

Maplewood Rock and Gem Club

March 23



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March meeting

Monday, March 20th

6:15 pm for Juniors and 7 pm for everyone

Jim Johnson will talk about Spruce Ridge crystals which are mined in King County and are featured at the Smithsonian and other museums around the world.

In February Rich Osborne gave an excellent presentation on obsidian. Unfortunately, minutes before our meeting began, the power went out, so Rich was unable to share his slides. You can find a PDF document of his excellent slideshow on the website.

The Juniors will be digging into their rock collection at the club to see what's there.

Banner image

The banner image shows three bloodstones, which is one of the March birthstones. This image was taken by [Tooru](#) and is published here under the [Pixabay license](#).

Spruce Ridge crystals

Spruce Ridge, located in King County, Washington, is known internationally for the astounding quality of its quartz and pyrite mineral associations. Learn about this fantastic mineral deposit and see photos and video from a trip to the claim in August, 2022. Jim Johnson will talk about his trip to the claim at our March club meeting.



Spread some sunshine

Nancy Ross leads our Sunshine committee. If you are aware of a member who might be cheered by a get-well card, please contact her, and she will write and send a card.

Juniors March Meeting

At their March meeting (6:15 pm on March 20) Holly White will lead the Juniors in exploring this topic: How we store and showcase our collection. They will also clean out their cubby at the clubhouse.

Storing and showcasing a rock collection can have several benefits, including:

1. **Preservation:** By storing your rock collection properly, you can help to preserve the rocks for future generations. Proper storage can prevent damage, such as scratching or chipping, and protect the rocks from environmental factors like humidity and temperature changes.
2. **Educational value:** A rock collection can be an excellent educational tool, providing opportunities to learn about geology, mineralogy, and earth science. It can also be a great way to introduce children to the wonders of nature and encourage their curiosity and interest in science.
3. **Aesthetic appeal:** A well-curated rock collection can be visually stunning and add a unique touch to any space. Displaying your collection in a way that showcases the beauty and diversity of the rocks can be a conversation starter and a source of pride.
4. **Personal fulfillment:** Collecting rocks can be a fulfilling hobby that provides a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. It can also be a way to connect with nature and appreciate the beauty of the natural world.

In summary, storing and showcasing a rock collection can be both practical and aesthetically pleasing, while also providing educational and personal fulfillment benefits.

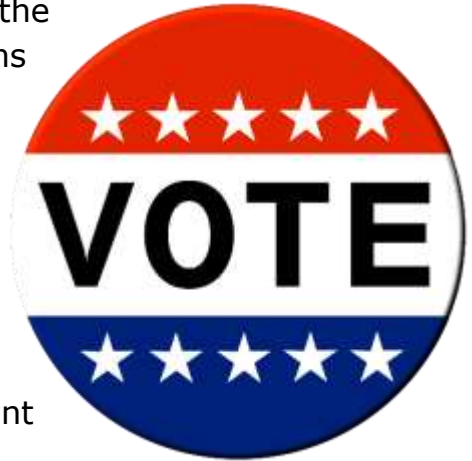


Rock collection; by Hannes Grobe; [CC BY-SA 4.0](#); [Wikimedia source](#)

Vote at the April meeting

The Board has an important change to the Bylaws for the members to vote on at the April meeting. A few months ago, we all voted to reduce the number of Board members, but we forgot to also reduce the number of Board members required to have a quorum for a vote. The Board would like the quorum to be stated as a percentage of the number of Board members. You will be asked to update the Bylaws to say,

"A quorum for the Board is $\frac{2}{3}$ of the number of current Board members, rounded to the nearest integer."



Volunteering at the April Show



A vendor at one of our shows

Have you been looking for a way to get more involved at the club? We need one or two people to manage the club's table at the upcoming show. It's a fun way to meet a lot of rockhounds while making a little money for the club.

At the club's table we sell specimens of rocks and minerals. This image shows a vendor at one of our shows. Our table doesn't usually have as many items for sale.

You don't need to be an expert on the items you are selling. Rockhounds and collectors seem to know what they like. If you would like to know more about this volunteer opportunity, please talk with a Board member.

Join the Juniors

Our Juniors program, led by Holly White, is for school-age kids with a curiosity about rocks and minerals. They get together each month to learn and to have fun together. Kids who are members of the club are eligible to participate. Why do kids join? Here are some of the reasons.

- Learning: Kids learn about the properties of rocks and minerals, how they formed, and their uses through hands-on activities and presentations.
- Field trips: In the warmer months field trips are a fun way to collect specimens and explore natural areas.
- Lapidary: Kids learn how cabochons are cut, polished, faceted, and wire-wrapped.
- Socializing: Kids meet others who have similar interests, and they make new friends.
- Show and Tell: Kids can show off their collections and learn from others.
- Access to resources: Kids can borrow books and ask questions of knowledgeable adult members.
- Shows: Kids might have an opportunity to participate in club-sponsored shows.



