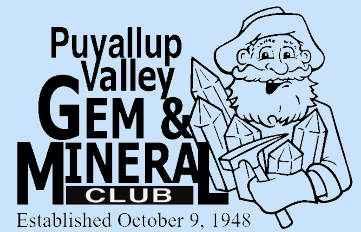


ROCK-A-TEER



Newsletter of the Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club

Jillian Higgins

Issue 99

Volume 149

March

2026

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President's Perspective

Glenn Rodrick

As the president I am excited for the members to visit a new rock hounding site for the club. I am of course talking about the upcoming field trip to Walker Vally, which kicks the years rockhounding trips. Its time to dust off your rockhounding tools and get ready for the weather to break so we can go find our treasures.

We are going full steam ahead with things at the clubhouse.

We are still in negotiations with the Tacoma Sportsman's club for the August Jim Christian Show in the Trees. Hopefully, we will be able to have a meeting of the minds and will be able to

We are still looking for a Kitchen cook to help for part of the time Saturday and Sunday. We are only cooking hamburgers and hotdogs, so it should not be too extensive. If you are able to help, please reach out directly to PVGAMC@gmail.com and let us know.

Field Trip Report

March 21 – Walker Valley

Meeting place - 10:00AM at the Big Lake Grocery 16818 Lakeview Blvd, Mount Vernon, WA 98274

Hunting for – Agate and small chance of Geodes

Tools you need – Hard rock mining, hammer and chisel, and a backpack/bucket for your treasures

Access - this area is fairly easy to access, but there are hillsides that we might try combing over

Additional items - lunch/snacks and water, water, water. Dress in layers & good hiking shoes or boots are a plus

April 18 - Saddle Mountain

Meeting place - 10:00AM at the Shell Station at 723 Government Way, Mattawa, WA

Hunting for - Petrified Wood

Tools you need - Shovel and Rockhammer and a backpack/bucket for your treasures

Access - this area is fairly easy to access, walking down 300 feet on a slight incline (more important for when you come back up)

Additional items - lunch/snacks and water, water, water. Dress in layers. After done, if there is interest, we can go to the diatomaceous earth and common opal sight

Please remember that even though we love to meet new people, fieldtrips are a member benefit and part of your membership dues covers you for injury liability.

Though injuries are rare, and we do everything we can to avoid them, we are going out into nature, and uncontrollable environment.

All individuals attending field trips will have to sign a release of liability, and if you are bringing guests, we will try to entice them into join the club by having Membership applications available.

MARCH 2026 CLUB HOUSE SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	INSTRUCTOR
1	Sunday				
2	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tasha Parker
3	Tuesday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access - Beginner	Club House	Ed & Wes
4	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
5	Thursday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Renera Barnes
6	Friday				
7	Saturday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Wes Ames
8	Sunday				
9	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tasha Parker
		7:00PM-8:00PM	Opal Club Business Meeting	Club House	Tony Johnson
10	Tuesday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access - Beginner	Club House	Ed & Wes
11	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
		4:00 - 8:00PM	Wire Wrapping	Club House	Diane Stangland
12	Thursday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Renera Barnes
13	Friday	6:00PM	Club Board Meeting	Fruitland Grange	Dennis Batchelor
		7:30PM	Club Business Meeting	Fruitland Grange	Glenn Rodrick
14	Saturday	10:00 - 2:00PM	Gem Trees	Club House	Dana James
15	Sunday				
16	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tasha Parker
17	Tuesday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access - Beginner	Club House	Ed & Wes
18	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
19	Thursday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Renera Barnes
20	Friday				
21	Saturday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
		See Fieldtrip Report	Walker Valley	Field Trip	Paul Haak
22	Sunday				
23	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tasha Parker
24	Tuesday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access - Beginner	Club House	Ed & Wes
25	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
26	Thursday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Renera Barnes
27	Friday	7:30PM	Club Program Night	Fruitland Grange	Glenn Rodrick
28	Saturday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Cold Forging	Club House	Timothy Jackson
29	Sunday				
30	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tasha Parker
31	Tuesday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access - Beginner	Club House	Ed & Wes

For questions about a specific class or event, contact PVGAMC@gmail.com

Dennis Batchelor (360) 870-8741	Wes Ames (253) 376-7871	Tasha Parker (206) 291-8068
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Renera Barnes rsb1224@netscape.com	Paul Haak (253) 312-1743	Ed Knoll (253) 651-7453
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*** **Membership Open Access** is the time when members can use the saws and cabbing machines

This schedule is subject to change. Please check the club website for updated information.

