

Monthly Bulletin of the  
West Seattle Rock Club, Inc.  
Seattle, Washington



Website:

<http://www.westseattlerockclub.org>

Our Club:

Practices the Rockhound Code of Ethics

Meetings:

Visitors are always welcome!



## **WEST SEATTLE PETROGLYPHS**

*Mike Wall, Editor*

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**MARCH 2014**  
**(OPAL)**



**WEST SEATTLE ROCK CLUB, INC.**

Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 16145, Seattle, WA 98116

The purpose of this Club is to promote the study and enjoyment of the Lapidary Arts with good Rock-hounding and good fellowship; and to further education and lapidary skills for all; to conduct field trips for exploration and collection of minerals, gems, rocks and fossils; to promote shows and displays; to publish a monthly periodical known as *West Seattle PETROGLYPHS* relating to club activities.

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**OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2014):**

President	Bo Jeffers	(206) 248-1475
Vice President	Merryl Jeffers	(206) 248-1475
Secretary	Diane Christensen	(206) 938-0790
Treasurer	Audrey Vogelpohl	(206) 932-3292
Federation Director	Audrey Vogelpohl	(206) 932-3292
Director at Large	Ken Schmidt	(206) 932-3626
Mineral Council Reps	Leroy Christensen	(206) 938-0790
Seattle Regional Reps	Lyle Vogelpohl	(206) 932-3292
Newsletter - Editor	Mike Wall	(206) 935-4953
Current Past President	Michael O'Clair	(206) 938-1541

\*\*\*\*\*

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS (2014):**

2014 Show Co-Chairpersons	Ken Schmidt	(206) 932-3626
	Diane Christensen	(206) 938-0790
Programs	<Vice President>	<Vice President>
Refreshments/Hospitality	Janet Francisco	(206) 940-8344
Historian	<Open>	<Open>
Field Trips	<Open>	<Open>
Webmaster	Donn Ullery	(206) 633-0721

\*\*\*\*\*

**AFFILIATED WITH:**

Northwest Federation & American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
 Seattle Regional Gem and Mineral Show Committee  
 Washington State Mineral Council  
 ALAA – American Lands Access Association

\*\*\*\*\*

Meetings are held on the Fourth Wednesday of each month,  
 except for November which is the **THIRD** Wednesday and no meetings in July and December

The meetings are held in Adams Hall of the *Tibbetts United Methodist Church*

3940 41st S.W. (corner of 41st S.W. and S.W. Andover Street) Seattle, WA

6:00 PM – Junior Meeting 7:00 PM – Adult Meeting

Dues are: \$20.00 first year (including name badge), then: \$10.00 per adult member per year  
 or \$15.00 for 2 adults in same family, \$3.00 per junior member per year

**VISITORS ARE INVITED AND ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ALL MEETINGS**

All material in this Bulletin may be reprinted if properly credited - Exchange Bulletins are most welcome.

**CLUB CALENDAR**



March 26, 2014

**Junior Meeting (6:00 pm)**

**Program:** How to Contribute to the  
WSRC Annual Show

**General Meeting (7:00 pm)**

**Program:** Opal DVD  
**Show & Tell:** Bring your Opals

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



President's Message for March 2014

Greetings to our Club members, and *Petroglyphs* readers...I hope this month's issue finds all of you healthy, happy, and getting more and more excited about our annual Rock and Gem Show next month. We really appreciate all of our WSRC members who are stepping forward to donate their time and talents to help make this year's show another great event. And we're definitely looking forward to the fresh and creative exhibits that club members and juniors will be displaying – we know you'll really "rock"!

Especially now that we've gone to Daylight Savings Time, it's time for our Show flyers (and posters, as soon as they're ready) to go out to shop windows and bulletin boards; if you can, please set aside a little time for this, and make sure you talk to a staff person and get permission before posting them up.

If you have any questions about the Show itself, or you're interested in helping out and haven't been able to sign up to do so, please let Show committee co-chairs Diane Christensen or Ken Schmidt know.

On a related note, I want to thank John Spunaugle for his very informative "encore" presentation at our last meeting, on how to optimize our showcases – it was the ideal topic for our February meeting!

Hope to see all of you at our next meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>!

Bo

**WSRC – MEMBER NEWS**

**March Birthdays**

Aquamarine - a bluish-green transparent beryl known as being a treasured stone of courage and fortitude; a stone of diplomacy, easing conflict and rekindling friendship, giving you the quiet strength of the ocean.

