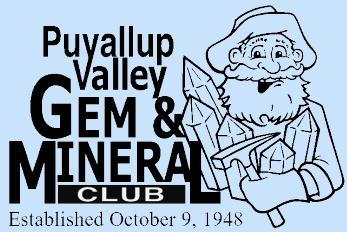


ROCK-A-TEER

Newsletter of the Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club

Jillian Higgins



Issue 97

Volume 147

January

2026

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President's Perspective

Glenn Rodrick

We are starting a new raffle at our business meeting. There will be 4-6 cut opals of various sizes, shapes, patterns, and flash available for raffle during the first meeting of every month. The tickets will be \$5.00 per ticket and you can purchase as many as you like. Each opal will have its own raffle box. We will send out previews of the opals either in the newsletter or by email (possibly both), to give you an idea of what will be available at the meeting. See pictures below.



Field Trip Report

January 17 - No Sights due to Weather

February 21 - No Sights due to Weather

Field Trip Recap

Paul Haak

There are no field trips for either January and February, so hopefully you are all staying safe and playing with rocks you collected last year.

JANUARY 2026 CLUB HOUSE SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	INSTRUCTOR
1	Thursday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tony Johnson
2	Friday				
3	Saturday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tony Johnson
4	Sunday				
5	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tasha Parker
6	Tuesday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access - Beginner	Club House	Ed & Wes
7	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
		4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tony Johnson
8	Thursday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tony Johnson
9	Friday	6:00PM	Club Board Meeting	Fruitland Grange	Dennis Batchelor
		7:30PM	Club Business Meeting	Fruitland Grange	Glenn Rodrick
10	Saturday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Gem Trees	Club House	Dana James
11	Sunday				
12	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tasha Parker
		7:00PM-8:00PM	Opal Club Business Meeting	Club House	Tony Johnson
13	Tuesday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access - Beginner	Club House	Ed & Wes
14	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
		4:00PM-8:00PM	Wire Wrapping	Club House	Tony Johnson
15	Thursday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tony Johnson
16	Friday				
17	Saturday		NO FIELD TRIP	Field Trip	Paul Haak
		10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tony Johnson
18	Sunday				
19	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tasha Parker
20	Tuesday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access - Beginner	Club House	Ed & Wes
21	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
		4:00PM-8:00PM	Opal Cutting	Club House	Tony Johnson
22	Thursday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tony Johnson
23	Friday	7:30PM	Club Program Night	Fruitland Grange	Glenn Rodrick
24	Saturday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Amber Polishing	Club House	Tony Johnson
25	Sunday				
26	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tasha Parker
27	Tuesday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access - Beginner	Club House	Ed & Wes
28	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
		4:00PM-8:00PM	Silversmithing	Club House	Pati Augustine
29	Thursday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tony Johnson
30	Friday				
31	Saturday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Opal Cutting	Club House	Tony Johnson

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

Dennis Batchelor (360) 870-8741	Wes Ames (253) 376-7871	Tony Johnson (253) 753-5938
Tasha Parker (206) 291-8068	Paul Haak (253) 312-1743	

*** 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

I want to wish a Happy New Year to all my fellow rockhounds and pepplepups. Here is to a year of exciting new adventures and finds. There is nothing going on with either the federal or state governments right now. I will be heading to a Mineral Council meeting January 20th at the Maplewood Rock and Gem Club in Edmonds. The meeting starts at 7pm. If you are interested in attending, please let me know.

Since it is the start of a new year, I figured I would repost the Rockhounds Code of Ethics:

1. I will respect both private and public property and do no collecting on privately owned property without owner's permission.
2. I will keep informed of all laws, regulations and rules governing collecting on public and private land and with observe them.
3. I will to the best of my abilities to ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
4. I will use no firearms or blasting materials in collecting areas.
5. I will cause no willful damage to any property of any kind, such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
6. I will leave all gates as found.
7. I will only build fires in designated or safe places and will be completely extinguished before leaving the area.
8. I will discard no burning materials - matches, cigarettes, etc.
9. I will fill in all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
10. I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supplies.
11. I will cause no damage to collecting material and will only take home what I can reasonably use.
12. I will support the Rockhound Project H.E.L.P (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless how found.
13. I will cooperate with Field Trip Leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
14. I will report to my Club or Federation Officers, Bureau of Land Management or other proper authorities any petrified wood or other materials on public lands that should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations and for public educational and scientific purposes.
15. I will appreciate and protect our heritage of National Resources.
16. I will observe the "Golden Rule", I will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner that will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mark Baumann
PVG&MC Associations Director

Clubhouse report

Tony Johnson

Everything is going good at the clubhouse. Small repairs are being done on the slab saws, the biggest being a barring change on the Phantom big saw. It might be down for a day or two around the 1st of the month.

