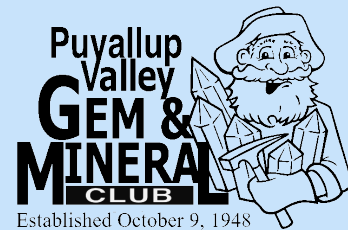


ROCK-A-TEER

Newsletter of the Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club

Jillian Higgins



Issue 105

Volume 155

September

2026

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(253) 987-6751

President's Perspective

Glenn Rodrick

We made it through August!!!! Now on to September and fair time!!!

The overnight was cancelled due to fire danger, but we have a plan going forward where we will have backup options in the event any of our scheduled field trips are cancelled in the future.

The Picnic was also a lot of fun! Many club members showed up to tailgate or just to spend time visiting, despite the weather. Fun was had by all, and the food was excellent!!!

The reason we were able to get so much done was that we worked together as a team. May members stepped up and we were able to get a lot of things done. We are really blest to have so many great people in our club, and it has been leading to beautiful things.

One of the exciting new things that we are hoping to bring to our business meetings is a revived kid's program. Rebecca Hendrickson has graciously volunteered to start up the children's program again and we couldn't be more excited. Any children attending the business meeting going forward will have their own meeting in a separate room (right next to the regular meeting room) and will be able to enjoy their own rock related activities. A big thank you to Rebecca.

Field Trip Report

September 19 - Little Naches

Meeting place – 10:00 AM on Hwy 410 at Forest Rd 19, mile marker 92

Hunting for - Jasper, Agate, Petrified wood, Thundereggs

Tools you need - **Rock hammer**, shovel, **pry bar**, hammer, **chisel**, spray bottle with water, and a backpack/bucket for your treasures

Access - moderate terrain, 1/2-mile hike to thunderegg site

Additional items - lunch/snacks and water, water, water. Dress in layers. Be prepared for ticks/mosquitoes

October 17 – Jordan Creek (Marblemount)

Meeting place - 10:00AM at Marble Mountain Fish Hatchery Hwy 20

Hunting for – Listwanite and Jade

Tools you need - Rock hammer, rubber boots or waders, and a backpack/bucket for your treasures

Access - moderate terrain, ½ mile hike from hatchery

Additional items - lunch/snacks and water, water, water. Dress in layers. Be prepared for ticks/mosquitoes

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.

SEPTEMBER 2026 CLUB HOUSE SCHEDULE

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

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

Renner Barnes rsb1224@netscape.com

Paul Haak (253) 312-1743

Ed Knoll (253) 651-7453

*** **Membership Open Access** is the time when members can use the saws and cabling machines

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

Clubhouse report

Wes Ames

We now have the new slab saw in the clubhouse, But before we start using it were going to let all the instructor's get familiar with how it works and all the new safety features on it.

Wes

Associations Director Report

Hello my fellow rockhounds and pepplepups.

Hopefully everyone is doing well and enjoying the weather. I have nothing to report on from either the federal government or state. I will be attending a Washington State Mineral Council meeting on Tuesday September 15 at the Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse in Edmonds. If you want to attend the meeting starts at 7pm. It will also be available via Zoom.

After reading and hearing about some incidents that happened while rockhounding I thought I would go over a few things to keep us all safe. A lot of what we do involves digging holes. To be on the safe side don't any deeper than 4ft in dirt and 2ft in sand. Any deeper and you run the risk of it collapsing in on you. When digging into a hillside or bank 4ft in is generally recognized as the safe depth before you have to worry about the overburden coming down on you. I think that the most important thing you can do for safe digging is to not be alone. Having a person or two with you is a good idea just in case you do get into trouble. Until next time happy hounding.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mark Baumann
Associations Director

Field Trip Recap

Paul Haak

Overnight field trip was cancelled so there is nothing to report.

