

Rock Rollers Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 14766
Spokane Valley, WA 99214-0766

Meetings 4th Tuesday
9517 E. 4th Avenue
Spokane, WA 99206

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Club Affiliations: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies – www.amfed.org
Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies – www.amfed.org/nfms
Washington State Mineral Council – www.mineralcouncil.org

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Rock Rollers Web page:

www.rockrollers.org



ROCK ROLLER MEETING

Tuesday, August 23, 2011, 6:00pm

9517 E 4th Ave

Spokane, WA 99206

Juniors 6:00pm, Tuesday, August 23

BOARD MEETING

Saturday, August 20, 10:00am

9517 E 4th Ave

Spokane, WA 99206

News to editor by September 5

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – JULY 17, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President David Rapp at Brown's park.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to defer all old and new business until the August meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Door Prizes: Everyone who attended the picnic was awarded a door prize. In addition, one lucky junior, man and woman each won a Grand Prize:



Marian Knack: Larimar necklace

Steve Gillespie: polished Deschutes jasper slab

Anthony Hicks: large crystal

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Board of Directors Meeting: The August Board of Directors meeting will be held on Saturday, August 20th at 10AM, and will be at the club house.

Show Board Meeting: None in August.

TO MY ROCK ROLLER FRIENDS:

Thank you so much for your thoughts, the Thank You Cake, card and Proclamation. It was such a nice surprise, and I was so pleased! For once I was speechless. You've all been great.

I want to thank you for the potted plants. Love them. Erma

Message from the President:

Greetings to all Rock Roller Club members and our friends. July has come and gone with club field trips, many busy lapidary workshop nights (cabbing and faceting), and our annual July Picnic. The picnic was well attended and a huge success, with over fifty members and guests present. A big thank you goes out to Dennis Hicks and Cari Thrapp for doing a fantastic job of organizing the picnic this year. The salmon, burgers, and hot dogs were delicious and so were all the side dishes that everyone brought to go with them. Chairing an event like this is a huge amount of work and I know that everyone in attendance really appreciated the efforts of Dennis and Cari. Many of the awesome door prizes were furnished by Sunmeadow Rocks, one of the advertisers in our bulletin. The items were of high quality and interest, and everyone took home a real nice rock related item. This was a great time to socialize and to meet some new friends, as well.

Safety:

There are more fieldtrips planned by the club this year and I'm sure a lot of you will be going on your own individual adventures. Please be careful out there and drive safely.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT:

An audit of the Rock Rollers Club finances was held On July 27th. Those present were trustees Glynis Hull and Teri Pratt and president David Rapp. The financial records and proceedings were reviewed and found to be in order. It was recommended that all reimbursements to members for club expenses be accompanied by a "Voucher Cash Paid Out" form with original receipts attached.

EWU GEOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP:

The next drawing to benefit Eastern Washington University Geology students will be held at the September meeting. Items being offered for this three-month period are a bola tie and pendant set made from Labradorite, a five-pound Treasure bag of Oregon Sunstone gravel donated by Irv's Jewelry & Rock Shop, and an Estwing rock hammer, in pristine condition, which once belonged to former member Jim Cotant and was donated by his wife Bonnie Cotant.

EWU HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Rock Rollers, Inc. is listed in the 2010 Honor Roll of Donors from Eastern Washington University Foundation as a donor for 31 consecutive years.

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Thanks to Marian and Don Knack for all picnic photos:



Picnic organizers Cari Thrapp and Dennis Hicks.



President David Rapp leading the meeting

More picnic photos

Happy times,
eating, visiting,
looking at rocks
and choosing a
prize.



AUGUST PROGRAM: Finding the star in star garnets.

REFRESHMENTS – Kathleen Govett

Refreshments for the August general meeting will be provided by Jim Barter, Donna Cave, Jim McDaniel, Lois Tucker and Kathleen Govett.

NEW MEMBERS – Marian Knack

Welcome New Members:

Scott Svoboda

Tommy and Corey Brenner

New Juniors:

Katie Hankins, Sponsor: Lois Tucker

Faith Ramey, Sponsor: Cathy Reynolds

Madison Choate, Sponsor: Cathy Reynolds

HOSPITALITY – Cyndie Doppler member ill, etc.,?? Call Cyndie Doppler 216-5473.

FIELD TRIPS – Mike Shaw

We only had one field trip last month to Lolo Pass for Smoky Quartz, but it was a good one. Dennis Hicks was the Wagonmaster, and he took us to a great digging area, and showed us how to find it. One couple from the Marysville Club found more in one hole than the rest of us altogether. They were beautiful black crystals, too. We all found something, though. The next day we went to another area and found some larger crystals of lower quality mixed with a few nice ones. I started finding lots just as I had to leave. As usual on field trips, we just start getting the hang of it when it's time to go. The biggest trick was to move lots and lots of dirt! Dennis told us that at the beginning, but we had to learn for ourselves.

