Maplewood
Rock and Gem Club

Nav 2025

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May meeting

Monday, May 19 at 7 pm

Our May meeting will be another interesting one. Paul Sherman will speak to us about the mineral beryl. Two popular types of beryl are emerald and aquamarine.

Paul Newby is organizing the silent auction with specimens you can bid on. The silent auction gives you an opportunity to buy slabs, gorgeous stones, and other specimens for your lapidary work or your collection. He sometimes has finished pieces too.

For those with last names beginning with A - M, please bring snacks to share.

Banner image

The banner image is a specimen of aquamarine, which is one type of beryl.

Rockhound book

<u>Third Place Books</u> is hosting an author signing for a new rockhound book: *A Rockhound's Guide to Oregon and Washington* by <u>Alison Jean Cole</u>. She will be speaking at 7 pm at the bookstore in Lake Forest Park, and she will sign books afterward. The bookstore is off the upper parking lot of the Lake Forest Park Mall: 17171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Park, WA.

Paper bags?

The Lapidary Shop needs paper grocery bags. If you have any to spare, please bring them to a meeting and give them to a shop steward: Rich Osborne, Bruce Samuels, Ashley Martin, Nathan O'Brien, or Scott Higson.



Classes at the Clubhouse

Stone Drilling

May 22 from 7 to 8 pm

Don Wilcox will provide a demonstration on equipment and supplies used to drill holes in stones for beads and artistic considerations. This will include both a demo and discussion on methods, tools, supplies, and safety.

All club members are welcome. The demo is free for members. We request a \$10 donation from non-members.



Vibratory Tumbler

May 29 from 7 to 8 pm



Don Wilcox will provide a demonstration on equipment and supplies used in vibratory rock tumblers. This will include both a demo and discussion on methods, tools, supplies, and safety. The class will also cover the key differences between vibratory and rotary tumblers.

All club members are welcome. The demo is free for members. We request a \$10 donation from non-members.

Juniors

Juniors leader: Amaryah Daniels juniors@maplewoodrockclub.com

Article by Marisa Pierce

Juniors Rock and Gem Club Gets Wrapped Up in Creativity!

The Juniors Rock and Gem Club had a fantastic meeting on April 21, with 21 enthusiastic juniors diving into the art of wire wrapping. A huge thank you to Heather Martin, expert artist and jewelry maker, who generously shared her skills and guided the group in creating beautiful wire-wrapped jewelry using cabochons and tumbled stones!





A big thanks to Heather Martin for showing the Juniors how it's done such a fun and inspiring activity!

Everyone got in on the action—tools, stones, and a whole lot of teamwork.



Busy hands and lots of creativity! Juniors focused in on their bead and wire projects.



Heather Martin demonstrating how to wrap wire like a pro. The kids were all eyes and ears!





Some of the awesome wire-wrapped jewelry the Juniors made—each one totally unique!

Juniors Display

April's display case proudly featured the creative work of Ophelia Aitken, showcasing her talent and passion for rocks and gems.

May meeting

At May's meeting we will explore crystal types and shapes with guest speaker Crister Sausler. Juniors will get hands-on again—this time building 3D crystal models out of gumdrops. We can't wait!

Rainbow of Beryl



Three types of beryl: morganite, aquamarine, and emerald; by Chris Ralph; Public Domain

Beryl is a colorless mineral in its pure form, but normally we see it tinted with impurities turning the stone a beautiful hue of green, blue, yellow, pink, and in rare instances, red. Some of these varieties are better known by other names, like emerald and aquamarine.

Formula and structure

The chemical formula of beryl is $Be_3Al_2(SiO3)_6$. The crystals naturally form in hexagonal columns which can be several meters long.