SHOP SUGGESTIONS

Compiled by Bernice D. Schilling - 1975
San Fernando Valley Mineral and Gem Society

“SLAB and TRIM SAWS”

For a LUBRICANT in SLAB AND TRIM SAWS, radiator antifreeze can be used as a COOLING AGENT. It has no odor, and will not rust your saw or evaporate. In addition, it lubricates well and being very soluble in water, is easier to clean from the rocks and your hands.....AFMS Newsletter

When CLEANING OIL FROM YOUR SLAB SAW, put a shopping bag inside another one and put them into a five gallon can. DRAIN THE OIL into the sacks. After a day or two, the oil will filter through the bags and will be clean and ready to re-use.....Chips and Facets

Add a couple of tablespoons of liquid detergent to your GUTTING OIL, — if your saw has a plastic lid, this will be the first time you have been able to see through the top after cutting your slab.....The Tumble Rumble

After slabbing or trimming, all OIL should be removed from material by soaking in a strong solution of DISH-WASHING DETERGENT. Laundry detergents should never be used, since they all contain bleaches that will affect the color of many gemstones. Dishwashing detergents do NOT CONTAIN BLEACHES which can cause film and dullness, but rather they are made to break down oils, fats, and greases.....Strata Gems

When working with soft stones such as marble, onyx or Howlite, SOAK IT IN WATER a day or two before cutting it in oil. THE OIL WILL NOT SOAK IN and this will result in a much better finish when the polishing is done.....Breccia

A Blast From The Past

With the onset of the Coronavirus, the closing of some of your public lands and collecting areas and with restrictions on social gathering, including fieldtrips, it has been rather difficult to report on any activities or legislative actions affecting Recreational Rockhounding. While attempting to comply with all of the unwritten laws directing our lives during the months of on and off and on again “Lock Downs” and while under House Arrest, there has been time to look through a lot of archive documents regarding Recreational Rockhounding. One of the documents discovered is a 34 page booklet on Shop Suggestions. The booklet is comprised of many, very many, suggestions on how and what to do to turn collected rocks into works of Lapidary Art. These suggestions came from many of your Club/Society Newsletters. Credit is given on each suggestion and all grammatical errors are as printed. The booklet was created on an environmentally friendly word-processing device called a Manual Typewriter in the last half of the 20th Century. So just sit back and enjoy some Recreational Rockhounding stroll down memory lane and see if you can remember any of these suggestions and maybe try some of them today. Over the next several ALAA Newsletters, with space available, the next several chapters from the booklet may appear. Stay Safe, Keep Sane and Happy Rockhounding.

CUTTING FOR "SHEEN" ON OBSIDIAN! Cut at an angle of about 50 degrees to degrees to the stripe of flow lines to insure a good sheen in the finished product.....Rockhound's Rag

Because JADE does not have the abrasive quality of some material, it DOES NOT WEAR AWAY THE METAL BOND ON DIAMOND SAW BLADES. Consequently the BLADES GLAZE when you cut jade, and it becomes necessary to clean and dress the saw blade by cutting through a building brick or a piece of discarded 200 grit wheel.....Chip 'N Tumble

There are three ways to CUT PALM ROOT and each one will give a different effect. All palm root seems to have a ring of agate around the eye and a colored center. First, you can cut it right down the center. This gives the palm root a wood-grain effect that is striking but it does not show the eye. Second, you can cut squarely across the grain and bring out the round eyes. Lastly, you can cut it diagonally and get an elliptical eye effect. All will give patterns that make showy cabs.....The Polished Slab

Save wear and tear on your expensive diamond TRIM SAW BLADE, and cut your agate or jasper slab with a glass cutter. Use one with a carbide wheel, not tungsten, and put a good handle on it so you can bear down hard. Use pliers to break the slab along the scored lines.....The Agatizer

TRIM SAWING: Instead of pushing the slab into the blade and letting the oil spatter all over you — turn the whole unit around so that the saw blade rotates AWAY FROM YOU. Then stand to the back side of it and PULL THE SLAB INTO THE BLADE. You can see what you are doing better and your goggles do not get all oil splattered.....The Agatizer

When your wheel has worn down quite a bit, INCREASE the R.P.M. of THE MACHINE. In doing this you will compensate for wheel wear, there by maintaining grinding efficiency.....The Tumble Rumble

One excellent method used to SHARPEN SAW BLADES is to mix cement — No Sand—and water in a milk carton. Let harden and cut three or four slices to clean and sharpen the blade.....The Diggers Digest

When CUTTING PETRIFIED WOOD, cut across the grain for beauty. Sanding should always go with the grain to avoid tearing. If the grain is badly mixed, it is necessary to hand rub to polish. You can produce an excellent finish with dry crocus cloth and about an hour of hard rubbing before polishing.....Strata Gems