Associations Director Report

Howdy to all my fellow rockhounds and pepplepups.

I hope everyone is doing well and preparing for your next rock event. Whether it's getting out in nature, a stroll down a gravel driveway, a trip to a rock shop, visiting our clubhouse or attending a meeting, it's always a good time as long as rocks are involved.

Not a whole lot is going on legislatively. Federally US SB3708 is still in committee. As for our state nothing is pending that will affect our hobby.

I will be attending the WSMC meeting on Tuesday March 17 at the Maplewood Rock and Gem Club in Edmonds. The meeting starts at 7pm and is open for anyone to attend either in person or through Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by
Mark Baumann
PVG&MC Associations Director

Clubhouse report

Wes Ames & Ed Knoll

Clubhouse is in the process of some minor changes. We would like to have more instructors and even instructor helper/assistance. Plus, any input from members as to what they feel could improve the clubhouse.

Field Trip Recap

Paul Haak

There was no field trip for the month of February, so there is no field trip recap. Look for next months to see what the club has been up-to on the field trip.

Earth recycles ocean floor into diamonds

Date: May 29, 2019

Source: Macquarie University

Summary: Most diamonds are made of cooked seabed. The diamond on your finger is most likely made of recycled seabed cooked deep in the Earth. Traces of salt trapped in many diamonds show the stones are formed from ancient seabeds that became buried deep beneath the Earth's crust, according to new research.



Diamond and coal (stock image).

Credit: © RTimages / [Adobe Stock](#)

The diamond on your finger is most likely made of recycled seabed cooked deep in the Earth.

Traces of salt trapped in many diamonds show the stones are formed from ancient seabeds that became buried deep beneath the Earth's crust, according to new research led by Macquarie University geoscientists in Sydney, Australia.

Most diamonds found at the Earth's surface are formed this way; others are created by crystallization of melts deep in the mantle.

In experiments recreating the extreme pressures and temperatures found 200 kilometres underground, Dr Michael Förster, Professor Stephen Foley, Dr Olivier Alard, and colleagues at Goethe Universität and Johannes Gutenberg Universität in Germany, have demonstrated that seawater in sediment from the bottom of the ocean reacts in the right way to produce the balance of salts found in diamond.

The study, published in *Science Advances*, settles a long-standing question about the formation of diamonds. "There was a theory that the salts trapped inside diamonds came from marine seawater, but couldn't be tested," says lead author Michael. "Our research showed that they came from marine sediment."

Diamonds are crystals of carbon that form beneath the Earth's crust in very old parts of the mantle. They are brought to the surface in volcanic eruptions of a special kind of magma called kimberlite.

While gem diamonds are usually made of pure carbon, so-called fibrous diamonds, which are cloudy and less appealing to jewellers, often include small traces of sodium, potassium and other minerals that reveal information about the environment where they formed.

These fibrous diamonds are commonly ground down and used in technical applications like drill bits.

Fibrous diamonds grow more quickly than gem diamonds, which means they trap tiny samples of fluids around them while they form.

"We knew that some sort of salty fluid must be around while the diamonds are growing, and now we have confirmed that marine sediment fits the bill," says Michael.

For this process to occur, a large slab of sea floor would have to slip down to a depth of more than 200 kilometres below the surface quite rapidly, in a process known as subduction in which one tectonic plate slides beneath another.

The rapid descent is required because the sediment must be compressed to more than four gigapascals (40,000 times atmospheric pressure) before it begins to melt in the temperatures of more than 800°C found in the ancient mantle.

To test the idea, team members at the Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz and Goethe Universität Frankfurt in Germany carried out a series of high-pressure, high-temperature experiments.

They placed marine sediment samples in a vessel with a rock called peridotite that is the most common kind of rock found in the part of the mantle where diamonds form. Then they turned up the pressure and the heat, giving the samples time to react with one another in conditions like those found at different places in the mantle.