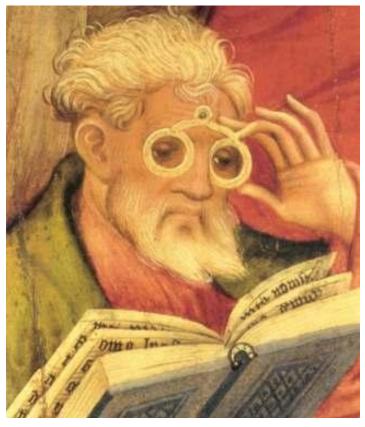
Rough emerald on matrix; by Géry PARENT; Muzo mine, Columbia; Public Domain

Long ago

The name beryl likely comes from these two ancient terms:

- ancient Greek: βήρυλλος béryllos which referred to blue-green stones
- Prakrit (an Indian language): veruliya which might have referred to the town of Velur in southern India

Emperor Nero, around 60 CE, used an emerald lens to enhance his eyesight. In the second century, Ptolemy published *Optics* which described how a convex lens can enlarge images. His science was improved later by Alhazen who published his *Book of Optics* in 1021. This began the development of *reading stones*, many of which would have been colorless beryl.



"Glasses Apostle" by Conrad von Soest; 1403; Public Domain

In the late 13th century Italians began selling eyeglasses with glass lenses, possibly in Pisa. It didn't take long for Venice and its Murano islands to become the center of glass making for lenses. By 1301 there were guild regulations regarding eyeglasses, and reading stones were rapidly replaced with the improved clarity of glass lenses.

A visit to Devils Tower National Monument

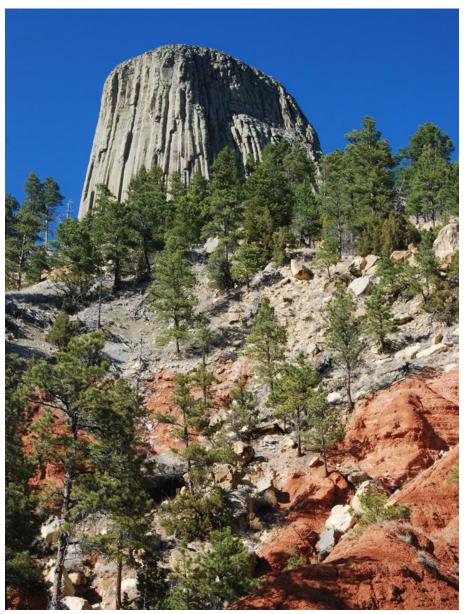
By Jim Miller

The classic 1977 movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" featured an amazing landform as its star attraction. In the movie, extra-terrestrial beings chose this location for meeting the human inhabitants of planet Earth.

The landform, known as "Devils Tower," stands as an impressive sentinel on the landscape. The feature is located in the relatively remote northeast corner of Wyoming and is visible standing above the surrounding landscape dozens of miles away. The site is presently protected within Devils Tower National Monument. I had a chance to visit this remarkable place during a road trip with my wife in 2013. We didn't find any extra-terrestrial visitors at Devils Tower, but the feature and the surrounding landscape were truly awesome.

As you approach Devils Tower by the main access road to the National Monument, the surrounding terrain consists mainly of broad valleys with intervening mesas and scattered Ponderosa Pine forests (see below). The Belle Fourche River winds through the east side of the Monument.





The access road to the Monument rises quickly in elevation as you approach Devils Tower, and the iconic rock formation soon dominates the landscape. Before reaching the parking area for the National Monument, Devils Tower stands majestically above red-colored sedimentary rocks (shown here).

The red rocks consist of layers of sandstone and siltstone that accumulated during the age of dinosaurs, about 200 million years ago. Similar sedimentary rocks were deposited across much of today's Rocky Mountain region.

Once you reach the parking lot for the National Monument, the views of Devils Tower become breathtaking. The photo on the next page shows the scale of the Tower as well as its most dramatic attraction – near-vertical columns of gray-colored rock. These columns are a result of "columnar jointing," which produces parallel, six-sided columns of solid rock separated by fractures in the stone. But how did the columns form, and why is the top of the Tower flat?



The origins and explanations of this amazing geologic feature have been postulated for at least 150 years. Considerable debate continues to this day. After visiting Devil's Tower and researching some of the geologic theories on its origins, I offer my own explanation below.

