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June meeting

Monday, June 15 at 7 pm

Seamus Kearney, a licensed geologist with GeoEngineers, will be speaking about the geologic context of the area where the Oso landslide occurred. He will tell us about how this event informed the fields of landslide science and public safety. Additionally, we will learn about the event itself, the triggers, and the impacts.

Paul Newby is rounding up specimens to offer for sale in the Silent Auction. Please choose one or two of your rocks to tell us about, or if you have a mystery rock, ask our membership whether they can elucidate.

The Juniors need to borrow Jenga sets for their activity on Monday. If you have Jenga and can drop it at the clubhouse at 5:30 Monday, they would appreciate it.

If your last name begins with a letter from N - Z, please bring a snack to share with the members.

Banner image

This photo of the Oso landslide was taken by Mark Reid for the US Geological Survey and is in the public domain.

PROUDLY CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF ROCKHOUNDING IN EDMONDS



Maplewood

ROCK & GEM CLUB

Since 1951

19th Annual Rock & Mineral Sale

AUGUST 8 & 9, 2026

SATURDAY

10am - 5pm

SUNDAY

10am - 5pm



Rocks & Gems
Minerals
Crystals & Fossils



FREE ADMISSION

OVER 20 DEALERS

8802 - 196th St. SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

Our Clubhouse is located just 3 miles west of I-5.

www.maplewoodrockclub.com

www.facebook.com/MaplewoodRCG



Trunk Trades

We are starting up the Trunk Trades again. Both before and after the meeting, those who want to trade rocks or just *Oooh* and *Ahhh* over other people's rocks will meet in the parking lot. If you want to trade, bring some specimens.

The Trunk Trades will continue each month through September. After that, it will be too dark to see what we are trading.

Can you help?

Our club needs people to help get ready for the summer show. This event is our biggest show of the year, and it helps us pay the bills. We don't have paid staff, so our members make everything happen! How can you help? Volunteering is the best way to get to know other members – we love to chat while we work. If you can help, contact Angela Vitense at shows@maplewoodrockclub.com.

June 24 and July 15 at 3 pm

Join our work party to sort through bulk rocks from our container out back and from donations of fossils and rough specimens. At a recent party we discovered unexpected treasures – sapphires! We will also price items for the sale.

August 7 – 9

Our summer show is August 8 – 9, and we will be setting up on Friday, August 7. The set-up and clean-up activities include setting up tables, preparing/serving snacks to vendors, marking booth sites, marking parking spots, putting up signs, and cleaning. During the show we need people to staff the sales table and serve as vendor support. The specifics of the tasks will be identified by the Shows committee.



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 summer celebration 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
Rock sorting	June 24 3 pm	Sort and price specimens for selling at the summer show
Stone Carving Basics and Wet Angle Grinder	June 25 6:30 – 8 pm	Class
Rock sorting	July 15 3 pm	Sort and price specimens for selling at the summer show
How to Clean and Prep Stones	July 23 6:30 – 8 pm	Class
Summer show	August 8 - 9	Show
75 th Anniversary BBQ	August 17 6 pm	Celebration of summer and our 75 th anniversary
Community Open House	November 7	Display cases and demos
Holiday show	December 5 - 6	Show
Holiday Party	December 14 at 6 pm	Potluck dinner and party instead of the December meeting

Our fabulous neighbors

Jason Hall lives just down the street from our club. He's not a member, but he has been cutting our lawn as a simple kindness. We are grateful to have such generous neighbors. If you are here and see him on his riding mower, please say *Hi* and thank him. Image by [Dave Hitchborne](#) of the Bolingbroke Castle grounds, Old Bolingbroke, UK. License: [CC BY-SA 2.0](#).



Classes in Lapidary Arts



Stone Carving Basics and Wet Angle Grinder

**June 25 (tentative)
from 6:30 to 8 pm**

Ever wondered about carving stone? This discussion will show basic hand tools, power tools, stone, and safety gear. There will be a basic demo as weather and space allow.

How to Clean and Prep Stones

**July 23
from 6:30 to 8 pm**

The discussion will focus on a handful of methods to clean quartz, epidote, pyrite, and other materials we find locally in the Pacific Northwest. There will be samples of before and after. The discussion will include chemicals needed and related safety.



