



THE BEMS TUMBLER

February
2007

The monthly newsletter of the **Boeing Employees' Mineralogical Society, Inc.** Seattle, Washington

Next Meeting:
February 8, 2007
7:30 p.m.

**Boeing Recreation
Activity Center**

Room B at
22649 83rd Avenue S.

Just off the Valley
Freeway (Highway 167) North
edge of Kent

The Program will probably be the
video "Modern Marvels - Copper;
Part 1" which would have been
shown last month, except that the
meeting was cancelled



*This month remember
to wish a
Happy Birthday to*

Richard Whiting on February 3,
Ronald Green on February 7,
Esther McKain on February 9,
Delbert Oxborrow on February 11,
George Boucek on February 16,
Peter Williams on February 18,
Ronald Houser on February 19,
Mike Brimmage on February 24,
Sharon Berosik on February 28,

*and also remember
to wish a*

Happy Anniversary to
Ronald & Shirley Houser on February 11 (51 years),
William & Renee Farrow on February 20 (28 years)



This publication is an official bulletin of the Boeing Employees Mineralogical Society Inc. (BEMS) however, news items and editorial comment herein do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the BOEING COMPANY.

Except where otherwise noted, material from The Tumbler may be reprinted for non-commercial purposes, provided that the author(s) and source are acknowledged.

For commercial use, the author(s) must be contacted for permission; if no contact information is given, contact them via the editor.

Tips, suggestions, recipes and experiments printed in this newsletter are the experiences and/or opinions of the individuals submitting them. We are not responsible for their authenticity, safety, or reliability. Caution and safety should always be practiced when trying out any new idea.

When on field trips this organization uses CB Channel 7.

Keith Alan Morgan, Editor

Postal, or Email, Exchange
Bulletins are welcome.
Email preferred.

bemsrock@aol.com

Officers & Directors 2007

President Malcolm Wheeler, Jr.
Vice President John Carter
Treasurer Richard Russell
Secretary Keith Alan Morgan
Director Dick Morgan
Director Bill Cook
Past President Mike Brimmage
Federation Representative Tod Stevens
Mineral Council Bob & Jackie Pattie
Program John Carter
Refreshment Esther McKain
Membership Keith & Dick Morgan
Health & Welfare Steve Mackey
Library Charlotte Churchill
Raffle/Display Keith & Dick Morgan
Field Trip
Tumbler Editor Keith Alan Morgan
Webmaster Dan Clayton
Shop Operations
Shop Instructors:
 Casting Joe Poston
 Faceting Dan Clayton
 Faceting Cliff Frome
 Lapidary Dick Morgan
 Jewelry Joe Poston

Club eMail address is
bemsrock@aol.com

2007 BEMS Dues are \$15 flat rate Individual, Family, or Retired.

Send or deliver dues to:
Richard Russell

(or pay him at the meeting)

The object of the Society shall be to stimulate interest in the study of the earth sciences, lapidary arts and related subjects.

This Society is affiliated with the *Boeing Company*; the *American Federation of Mineralogical Societies*; the *Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies*; and the *Washington State Mineral Council*.

Every member of the club should be receiving a copy of the Northwest Newsletter. If you are not receiving a copy contact Dick Morgan

To get information to the Tumbler via the Internet send it to **bemsrock@aol.com** Please put Tumbler and subject in the Subject Line. The deadline is the 20th of each month, (except December which varies).

The BEMS external website is <http://www.bemswa.org>

Hiding Fractures in Your Cabs

The secret of hiding fractures in a cab with epoxy is to shape your stone and semi-polish it. Heat the stone to 200 degrees in an oven. Mix epoxy and apply it to one end of the crack and work toward the outside of the cab so that the air in the fracture is driven out and the resin now replaces it. You will note that the epoxy becomes very fluid when it touches the hot stone and flows right into the crack. Put the stone back in the oven for 20 minutes for the epoxy to harden. Scrape off the surplus and proceed with your final polish.