Make sure you schedule ahead of time to guarantee your reservation at the clubhouse to use the equipment. If you need help scheduling on the club website, please email PVGAMC@gmail.com

Rockhounding: Secrets of a Rock Collector

Stephanie Henkel

Rockhounding in the Southwest

Chalcedony is frequently found in the Arizona desert, and is often used to make beautiful wire wrap jewelry. | Source

Rock Collecting or Rock Hoarding

There seems to be a fine line between rock collecting and rock hoarding. Rock collecting brings to mind the scientific collection of specimens. Hoarders just haphazardly pick up and keep any rocks that appeal to them.

Wikipedia defines compulsive hoarding as:

"the selfish acquisition of possessions...even if the items are worthless, hazardous, or unsanitary"

It's easy to cross the line when you begin to pick up every pretty, shiny, interesting rock you see.



RVing and Rock Collecting

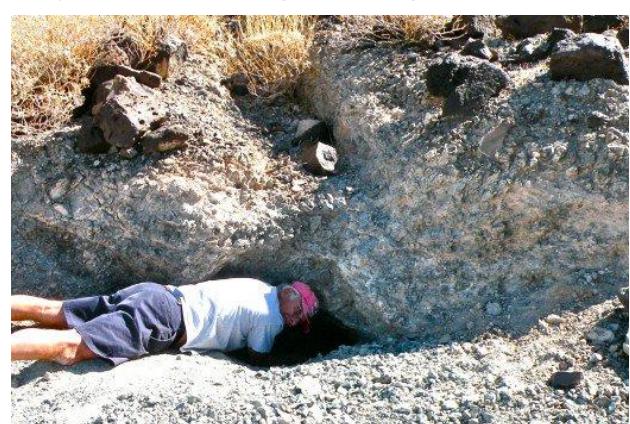
Anyone who camps in the desert understands the lure of rock collecting. You're surrounded by rocks. Rocks in your campsite, rocks on the roads. On BLM land, the dispersed campsites are often outlined with the rocks that people have collected through the winter season. Snowbirds who boondock in Arizona and other warm climates make rock jewelry and cut and polish rocks. They collect fossils and search for gemstones. Some snowbirds look for gold and go off into the desert with their gold panning equipment. Others search for turquoise on the desert floor or in old turquoise mines.

With all the opportunities available to rock hounds, it's nearly impossible not to succumb to the urge to collect rocks when you are camping out or hiking those interesting trails.

Outdoor Activities and Rock Collecting

But you don't have to go camping to become hooked on rock collecting. Anyone who walks outdoors can be

tempted to pick up the rocks along their path. Visit a park, forest or beach and you might find yourself picking up some shiny orange rock or a piece of pretty quartz or an agate. Before you know it, you have a pocketful of stones, then a bag full, then a bucket full. It's definitely easy to become hooked on rock collecting.



Gathering some flake turquoise out of an abandoned turquoise mine in Arizona. | Source

Serious Rockhounding and Casual Collectors

If you've ever been interested in rocks, you know that there are serious rockhounds and also casual collectors.

Serious rockhounds learn rock and mineral identification and carry their field guides, rock picks and gad bars on their belts. They know an agate from a quartz. Their collections are carefully categorized by name and type and labeled with date and location where they were found. Serious rockhounds haunt the rock and mineral shows, trade specimens and own their own cutting and polishing equipment. They are not to be taken lightly.

Casual collectors are a whole different breed of rock collectors. They seldom know the name of the rock they are holding, and categorize their collection by names such as "black shiny rocks" and "pretty pink rocks." They collect during their walks in the desert or on the beach, and pick up anything that strikes their fancy. (That's me!)

However, both kinds of rock collectors love rocks, fill their RVs and homes with rocks, hoard rocks in every available space, and always want just one more beautiful rock!

Geodes and Fossils



Crystals inside of a geode. | Source

I came upon this rock in the Arizona desert. Do read my hub about a Rockhound's Discovery. | Source

5 Reasons to Collect Rocks

Collecting rocks is appealing to kids as well as adults. There are many reasons why it's a great hobby:



1. **Rock collecting is cheap!** If you collect your own on your walks and hikes, rocks are free!
2. **Rocks are readily available!** You can find rocks on the beach, in the mountains, by the lake, in the desert or in your driveway!
3. **Rocks are interesting and beautiful.** Each rock is different, with different colors, shapes, textures and consistencies. Some are very beautiful.
4. **Rocks have history.** Some rocks contain fossils tell a story of prehistoric times and of the formation of the earth.
5. **Rocks are useful.** Rocks have been used as tools and building materials since the beginning of civilization, but the collector can also make them into jewelry and decorative objects.