Don Wilcox

Don has been a member of Maplewood Rock and Gem Club for over 18 years. He has served on the board including 2 terms as president. He has been creating art for over 25 years and is a member of the Northwest Stone Carving Association. He created Tundrafox Designs as his business where he makes and sells lapidary items, pushed glass, sculptures, and more. You can find Don and his work at Etsy https://www.etsy.com/shop/TundrafoxDesigns?ref=shop_profile&listing_id=1657011904 And on the web <https://tundrafoxdesigns.com/>

Here are two of Don's sculptures.



Moonstone

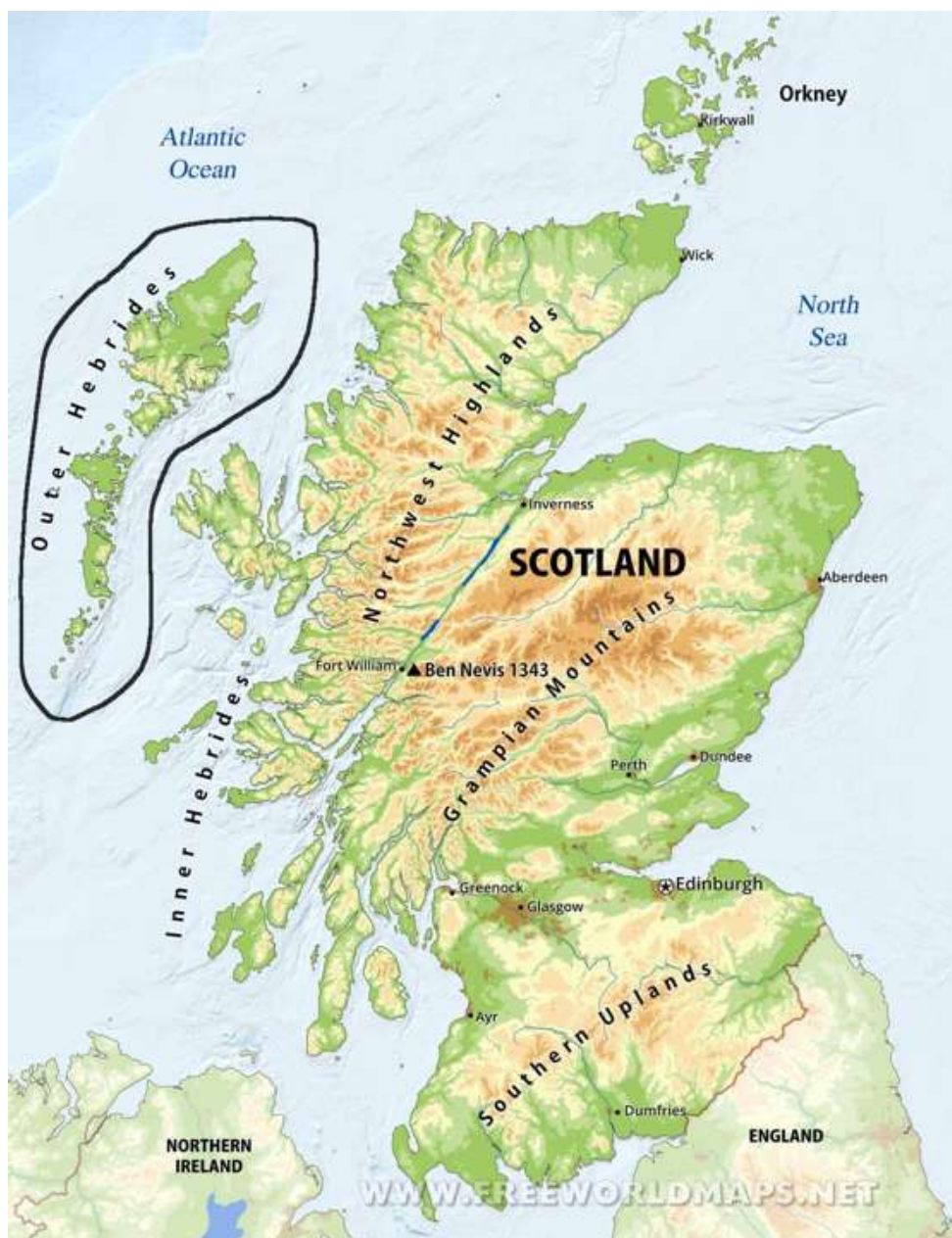
Moonstone is best known for its pearly sheen where light reflects off of the alternating layers of orthoclase and albite, both of which are types of feldspar. When feldspar is formed, sometimes as it cools the different feldspars sort themselves into layers. In the resulting gem, light refracts off the layers creating interference of the light waves. The light seems to move deep in the stone as you view it from different angles. This type of sheen is called adularescence or a schiller effect. Blue light scatters more than other colors sometimes creating an ethereal blue glow.