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 1/07; via Snoopy Gems 11/06; via The Golden Nugget, 02/06; via Rockhounds Tale, 01/06; via Chat & Chips, 12/05; from High Country Gleamings, 2/00



February



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Faceting Class	3
4	5 Lapidary Shop	6 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	7	8 General Meeting 	9 Faceting Class	10 <i>Oak Harbor Show</i> <u>Bellingham Club's Trip</u>
11 <i>Oak Harbor Show</i> <u>British Columbia Club's Trip</u>	12 Lapidary Shop	13 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	14	15	16 Faceting Class	17 <i>West Seattle Show</i>
18 <i>West Seattle Show</i>	19 Lapidary Shop	20 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	21	22	23 Faceting Class	24 <i>Everett Show</i>
25 <i>Everett Show</i>	26 Lapidary Shop	27 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	28			

Lapidary Class Hours:.....Monday.....7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
 Lapidary Shop Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:00 pm

More Field Trip info can be found on Page 9
 More Show info can be found on Page 10

Jewelry Shop Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:30 pm
 Jewelry Casting Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:30 pm (Casting Information All Day)

Faceting Shop Hours:.....Wednesday.....Closed until further notice
 Faceting Class Hours:.....Friday.....4:30 pm to 8:00 pm

BEMS Board Meeting:.....2nd Thursday.....7:00 pm to 7:30 pm
 BEMS General Meeting:.....2nd Thursday.....7:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Rockhound

by KAM



The Tumbler has received One-Time Rights to publish this cartoon

©2007

BEMS Board Meeting Minutes January 11, 2007  by Keith Alan Morgan, 2007 Secretary

Meeting cancelled because of snow.

Editor's Note

Apologies to Wilda McOmber & Bob Bird on the mix-up with their birthdays on the paper copy of the Tumbler (I corrected it for the eTumbler). Sometimes when I copy information from Word to PageMaker, PageMaker doesn't always paste the most recently copied item and instead pastes the last thing it posted so Wilda was shown having 2 birthdays & Bob didn't show up. Usually I can catch those glitches, but this one slipped by me until after it was printed. Bob's birthday was on January 28th.

Additions To the Purple Gems For February In Our New Century by James Finckbone

Well-known amethyst, the violet to purple quartz family member, seems likely to hold its popularity and utility as February's gem for some time to come. Good material has been found in many places around the globe. The last half of the last century did see at least four challengers/supplementary gems for the month. One was the manmade answer to purple sapphire, a hard, usually eye-clean lab grown sapphire. Not really cheaper than a lot of nature's amethyst, this purplish/violet substitute has found its way into lots of class rings. More mysterious and underreported has been the occasional appearance of deep beautiful purple and very eye clean lab-grown quartz. It has been called "Japanese" amethyst, but that may be in error. It's also not real cheap, but is less expensive than the finer grades of nature-grown amethyst. Positive separation of it from natural material can involve it's special crystalline nature. All natural amethyst is considered "twinned". Growing quartz in a lab was largely done because of a lack of twinning. (Electronic-related use).

Sure to see increased use in purple jewelry will be two gems which typically aren't found as transparent or even as translucent - charoite, and sugelite. Both weren't reported in popular or even the serious gem magazines until the very late 1970s. Charoite is usually a very heterogeneous (mixed patterns and darkness) lilac to violet shade. Sugelite tends to be darker and less heterogeneous purple color.

About fifteen years ago the author actually ran onto a batch of sugelite labeled as "stabilized" i.e. dyed, and/or partially filled with some plastic polymer to enhance the color's permanence, so its possible that future offerings will occasionally share that feature, not to mention the possibility of the charoite also being enhanced.

Both sugelite and charoite share densities not too far off that of the chalcedony quartzes, agates, etc., and are relatively tough materials, though slightly softer (only 5 to 6 for charoite, 6 to 6.5 for sugelite. They are less costly than darker natural amethyst, and should see a lot more use in beading work as well as in birthstone and other fine jewelry.

from Rock Rollers, 2/06

Ride Rockhounds, Ride by Don Monroe, Chair, AFMS Safety Committee

At the recent American Federation of Mineralogical Societies annual meeting hosted by the Southeast Federation, our safety committee activities received a lot of positive feedback, and some very good suggestions for future safety articles were shared. Many of the comments dealt with travel issues and some of them were so good that I offer the following for your consideration.

A couple of people cited situations involving the tires on large trucks. If you are alongside or directly behind the vehicle when a tire ruptures, the force of the explosion can damage your vehicle or cause you to lose control. The large rubber tire cap, which you may encounter on the road, is often referred to as an "alligator" and can be a real road hazard if you are unable to avoid contact and run over it.