About 40 million years ago the Devils Tower area began to experience volcanic activity. Hot, molten volcanic rock (magma) pushed up through the older sedimentary rocks and discharged its lava and ash onto the landscape. Devils Tower likely represents the throat of this ancient volcano. Slow cooling of the magma occurred within the encapsulating sedimentary rock. Cooling of the molten rock in the throat of the volcano caused contraction and cracking of the solidifying rock, leading to formation of the spectacular columns we see today.

The period of volcanic activity ended and was followed by a long interval of erosion. Ancient streams meandered across the landscape and produced a relatively flat surface that is termed a "peneplain." This erosion removed nearly all of the volcanic deposits that originated from earlier volcanism. The flat top of Devils Tower represents a tiny remnant of a once extensive peneplain surface.

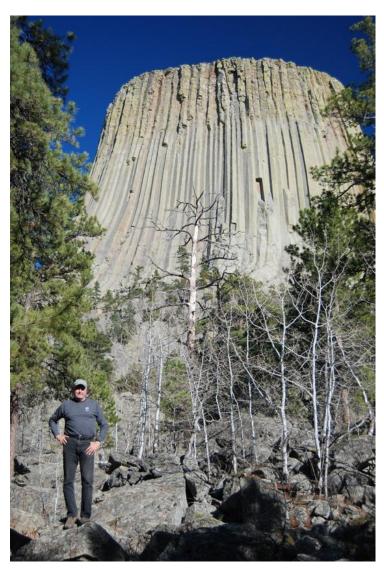
General uplift of the ground surface occurred after development of the peneplain. This uplift triggered renewed erosion and dissection of the land surface. The Tower consists of an unusual type of volcanic rock known as phonolite. The phonolite in the throat of the extinct volcano was much harder than the surrounding sedimentary rock. As a result, Devils Tower remained relatively intact as the softer rock that surrounded it was removed by weathering and erosion. That erosion continues to this day.

The basalt found in much of Eastern Washington has excellent exposures of columnar jointing in many areas (see photo below). The basalt columns in Washington are typically a few inches to a few feet in diameter. In contrast, the columns for Devils Tower are HUGE – typically 6 feet to 12 feet in diameter and hundreds of feet long. Devil's Tower displays the largest known natural volcanic columns in the world!



Numerous Native American cultures consider Devils Tower to be a sacred site. Several busloads of Native American children were visiting the Monument while we were there. The relative silence of these children confirmed their reverence for this unique geologic landform.

Devils Tower stands about 870 feet high from its base to its relatively flat summit, which is at an altitude of about 5,100 feet above sea level. Roughly 400,000 visitors travel to **Devils Tower National Monument** annually. About one percent of these visitors scale the Tower using technical rock-climbing techniques. A walking trail circles the base of the Tower and affords dramatic views that change with the direction of the sun. The trail also allows for closeup examination of the huge rock columns that have broken off the side of the Tower and accumulated around its base.



If you have never been to this amazing place, it is well worth the effort. Who knows, you may even find an extra-terrestrial visitor admiring the view with you!

Jim Miller

Jim Miller is a long-time member of Maplewood Rock & Gem Club. He is a retired geologist and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in geological engineering, as well as a Master of Science degree in environmental geology. Jim has loved rocks, fossils, crystals and the natural world since grade school. He enjoys rock tumbling and is an accomplished flintknapper. In 2006 Jim wrote and published a CD book on the types of stone used for knapping arrowheads and stone knives. He enjoys technical writing and has had several of his articles published in Rock & Gem magazine.

A Jade-Filled Journey to British Columbia

By Don Wilcox

On a bright and sunny Saturday, April 26th, Deane Beele, Rich Osborn, and I set out on a gem-hunting adventure to British Columbia with one goal in mind: jade. We hit the road right at 8:00 AM, heading north toward the Canadian border. Luck was on our side—only two cars ahead of us at the I-5 truck crossing which meant we breezed through with no delays.

Our first stop was just across the border at Jade West, where we had the pleasure of meeting the owners, Matt and Paul. Jade West has long held a prominent place in the jade



world, once recognized as one of the largest producers and exporters of nephrite jade globally. Their four mines in Northern British Columbia, located about 100 miles east of the Alaskan border, were active during the short summer mining season, yielding around 100 tons of jade annually—primarily for export to China

and New Zealand. However, in recent years, jade production in BC has slowed significantly due to growing pressure from First Nations communities and the provincial government.