In SAWING GEODES or AGATE-FILLED NODULES, first look for the largest dome on the specimen. This dome was in the upright position when the specimen was forming. Saw through this largest dome, and it is likely you will expose the best "picture" or surface. If the specimen is elongated or egg-shaped, saw length wise in order to obtain the best exposure.....Rocks and Gems

Keep your DIAMOND SAW BLADE ROTATING in the SAME DIRECTION and occasionally to SHARPEN it make a couple of cuts through a piece of Obsidian.....AFMS Newsletter

Volunteer Spotlight -

This is a new segment of the newsletter to help the membership see where there are opportunities to volunteer.

August clubhouse volunteers: **Dennis Batchelor,**

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered for the WA State Fair. If you did not pick up your tickets during the club picnic, I just have to say you missed out. The food was amazing, and the socializing was awesome. To get your fair entry tickets and parking pass, you will need to pick them up at the clubhouse before you go to the fair. Diane will have them for you, as list of individuals who need them, so please make sure you have your tickets before your shift.

SEPTEMBER 6th, CLUBHOUSE CLEANUP – WE WILL BE; ORGANIZING THE BARN AT THE CLUBHOUSE, WEEDWAKING, MOWING, CLEANING KITCHEN AND CABINING ROOM COUNTERS, VACUUMING, ETC. There are options for everyone, so if any of these options look good to you, show up at 10:00am at the clubhouse and help us keep it nice.

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MINERAL OF THE MONTH



varying proportions of nickel to Lizardite in certain circumstances looks really awesome and can within the stone.

Lizardite was only named in 1955 and surprisingly has not Greek meaning. It was named by two gentlemen named Eric William Whittaker and Jack Zussman and was named after the Lizard Peninsula in Cornwall, England, which is where most is found. It can also be found in the United State, Canada, and South Africa.



What do you think this beautiful green stone is? It looks so much like Peridot, but I suggest you look at the pictures below and see if you can get a better idea of what it is. All three are of the same mineral, but depending on its formation, it can present in many different ways. This amazing mineral is called Lizardite. Lizardite is from the Serpentine

family which means its color variation has to do with the magnesium. Additionally, will also contain Hematite and cause some feathering patterns



Local Area Shows for 2026

DATE & TIME	CLUB	SHOW	LOCATION
June 2026 27th 9am - 5pm 28th 9am - 5pm	Cascade Mineralogical Society	Annual show	Kent Commons 525 4th Ave N Kent, WA
July 2026 24th 9am—6pm 25th 9am—6pm 26th 9am—5pm	Washington Agate and Mineral Society	2026 Rock & Gem Rendezvous	Tenino City Park 300 Park Ave W Tenino WA
August 2026 8th 10am - 5pm 9th 10am - 5pm	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club	Annual Summer Rock and Mineral Sale	Maplewood Clubhouse 8802 196th St SW Edmonds, WA
August 2026 15th 9am—4pm	Shelton Rock and Mineral Society	16th Annual Tailgate Rock Sale and Swap Meet Tailgate spots \$40	MCRA 2100 E Johns Prairie Rd Shelton, WA
September 2026 19th 10am - 5pm 20th 10am - 4pm	Southern Washington Mineralogical Society	60th Annual show	Cowlitz Co. Fairgrounds Events Center 1900 7th Ave Longview, WA
September 2026 19th 10am - 4pm 20th 10am - 4pm	Fraser Valley Rock and Gem Club	Annual show	Aldergrove Kinsmen Community Center 26770 29th Ave Aldergrove, BC
October 2026 3rd 10am - 5pm 4th 10am - 5pm	Marysville Rock and Gem Club	50th Anniversary show	Evergreen State Fairgrounds Display Bldg #500 14405 179th Ave SE Monroe, WA



From Maplewood Rock and Gem Club, 04/26

Mineral of the Month: Diopside

Diopside is a rare, vibrant emerald-to-bluish-green copper cyclosilicate mineral ($\text{CuSi}_2(\text{OH})_2$) highly prized by collectors for its intense color, glass-like luster, and prismatic crystals. Primarily found in arid, oxidized copper deposits (notably Tsumeb, Namib-

ia), it is fragile (Mohs 5) and mainly used for display specimens, metaphysical healing, and occasionally as a pigment.