Kids in the Lapidary Shop

When parents sign up for time in the Lapidary Shop, kids can come along to watch. We care about the safety of our youngest members. Those under 18 years old may not use the equipment, because we don't want them to get hurt.

Juniors – Show and Tell

Have you brought something from your rock collection for Show and Tell? Every meeting we have a time for our members to share something. What might you share at the March meeting? Do you have a specimen that is especially interesting? Do you have a rock that has been shaped into a bear, arrowhead, or something else? Do you have a gorgeous rock? Do you want to ask the members whether they can tell you more about one of your rocks? Please look through your collection and choose something to share at the meeting this month.

Lapidary Shop

Our lapidary shop is reserved for members who have paid their dues. Inside are five slab saws, three CabKing™ machines for polishing cabochons, and two trim saws.

Sign up for shop time

All shop users must sign up for a time slot at least a day before the session. On their first visit, new shop users will be trained on shop procedures and safety before being able to use any equipment.

You can [sign up for shop time online](#). The system will send you a confirmation email which you should save until after your session. You will need the email if you want to cancel your reservation. Each Thursday we have shop sessions available:

- Session 1: 3:00 to 5:30 pm
- Session 2: 5:30 to 8:00 pm (except on the first Thursday of each month)

How to cancel

If you sign up for shop time online and later realize you won't be able to make it to the session, you need to cancel your reservation no later than the day before the session. This enables someone else to sign up. If you do not cancel, you will be charged for the session. To cancel, click the link in the confirmation email you received after you signed up.

What to bring

You need to bring \$7 (cash or check) to pay for the session. Additionally, you might like to bring these:

- Face mask to not breathe rock dust or for Covid protection
- Hearing protectors

Before you leave the shop

The shop stewards are volunteers who generously give 6 hours a week to enable us to use the tools. Before you leave a tool station, please wipe it down and leave it in the same condition as you found it. If you discover a problem with a saw or tool, please let the Shop Steward know.

Shop Stewards

Rich Osborne
Bruce Samuels
Ashley Martin

Email:
Shop@maplewoodrockclub.com



To everyone born in March,

Happy Birthday!

**Your birthstones are aquamarine
and bloodstone.**

**Not surprisingly, aquamarine
was named for the color of
seawater, from blue-green to a
deep blue. Natural deep blue
ones are rare and the most
valuable.**

Rock shows

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
Mar. 18, 9 am – 6 pm Mar. 19, 10 am – 5 pm	Hellgate Mineral Society Hilton Garden Inn 3700 North Reserve St. Missoula, MT	\$3 Kids under 14 are free with an adult!
Mar. 24, 10 am – 6 pm Mar. 25, 10 am – 6 pm Mar. 26, 10 am – 4 pm	Rock Rollers Club of Spokane Spokane County Fair and Expo Center N. 604 Havana Spokane, WA	\$8, adults \$7, seniors & military Scouts in uniform and kids under 12 are free!
Mar. 25, 10 am – 5 pm Mar. 26, 10 am – 5 pm	SE Idaho Gems & Mineral Society Bannock County Fairgrounds 10588 Fairground Dr. Pocatello, ID	\$3 12 and under are free with an adult!
April 1, 10 am – 5 pm April 2, 10 am – 5 pm	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club 8802 196th St SW Edmonds, Washington	Free
Apr. 1, 10 am – 6 pm Apr. 2, 10 am – 5 pm	Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society Sweet Home HS Activity Gym 1641 Long St. Sweet Home, OR	
Apr. 14, 9 am – 5 pm Apr. 15, 9 am – 5 pm Apr. 16, 10 am – 4 pm	Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Polk County Fairgrounds 520 S. Pacific Hwy Rickreall, OR	\$5 11 and under are free with an adult!

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
Apr. 21, 10 am – 4 pm	Yakima Rock and Mineral Club Central Wash. State Fair Ground Modern Living Building 1301 South Fair Avenue Yakima, WA	\$6
Apr. 22, 10 am – 5 pm		Students: \$2
Apr. 23, 10 am – 4 pm		12 and under are free!
Apr. 29, 10 am – 5 pm	Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club Benton Franklin County Fairgrounds Building 2 1500 S. Oak Kennewick, WA	\$5
Apr. 30, 10 am – 4 pm		12 and under are free!
Apr. 29, 10 am – 5 pm	West Seattle Rock Club Alki Masonic Temple 4736 40 th Ave. SW Seattle, WA	
Apr. 30, 10 am – 5 pm		
Apr. 29, 10 am – 5 pm	Grays Harbor Geology & Gem Society Grays Harbor Fair Grounds 43 Elma-McCleary Road Elma, WA	
Apr. 30, 10 am – 4:30 pm		
May 13, 10 am – 5 pm	Hatrockhounds Gem & Mineral Society Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center 1705 East Airport Road Hermiston, OR	\$3
May 14, 10 am – 4 pm		12 and under are free!
May 19, 10 am – 5 pm	Mt. Hood Rock Club Kliever Memorial Armory 10000 NE 33 rd Dr. Portland OR	
May 20, 10 am – 5 pm		
May 21, 10 am – 3 pm		