When do you get out of your vehicle? We have been told that staying in the vehicle is the better course of action during an electrical storm. We are also encouraged to leave our vehicle and take refuge in a ditch or sturdy structure when a tornado is sighted or deemed imminent. If we suffer auto damage or a flat tire, we are encouraged to leave the vehicle and get behind a guardrail or in some other safe area. Many victims are hurt or killed by other vehicles passing near. I well remember stopping in the middle of a city street to retrieve a ball for some kids and only realized the danger when a passing car brushed my coat. I know — stupid move.

Do you tow a trailer or other vehicle? It has taken me a while to believe that just a little bit of excess speed can result in a totally unstable rig. We often see trailers that sway to the point that we are really hesitant to pass them which means that we are seeing either excess speed or a poorly loaded trailer.

Are there actions we can take to improve our odds? I definitely think so and I will share a couple of my favorites.

First, prepare for your trip with good maps, a GPS if you know how to use it, and one of the Exit Guide books. The books can be really helpful if you drive a diesel vehicle. There are some parts of the country where fuel can be hard to find.

Select a vehicle that really suits your intended purpose. I always feel safer in large, heavier vehicles. I know it may use a bit more fuel but can give you the edge when you have a confrontation with another vehicle or a large animal.

I often read articles in magazines and newspapers that recommend a refresher driver course for us older drivers. I have not done that yet, but I plan to in the near future.

via Breccia, 11/06; from AFMS Newsletter, 10/06

BEMS General Meeting Minutes January 11, 2007

by Keith Alan Morgan, 2007 Secretary

Meeting cancelled because of snow.

Stylized Hearts For Children (Or The Young At Heart) by Dick Morgan

Helping out at schools I make heart-shaped cabochons as rewards. Unusually shaped hearts are appreciated as they are more personalized.

Indenting one side of the heart, or flattening the sides instead of rounding them, sides bulging out as if it's a fat heart, or a long, thin heart. Sometimes an unusual shape must be utilized to take advantage of the slab you have, such as working around fractures, or something like a hole in the slab can become a feature at the center of the heart.

Some young men like tapering hearts for pocket rocks.

The most requested colors are blue & purple by young ladies, although when making choices, a multi-colored heart with bright red in it is usually taken first.

Hearts made with polka-dot, or clear material with inclusions, are popular as well, although young men like tiger-eye.

**Speedy Sanding Tip** by J.F. Fahner

The day I found that the sandpaper on the sanding drum was worn down to such an extent that it would not remove the grinding marks from a cabochon. I had no extra paper on hand and had to finish the cab as it was a gift. I thought I'd try the loose grit for sanding. I placed a wet sponge under the sanding drum so that the worn out came in contact with the sponge to keep the paper moist but not too wet. I turned on the motor and began sanding. The results were wonderful. I had to dip the stone in the grit a few more times before finishing. I found that I was never in danger of over-sanding, and had no need to be careful with the edges. I sand all my cabs this way now, as it is faster and better. When I replace the paper, I never use a grit coarser than size 400.

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 1/07; via Golden Spike News 12/06; from Chips & Tips

The Garnet Group by Mary Fraser

The garnet group is made up of silicate minerals with similar crystal structure. They have a hardness of 6.5 - 7.5, streak white, a luster vitreous, greasy, or resinous, and are transparent to opaque, coming in all colors except blue. They occur in gneiss mica schists, dolomitic metamorphic rocks, and frequently in sands. They are rare in igneous rocks. The occurrence is worldwide. Garnets are used as grinding and polishing agents and as gemstones.

The garnet groups are divided into two series of minerals: pyrope series named after its three members pyrope, almandine, spessartite and ugrandite series named after uvarovite, grossularite, and andradite.

Almandine: (iron aluminum) common garnet. Forms in schist in areas of regional metamorphism. Colors are brown, red-violet, and almost black.

Andradite: (Calcium-iron) occurs in metamorphic rocks. Colors are brown-black (melanite), colorless, green (demantoid), and yellow.

Grossularite: (calcium-aluminum) found in metamorphosed impure limestones and limy shales where aluminum is high and iron is low. Colors include colorless, green (tsavorite variety), yellowish, brown, red, and brown-orange (hessonite variety).

Pyrope: (magnesium-aluminum) also known as carbuncle, bohemian garnet, and cape ruby. Pyrope occurs in silica poor rocks such as kimberlites. Colors are red, brown-red, and the rose-red (rhodolite variety).