- 5 - Donn Ullery
- 8 - Bella Francisco
- 10 - Meredith Hailey
- 14 - JoAnn Churchman



**April Birthdays**

White Topaz/Zircon/Diamond - White topaz is a transparent mineral that fosters personal growth - individuality, creativity, enhanced awareness, leadership and insight to its wearer. Zircon and diamonds inspire appreciation for life. Wear any one of these 3 stones to help you see the big picture.

- 4 - Lucie O'Clair
- 9 - April Hichens
- 14 - Joe Moushey
- 23 - Christina Gilman
- 25 - Keir Hichens
- 29 - Eliot Forrest

**New Members:**

- Jim Floyd
- Anne Sheeran and son Jesse Sheeran



**WEST SEATTLE ROCK CLUB – GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

February 26, 2014

**Business**

President Bo Jeffers called the meeting to order.

Bowie Hichens reported there were 20 adult members, 6 junior members and 4 guests present. Ken Schmidt, Lucie O'Clair and Jesse Sheeran won the door prizes. Audrey Vogelpohl informed the guests if they would like to join our club, she has applications available.

Bo then asked if there any corrections or additions to the last meeting minutes. Lyle Vogelpohl indicated that there is a clarification regarding how the dues are distributed. The NW Federation dues (\$3.50 per adult member and \$1.00 per junior) was paid in January, which includes the fees for the AFMS of 75 cents/per person.

Bo then read the January President's message that normally would be printed in the Petroglyphs.

Bo also mentioned the club is looking for a librarian and a historian. He asked Janet Francisco, if she would like to be the hostess, and she agreed.

Audrey then introduced the new members. They are: Dean Bradley, Emily Brune, Christina Gilman and her daughter, Caitlyn Gilman.

Bo then read the list of upcoming field trips and shows.

Bo then asked the committee chairs for any input. Editor Mike Wall said he is looking for original articles and to let him know if there is a certain subject you would like covered in the Petroglyphs.

Leroy Christensen gave the Washington Mineral Council update. He said that HR3590 regarding the Sports Heritage Act passed the House, and is in the Senate now. This act is in regards to 12,600 acres of wilderness that may be open for all uses. This bill is sponsored by Patty Murray. Also, the Walker Valley lease is up in May, and the gated has been moved. (You will need the combination to get in.) The lease was renewed.

April Hichens, junior activity coordinator advised the members there are 20 badges that the juniors can earn. One of the newest badges is the "special affects" badge. Ian Atkinson was presented with the gold panning patch he earned.

Audrey reminded members that the mid-year meeting for the Northwest Federation is in April. Audrey, Lyle, Jon Spunaugle and Mike Blanton will be attending that meeting. Audrey also mentioned there is an application in the NW Federation newsletter to apply for a Junior Achievement Award. All applications must be in by April 1st. Last year only three juniors applied for the award, and the prizes available are for \$100, \$75 or \$50.

Lyle Vogelpohl then gave the Northwest Federation report. He said the Federation is collecting cancelled stamps. A lady in Great Falls soaks them off the envelopes and sells them to raise money for cancer research. She has raised more than \$5,000 over the years.

Bo announced that the next board meeting will be on March 5th at 7 pm at the Vogelpohls'.

Bo then discussed details about our show in April. He encouraged members to volunteer for numerous "tasks" at the show, and there were sign-up sheets available. We will also need security for Friday and Saturday night. Some of the "tasks" include: setup on Friday (skirting the tables, picking up the cases and setting them up) and take down on Sunday, the potluck dinner on Friday, running the silent auction, sewing grab bags, tumbling rocks, putting signs up on Saturday and picking them up on Sunday, junior activities, donating a door prize and host/hostess (greeting people by the front door). There will be 3 demonstrators at the show, and 4 or 5 dealers.

The cases are in need of repair; hopefully we can set up a time when repairs can be done.

Refreshments were served while Jon Spunaugle set up the program.

**Show and Tell**

- Lyle Vogelpohl brought a sample of opal triplets that were on a dop stick, chrysocolla, and a trunca geode.

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- Emily Brune brought some Jasper from Shelton.
- Rich Babcock and Brooke Wagner brought some quartz crystal they got at their favorite store in Ferndale.
- Christina and Caitlyn Gilman brought some volcanic glass and some blue cold seeps pictures.
- Diane Christensen brought some chrysocolla.
- Lucie O'Clair brought a copper mineral that she got from a friend.
- Maceo Tinsley brought a blue agate and a green polished rock.
- Ian Atkinson brought some opal with blue and green fire lines.
- Janet Francisco brought some Alaskan jade and some rare carbonite found in India.
- Bo Jeffers brought a limb cast, serpentine, mudstone, Amazonite feldspar Chrysocolla and some copper material.
- Mike Blanton brought some silverware jewelry that he is making.
- Jon Spunaugle brought some local material, some rutilated quartz found in the Mt. Baker area and some smoky quartz crystals that he bought near Lolo point.
- Ken Schmidt brought polished rocks to share with everyone.

