

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

P.O. Box 16145

Seattle, WA 98116

email: mike_wall@yahoo.com

SEPTEMBER 2014



STAR SAPPHIRE

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.

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2014):

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| President | Bo Jeffers | (206) 248-1475 |
| Vice President | Merryl Jeffers | (206) 248-1475 |
| Secretary | Diane Christensen | (206) 582-2267 |
| 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) 582-2267 |
| 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) 582-2267 |
| 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**September 24, 2014****Junior Meeting (6:00 pm)****Program:** The "Collections" badge**General Meeting (7:00 pm)****Program:** Meet Kevin DeLano, 2014
NFMS Scholarship Honoree
and possible future astronaut**Show & Tell:** Your Choice**October 1, 2014****Board Meeting, (7:00 pm)**
At the Vogelpohls'

books and ideas on how to log and label your lovely specimens!

A list for you to remember:

1. Container(s) for your specimens and any you'd like to share
2. Log to begin filling out (notebook, composition book, etc.)
3. A few specimens (8-10) to identify, log and label

See you on September 24th, 6 pm sharp!

~April Hichens

Junior Rockhound Facilitator & Cheerleader

**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**

Not Available At Press Time

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**GREETINGS, JUNIOR
ROCKHOUNDS!**

We will be back for the September meeting (mark your calendars for September 24th, 6pm!), where we will be working on the "Collections" badge. We will be joined by Kevin DeLano, a graduate student in Geology from Eastern Washington University and our general meeting's guest speaker. He'll share with us his passion for rocks as a kid and how that inspired him. He'll also show us some specimens that are special to him and how he stores and displays his own collection! We can't wait!

Start collecting appropriate containers like craft boxes, fishing tackle boxes - both have separate little compartments to have each of your specimens in their own space - cigar boxes; paper ream boxes with lids; shoe boxes. I found some cool little plastic boxes with individual compartments and hinged lids at Ikea that work great for smaller specimens. In addition, bring something you can use as your log for your finds (small notebook), and specimens that you'd like to bring in to begin the process. I'll bring in what I have to share for storage, labeling tools, identification

WEST SEATTLE ROCK CLUB – GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

August 27, 2014

**Business**

Vice Present, Merryl Jeffers welcomed members and guests.

Brooke Wagner was the hostess and reported they were 15 adult members present, 5 junior members and 5 guests. The door prizes were won by Merryl Jeffers (who gave the prize to our new member, Mary Beaudin), Jesse Sheeran and Cooper Lester.

Merryl informed the guests if they would like to join the Rock Club, they can obtain an application from Audrey Vogelpohl (her information is in the Petroglyphs) or wait until the next general meeting, at the end of September.

Merryl ask if there were any corrections or additions to the June minutes. Since there were none, they will remain as printed.

In April Hichens absence, Merryl thanked Erica Forrest for filling in as the junior advisor. Erica worked with the juniors prior the general meeting.

Merryl then announced the upcoming field trips and shows.

There will be no board meeting in September. The September general meeting will include one of the 2014 winners of the scholarship fund.

Mike Blanton reported he attended the Federation show and there were about 15 competitive cases and about 45 cases total. He also mentioned there were a lot of dealers at that show.

Program

Dave Clausen hosted the evening's program. He spoke about several popular places in Washington to collect rocks, and brought samples from each location. He had petrified wood from Saddle Mountain, crystals from Red Top and thunder eggs from little Naches.

Show and Tell

- Brooke Wagner and Rich Babcock brought a piece of Ginkgo petrified wood, a watermelon tourmaline and a sulfur crystal.
- Elliott Forrest brought some pumice.
- Cooper Lester brought a box of miscellaneous minerals he got from his aunt and he collected on his own.
- Erica Forrest brought a piece of drip formation made of sandstone that she got 20 years ago.
- Sophia Simpson-Khan brought the geode that she won by having the "People's Choice" case at our show. She also brought an agate she got from Seaside OR and some bismuth, pumice and some smoky quartz.
- JoAnn Churchman brought a beautiful Botswana blue lace agate.
- Mike Blanton brought 5 nice pendants he made and sells online.

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- Kat (Kathy) brought a cool geode called evil eye, a piece of petrified myrtle wood, some midnight lace and a rock with a gray lace pattern.
- Angela Poseuke and Cecilia brought rocks they found at Alki beach and also a rock with fossils around it that Angela got in Kodiak, AK.
- Bo Jeffers brought a Jasper sphere and crystallized quartz from Pyramid Creek by Mount Rainier.
- Diane Christensen brought some polished and rough obsidian and sunstones she (and Leroy) collected while vacationing in Oregon last month.
- Ken Schmidt brought tumbled rocks that were donated to the club.