Spessartite: (manganese-aluminum) associated with manganese ores of metamorphic origins. Colors are yellow, orange, and red-brown.

Uvarovite: (calcium-chromium) origin is metamorphic. Its color is emerald green from chromium.

Garnets are among the commonest minerals. They crystallize in the cubic system as 12-sided dodecahedrons or 24-sided trapezohedrons or a combination of both.

In ancient times garnets were called carbuncles. Ancient Egyptians valued them as ornamental stones and they were considered to be the bearers of well being and family harmony. Greek and Roman citizens believed the bearer to be favored with inheritance. Garnets are found on the Breastplate of Aaron. It is said these "stones of health" extract negative energy from the chakras and transmit it to the beneficial state. Also known as the "stone of commitment" garnets monitor and adjust the flow of energy around the physical body and align the emotional and intellectual bodies. Garnet is also reported to enhance the assimilation of iodine, calcium, magnesium, and vitamins A, D, & E into the body.

via Breccia, 3/06; via Grindings, 9/04; from Rockin' Around, 3/02



Young Richard's Almanac by Dick Morgan

Why does the heart, which pumps the blood, get blamed for falling in love, which is caused by another part of the body?

The rights in America were not given, they were earned!

Mexico's Mystery Stone

You may have seen the new lapidary material being offered for sale recently. It is called "Nebula Stone" and is a dark green, nearly black, shiny material with fascinating light green swirling orbicules scattered throughout the dark matrix. These inclusions make the rock look like the night sky viewed through a telescope, wherein you see galaxies, nebulae and individual stars scattered against a dark background - hence the name Nebula Stone. It hails from down Mexico way.

Nebula Stone is certainly an unusual and handsome lapidary material. It is found in large enough masses so it can be worked in a variety of ways. It is not mined by blasting, so has few cracks or stresses that can affect specimens as they are worked. The material is tough enough to work easily without spalling or chipping, and takes a good polish. It can be cut and shaped, carved and slabbed. It's yet another good material in the lapidary repertoire

What makes Nebula Stone so unusual is that it has been analyzed by several noted scientists without anyone coming up with a definitive answer as to what kind of rock it actually is. Using a variety of recognized techniques, scientists have studied the rock carefully yet cannot come to a final similar conclusion.

Ron and Karen Numberg, the rockhounds who found this unusual gem material on one of their frequent trips to the wilds of Mexico decided to do things right before marketing THE Nebula Stone. So they sent samples to Leslie Hale, museum specialist at the Smithsonian Institution, Sid Williams, head of the Globo de Plomo Research Lab and others. These are highly qualified and well-regarded scientists. Williams studied the material and concluded that Nebula is a Quartz pentellente formed as a "glassy unit that devitrified slowly under quiescent conditions".

The minerals of which Nebula Stone are made was once molten and glass-like but cooled very slowly allowing the discrete minerals to begin to separate out and crystallize so the final product lost its glass-like condition. This allowed the orbicules to form as the different component minerals cooled and crystallized at various rates. It is these little clusters or spherulites of discrete minerals which give the sky-like appearance to the Nebula Stone.

What is important for the Rockhound is to know that these scientists do agree on one thing: this is definitely something new, different and yet to be described in scientific literature. Though not yet conclusively identified as to rock type. Nebula Stone has certainly discovered to be a great new find for the lapidary hobby.

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 5/05; via Hy Grader 11/04; from <http://www.rockhound.com>

Researcher Determine Star Material of Idaho State Gem

Researcher from the School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering have for the first time determined the cause of the "star" in Idaho's famous star garnet, the official state gem of the Gem State. Idaho is one of only three places in the world that are known to have star garnets.

While simple curiosity initially instigated the research, the work promises to be of interest, particularly in high technology industries, says Grant Norton, professor in the School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering and associate dean of research and graduate programs for the College of Engineering and Architecture. Crystals with the garnet structure are used in solid-state lasers and are being studied for use in radiation detectors.

Norton and a colleague first wondered about the stars' origins after walking into a local jewelers a few years ago. While there was suspicion of their origin, nobody really knew what caused them.