Scotland Rocks in the Outer Hebrides

By Jim Miller

My wife Jill and I visited Outer Hebrides Islands along with a group of geologists in the summer of 2017. The Outer Hebrides consist of a group of rocky islands that guard the northwest coast of Scotland (see area circled in black on the map below). We visited the major islands of Barra, Uist and Harris. Causeways and ferries provide linkages between the islands.



Getting to the Outer Hebrides takes some effort. We flew directly from Seattle to Iceland, where we changed planes. The next leg was to Glasgow, Scotland, where we stayed for one night in the interesting and historic downtown area (see photos below).



Then we took a scenic train ride from Glasgow to the coastal town of Oban for a lunch of fish and chips. Next, we boarded a ferry for a chilly 4-hour voyage to the island of Barra at the southern end of the Outer Hebrides. We got off the ferry in the quaint village of Castlebay (photo here), where we stayed for two nights in a lovely hotel.



The town gets its name from the fact that a small castle is perched on a rocky island in the bay (photo below). Jill and I were able to take a boat ride to the castle and explore its interior. Long ago I had ancestors that lived in Castlebay and resided in this historic castle. Unfortunately, I was informed that I am not in line for succession to ownership of the castle. Oh well, the visit was fun anyway!



We soon learned that the ocean is almost always in view everywhere in the Outer Hebrides. Lovely beaches with rock peninsulas seemed to appear around every curve in the road (see below).



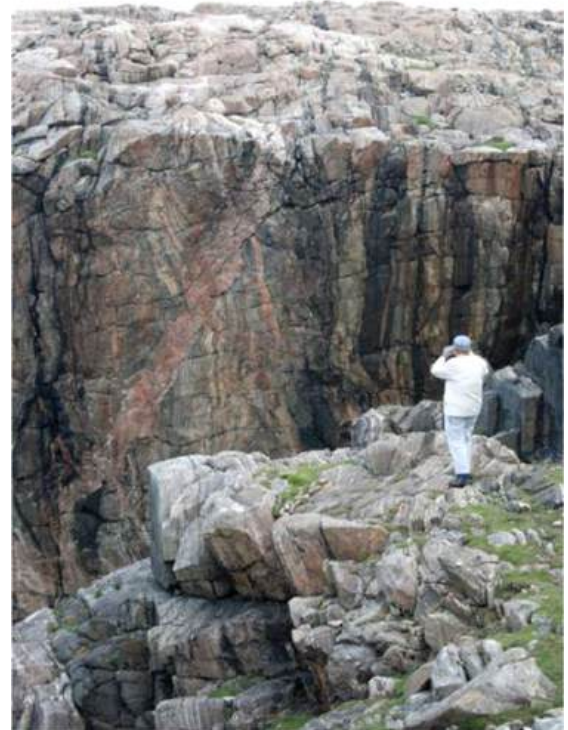
The Outer Hebrides Islands are exposed to the full fury of winter storms from the North Atlantic. The islands also have been scoured and scraped by thick sheets of glacial ice sheets several times in the past. To survive Mother Nature's onslaught, most of the rocks in the Outer Hebrides are very hard and durable. Ancient metamorphic gneiss and granite are particularly plentiful. This photo shows an exposure of beautifully folded gneiss at the crest of a white sand beach.