Rich Babcock won the drawing

Refreshments were served and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Christensen
WSRC secretary

WSRC – MEMBER NEWS

September Birthdays

Sapphire - is called the gem of the heavens because it comes in all the colors of the sky. Known for being the stone of wisdom, it enhances creative expression, universal knowledge and intellect. Wearing the stone will aid in memory and intuition as it promotes friendship and love, concentration and attracts good influences.

6 - Jon Spunaugle
8 - Jesse Sheeran
9 - Jim Floyd
18 - Barry Nevin
24 - Clarence Higuera



October Birthdays

Opal - the birthstone of the romantic, social and easy-going, promoting creativity. Known as the stone of inspiration and dreams as you become mesmerized by the brilliant colors.

1 - Sylvia Ewins
4 - Katherine Koch
14 - Richard Babcock
14 - Oz Hichens
21 - Otto Bisno

Audrey

ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER

Let's fill the Slate. The nominating committee, composed of the 3 immediate past presidents (Michael O' Claire, LeRoy Christensen and Lyle Vogelpohl), is looking to fill the slate of officers for the coming year. To be elected are the:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Federation Director
- Director-at-Large
- Mineral Council Rep (3 positions)
- Newsletter Editor

Are you willing to help your club in one of these positions? There are only 10 club meetings per year plus some monthly planning meetings. Not a hard job ... where can you help? If you have questions, or comments, please give a call to one, or all, of the committee:

- Lyle Vogelpohl 206.932.3292
- Leroy Christensen 206-582-2267
- Michael O'Claire 206.938-1541

NFMS REPORT

by Audrey Vogelpohl, Federation Director

NFMS Officers for 2014-2015 were elected and installed, including WSRC member Lyle Vogelpohl as Treasurer. Awards were presented from the AFMS/NFMS Webmaster Contest for our own webmaster Donn Ullery; Junior Achievement Awards to our own Juniors - Bowie, Oz and Keir; and Lyle and I were honored for being selected to choose the two AFMS Scholarship winners from the Northwest, each receiving \$4,000 grants.

The business item of most interest was the attempt to go mostly digitally with the Northwest Newsletter. Unlike the other Federations who send just a few of their newsletter to each club, the NFMS sends one to each member family's address. Some of you receive our own club newsletter, the Petroglyphs, via the internet ... Mike Wall e-mails you when it is posted on our club website. We could do the same for members agreeing to receive the Northwest Newsletter in digital format. The budget for The Newsletter is almost \$18,000 per year. Let me know what are your comments/concerns? Do we have a member who would be willing to keep our own e-mail list current?

Plan ahead to attend the 2015 Convention ... put the dates on your calendar now .. April 10,11, and 12 in Ogden, Utah. More details will be monthly in the Northwest Newsletter or contact Evan Day at 801.391.2912 or e-mail to eday@sisna.com.

**THE MINERALS OF FRANKLIN,
NEW JERSEY – FLUORESCENT
MINERAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD**

Sussex County New Jersey has more fluorescent minerals than anywhere else in the world. Thirty-two fluorescent minerals were first found there and 30 of those are not known to found anywhere else in the world. The minerals are primarily zinc, manganese and iron. There are many small zinc mines in the area. The DVD's narrator's favorite is the Ding Dong Mine.

Zincite was discovered in 1810 by Dutch miners. These miners started working in 1640 looking for copper deposits. In 1772, they tried to smelt red zinc oxide thinking it was copper. Thomas Edison had an iron mine in the area in the early 1900's. One of his many unprofitable business ventures.

The colors found in the ore: black is Franklinite, Willemite is red and or green, Zincite oxide is white and orange and Calcite is orange. There are many shades of various colors in other minerals. It is an optical phenomenon that the substances found in the ore emit visible light when radiated by ultraviolet light.

The mines closed in 1986 but still allow fee collecting at the Buckwheat dumpsite. Amazingly, the area is about a one hour drive from New York City.