Using donated garnets from the jewelers, Norton and Maxime Guinel, a graduate student in materials science, used transmission electron microscopy to determine conclusively for the first time that the star is caused by inclusions of rutile, a mineral composed of titanium oxide, in the garnet. The star can either contain six rays or four, based on the orientation of the tiny needles of rutile. They also determined the microstructural characteristics that affect the quality of the star. Their results were published in the Journal of Materials Science.

via Council Reporter, 1/07; from WSU Fall 2006 Innovation - College of Engineering and Architecture

The Arizona Petrified Forest grew about 100 miles from where the trees are now found. They grew in an ancient forest of primitive Aruacarian pine. They were washed by floods into lower-lying swamp land and were buried in the mud and silt so fast that trees 6 to 8 feet in diameter and up to 80 feet long were completely fossilized.

via The Geode, 5/00; via The Glacial Drifter, 12/99; via Owyhee Gem, 5/97; from The Rock Rattler, 5/97

Biggs Picture Jasper A Legacy Is Born by Dale Rhode

Biggs picture jasper and the discovery thereof played a vital role in the evolution of the lapidary field. Many a lapidarist would not be involved with this fine hobby if it had not been for their awe struck inspiration in seeing a polished slab or cab of Biggs picture jasper... no other jasper created such a "gold rush of excitement," as did the Biggs jasper discovery of 1964. It is engrained in my mind like it was last summer... I was just a toe head. I remember my dad talking with some other rockhounds/miners about how that country around Biggs Junction was made up of basalt, rattlesnakes and sage brush, with sporadic deposits of agate... who would have ever thought such beautiful jasper lay beneath the surface of this rugged desert. The Biggs jasper discovery changed the lives of a lot of people as you will see in the following pages... I recall the excitement within my dad when he first saw a slab of Biggs jasper, he was hooked from that moment on!!!! Everyone was fascinated by how the scenes in the jasper reflected so much the terrain from whence it came. From the time I ground out my first cab of Biggs picture jasper, I too have been drawn to it's beauty. It has gained a highly respected throne in the royal realm of picture jaspers like all jaspers, Biggs has variety. Any lapidarist knows about the most rare, blue sky Biggs and blue Biggs jasper that demands of \$100.00 plus per lb. The old-Biggs is another variety, black Biggs, Rufus Biggs, which tends to be harder. The most common is lace Biggs, strictly a landscape rock as there is rarely any pattern to it and it is plagued with soft spots. One can gather hundreds of lbs. of lace Biggs as it litters the hillsides all around Biggs Jet and Rufus...

To whom do we owe credit for the discovery? The first to ever make use of Biggs jasper was the native Americans that lived on the Columbia. There is an old mine that they dug up on a mountain off highway 97, I have seen several arrowheads that have been found on the river made from Biggs jasper... since then numerous old native American quarries have been located where they mined Dolphite agate for their gem points and Biggs jasper for their knives and scrapers... it would be 100 years before man would once again discover the magic of this jasper...

Isami Tsubota aka Sammi has one of the oldest running Biggs mine still in production. He purchased quite a bit of land in and around Biggs Jet. Back in 1987, Sammi was able to give me some first hand accounts of the famous Biggs jasper discovery. In his own words: "it was in 1964 that a road crew was constructing I-84 and they," the crew, "were staying at my motel and RV park. Biggs was not discovered by the road crew while constructing the freeway like many have come to believe." as Sammi explained: "a great flood came and destroyed the canyons from the John Day River drainage, the Rufus drainage and Biggs Junction drainage. Biggs Junction was totally marooned with no way in or out, except by air. The state relief would bring in baloney and bread." It was around Christmas Eve and we had 75 people stranded at my motel..." luckily the road crew was already there working on I-84 and they went to work re-building the washed out bridges. Sammi noted that the flood had washed out these unusual looking boulders that were scattered about. He couldn't figure out why all the fuss over these rocks. His wife was becoming angry at the road crew as they would gather these rocks up and pile them next to their motel and RV park. She told Sammi to tell them fellows to be sure and take them rocks out when they left. Sammi laughed when he said that, better than cry. Like he said now, there were boulders of blue Biggs and here he was telling the workers they better not leave them rocks!!!! Sammi shook his head and laughed and said "if only I had known." It wasn't until Sammi met up with a rockhound by the name of Hoot Elkins. Hoot soon became widely known for discovering the Deschutes picture jasper deposit... he showed Sammi a slab of Biggs jasper and Sammi fell in love with the jasper and was an instant rock hound!!!! Then he was out gathering up the washed out boulders. Soon he had a full scale rock shop running and was marketing the jasper. The flood had destroyed the old highway 97 that came in from the south and the road crew tackled that after the bridges were completed. It was then that rockhounds were able to see the huge exposed deposits of Biggs jasper.