The gneiss on Harris Island is more than a billion years old. Rocks in the Outer Hebrides were connected to what is now Newfoundland prior to initial opening of the Atlantic Ocean

about 145 million years ago. The complexity of the contacts between different types of metamorphic rock attests to the fact that these

rocks have been exposed to multiple episodes of mountain building, metamorphism, and erosion (left and right photos). The rocks now exposed at the land surface likely formed at least 5 to 10 miles below the Earth's surface.



Upland areas of the Outer Hebrides are usually quite barren and rocky with very little soil development. Glacial erosion has smoothed the tops of the hills. Except in villages, the homes are usually quite distant from each other, as shown below.



We traveled near a traditional thatched roof home on the island of Uist (see below). Not many of these homes remain, but they certainly are interesting.



Scotland is famous for sheep, and they can be seen everywhere in the Outer Hebrides. The wind-blown ewe below seems to like living near a lighthouse.



Besides sheep, there was other animal life to amuse us. The ponies in the photo below were wandering about and blocking the road to the beach. We had to push them off the narrow road (literally) to gain vehicle passage!



The beautiful coastal areas, like the scene below, are a wonderful attraction for the Outer Hebrides. But Scotland is also famous for its whiskies. So, if rocks, beaches and castles aren't enough to engage your interests, visits to distilleries are also an option!



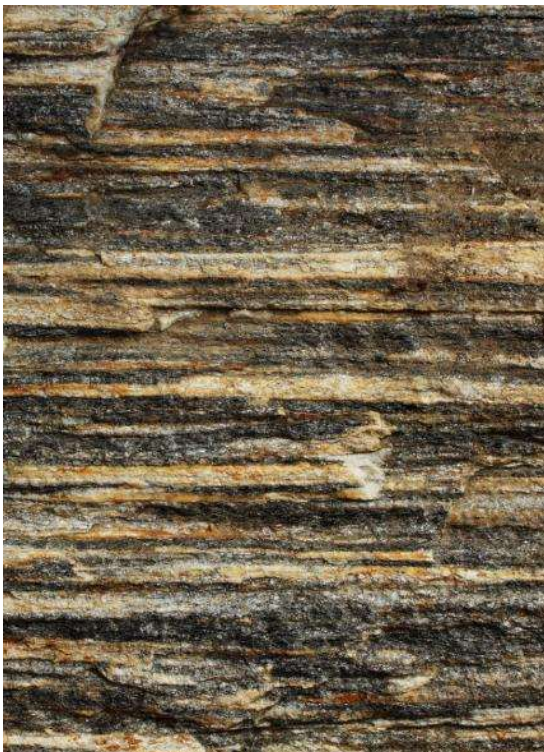
Jim Miller

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.

Nice Gneiss

Gneiss (pronounced *nice*) is metamorphic rock formed deep underground where its prior rock formation was pressed and heated forming bands of large crystals (often feldspar) alternated with bands of a flat mineral, like mica. This is called gneiss banding. Below are a couple photos to help you not confuse two types of banding.

Gneiss banding



*Biotitic banded gneiss by [Petr Hykš](#)
License: [CC BY-NC-2.0](#)*

Nice banding



*Cartier Leopard themed diamond bracelet by [Thefss](#)
License: [Pixabay](#)*

Who doesn't like *free*?

In 2026 Washington public lands agencies have chosen the following days when you don't need a Discover Pass to park at

- state parks
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources land
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife land

A Discover Pass costs \$45 for a year of parking on state land listed above. The pass covers two vehicles.

The Discover Pass funds significantly help the state agencies provide

- recreation opportunities
- conservation of forests and seashores
- clean bathrooms
- trail maintenance



The free days in 2026 are

Friday, June 19 – Juneteenth

Sunday, Aug. 9 – Smokey Bear's Birthday

Saturday, Sept. 26 – National Public Lands Day

Saturday, Oct. 10 – World Mental Health Day

Wednesday, Nov. 11 – Veterans Day

Happy Birthday to everyone born in June!