At Jade West, we explored an impressive array of jade—cut slices, rough chunks, and finished products. While the focus was on BC nephrite jade, we also saw selections from Guatemala and Burma. Their retail store was a jade lover's paradise, filled with necklaces, sculptures, beads, and more. We left with a great mix of slabs, rough, and some beautiful pieces of jewelry.



Our next destination was Casiar Jade, owned by Tony Ritter. Although he primarily sells wholesale, Tony generously opened his doors for us. In his showroom, a video played showcasing his mining operation. He described his claims, the remote terrain, and the challenges of extracting high-quality jade suitable for the market. We were fascinated by his collection of 2- to 4-footlong core samples used to test the jade-bearing sites.

Tony then led us to the back of his property, where massive jade boulders were stored. Some were industrial-grade—ideal for architectural uses like reception desks or wall panels—but their sheer size

was awe-inspiring. One monster of a boulder weighed in at a staggering 27,602 pounds—over 13 tons! Another, nicknamed "The Bell," gave off a clear, resonant tone when Tony tapped it with a sledgehammer, a testament to the tight crystalline structure of the jade.





We continued exploring the yard, examining boulders of all shapes and sizes, from fist-sized chunks to pieces as big as microwaves. Tony educated us on the different jade grades and how various customers—from jewelers to sculptors—sought specific characteristics. We were particularly taken with the Casiar jade rich in light green markings of chromium. After picking out our own collections, Tony generously donated six or seven pieces to the club—an incredibly kind gesture.



Next, we headed further north to Rubble Rock and Gem in Vancouver. Although the owner, Adam, was out due to a recent injury, the store itself was impressive —spacious and stocked with fossils, mineral specimens, cabochons, tools, and more. We browsed to our hearts' content and left with several treasures.

Before calling it a day, we made one last stop just south of the border at Northstar Stone and Landscaping Supply, located north of Bellingham. Their lot was filled with a wide variety of stones, all shapes and sizes. They even have a selection of gemstones and gift items perfect for creative projects.

By the time we returned to our starting point just after 5:30 PM, we were tired but thrilled. It had been a packed day full of discovery, learning, and, of course, plenty of jade. A truly memorable trip for any rockhound.



Calendar of Events

Here are some important dates for your calendar. Parties and social time are such valuable ways we get to know each other that we dedicate two meetings a year to them. In August we have a BBQ and in December we have a holiday party. All our other meetings are on the third Monday at 7 pm.

Event	Date	What's happening
Stone Drilling	May 22	Class
Vibratory Tumbler	May 29	Class
Container Clean Out	June 7 - 19	Organize the storage container
Summer Show	August 16 and 17	Show
Summer BBQ	August 18 at 6 pm	Potluck dinner and party instead of a member meeting
Annual Showcase	November 8 and 9	Demonstrations and displays for the community
Holiday Show	December 6 and 7	Show
Holiday Party	December 8 at 6 pm	Potluck dinner and party instead of the December meeting. Please note it's on the second Monday, not the usual third.

To rockhounders born in May

Happy Birthday!

Happy spring!

The weather has warmed a bit, so this is a good time of year to get out there and search for rocks and minerals.

The birthstone for May is emerald!



THE PUYALLUP VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB IS HOSTING 2 SHOWS IN 2025

"Come Rock With US"

The Puyallup Valley 2025 Gem & Mineral Show June 6th 12:00pm – 5:00pm, June 7th 10:00am – 5:00pm, & June 8th 10:00am – 3:00pm Swiss Park, 9205 198th Ave. East, Bonney Lake, WA.

The Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club is hosting its 2025 annual show called The Valley of Gems Show, typically held the first full weekend of June.

With vendors both inside and outside you'll find a vast selection of rough and finished "treasures" on display. Choose from crystals, minerals, fossils, beads, findings, lapidary equipment, cabochons, geodes, and jewelry, just to name a few things to add to your collection. Inside, watch demonstrators show you "how it's done" and see the many displays presented by PVG&MC members.