Jon Spunaugle won the drawing, and the meeting was adjourned.

### Program

Jon Spunaugle did a slide show on how to properly set up a show case. The most common case size is 2 feet by 4 feet by 2 feet. The case can be lined with a draping, or material can be put on risers. The cases will have one or two lights in the case.

Remember to bring glass cleaner and to always label your items

Respectfully Submitted,  
Diane Christensen, WSRC Secretary

## CRYSTAL GAZING

A mineral found in a shipwreck was an ancient form of compass

This may look like a nondescript lump of rock, but it is, in fact, a sunstone. That, at least, is the opinion of Guy Ropars of Rennes University, in France, and his colleagues. Sunstones are legendary items supposed to have been used by Viking sailors in the days before magnetic compasses. Looking at the sky through one, it is said, would reveal the sun's direction even on a cloudy day or when that fiery orb was below the horizon.



Dr. Ropars thinks sunstones were real, and were actually crystals of Iceland spar, a form of calcite that polarizes light (and therefore reacts to polarized light). Light from the sky is polarized and, as he discovered in 2011, looking through a piece of Iceland spar reveals the direction of polarization, and thus the direction of the sun, to within 5°.

Dr. Ropars also believes the use of sunstones persisted until at least the 16th century. Their existence is mentioned in church records, and they would have been useful because although magnetic compasses were known by then, they were unreliable for reasons not then understood, such as proximity to the large amounts of iron in ships' cannons.

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He thinks this block of mineral is such a stone. It was found in a wreck believed to be that of an unnamed English warship which an admiral's report from November 29th 1592 says was lost off the coast of Alderney, in the English Channel. Four centuries underwater have rendered it opaque, but it is the right shape and density to be Iceland spar, and it was discovered within a metre of a pair of navigational dividers of the sort used to measure distances on charts.

Dr. Ropars's latest research, just published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society, used spectroscopy to confirm the stone's composition as calcite. He also did further experiments with a recently mined (and therefore transparent) Iceland-spar crystal of the same size. He and his colleagues found they could locate the direction of the sun even more accurately than before: to within 1°. The Alderney crystal, as it is known, is thus almost certainly a sunstone. It didn't save the ship, though.

(via *Rocky Trails*, 6/13; [www.economist.com/news/science-and-technology/21573088-mineral-found-shipwreck-was-ancient-formcompass-crystal-gazing](http://www.economist.com/news/science-and-technology/21573088-mineral-found-shipwreck-was-ancient-formcompass-crystal-gazing))

## **THE OPAL CORNER**

by James Darnell

### **The Preparation of Opal for making Doublets and Triplets.**

(Courtesy of Don King, member Mobile Rock & Gem Society)

Although there are exceptions, Australian Andamooka Opal, Louisiana Opal-in-quartz and Honduran Opal are best when made into doublets or triplets. Opal from Spencer, Idaho is best made into a triplet. Other types of precious Opal from Australia can also be candidates for capping.

#### **Types of Opal being capped.**

The Andamooka matrix Opal, while not difficult to sand and polish presents as a better stone when capped with optical quartz or glass.

The Louisiana Opal in quartz is almost impossible to get a good show piece since the quartz tends to pop out during the grinding and polishing phases.

The Honduran Opal is in a matrix that generally has white/grey/brown patch scattered throughout the stone. I generally prefer to slice the rough if it isn't already sliced.

#### **Capping.**

Since we are going to cap the opal, the stone can be as little as 1/8 to 1/4 inch in thickness (for doublets). This thickness does not require additional backing for strength.

Triplets will require a backing of basalt or other type stone since the Opal will be very thin and not have the thickness for the strength needed to make a good solid stone.

I recommend pre-forming the stone with the flat top like it came from the trim saw. The flat top is rough ground on a Flat Lap of 400 to 600 grit. Flat topping can not usually be accomplished on a standard capping machine round wheel.

The sides (edges, and bottom) of the stone (for doublets) should be sanded and polished to size. The top side (the side with the best color play) should be left slightly rough.

The cap stone (optical quartz or glass) should have the bottom side (the side to be glued to the stone) roughed on a 400 to 600 grit flat lap. The cap can later be finished to size after completing the capping. To cap a stone, first mix Epoxy according to the directions of manufacturer. I recommend using a glass rod for mixing. Mix slowly so as to minimize the amount of air bubbles in the bonding material. Use Epoxy 330 Water Clear for best results. Pop any air bubbles with a toothpick or pin. A gentle breath blown across the mixture may also pop some of the trapped air bubbles.