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
May 27, 10 am – 6 pm May 28, a	Everett Rock and Gem Club Evergreen State Fairgrounds 18359 Cascade View Drive Monroe, WA	
June 16, 10 am – 5 pm June 17, 10 am – 5 pm June 18, 10 am – 4 pm	Lower Upmqua Gem & Lapidary Society Reedsport Community Building 451 Winchester Ave. Reedsport, OR	
Aug. 3, 10 am – 5 pm Aug. 4, 10 am – 5 pm Aug. 5, 10 am – 5 pm Aug. 6, 10 am – 4 pm	Billings Gem and Mineral Club Billings Hotel & Convention Center 1223 Muldowney Lane Billings, MT	\$5/day or \$15 4-day pass Kids under 12 are free with an adult!
August 12, 10 am – 5 pm August 13, 10 am – 5 pm	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club 8802 196th St SW Edmonds, Washington	Free
Aug. 18, 9 am – 5 pm Aug. 19, 9 am – 5 pm Aug. 20, 10 am – 4 pm	Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Polk County Fairgrounds 520 S. Pacific Hwy. Rickreall, OR	
Sep. 9, 9 am – 5 pm Sep. 10, 10 am – 4 pm	Clallam County Gem and Mineral Association Vern Burton Community Center 308 East 4 th St. Port Angeles, WA	

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
Oct. 6, 10 am – 6 pm Oct. 7, 10 am – 6 pm Oct. 8, 10 am – 5 pm	Portland Regional Rock and Gem Club Wingspan Event Center 801 NE 34 th Ave Hillsboro, OR	\$7 Kids under 12 are free with an adult!
Oct. 7, 10 am – 5 pm Oct. 8, 10 am – 5 pm	Marysville Rock and Gem Club Evergreen State Fairgrounds Display Bldg. #500 14405 179 th Ave SE Monroe, WA	

Field Trips

Field trips in our area are published on the [Mineral Council website](#). Click *Field Trips* in the left column.

Less than \$2 a month!

Our dues are small — only \$1.67 per month — but they provide a vital source of funds to keep our club open. Your dues help maintain the roof and provide heat for the clubhouse as well as help pay for our lapidary shop. Only those who have paid their dues can sign up for the shop. If you haven't paid yet, please bring a check or cash to the meeting:

- Individual: \$20
- Student: \$15
- Family: \$45





Classified Ads

Our website now has a Classifieds page for members to post items for sale, items they want to buy, and helpful tips and information. If you would like to share a link to a favorite rock shop or post a notice about a tumbler you are selling, check out the [Classifieds page](#) on the website.

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

Read their latest [Newsletter](#).

Grit for sale

The Shop Stewards sell grit on Thursdays when the shop is open. Please let them know a day ahead that you will stop by to purchase grit.

To contact the Shop Stewards, email shop@maplewoodrockclub.com

Each grit package is \$4, and this is what they sell:

- 1 lb of 60/90
- 1 lb of 120/220
- $\frac{3}{4}$ lb of pre-polish
- $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of polish

Rock candy

If eye *candy* is a picture of something beautiful to look at, then these pictures are *Rock Candy* for your enjoyment.



Aquamarine, a form of beryl
by [Rob Lainsky, iRocks.com](#); CC BY-SA 3.0



Sherry colored topaz
by [Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com](#); CC BY-SA 3.0



Citrine gemstones



Tanzanite

Connect with us

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

Facebook page: Maplewood Rock & Gem Club

Facebook group for members: MRGC Sales and Trades

Email us: info@maplewoodrockclub.com

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

Our Board

Our club is run entirely by volunteers; and we are grateful for the time, energy, and expertise they give to our community.

President: Ali Rizvi

Secretary: Carla James

Treasurer: Bruce Samuels

Members at large: Nancy Ross, Rich Osborne, Nancy Samuels, and Michelle McGraw



Image license attributions

We use abbreviations in the license attributions. Here are the definitions.

CC: Creative Commons license

BY: attribute the author, link to the license, and indicate if changes were made.

SA: share alike - If you publish the image, you must use the same license.

ND: no derivatives - You may not alter the image.

NC: non-commercial use - You may not use the image for commercial use.

3.0 or other number: version of the license

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 the eastern section into the ocean 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.



News to share?

Did you go rockhounding? Have you acquired a beautiful new specimen? Please send stories, images, or simply ideas for articles that Nancy would write to the newsletter editor, Nancy Samuels at MRGC@nancysamuels.com.

This issue

Maplewood Rock and Gem Club
News

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