At pressures between four and six gigapascals and temperatures between 800°C and 1100°C, corresponding to depths of between 120 and 180 kilometres below the surface, they found salts formed with a balance of sodium and potassium that closely matches the small traces found in diamonds.

"We demonstrated that the processes that lead to diamond growth are driven by the recycling of oceanic sediments in subduction zones," says Michael.

"The products of our experiments also resulted in the formation of minerals that are necessary ingredients for the formation of kimberlite magmas, which transport diamonds to the Earth's surface."

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

	<p style="text-align: center;">South Hill RV Sales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Offering the highest rated starter, midline, and high end towables and RV's at the lowest prices which has made us a top volume dealer in Washington state.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12414 Meridian East, Puyallup 98373 253-435-7751 or 866-435-7751 www.southhillrv.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">H & I Lapidary</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Amber, Jewelry, Beads, Findings, Gemstones, Slabs, Rough Material, Fossils, and Aussie items.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mike and LaVon Siperek (253) 531-7294 4203 E 99th Street, Tacoma, WA 98446 Yankees_Diesel@comcast.net</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Jerry's Rock & Gem</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, Equipment, Beading Supplies, Gemstones, Jewelry and Jewelry Repair</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(253) 852-0539 804 West Valley Hwy, Kent, WA 98032 http://jerrysrockandgem.com/</p>

MINERAL OF THE MONTH

This is a slight divergence of the standard mineral of the month. Instead of highlighting a specific mineral, I thought I would take a chance to showcase a unique texture found primarily in minerals.



Some people absolutely love it and some people find it annoying. It definitely creates beautiful features that I feel everyone can agree are outstanding. Of course, by looking at the photo I am sure you have guessed I am talking about botryoidal features aka botts.

Technically these are minerals that form a globular external feature that looks like a bunch of grapes or bubbles. These features form when a nucleus of material like a grain of sand, dust, other materials has fibrous crystals grow radially around nucleus. More recently the Indonesian grape agate has become popular, and these are a form of botryoidal agate.



Local Area Shows for 2026

DATE & TIME	CLUB	SHOW	LOCATION
February 2026 14th 9am—5pm 15th 9am—5pm	Whidbey Island Gem Club	Annual Gem Show	Oak Harbor Senior Center 51 SE Jerome St. Oak Harbor WA
March 2026 7th 10am - 6pm 8th 10am - 5pm	East KingCo Club	Annual Rock and Gem Show	Pickering Barn 1730 10th Ave NW Issaquah, WA
March 2026 14th 10am - 5pm 15th 10am - 5pm	North Seattle Lapidary & Mineral Club	70th Annual Rock and Gem Show	Crown Hill Center 9250 14th Ave NW Seattle, WA 98117
March 2026 13th 9am - 6pm 14th 9am - 5pm	Panorama Gem and Mineral Club	Annual Show	Stevens County Fairground Ag and Trade Center 317 West Astor, Colville, WA
March 2026 14th 9am - 6pm 15th 10am - 4pm	Northwest Montana Rock Chucks	Gold, Gem, and Mineral Show \$5 high school and up, 8th grade & under free	Flathead County Fairground Expo Building, 265 N Meridian Road Kalispell MT
March 2026 13th 10am - 5pm 14th 10am - 5pm 15th 10am - 5pm	Tualatin Valley Gem Club	67th Annual Rock and Mineral Show \$1 adults, 12 and under free	Forest Grove National Guard Amory 2950 Taylor Way Forest Grove OR
March 2026 21st 9am - 6pm 22nd 10am - 5pm	Hellgate Mineral Society	31st Annual Show \$5, under 12 free w/adult	Hilton Garden Inn 3720 North Reserve St. Missoula MT
March 2026 28th 10am - 6pm 29th 10am - 5pm	Mt. Baker Rock & Gem Club	64th Annual Rock and Gem Show	Ferndale Pavilion 2007 Cherry Street Ferndale, Washington
March 2026 28th 9am—5pm 29th 10am—4pm	Clallam County Gem And Mineral Association	Spring show	Vern Burton Community Center 308 East 4 th Street Port Angeles WA
April 2026 18th 9am - 6pm 19th 10am - 4pm	Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club	29th Annual Rock & Mineral Show \$5 adults, 12 & under free	Benton Franklin County Fairgrounds Building 2, 1500 S. Oak Kennewick, WA
April 2026 24th 10am - 4pm 25th 10am - 5pm 26th 10am—4pm	Yakima Rock & Mineral Club	64th Parade of Gems Adults—\$6 Students—\$2.00 12 & under free	Central Washington State Fair Ground Modern Living Building 1301 South Fair Avenue Yakima ,WA 98901
April 2026 25th 10am - 5pm 26th 10am - 5pm	West Seattle Rock Club	58th Annual Rock Show	Alki Masonic Temple 4736 40th Ave. SW. Seattle, WA
April 2026 25th 10am - 5pm 26th 10am - 4pm	Grays Harbor Geology and Gem Society	56th Annual Earth Treasures Rock and Gem Show	Grays Harbor Fair Grounds 43 Elma-McCleary Road Elma, WA
May 2026 9th 10am - 6pm 10th 10am - 4pm	Hatrockhounds Gem & Mineral Society	Natures Treasures Underfoot	Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center 1705 East Airport Road Hermiston OR
April 10th—10am - 5pm 11th—9am - 5pm 12th—10am—3pm	Mt Hood Rock Club	Mt Hood Rock Club's Rock and Gem Show	Jackson Armory 6255 NE Cornfoot Rd. Portland, OR 97218