We had another field trip scheduled to Wenatchee Lake for Soapstone and Garnets, but the roads were washed out and the water was too high, so we decided to go to Red Top Mountain near Ellensburg instead. The road up to Red Top was washed out, too! Hopefully it'll be open for our field trip up there in September.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS – Mike Shaw

Saturday, August 27th, we'll be going up to Jim Creek near Ione, to collect Galena, some with small Pyrite mixed in. The last five miles up to the mine are rough and require a high-clearance vehicle. There are some samples from Jim Creek sitting on the sign up sheet.

On September 10, we're going to have another try at Red Top Mountain. Karen Snyder, who was kind enough to do wire wrapping classes for us, told us where to go up there and I'm anxious to try it. A 400-pound thunderegg was found there, and some of the small ones are Ellensburg Blue Agate.

There'll also be a trip to Naches near Yakima for thundereggs on 9/17. We'll have to go down the day before to get in a good days digging. We've had good luck in the past there, and the country is beautiful.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK – Mike Shaw

Ben Odum has set up a Facebook page for Rock Rollers. It's called "Spokane RockRollers" There will be a link on our website as soon as our webmaster puts it on, but until then it's available for members. Anyone in the club (must also be a Facebook member) is welcome to post pictures or comments. Also, last minute field trip changes, shop closures, etc., will be posted there. It's in its infancy and there's only a few people on it now, but it should grow quickly. Any questions? Ben's contact information is on the page.

NFMS GEM & MINERALS SHOWS

Sept 10-11	Umpqua Gem and Mineral Club	Douglas Co. Fairgrounds, Roseburg, OR
Sept 10-11	Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral	Walla Walla Co. Fairgrounds, Walla Walla, WA
Sept 17-18	Southern WA Mineralogical Soc.	Castle Rock Fairgrounds, Castle Rock, WA
Sept 24-25	Hellgate Mineral Society	Ruby's Inn and Convention Center, Missoula, MT

(for more information see NFMS August Newsletter <http://www.amfed.org/nfms/nwnews/nw0811.pdf>)

INVITATION TO BUCHANAN OREGON THUNDEREGG DIG FIELD TRIP

From: Tim Fisher

Hello all, I have some exciting news and I am asking that you pass this along to anyone you think may be interested in a field trip. I have managed to secure the permission of the rancher who owns the famous Buchanan thunderegg beds 20 miles east of Burns, OR, to lead a rock club field trip there next month. The trip will be the weekend of Friday Sept. 16th to Sunday Sept. 18th (depending on the rancher's availability). Digging will be from Saturday morning through Sunday afternoon. We will be digging with hand tools and he will be charging 50 cents/pound which is a very reasonable price for these much sought after thundereggs.

Access to the beds is by short dirt roads which are suitable for high clearance vehicles or SUVs. Digging should be fairly easy, the best tools to bring are picks, rock hammers, and shovels. Bring heavy digging tools if you want to dig to China. The rancher will try to get his pits cleaned out with a backhoe to prepare for our digging beforehand, but about five pits are currently open and should be easy to dig with some cleanout and hand tools right now. Each of the Buchanan pits contains different eggs, so there is a good variety available.

We can dry camp across the highway from the pits at a large, flat gravel pit area with a spring that is suitable for trailers and tents, and limited camping will also be available across the highway. Other spots to camp are the Crane Hot Springs resort (electric, water, hot springs!) or the Burns RV park (all services), both less than thirty minutes from the beds. There are also a few BLM camping areas that you can use for a small fee (some may be free) nearby. Other nearby rockhounding areas within an easy drive include Stinkingwater petrified wood, agate, plume agate, Burns obsidian, fossil leaves, and more.

Everyone will be required to sign a liability waiver for the Mt. Hood Rock Club's insurance policy which will cover us (free of charge). You don't have to be a club member to attend. It is imperative that I give the rancher an estimate of how many people will be attending, so I need to get a count of how many people plan to attend in the next couple weeks – please contact me via email or phone as soon as possible!

Print this out and bring this to your next club meeting, email and call all your rockhound friends - we need a good turnout so the ranchers will be happy with the trip and invite us back again!

Tim Fisher - 503 631-8961

OreRockOn.com; rockhound1@orerockon.com

DROP OF WATER TEST FOR TOPAZ

Author unknown

Quartz and topaz are not easy to separate by eye, and are sometimes impossible when the quartz is a true topaz color. There is a big difference in price between the two and anyone describing quartz as topaz, however innocently, may well be in trouble.

