

MAPLEWOOD ROCK AND GEM CLUB

2021
JANUARY



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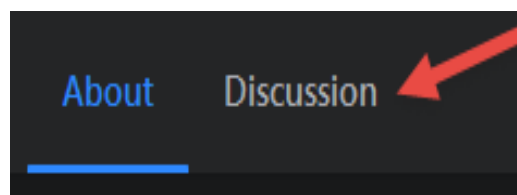
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General meeting: January 18

We hope you will join us at our January meeting which will be Monday, the 16th at 7 pm. Members will receive a Zoom link in an email. If you have never used Zoom, you might find [this video introduction](#) helpful. Do you have questions about the meeting? Contact our Board President, Sandra: ask.sandra@yahoo.com

Online auction begins January 18

Watch for the first online auction of 2021 on our [Facebook page](#). To participate, go to our [Facebook page](#) and click on the event, "MRGC silent auction October 21 - November 16". On the event page just below the title you will see a small menu like the one here. Click Discussion. To bid on an item comment with a dollar amount.



Beautiful yellow garnet

The garnet in the photo above is a Spessartine garnet on quartz. The image is by [Orbital Joe](#) who published it on Flickr with the Creative Commons license BY-NC-ND 2.0.

Happy Birthday!

If you were born in January, we wish you a happy birthday! Your birthstone is a garnet which has been treasured as a gemstone since the Bronze Age.

When the Egyptian empire was powerful thousands of years ago, pharaohs wore gorgeous strands of garnets, at least they wore them into the afterlife while entombed.



Red Garnet by Andrew Gustar

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Garnet basics

Category: Nesosilicate

Formula: $X_3Y_2(SiO_4)_3$

Crystal system: isometric

Crystal habit: rhombic dodecahedron or cubic

Mohs: 6.5 - 7.5

Magnetism: variable

Cleavage: indistinct

Fracture: conchoidal to uneven

Luster: vitreous to resinous

Streak: white

Specific gravity: 3.1 - 4.3

Color: any color, but blue is rare

One of the four precious stones that God gave to King Solomon was a carbuncle, which is a red gemstone, most often a garnet.

A couple thousand years ago when the Roman Empire reigned they treasured carved garnet signet rings which were used to stamp a hot wax seal onto documents, like a signature. In ancient Rome during Pliny's life (23 to 79 AD) red garnets were common trade goods.



Garnet crystal in a dodecahedron form by [Jmmcbeth](#)

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A bit later in the Middle Ages (about 475 to 1450 AD) red garnet was treasured by clergy and nobility.

Pomegranates gave their name to garnets because their red color resembles the gem-like fruit. In medieval Latin pomegranates were called granatus. Garnets can be any color, but red is by far the most common hue.

Crystal Systems

All minerals form crystals in one of six (or seven) systems which are characterized by

- number of axes
- lengths of the axes
- angles where the axes meet

Each axis is a direction between sides. The shortest axis we call A; the longest is C. There can be up to four axes in a crystal.

The six crystal systems are

- Isometric (aka *Cubic*) - three axes of identical lengths and the sides meet at 90° angles. Cubes, octahedrons, and dodecahedrons are isometric.
- Tetragonal - three axes which meet at 90° angles. The A and B axes are identical in length and the C axis is longer.
- Orthorhombic - three axes meet at 90° and all sides are different lengths.
- Monoclinic - The A and C axes meet at 90° but not the B axis, and all axes are different lengths.
- Triclinic - all of the axes are different lengths and the sides meet at different angles, none of which are 90°.
- Hexagonal - four axes with three equal in length and intersecting at 60°. The longer C axis (vertical axis) intersects the other axes at 90°.
- Trigonal - this 7th system is really part of the hexagonal system. Some mineralogists separate some minerals out of that system and classify them as trigonal based on their external appearance. Dipyramids, rhombohedrons, and scalenohedrons are the shapes that can be classified as trigonal.