2026 SHOW & TELL THEMES and PROGRAM NIGHT EVENTS

MEETING	DATE	SHOW & TELL THEME	PROGRAM NIGHT EVENT
January - 1st Meeting	January 9, 2026	Tiger's Eye or any field trip finds	
January - 2nd Meeting	January 23, 2026	Lace or any field trip finds	Field Trip Finds
February - 1st Meeting	February 13, 2026	Heart shaped or any field trip finds	
February - 2nd Meeting	February 27, 2026	Red, Pink, & Purple or any field trip finds	Carl Carlson
March - 1st Meeting	March 13, 2026	"Sham" rocks or any field trip finds	
March - 2nd Meeting	March 27, 2026	Green or any field trip finds	Jerry's Rock Shop
April - 1st Meeting	April 10, 2026	April Fools Gold or any field trip finds	
April - 2nd Meeting	April 24, 2026	No Show & Tell	Auction/Potluck
May - 1st Meeting	May 8, 2026	Flower rocks or any field trip finds	
May - 2nd Meeting	May 22, 2026	No Show & Tell	Fluorescent Minerals
June - 1st Meeting	June 12, 2026	Fancy Slabs & Fossils + any field trip finds	
June - 2nd Meeting	June 26, 2026	No Show & Tell	Tailgate Party @ Grange Parking Lot
July - 1st Meeting	July 10, 2026	Red, White, & Blue or any field trip finds	
July - 2nd Meeting	July 24, 2026	No Show & Tell	Jerry Rock & Gem
August - 1st Meeting	August 14, 2026	Carnelians + any field trip finds	
August - 2nd Meeting	Saturday, August 29, 2026	No Show & Tell	Picnic & Tailgate Party at club house on Saturday
September - 1st Meeting	September 11, 2026	Crystals + any field trip finds	
September - 2nd Meeting	September 25, 2026	No Show & Tell	Mini Demonstration
October - 1st Meeting	October 9, 2026	Wood + any field trip finds	
October - 2nd Meeting	October 23, 2026	No Show & Tell	Auction/Potluck
November - 1st Meeting	November 13, 2026	Thundereggs & Geodes + any field trip finds	
November - 2nd Meeting	November 27, 2026	No Show & Tell	BINGO Night
December - 1st Meeting	Saturday, December 12, 2026	No Show & Tell	Holiday Banquet/Officer Installation on Saturday
December - 2nd Meeting	No Meeting	No Show & Tell	

2026 Elected Officers

Title	Name	Phone	Email
President:	Glenn Rodrick	(253)531-4062	glennrodi10@gmail.com
Vice President:	Dennis Batchelor	(360)870-8741	hobbyhorse51@gmail.com
Secretary:	Mary New	(253)307-1389	marynew59@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Jillian Higgins	(253)355-3146	J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com
Association Director:	Mark Baumann	(253)310-5891	rocksnreptiles4me@gmail.com
1 Year Director:	Richard Yang	(208)596-8340	ryang0711@gmail.com
2 Year Director:	Brett Lawrence	(253) 584-1319	bandslawrence@comcast.net
1 Year Trustee:	Paul Haak	(253)312-1743	pvhaak@gmail.com
2 Year Trustee:	Wes Ames	(253)376-7871	ameswa@msn.com