There is no admission fee, convenient parking, and disabled access. There is an adjacent covered picnic area for picnicking, walking trails through the trees and a play area for the younger rockhounds. If you don't picnic, food is available from the kitchen in the building. Also inside, visit the kids mine on the stage, and check out the silent auction and club sales area. Take a chance in our 3pm Sunday raffle which includes 2 - \$50 bills, a beautiful handmade rock lamp, rock tumblers, many pieces of jewelry and rock specimens donated by the vendors, and you don't have to be present to win.



Check out our website http://www.puyallupvalleygemandmineralclub.com for more information.

Questions? Comments?

Please contact us at PVG&MC@gmail.com or (253) 987-6751

Rock lovers everywhere

Before you go rockhounding

Rockhounding is fun to do with a group. Join one of the trips listed below and meet other local rockhounders. If you plan to go, please contact the host a week or so ahead to let them know you are coming and to find out if anything has changed.

As you get ready for the trip, we recommend that you go through this checklist:

	Contact the host a week before the trip.
	Plan your driving time so you arrive 30 minutes before the meeting time.
	If needed for parking, get a Discover Pass or bring money for a trailhead or forest pass.
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Collect your tools and containers for the rocks.
https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/photos-of-collecting-tools/
Prepare a first aid kit.
Plan appropriate clothes, boots, gloves, snacks, and water.
] Gas up your vehicle.
Review the Rockhound Code of Ethics. It's important to follow these so that the lands remain open for rockhounding.

https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/rockhound-code-of-ethics/

Rockhounding Hosts

Here is the contact information for hosts of the rockhounding trips:

Maplewood Club	Don Wilcox	wilcox.don@comcast.net
Marysville Club	Nique Wicks	nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com (509) 670-0630
Pow Wow	Larry Vess	vessel3755@gmail.com (253)473-3908
Puyallup Club	Nate White	nate.white77@gmail.com (206)349-7054
Washington State Mineral Council	Ed Lehman	wsmced2@outlook.com (425) 334-6282
	Nique Wicks (contact information is above)	

Trips and shows

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
May 24 th 9 am	Marysville Club Wild Turkey mine site Meet at 3515 Waitts Lake Road, Valley, WA	Serch for noble serpentine. Pay to dig. Bring tools for hard rock or surface picking.
May 31 st 9 am	Marysville Club Walt Bailey Trail site Meet at the Verlot Ranger Station	Search for rainbow chert. Collecting along the roadside. Bring tools for hard rock.
June 6 th noon – 5 pm 7 th and 8 th 10 am – 5 pm	Puyallup Valley Gem and Mineral Club Swiss Park 9205 198 th Ave. E, Puyallup, WA	Valley of the Gems show

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
June 21 st 9 am	Washington State Mineral Council Saddle Mountains site Meet at Harvest Foods in Mattawa, WA	Serch for petrified wood and opal. Bring tools for digging, breaking light hard rock, and surface picking
July 26 th 9 am	Marysville Club Lake Wenatchee site Meet at the rest stop just West of Lake Wenatchee on Hwy 2	Search for garnets. Bring a shovel and a screen container for the garnets
August 8 th and 9 th 10 am – 5 pm 10 th 10 am – 4 pm	Puyallup Valley Gem and Mineral Club Tacoma Sportsmen's Club 16409 Canyon Road East, Puyallup, WA	2025 Jim Christian Memorial Show in the Trees
Aug. 16 th and 17 th 9 am	Puyallup Club Greenwater site Meet at the Enumclaw Ranger Station	Search for agate, jasper, and opal. Bring tools for digging and hard rock.
Aug. 16 th 10 am – 5 pm 17 th 10 am – 4 pm	NW Stone Sculptors Association Evergreen Arboretum, Everett, WA	Fresh Paint 2025 Everett Arboretum Sculpture Walk https://www.schack.org/fresh-paint
Sept. 6 th and 7 th 8 am	Pow Wow Group Red Top site. Meet at the Teanaway Campground	Search for agate, jasper, and geodes. Bring tools for digging and hard rock
Sept. 20 th d 10 am	Puyallup Club Little Naches site Meet at the intersection of Hwy 410 and FR 92	Search for thunder eggs, fossils, lilypad jasper. Bring a shovel and small bar

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
Sept. 27 th and 28 th	NW Stone Sculptors Association Kubota Garden, Seattle, WA	Kubota Garden Sculpture Show and Sale
Oct. 1 st 9 am	Marysville Club Meet at Index, WA	Search for picture jasper. Bring a rock hammer.
Nov. 8 th 9 am	Marysville Club Blanchard Hill site Meet at I-5 exit 240 at the Mini Mart	Search for stilpnomelane (Dalmation stone). Bring hard rock tools. Collecting on the road shoulder.

