip for identifying authentic sunstone is that its color is stable and won't fade when exposed to light. (Always buy from a reputable source.) Peach moonstone, another feldspar mineral, can look similar to sunstone. You can tell them apart because they reflect light in different ways. Peach moonstone has a soft, billowy under-the-surface glow while sunstone has a metallic glittery sparkle. In medieval times, sunstone was used for orientation and navigation. One medieval reference mentions that sunstone was used to locate the sun in an overcast or snowy sky by holding it up and noting where it emitted, reflected, or transmitted light. Today, sunstone is a popular gemstone for making jewelry (e.g., faceted stones, beads, and cabochons), decorative objects (e.g., spheres and prisms), and tumbled stones.

References: wikipedia.org, mindat.org

from Rocket City Rocks & Gems, 8/26

GeoWord of the Day - Einkanter

A ventifact or windworn stone having only one face or a single sharp edge; it implies a steady, unchanging wind direction. Etymol: German Einkanter, "having one edge" (from Kante, "edge"). Pl: einkanter; einkanter.

via The Mineral Newsletter, 9/26; in the American Geoscience Institute; from the Glossary of Geology, 5th edition, revised



Shows

October 2 – 4: Friday & Saturday 10 am – 6 pm; Sunday 10 am – 5 pm

Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Club

Wingspan Event and Conference Center at the Westside Common

801 NE 34th Ave.

Hillsboro, Oregon

October 3 & 4: Saturday & Sunday 10 am – 5 pm

Marysville Rock and Gem Club, 50th Anniversary Show

Evergreen State Fairgrounds

Display Bldg #500

14405 179th Ave SE

Monroe, WA