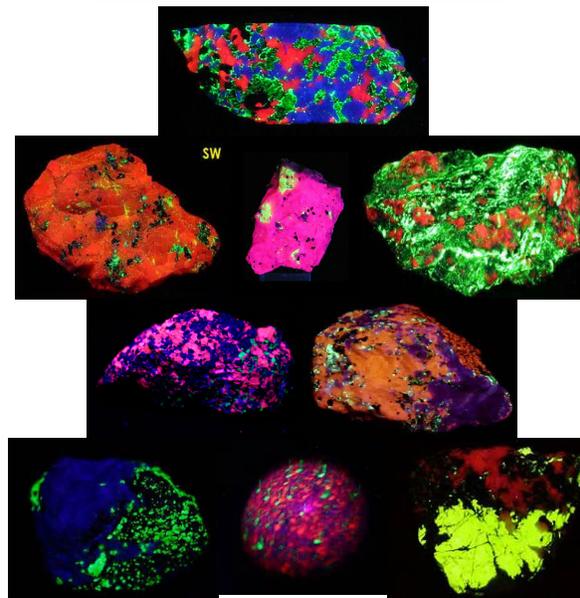
(via *The Tumbler* 9/18; via *Quarry Quips*, 8/14)

**MEET A FUTURE
(WE HOPE)
ASTRONAUT**

by Lyle & Audrey Vogelpohl

Kevin DeLano, graduate of Central Washington University, and recipient of a \$4,000 grant from the AFMS Scholarship Foundation, is looking forward to sharing some of his accomplishments and dreams with us on September 24th. His goal is that when NASA returns to the moon, he will be a geologist on board and be able to conduct research on the lunar surface. He has already interned with the NASA Planetary Geology Undergraduate Research Program.

Kevin will be attending both the Junior (6 pm) and Adult (7 pm) meetings ... come meet him.

FRANKLIN MINERAL PICS

DOWNTOWN SEATTLE "ROCKS"

submitted by Jan Parsons, WSRC Member

Below is a "walking exploratory" outing in downtown Seattle submitted by Jan Parsons. Thanks Jan! Sorry it took me a while to get this into the newsletter – better late than never ;-)

| <u>Rock Type</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Building/Address</u> |
|---|-----------------|--|
| FINNISH GRANITE. "rapakivi". | 1.6 billion | 1000 2nd Ave. building |
| (Salem) LIMESTONE. most popular bldg. material in USA, from Bedford, Indiana | 300 million | Seattle Art Museum & Sea. branch of Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco |
| GRAY LIMESTONE. ammonite fossils related to modern octopus & nautilus, crinoid stems/discs .. related to Echinoderms | | The Gap/4th Ave & Pine |
| TRAVERTINE. burnt oatmeal color, from New Mexico near Rio Grande river | < 2 million | Underground bus tunnel .. Westlake Center |
| GRANITE. reddish, pink, brown, from Finland, large mineral crystals .. some 3 inches long, lots of feldspar, often sent first to Italy to be cut, then sent to Seattle | 1.6 billion | US Bank Centre, Key Tower, Westlake Mall, Metro station, Century Square. |
| ITALIAN TRAVERTINE. a precipitate, near Rome | 30 million | Rainier Tower/4th & University .. thin slabs, old Nordstrom bldg., WA Fed Savings bldg., interior bank area of Pacific bldg. |
| INDEX GRANITE. salt & pepper colored | 33 million | Times Square bldg., base of Smith Tower, curbs & paving stones |
| CHUCKANUT SANDSTONE. most used as bldg. material | | buildings around Pioneer Square .. Bailey bldg., Pioneer bldg., Yesler bldg, Elliot Bay book store |
| UBATUBA GRANITE. Brazil | 40 - 50 million | Expeditors bldg/3rd & Spring, Westlake Metro Station |
| COMBLANCHIEN LIMESTONE. French limestone, fine grained, tawny, red streaked, sponges, corals, brachiopods. Jurassic period. more rare: oysters, snails, starfish. In France .. wine made from grapes grown on soils derived from these rocks. | 175 million | floor/Westlake center |

SAFETY MATTERS – OXALIC ACID**PRECAUTIONS**

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Numerous articles have been written about the use of oxalic acid for cleaning and preparing mineral specimens. The trouble with most of the articles I've read has been that a good deal of the important safety information has been left out of them. In fact, most of the articles never even mention the very important matter of its toxicity. This month I'm turning over the Safety Matters column to Duane Leavitt. Duane is a chemistry teacher, mineral collector and contributor to the *Mineralogy of Maine Volume II*, published by the Maine Geological Society.