Grit and oil for sale

The Shop Stewards have grit. When the shop is open you can buy grit or oil. Please email them a day ahead of when you will stop by to purchase grit: shop@maplewoodrockclub.com

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

Gallon of oil for \$20

<u>Dinosaur Comics</u> by Ryan North. You can follow him on <u>BlueSky</u>.

Shows farther afield

Who wouldn't enjoy a weekend in British Columbia, Oregon, or the sun zone east of the Cascades?. These shows offer a chance to see some places you might not have visited yet.



Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
May – June May 31 st 9 am – 5 pm June 1 st 10 am – 4 pm	North Idaho Mineral Club Kootenai County Fairgrounds, Jacklin Building #25 4056 North Government Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID	Annual show \$5 ages 13 and over ages 12 and under are free with an adult
August 10 th 10 am – 4 pm	Fraser Valley Rock and Gem Club Aldergrove Legion 26607 Fraser Hwy, Aldergrove, BC	Annual tailgate
August 20 th and 21 st 10 am – 4 pm	Fraser Valley Rock and Gem Club Aldergrove Kinsmen Community Center, Aldergrove, BC	Annual show

Washington State Mineral Council

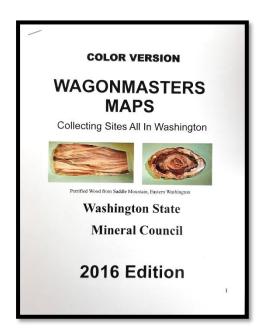
Our club, along with many other rock and gem clubs in the state, is a member of the Washington State Mineral Council. This organization helps us by

- 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.

Maps for Rockhounds

The Washington State Mineral Council has put together a 62-page booklet with maps for finding rock hounding sites. You can buy a copy for only \$20 at the meeting.



Seattle Regional Gem and Mineral Shows Committee

Our club is a member of a Seattle area organization of rock clubs. Together we share wooden display cases that we use at our shows. These cases are stored in the new shed behind our building. The other member clubs are the North Seattle Lapidary Gem and Mineral Club and the West Seattle Rock Club.

Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Our club is a member of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies: http://Northwestfederation.org. We email their newsletter to our members each month.

About Us

Lapidary Shop

Our lapidary shop is reserved for members who have paid their dues. Inside are five slab saws, three CabKing $^{\text{TM}}$ 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.

Shop Stewards

Rich Osborne Bruce Samuels Ashley Martin Nathan O'Brien Scott Higson

Shop@maplewoodrockclub.com

You can <u>sign up for shop time online</u>. The system will send you a confirmation email which you should save until after your session. You will need the email if you need to cancel your reservation. Each Thursday and the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays we have two shop sessions available:

- Session 1: from 3:00 to 5:30 pm
- Session 2: from 5:30 to 8:00 pm

How to cancel

If you sign up for shop time online and later realize you won't be able to make it, you need to cancel your reservation no later than two days before the session. So, if you are cancelling a Thursday time, you need to cancel by Tuesday at midnight. 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.

What to bring

You need to bring \$10 (cash or check) to pay for the session. Additionally, please bring these:

- Eye 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.



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: Angela Vitense

Vice President: open Treasurer: Lisa Rammell

Secretary: Raven Thompson-Happy Members at large: Paul Newby, Nathan O'Brien, Crister Sausler,

and Michele McGraw.

Image licenses

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

News to share?

Did you go rockhounding? Have you acquired a beautiful new specimen? Contact Nancy Samuels, the Editor at

MRGC@nancysamuels.com.

This issue

Maplewood Rock and Gem Club News

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