The flood waters had washed the dirt away that had concealed their hidden beauty for millions of years. Rockhounds would get the Biggs from the road crews, some road workers became rockhounds themselves... by then there was a chaotic rush to get this jasper as it was gaining international attention... In doing my research I came across an article written in the Lapidary Journal in 1968 and was stunned to read this excerpt... "Biggs jasper, a silicified clay, and please, let us not call this material a jasper, no matter what its texture or coloring. Due to changes in its composition and lack of sufficient silica in some of its areas, this beautiful picture rock will never quite make the grade as top-quality cabochon material."

Wow!!!! Evidently the writer didn't do his homework as some of the finest cabochons in museums today came from Biggs Junction... is it silicified clay? That discussion came up one afternoon while visiting with Howard Dolph. He laughed and said "let me show you something," he took me to his museum and I was awe struck to see a sliced chunk of Biggs with a fish fossil in it - so one can certainly say it is silicified mud/clay because if it was volcanic the fish would have been dusted... Howard Dolph, god rest his soul, was one of the first to get in on the Biggs digs. Some make false claims, but they just can't fill those boots.

Howard mined hard and cut Biggs constantly for decades... He also fished for salmon off the ramps at Celio Falls right next to the Native Americans, before the dams covered the falls. Howard was a wealth of information on the history of Biggs jasper. Dolph left me wiser on every aspect of Biggs jasper and the history of the Columbia River gorge. There are many old-timers that were in on the first Biggs digs. Kop Kopcinski of Mitchell was one of the first to ever put Biggs jasper to a saw, Shirts Quant of Prineville dug tons of it, Hoot Elkins, dug both the Biggs and Deschutes picture jasper - and sadly there are some that are not worthy to list here because of their past, and continued dishonorable conduct... Biggs jasper used to be confined to the north half of "the rockhounds triangle," from Biggs south to Wasco, then north to Rufus and west back to Biggs. Since this writing a new discovery has been made at Tygh Valley, some 25 miles S.W. as the crow flies... it was also dug on the Washington side of the river for years until the corps and railroad shut down the digs... Biggs jasper will always play a major role in the lapidary world and it has been my pleasure to share

Continued next page

with you the stories of those that are worthy of being noted here... we now own our own Biggs jasper mine and I gladly welcome folks to come and dig, just drop me an email for instructions...

Deschutes Picture Jasper

I must pay tribute to Hoot Elkin who had been such an influence to so many back in the 60's and 70's. He ventured far and wide along the Columbia River gorge locating deposits of jasper. He discovered the Deschutes deposit at the Deschutes river mouth, on the east slope.

I spoke with Judy Elkins, Hoot's daughter, who owns "Elkins gem stones" in Prineville Oregon. She explained that her dad had first found where Native American's had been digging a pit on the Deschutes deposit. He gained permission from then landowners, the Miller Ranch, and began digging. Hoot found the ancient rock hammers left by America's first rockhounds in a 15 ft pit, after exploring the pit he found the rock they had been chipping on, it was a huge boulder of prized Deschutes jasper!!!

The actual Deschutes mine is way up on a hill that overlooks the Columbia. It is phenomenal in that in the thousands of acres in there, just that one little spot of maybe 5 acres had Deschutes picture jasper!!!! Mr. Elkins gained fame as his new jasper discovery hit the markets... after a few years of mining the deposit tapped out. Hoot spent the next couple years trying in vain to pick the deposit up again and was finally forced to shut it down, the Deschutes picture jasper was mined out. Many just wouldn't believe that in that little 5 acre area was the only Deschutes. So other prospective miners made numerous failed attempts at locating another Deschutes deposit up and down the Columbia River gorge. It is very possible that what is on the market now is all there is... one can only dream of what it was like to make such a fantastic discovery!!!

I can almost imagine Hoot's excitement when he started slabbing the beautiful jasper, a rockhoulder's dream...

To sightseers: when traveling on I-84 if one looks hard enough you can still see remnants of the old mine on the east slope of the Deschutes canyon. All posted of course and the state has pretty well taken over much of the property.