Words of the month

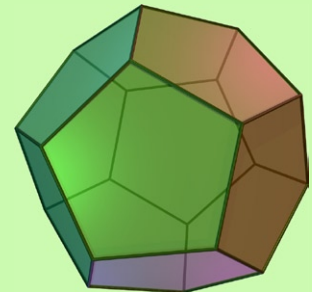
Dodecahedron and Platonic Solid

A dodecahedron is a three dimensional shape with 12 faces. The word is put together with three roots:

do is 2

deca is 10

hedron is a three dimensional shape



Above is an image of a regular dodecahedron, which is also called a pentagonal dodecahedron.

This shape is one of only five platonic solids. The faces of this type of polyhedron are:

congruent - identical in shape and size

regular - all angles are equal and all sides are equal

polygonal - with the same number of faces meeting at each vertex

The five platonic solids are:
tetrahedron (4 faces)
cube (6 faces)
octahedron (8 faces)
dodecahedron (12 faces)
icosahedron (20 faces)

A gift from the Board

The due date for membership fees is coming up and the board decided to do membership a little different this year.

Since Covid 19 took pretty much all our club activities away from us, we are not going to charge current members dues for 2021.

The dues you paid for 2020 are going to be carried over.

Giving back, if you can

In lieu of membership dues and if you wish to and can, please consider making a donation in the amount of your membership fee to help our club pay bills such as building upkeep. Our club is a 501(c)(3) organization, so if you itemize deductions, you might receive a tax deduction. Ask your tax expert.

Since the silent auctions and grit sales are our only sources of income right now, donations are greatly appreciated. Checks can be sent to the club and be made out to "MRGC". The club address is

8802 196th Street SW
Edmonds, WA 98026

Bidding on items in the silent auction is a way to give back to the club with a win-win outcome. You get a gorgeous specimen of rock or mineral and the club has a little more money for paying bills. All the items available in the silent auction were donated, so even before you bid, people have already generously supported our club.

When bidding, remember that this is a fundraiser where you might get a huge bargain or you might pay a fair price. Don't be afraid to bid up on something you like. The previous bidder, might respond in kind to your bid.

Facebook

Our [facebook page](#) has up to date information about what is happening at our club. When we have online auctions, they happen on our page.

We also have a Facebook group — [MRGC Sales and Trades](#) — which is open to members of our club.



Board meeting

Until it is safe for the Board to meet again, their meetings are on Zoom. If you have questions for the board or if you'd like to attend a meeting, please email our Board President, Sandra: ask.sandra@yahoo.com



Washington State Mineral Council

Our club, along with many other rock and gem clubs in the state, is a member of the [Washington State Mineral Council](#).

This organization helps us by

- advocating for access to public lands
- advocating for beneficial land use policies
- compiling and sharing maps and other information
- publicizing shows and field trips so members learn about and can participate in events at other clubs



Connect with us

Website: <http://www.maplewoodrockclub.com/>

Facebook page: [Maplewood Rock & Gem Club](#)

Facebook group for members: [MRGC Sales and Trades](#)

Address:
8802 196th St SW, Edmonds, Washington 98026

Sister club in Australia

Our sister club in Australia is the Atherton-Tableland Mineral & Lapidary Club in Tolga, Queensland. Connect to them on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/197340266987276

One hundred million years ago the eastern edge of the Australian continent extended much farther to the east. Tectonic forces broke off and submerged into the ocean the eastern section while a rising mantle caused the remaining land to lift.

Beginning 4 million years ago large basalt flows filled river valleys and formed a relatively flat landscape. Following that period the volcanoes became more gaseous spewing lava in violent eruptions. This landscape is now called the Atherton Tablelands. You can learn more on Wikipedia.



This issue

Maplewood Rock and Gem
Club News

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News to share? A suggestion? A correction?

Please send news ideas and images you'd like to share to the newsletter editor, Nancy Samuels at mrgc@nancysamuels.com.