2026 Committee Chairs

Title	Name	Phone	Email
Clubhouse Coordinator	Wes Ames	(253)376-7871	ameswa@msn.com
Club Show Coordinator	Jillian Higgins	(253)355-3146	J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com
Field Trips Coordinator	Paul Haak	(253)312-1743	pvhaak@gmail.com
Web Master	Jillian Higgins	(253)355-3146	J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com
Editor/Communications	Jillian Higgins	(253)355-3146	J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com
Membership	Jillian Higgins	(253)355-3146	J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com
Sunshine	Glenn Rodrick	(253)531-4062	glennrodi10@gmail.com
Newsletter	Jillian Higgins	(253)355-3146	J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com
Mineral Council	Mark Baumann	(253)310-5891	rocksnreptiles4me@gmail.com



WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL

The Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club is a member of the American Lands Access Association and the Washington State Mineral Council. You can find more information about the ALAA at: amlands.org or the WA Mineral Council at: mineralcouncil@zoho.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 2026

Kelly Green – 1st
 Jace Jasper – 1st
 John Cooper – 2nd
 Damien Caffey-Cooper – 2nd
 Lynn Pacione- Holman – 2nd
 Andrea McVey – 2nd
 Sarah Archer – 3rd
 Dennis Small – 4th
 Paul Haak – 7th
 Shirley Rheault – 8th
 Brian Carpenter – 11th
 Judah Soland – 11th
 Megan Cooper – 12th
 Danielle White – 13th
 Steve Thomas – 13th
 Lindsay Trent – 13th
 Mandy Nicholson – 14th
 Derick Soland – 14th
 Barbara Englander – 15th
 Becky Lake – 16th
 Timothy Chase – 17th
 Brenden Mitchell – 17th
 Wyatt Harrell – 19th
 Evelin Whelan – 19th
 Brian McCall – 21st
 Tracy Christian – 22nd
 LaVon Siperek – 23rd
 Megan Hochstrasser – 25th
 Aurora Bos – 27th
 Ora Prestegard – 29th
 Thad Thompson – 30th
 William Bridges – 31st
 Earlene Skinner – 31st
 Glen Ripper – 31st

WHAT'S IN A MINE

B C A R B O N D I O X I D E A K C
 O K L H G B I N E D R U B R E V O
 R C O A O A N O I T A M R O F K M
 E E A D I T N O I T A R O L P X E
 H N T V E M T G N I T R A P O B T
 O N R A E H A P U G N I L A E S H
 L O R N B I I D T E M A I G S T A
 E I E C C T N U T I C L F N M R N
 X T C E C C C S N H E G E I E A E
 P A O H E S A E A N S R N C L C N
 L M V Y S S S V I R E G U A T R O
 O A E O S H G L E Q F L O R I E T
 S L R A A U C D A I O T T B N P S
 I C Y F O N L A R E N I M T G P D
 V E T F I S S U R E J M I A U O N
 E R P O C K E T S G N I D A E H A
 S Y N C L I N E C N E D I S B U S

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. ADIT | 13. FISSURE | 24. PITCH |
| 2. ADVANCE | 14. FORMATION | 25. POCKETS |
| 3. ASSAY | 15. GANGUE | 26. RECLAMATION |
| 4. AUGER | 16. HEADING | 27. RECOVERY |
| 5. BOREHOLE | 17. HOPPER CAR | 28. SANDSTONE |
| 6. BRACING | 18. INCLINE | 29. SEALING |
| 7. CARBON DIOXIDE | 19. METHANE | 30. SHUTTLE |
| 8. CAVE IN | 20. MINERAL | 31. SMELTING |
| 9. CLAIM | 21. MINESHAFT | 32. SUBSIDENCE |
| 10. CROSSCUT | 22. OVERBURDEN | 33. SYNCLINE |
| 11. EXPLORATION | 23. PARTING | 34. VEIN |
| 12. EXPLOSIVES | | |



ROCK-A-TEER

Newsletter of Puyallup Valley

Gem & Mineral Club

P.O. Box 134

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