Some Notes and Safety Tips on Using Oxalic Acid
by Duane Leavitt

One often reads about and sees reference to oxalic acid (wood bleach) in publications when the topic of cleaning minerals is discussed. This chemical, while an excellent cleaner for some types of minerals, poses some serious health risks which are not widely understood and can be confusing when considered in light of other acids that are sometimes used for cleaning purposes.

Oxalic acid, chemically $H_2C_2O_4$, is an organic acid, which means that it contains, among other things, the element carbon. At room temperature it is a white, crystalline, odorless, solid looking a lot like granular sugar in physical appearance. It melts at 101 degrees C and will vaporize at around 150 degrees C.

When we look at oxalic acid, strictly as an acid, we find that as acids go it is quite weak. Acid strength is measured by how much hydrogen acids give up in water solutions; a convenient measure of this is what is known as the K_a value, ionization constant value, of the acid. In a standard water solution oxalic acid has ionization constant (K_a) values of 0.0054 (primary) and 0.0000523 (tertiary). Compare this to K_a values of hydrochloric acid, K_a : 1; and nitric acid, K_a : 27.79 and it is obvious that oxalic acid is nowhere near as strong or as soluble in water as these last two acids, which are also used in mineral cleaning. This last statement is very true and is a BIG part of the problem with understanding oxalic acid. There is NO CORRELATION between acid strength and how poisonous it is, it's TOXICITY.

As an organic acid, oxalic acid, and/or it's water solutions, can be absorbed directly through the skin into

the bloodstream, powders from the dry acid and vapors from solutions can be absorbed into the body through the lungs - this has serious implications for those who like to clean specimens in a crock pot of simmering oxalic acid solution in their basement; residues from improperly neutralized and rinsed specimens may be absorbed through later handling. Dust from the solid acid can damage the cornea of the eyes.

In the body, oxalic acid removes calcium from the blood, forming insoluble crystalline masses of calcium oxalate that eventually wind up in the kidneys where they will obstruct and abrade the kidney tubules causing the kidneys to bleed. They may block the kidneys and have to be removed surgically - kidney stones. In respiratory passages the material will cause severe irritation, possible hemorrhaging of these tissues and lungs. When the material gets into the digestive tract it causes severe gastroenteritis and vomiting, shock and convulsions, cardiovascular collapse and/or kidney failure which can lead to death. A lethal dose of oxalic acid is somewhere between 5-15 grams. Severe health problems occur at much smaller levels of exposure. OSHA recommends a TLV (threshold limit value) of no more than 1 mg (that is one thousandth of a gram)/ cubic meter. For comparison, 1 restaurant packet of sugar contains about 1 gram of material or 1000 times the recommended exposure value.

Unlike neutralized hydrochloric, muriatic and nitric acids, the products of "neutralized" oxalic acid are STILL poisonous - they just are no longer acidic. Oxalate compounds of any nature are still a threat to your health.

People wishing to use oxalic acid can do so successfully and safely provided they incorporate the following procedures into their mineral cleaning:

1. Always use long-sleeved rubber gloves, a splash proof apron, and full eye/nose protection when handling either dry oxalic acid crystals or oxalic acid solutions.
2. Avoid heating solutions of oxalic acid ... it will work cold, it just takes longer.
3. Keep containers of soaking specimens covered so that acid vapors stay inside the container. Lids should NOT be airtight.
4. Rinse any specimens cleaned with oxalic acid with copious amounts of water and test with pH paper

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to ensure that all acid is gone. A post treatment bath in dilute (household) ammonia or sodium bicarbonate solution is a good idea.

5. In the event of a spill removed affected clothing immediately, rinse affected areas with copious amounts of water, rinse and wash affected clothing. If there is any doubt as to the severity of the exposure seek medical help immediately.
6. Small amounts of used solutions of oxalic acid can be disposed of by the following method:
 - A. Neutralize the solution with sodium bicarbonate or sodium hydroxide; TEST with pH paper to make sure it is neutral (or slightly basic).
 - B. Dilute the solution from step 1 above, 20 fold with water (example, to 1 pint of neutralized acid solution add 20 pints of water).
 - C. Pour solution 2 down the drain with plenty of cold water. This disposal technique is identical to Flynn Scientific disposal technique 24A (Flynn, 2006).
7. Read up on cleaning techniques (Cleaning and Preserving Minerals by Richard Pearl is a good place to start) and educate yourself about techniques, materials and alternatives.