Topaz is quite a different mineral, which is harder than quartz. Because of this, a drop of water will not spread on topaz, but will spread on quartz.

Clean the stone as effectively as possible with a cloth or handkerchief to remove all trace of grease. It must be dry before the test. Then place a spot of clean water on it with a thin glass or metal rod.

On stones with a hardness of less than 7 on the Mohs scale, the water is dispersed. On harder stones it will remain a globule. The harder the stone the more rounded will be the globule.

Source: Gem Cutters News, 3/2011; via Breccia June 2011; via The Mountain Gem August 2011

Here is an article on local deposits of Beryl from our northern neighbors in the Panorama Club:

BERYL

By Stephen Fox

One of the most common, yet hard to get (at least around here), of the crystal kingdom is the beryl crystal. Yet from Cheney, Washington to Marcus, Washington, there are known deposits of this mineral, but in no kind of gem quality (at least that this author has seen). With known deposits in Stevens County alone there may yet be gem quality Aquamarines, and just maybe the elusive emerald. There have been many large (two to six inch-long) specimen grade blue-green beryl crystals found, mostly coming from the Chewelah area.

Gem quality aquamarines were rumored to come from the Fish Lake area, three miles out of Cheney, but about forty years ago a couple of good ol' boys decided to get rich and loaded the pegmatite dike with a lot of TNT and set it off. As this deposit is owned by the railroad, and the resulting explosion destroyed a significant amount of railroad tracks along with any beryl crystals, railroad officials were very ticked off. If there is any trace of the pegmatite dike (and there is) and you can find any beryl there, good luck. The location is Fish Lake. Go to where the old restaurant is and walk up to the first railroad bed and turn left. Go about 75 yards and face left. What remains of the formation and the pegmatite is right in front of you. Don't cry.

From Chewelah, Rex Barrans and Dave Paquet, have both brought in to our club meetings some very impressive blue-green beryl crystals. Many decades ago (late 70's) I worked some very nice crystals out of the old mine shaft and talus. Then the mine and the surrounding area was claimed again and the new owners closed it off to casual rockhounding. But in recent times there may be some hope that we can get back into the area. I am not quite up to date on all of the particulars of this area's status yet, so you might do well to investigate further before you go exploring.



Beryl on calcite matrix from Columbia.
Image © Fabre Minerals

The deposit near Marcus is presently under about twenty feet of water. Thirty-five feet when the lake is full. On Park Service Land. I won't go on because it just gets worse. On the bright side, just off of highway 25, up the Pingston Creek road, above the drowned deposit, there is an old chromium mine. Maybe emeralds in this area? I haven't found any yet, but who knows?

What is a beryl crystal? When you go after these beauties what are you looking for? According to the Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals, beryl is a cyclosilicate. A cyclosilicate is where one silicon atom combines with three oxygen atoms to form a circular molecule. In this case it takes six silicon atoms and eighteen oxygen atoms stacked up to make a beryl crystal molecule. In between each layer is three beryllium atoms and two aluminum atoms, both of which helps to give beryl its hardness of 8. Add in trace amounts of chromium and you get beautiful green emeralds. Add few more aluminum atoms and you get blue-green aquamarines. Depending on the mix add in some sodium, lithium, or cesium and you get golden beryl (heliodor), or pink morganite. Clear colorless beryl is known as goshenite. A rare bright red form is found chiefly in Utah. When you are looking for beryl crystals, the best field marks are six-sided prisms that are striated, and beryl is also harder than apatite or quartz (two similar species).

Emerald is the birthstone for May, and aquamarine is the birthstone for October.

Source: The Panorama Prospector April 2011



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Some of our fellow rock and mineral clubs are getting serious:

Mid-Summer Madness - By Laws

The following amendments to the club by-laws are proposed for the year beginning 2011.

1. Members will be expelled from the club for throwing rocks at board members, even if provoked.
2. All members must attend at least two meetings per year or their membership will be terminated.
3. All members must buy the newsletter editor at least one drink per year or they may be satirized.
4. All members must catch sight of the president at least once per year or forever hold their peace.
5. Field trip leaders will be expelled from the club if they lead trips to where there is no place to pee.
6. Members will be expelled from the club if they complain about anything. Yes, you heard - anything!
7. All members must go on at least two field trips per year or their membership shall be suspended.
8. Members will no longer receive the newsletter if they complain about the editor's sense of humor.
9. Members will no longer receive the newsletter if they disagree with the editor's politics.

At least two of the above amendments to the by-laws are being considered seriously by the board. Your problem is to guess which two and comply with them.

from Internet via The Mountain Gem June 2011