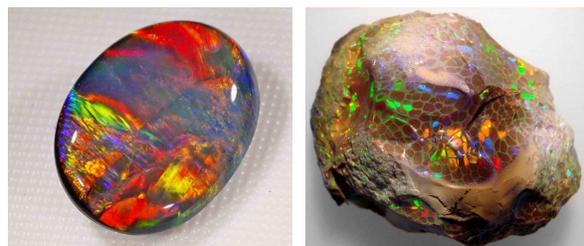
Put stone on wax paper or other throw away material. Apply epoxy to prepared Opal form, align cap (rough side down) over pre-form and apply gentle pressure to work any remaining air bubbles or air pockets. The epoxy sets up better if kept warm for several hours before touching or moving the stone.

Any excess epoxy that may drip off on the wax paper can be thrown away, or may be ground off during the finishing of the cab work after the epoxy has hardened, usually overnight.

#### **To form a triplet.**

A triplet may be prepared in a similar manner, except the Opal will be set sandwiched between the quartz cap and a solid back made from basalt or some other type dark stone

(via *Snappy Gems*, 05/08)

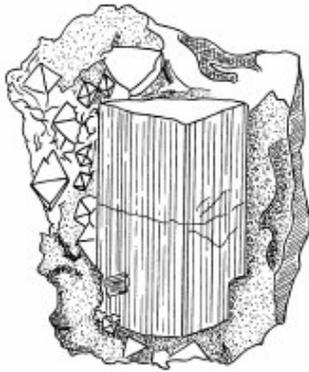


**WSRC - KID'S CORNER****Building a Mineral Collection:  
What Minerals Should I Collect? (Part 2)**

by Darryl Powell  
(with some slight modifications by Mike Wall)

**Building a Mineral Collection**

So you want to have a nice mineral collection? There are some things you need to do to be successful. In this activity, you will learn about buying and trading minerals. This is an activity that was originally created to be used in a mineral club. Please feel free to change it around if you need to so you can use the ideas at school, in scouts, or with your mineral collecting friends.

**Activity 1: Trading Specimens**

Trading mineral specimens can be a lot of fun! We like to think that the goal of trading minerals is . . .

**Be Fair & Respect Each Other**

What is a fair trade? A “fair trade” is when you give a specimen to another collector and the collector gives one to you, and you both feel good about the mineral you received.

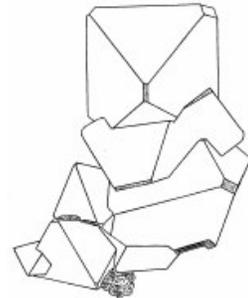
**Select** 5 specimens from your collection that you would consider trading with your fellow rock enthusiasts. These can be specimens you collected, purchased or were given to you.

**Step 1:**

Pair up with another club member and look over each other's 5 mineral specimens. Make one trade with your friend. Take about 5 minutes to do this.

**Here are the steps to trading:**

1. Double check your minerals and decide if there are any that you really want to keep. Put them aside in a safe place.
2. Put the specimens you are willing to trade in a special box.
3. Compare your trading specimens with a friend's trading specimens.



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4. Talk with your friend and decide which of his or hers you would like to have.
5. Ask which specimens of yours your friend would like to have.
6. Then decide which specimen is a fair trade for the one you want.
7. If you agree, then exchange specimens and shake hands with a "Thank You."

If you can't agree, it is ok to **not** make a trade. Still, shake hands and say "Thank You."

**Step 2:**

Visit with another friend in club. Repeat Step 1 and decide if you want to make a trade. Follow the steps above. Take 5 minutes to do this with this friend.

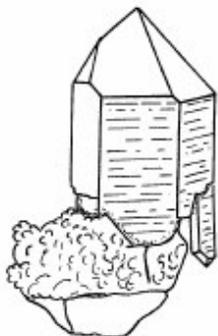
**Step 3:**

Repeat Step 1 until you have practiced trading with all your club friends, or until you don't want to trade anymore of your specimens.

## Activity 2: Buying Minerals

**Here's a question:** How do you know what to buy when you are at a mineral shop or at a show? Here are some rules to help you make a good purchase:

1. What can you afford? There is always a more expensive mineral. Buy the one in your price range. If you have \$5, choose from the \$5 or less group. (If you have \$5,000, you can choose from the more expensive section!)
2. Is the mineral damaged? It is always better to purchase a specimen that is not damaged. What is "damage"? Look for chips and places where the mineral has been banged up.