(AFMS Newsletter, September 2014)

REFRESHMENTS – SEPTEMBER



Due to the misplacement of the refreshments signup sheet, I am not sure if anyone was signed up for September ... but **April** has graciously agreed to bring snacks and drinks this month – as well as a new signup sheet. **THANKS** April.

CLARENCE ENKRAF

Member Matt Engkraf called to let us know that his dad, Clarence, was at Mt St Vincent with cancer ... his days with us being few. For those of you who do not know Clarence, for many years he and his wife Josie were the ones that made the trees, for the kids at our show, to glue on stones. In order to help with expenses of care at The Mount, they are going to sell

their collections of opal and amethyst. The opal is of various sizes and from various locations ... all being kept in water. The amethyst is of dark purple, and one is dinner plate size. For further information call Matt at 206.932.6632.

REGIONAL 8 FOOT CASES

All the regional cases are being moved to a new storage space and they are looking at getting rid of all the 8 foot cases. These are 8 foot long and 2 feet deep (not sure on exactly on height but I think they are about 2 1/2 feet high).

Any interest? These are great cases and I have used one of them at the show the last few years. They have glass all the way around and are great for displaying. Plus, they are free to members of the club – so the price is right :-) ... If you are interested please contact:

Susan Gardner – email:
SGARDNER3@MINDSPRING.COM

SHOP TIPS



Editor's Note: Shop tips featured in this bulletin have not been evaluated for safety or reliability. Please use caution and common sense when trying out any new idea.

Tourmaline and Garnet

Tourmaline and garnet will both chip. Grind carefully on well-dressed wheels. Both stones are fairly heat sensitive. Sand wet. Linde A on leather is a good polishing combination for these gems.

(via *The Tumbler* 1/14; via *Rock Rollers*, 10/09; via *Glacier Drifter*, 2/09; via *Gem Cutters*, 1/09; via *Skagit Gems*)

Tumbling Tip

Two batches of stone were tumbled in a double barrel. Both were run through the same grits for the same amount of time.

On the polish run, one batch was run in tin oxide and the other in Spic and Span. The one run in Spic and Span seemed the brightest.

One cup of Spic and Span was used for six pounds of rock.

(via *The Tumbler* 1/14; via *The Pegmatite*, 10/10; via *Lawrence County Rock Club Inc.*, 4/10; via *The Rockpile*)

2014 FIELD TRIPS

- Oct 4** Marysville Rock & Gem Field Trip – D.P. Mine & H.T. Creek – 9:00 @ Money Creek Camp – Ore and Picture Jasper – A light and light hard rock tools - contact Ed Lehman wsmced@hotmail.com (425) 334-6282 or (425) 760-2786
- Nov 8** Mount Baker Rock & Gem Field Trip – Blanchard Mountain – 9:00 @ I-5 240 exit gas station – Stilpnomelane & Chert – hard rock tools - contact Kris Menger @ (360) 927-0994 kmenger@comcast.net

See WSMC http://www.mineralcouncil.org/FieldTrips_2014.pdf for additional field trips and details

2014 SHOWS

- | | | |
|---------------|----------|---|
| Sep 20 | 10am-6pm | Southern Wash. Mineralogical Society – Annual Show |
| Sep 21 | 10am-4pm | Castle Rock Fair Grounds, 120 Fair Lane, Castle Rock, WA |
| Sep 27 | 10am-5pm | Billings Gem and Mineral Club – Annual Show |
| Sep 28 | 10am-4pm | Billings Hotel and Conv. Center, 1223 Mallowney Lane, Billings, MT |
| Oct 10 | 10am-6pm | Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy – Annual Symposium |
| Oct 11 | 10am-6pm | Theme “Minerals of Colorado” |
| Oct 12 | 10am-5pm | Red Lion Motel in Kelso, Washington |
| Oct 10 | 10am-6pm | Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show – Annual Show |
| Oct 11 | 10am-6pm | Washington County Fair Complex |
| Oct 12 | 10am-5pm | 873 NE 34th Avenue, Hillsboro, OR |
| Oct 11 | 10am-5pm | Marysville Rock and Gem Club – Annual Show |
| Oct 12 | 10am-5pm | Totem Middle School Cafeteria, 7th St. & State Ave., Marysville, WA |

See the **Northwest Newsletter** for additional show listings and times.

Available online at: <http://www.amfed.org/nfms/newsletters.asp>



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