Color & Appearance: Vivid emerald green to dark bluish-green, ranging from transparent to translucent.



Formation: It is a secondary mineral that forms in the oxidized zones of copper ore deposits.

Uses: Primarily a high-value collector's mineral specimen. It is used in metaphysical practices for heart chakra healing, emotional detoxification, and overcoming past trauma. Rarely, it is used in, or as a source for, pigments.

(Continued on page 3)

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	No Show & Tell	Carl Carlson
March - 1st Meeting	March 13, 2026	"Sham" rocks or any field trip finds	
March - 2nd Meeting	March 27, 2026	No Show & Tell	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	Chris Herrera
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's Rock Shop
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)820-4402	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)820-4402	glennrodi10@gmail.com
Newsletter	Jillian Higgins	(253)355-3146	J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com
Outreach Coordinator	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

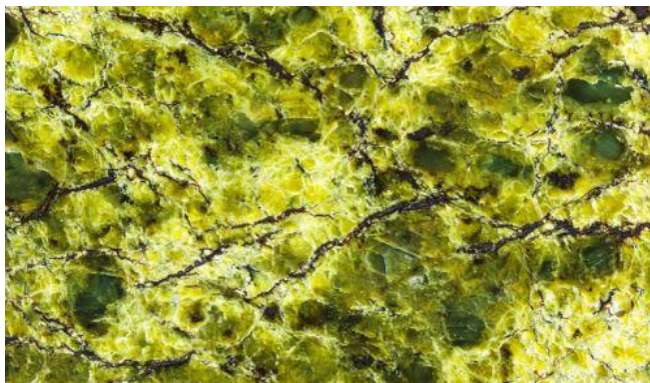
September 2029

Charlotte Woods – 1st
 Ryan Fleming – 3rd
 Nicol Armond – 5th
 Sheryl Horton – 5th
 Vance Lelli – 6th
 Peter Barnstien – 7th
 Sara Leavitt – 7th
 Sharon Sasseen – 7th
 Diane Small – 7th
 Brittney Bell-Karl – 10th
 Kellie Moser – 11th
 Lana Prager – 11th
 Maverick Darley – 12th
 Angela Mozier – 12th
 Merissa Becker – 14th
 Alyssa Brown – 15th
 Twyla Delpozzi – 15th
 Dawn Hayes – 15th
 Tom Makousky – 15th
 Brett Fortenberry – 16th
 Joey Forsythe – 17th
 Amber Bennett – 18th
 Jacob Hochstrasser – 18th
 Linda Batchelor – 20th
 Emily Thompson – 20th
 Laurie South – 21st
 Marilyn Clappitt – 23rd
 D. Mike Pate – 24th
 Durke Carlton – 25th
 Saul Sibrian – 25th
 Odin Adair – 26th
 Elissa Felchlin – 26th
 Angela Queipo – 26th
 Ted Gibson – 28th
 Genevieve Herbrand – 28th
 Candance Marshall – 29th
 Jackson Clark – 30th
 Jacob Harris – 30th

IT'S ONLY TERMINOLOGY

I G T E W C I B U C S E I C E P S
 N I F A C E T A B U L A R D I P H
 C O L O R C H A N G E P T I E L E
 L F B I E H A R D N E S S C I E E
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- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. BRITTLE | 11. FIRE | 21. MONOCLINIC |
| 2. CABOCHON | 12. FLAW | 22. PLEOCHROISM |
| 3. CHROMOPHORE | 13. FLUORESCENCE | 23. REFRACTION |
| 4. CLARITY | 14. FRACTURE | 24. REPLACEMENT |
| 5. CLEAVAGE | 15. GEMOLOGY | 25. SHEEN |
| 6. COLOR CHANGE | 16. HABIT | 26. SPECIES |
| 7. CRYSTAL | 17. HARDNESS | 27. SPECIFIC GRAVITY |
| 8. CUBIC | 18. INCLUSION | 28. TABULAR |
| 9. DICHROISM | 19. LAPIDARY | 29. TERMINATION |
| 10. FACET | 20. LUSTER | 30. TWINNING |



ROCK-A-TEER

Newsletter of Puyallup Valley

Gem & Mineral Club

P.O. Box 134

Puyallup, WA 98371