SUNSHINE REPORT

With everything going on, we have started meeting again, but our attendance at the meetings is still low as members are staying safe. As a group we need to bring to each other's attention members who need healing thoughts or prayer sent their way.

If you know of anyone else who needs to be recognized in next months Sunshine Report, please email PVGAMC@gmail.com or call (253) 987-6751

MINERAL OF THE MONTH



COURTESY: HOWARD LTD., HONG KONG (PHOTO: RYKES)

For those of you who are listed on page 13, you know better than anyone what the minerals pictured here are. For those of us who do not have a birthday in January, these gemstones are Garnets. Garnets come in so many colors, way more than just the beautiful blood red, of which I am a fan.

Garnets are a relatively hard silicate minerals, rating between 6.0 – 7.5 on the Mohs scale. The most common color is Red with Blue being the least common and hardest to find. There are between 6-7 types of garnets depending on where you look. They are split into two categories based on their internal structure as either a Y shape Pyralspite garnets (Almandine, Pyrope, Spessartine, & Pyrope-Spessartine combo) or X shape Ugrandite garnets (Andradite, Grossular, & Uvarovite). There are also synthetic varieties of Garnet but they are only used in a Gemstone application instead of an industrial form.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

	<p>South Hill RV Sales 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. 12414 Meridian East, Puyallup 98373 253-435-7751 or 866-435-7751 www.southhillrv.com</p>
H & I Lapidary	<p>Amber, Jewelry, Beads, Findings, Gemstones, Slabs, Rough Material, Fossils, and Aussie items. Mike and LaVon Siperek (253) 531-7294 4203 E 99th Street, Tacoma, WA 98446 Yankees_Diesel@comcast.net</p>
Jerry's Rock & Gem	<p>Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, Equipment, Beading Supplies, Gemstones, Jewelry and Jewelry Repair (253) 852-0539 804 West Valley Hwy, Kent, WA 98032 http://jerrysrockandgem.com/</p>

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	August 29, 2026	Saturday, 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	December 12, 2026	Saturday, 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	gtrodi@comcast.net
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:	Tony Johnson	(253)753-5938	johnsontony068@gmail.com
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	Tony Johnson	(253)753-5938	johnsontony068@gmail.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	Tony Johnson	(253)753-5938	johnsontony068@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:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January 2026

Lance Albin – 1st
 Paul DiVona – 1st
 Edward Knoll – 1st
 Tori Smith – 1st
 Cloe Petricca – 3rd
 Mark Baumann – 4th
 Kyle Frye – 5th
 Kathy Dirks – 7th
 Kade deJong – 7th
 Britten Johnson – 8th
 Michael Rosebaugh – 14th
 Laurie Sloan – 15th
 Richard Holl – 17th
 Thomas Horton-King – 18th
 Ruth Savage-Martin – 18th
 Harley Edwards – 20th
 Adellia Kleenfeld – 20th
 Hannah Rosborough – 20th
 Khara Gunness – 21st
 Sam Ryken – 21st
 Bertha Adamson – 23rd
 Heather Kennedy – 23rd
 Abigail Dunham – 24th
 Frankie Hamilton – 24th
 Rowan Harrell – 29th
 Corey Fleming – 31st
 Roberto Gonzalez – 31st
 Heather Rabago – 31st

THE RARE, THE UNUSUAL, THE EXOTIC II

C	O	B	A	L	T	O	C	A	L	C	I	T	E	D	R	B
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1.	ANHYDRITE	10.	DATOLITE	19.	PHOSGENITE
2.	APOPHYLLITE	11.	DOLOMITE	20.	RUTILE
3.	BARYITE	12.	GAHNITE	21.	SANIDINE
4.	CELESTITE	13.	GAYLUSSITE	22.	SIDERITE
5.	CERUSSITE	14.	HYPERSTHENE	23.	SPHALERITE
6.	COBALTOCALCITE	15.	KORNERUPINE	24.	TANTALITE
7.	COLEMANITE	16.	LEUCITE	25.	WILLEMITTE
8.	CROCOITE	17.	NATROLITE	26.	WITHERITE
9.	CUPRITE	18.	PERICLASE		



ROCK-A-TEER

Newsletter of Puyallup Valley
Gem & Mineral Club
P.O. Box 134
Puyallup, WA 98371