◀really good specimen

The same specimen with damage▶



3. Buy the specimen that looks good to you. This is your collection. Collect the minerals that you enjoy. What looks great to you may not look great to another collector. That doesn't matter. What matters is that you are happy with your choice.

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Decide what you like best, and focus on that. A dealer may have 100 GREAT fluorite specimens. But if you like galena, then you can pass by the fluorites.

The minerals I like best: \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 1:**

Using the guide above, decide which minerals are best for your collection. You can purchase these with your “Mineral Money” and take them home for your own collection.

**Step 2:**

Show one of your new minerals to the club and explain why you bought that specimen. What made it better than the others at the “Mineral Store”?

Be creative! Print out the mineral money and, with a friend, pretend to “buy” some mineral specimens. Why did you want to buy what you did? What did you like about the specimens? Would you think the same way if you go to a real mineral store?

(via Mini Miners Monthly, 11/13)



**JUNIOR PROGRAM**

Hello, Rockers!

Spring will have sprung by the time you read this, which means we are in the final weeks of preparation for our annual rock and gem show (April 26-27 10 am - 5 pm both days at the Alki Masonic Temple, located at 4736 40th Ave SW in West Seattle (just east of Alaska Junction).

Our topic this upcoming Juniors meeting will be how we are going to contribute to our club’s most important annual event. We will discuss our options, which include creating a group display, managing our own activity booth, volunteering during the two-day event, and putting together individual displays. Those who have some experience will be called upon to share with the group on what they have done and plan to do this year, so come prepared with photos of your display cases, memories and ideas for what we could do this year!

We’ll be working on several different badges/requirements: leadership, communication, showmanship, and collecting - so this is a meeting you’ll not want to miss!

Be there or be square - 6pm, March 26th at Tibbett’s Church, West Seattle!

~April Hichens, your faithful Junior Rockhound Assistant!

**REFRESHMENTS –**  
**MARCH**



Please take note if you are on the hook for refreshments this month.

Snacks & Drinks:

**Brooke Wagner & Rich Babcock**

**GENERAL PROGRAM**

A DVD from the NFMS Library with two segments on opal: (1) The history of Australian opal hunting and (2) an aboriginal folk tale of how opal was created. Total viewing time is 26 minutes.

**2014 FIELD TRIPS**

**Apr 12/13** Pow Wow Field Trip – Saddle Mountain – 8:00 am @ Mattawa Boat Launch – Petrified Wood – Dues Required: \$7.50 & \$15 Family - contact Ed Lehman wsmced@hotmail.com 425-334-6282 or 425-760-2786

**Apr 19** Mount Baker Rock & Gem Club Field Trip – Racehorse Creek – 9:00 am @ IGA @ Nugents Corner – Fossils – Dig & Light Hard Rock Tools - contact Kris Menger @ (360)927-0994, kmenger@comcast.net

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See WSMC [http://www.mineralcouncil.org/FieldTrips\\_2014.pdf](http://www.mineralcouncil.org/FieldTrips_2014.pdf) for additional field trips and details

**2014 SHOWS**

**Mar 28** 10am-6pm **Rock Rollers Club of Spokane – Annual Show**

**Mar 29** 10am-6pm Spokane County Fair & Expo Center

**Mar 30** 10am-4pm N. 604 Havana, Spokane, WA

**Mar 29** 10am-6pm **Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society – Annual Show**

**Mar 30** 10am-4pm Sweet Home High School Activity Gym, 1641 Long St., Sweet Home, OR

**Apr 12** 10am-6pm **Yakima Rock & Mineral Club – Annual Show**

**Apr 13** 10am-4pm Washington National Guard Armory, 2501 Airport Lane, Yakima, WA

**Apr 26** 10am-5pm **West Seattle Rock Club – Annual Show**

**Apr 27** 10am-5pm **Alki Masonic Temple, 4736 40th Ave SW, Seattle, WA**

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See the **Northwest Newsletter** for additional show listings and times.  
 Available online at: [http://www.amfed.org/nfms/documents/NorthwestNewsletter/NW07\\_0813.PDF](http://www.amfed.org/nfms/documents/NorthwestNewsletter/NW07_0813.PDF)



**HOW CAN YOU HELP**



**Your Federation:** Save stamps and give to our club treasurer.

**Your Hobby:** Join ALAA. - Contact Lyle Vogelpohl

**Other:** Volunteer to teach beginners what you are good at.



**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ...**



**Cabbing ...** contact Lyle Vogelpohl ... (206) 932-3292