**Your birthstones are
Alexandrite, Pearl, and Moonstone**



Alexandrite

This gem was only discovered in 1834 in Russia's Ural mountains. Because it was scarce, this gem was initially reserved for the Tsar's family and the highest aristocracy. This gem is pleochroic: it changes color from green under daylight to ruby red in incandescent light.



Pearl

Pearls are the world's first gems; they have been found in 8000 year old burial sites. In China 2300 years ago pearls were given as gifts to honor royalty. Julius Caesar in Rome's heyday made it legal for only the ruling class to wear pearls.

Moonstone

In ancient Rome people believed that moonstone was formed from solidified beams of moonlight. People who carried or wore this rock would be endowed with love, wisdom, and good fortune. In India long ago people believed that two people wearing moonstones under a full moon would fall in love. A moonstone was set into statuary figures of the moon god, Chandra, and as the earth's moon waxes and wanes, so did Chandra's powers.



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 America the Beautiful pass, as required.
- ☐ 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	Paul Haak	pvhaak@gmail.com (253) 312-1743
Washington State Mineral Council	Ed Lehman	wsmced2@outlook.com (425) 334-6282
	Nique Wicks (contact information is above)	
NW Federation of Mineralogical Societies	Doug True	dtruefossils12@yahoo.com (406) 670-0506

Trips and shows

Date	Host and Location	Details
June 25 – 28	NW Federation Tee Pee Canyon Agate, South Dakota	To be announced
July 18 – 19	Marysville Lake Wenatchee	Search for garnet and talc. Bring a shovel screen, container for garnets, hand saw.
Aug. 8 - 9	Maplewood Summer Show	

Date	Host and Location	Details
Aug. 15 – 16	Puyallip Greenwater	Search for agate, jasper, opal Bring digging tools, chisel, small pry bar, rock hammer.
Sept. 12 – 13	Pow-Wow Red Top	Search for agate, jasper, geodes. Bring digging tools, chisel, small pry bar, rock hammer.
Sept. 19	Puyallip Little Naches	Search for lily pad jasper, fossils, thunder eggs. Bring digging tools, hard rock chisels, pry bar, 3# hammer, rock hammer.
Oct. 11	Marysville Walt Bailey	Search for rainbow chert. Bring hard rock chisels, rock hammers, pry bars.
Nov. 7	Marysville Blanchard Hill	Search for Stilpnomelane (dalmation stone). Bring hard rock flat chisels, hammers, pry bars.
Nov. 7	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club	Community Open House
Dec. 5 – 6th	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club	Holiday Show

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: shop@maplewoodrockclub.com

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

1 lb of 60/90
1 lb of 120/220

¾ lb of pre-polish
½ lb of polish

Gallon of oil for \$20 (Bring your own container.)

Washington State Mineral Council

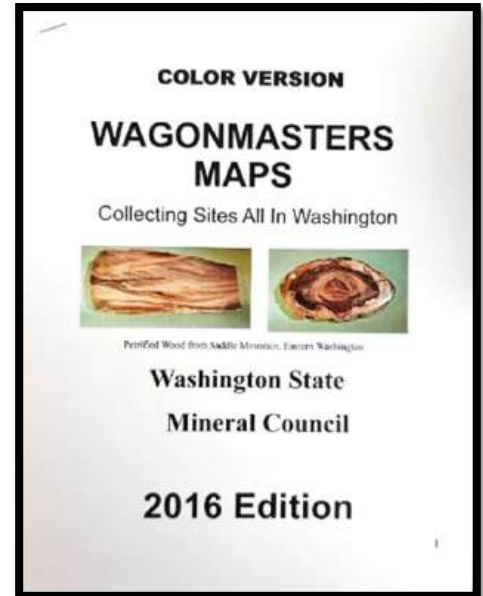
Our club, along with many other rock and gem clubs in the state, is a member of the Washington State Mineral Council. This organization helps us by

- 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™ 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 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.

Shop Stewards

Rich Osborne
Bruce Samuels
Nathan O'Brien
Dirk Sierag
Scott Higson

Shop@maplewoodrockclub.com



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: open

Past President: Angela Vitense

Members at large: Paul Newby, Mark Tomas, Nathan O'Brien, and Craig Kosovich.

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

Volume 06

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