The old Deschutes picture jasper mine sits undisturbed for 20 years now. I am still awe struck when I think of how this beautiful jasper is in just that one small 5 acre plot!!! To prospective prospectors, do not venture into the old mine as it is well posted. The deposit is gone. What's on the market now is all there is.

Footnotes: the rockhoulders triangle I so named many years ago. It is a land mass that begins at Biggs Jet and goes south to Wasco and northeast to Rufus and west to Biggs Jet. Biggs jasper is only found in the north half of this triangle, the southern half is a Mecca of opals, Wascoite and various agates... I have included this as a certain Biggs miner that done me sour enjoys attempting to discredit and infringe on this copyright. Even to the extent of claiming to be the one who first discovered Biggs in the road cut in 1962, which is hogwash!!! If that myth were true then the great Biggs discovery would have been in 1962 as every rockhound studies road cuts while driving, and he would have claimed it, as his claim would place him exactly where the original blue Biggs is... I hate to have to print this footnote but I am so tired of him confusing the facts, there is no such thing as the "Biggs triangle" and Biggs was discovered in 1964... I thank you...

The History of Biggs Picture Jasper is copyright protected, 1999. Reprinted with permission of the author. Permission to use is also granted to other newsletters, as long as proper credit is given.

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 11-12/06; via The Glacial Drifter, 9/06; via Strata Gem, 3/06; from The Rockcollector, 1/06

Hematite

This stone was once used in mourning jewelry, like jet, but now it is seen again, in mounted forms. In color, hematite is black with an iron metallic luster. Thin pieces appear, by transmitted light, to be tinged with blood red color. This property gives us the name for the mineral, the corresponding Greek word (hæma, blood), meaning bloodstone. American Indians and other people used this iron oxide as a war paint and for other skin decorations.

Hematite is an iron oxide, containing 70% iron and 30% oxygen when pure, but clay and sandy impurities are sometimes present. Hematite crystallizes in the hexagonal system although when properly so called, it is granular, reinforces or amorphous, the crystallized variety being specular iron. Cleavage is parallel to the faces but is generally indistinctive. Hardness: 5 to 6.5. Specific gravity: varies from 4.5 to 5.3. Refractive Index: 2.94 -3.22. It may be slightly magnetic.

Although opaque except in very thin plates, a highly metallic luster is exhibited. Beneath the surface of the reniform variety, or kidney ore, a radiating columnar structure is often visible. A streak of dull red color when rubbed on a piece of porcelain or ground glass is a test for this stone.

Hematite dates back to early times. Some engraved pieces have been found in old Egyptian graves and in the mines in Babylon. Earthly types of hematite have been used in the manufacture of crayons, for polishing glass and as a red paint. Its chief commercial importance is its richness in iron.

The rough stone occurs in rocks of all kinds and often in pockets in the surface of carboniferous limestone. In some instances, lodes several yards in thickness have been found. Locations are the Swiss Alps, Norway, Sweden, France, Spain, England, Wales, India, Elba, Russia and the USA. Much of the material used in jewelry has been cut in Germany from rough found in Cumberland, England.

via Gneiss Times, 4/06; via The Tumble Rumble, 2/97; via Staurolite, 1-2/97; from the Petrified Digest

Field Trips

The club or clubs sponsoring the field trips are shown in italics. When known I have listed a phone number and contact person for each sponsoring club below the listed trips. If you are not a member of the sponsoring club, you should phone and ask permission to go on their field trip.

Some trips have fees to non club members, so they can be a day member, and be covered under club insurance. The usual fee is \$.50 a day.

Information from the Washington State Mineral Council webpage (<http://www.mineralcouncil.org>) & the British Columbia Lapidary Society webpage (<http://www.lapidary.bc.ca/trips.html>).

February 10 *Bellingham Rock Club - Walker Valley* - Geodes & Agate - Meet at 9:00 am at Big Lake Store -
Bring hardrock tools

Brian Hughes - (360) 671-7330 or abhughes@comcast.net

February 11 *BC Wagonmasters - Peg Leg Bar (Fraser River near Chilliwack)* - Meet at 9:00 AM at the Tim Horton's Coffee Shop, just south of Highway #1 on the Vedder Road exit in Chilliwack

Gord Pinder (604) 870-4779

Safety by Chuck McKie, Safety Chair

This is the time of year we start going on field trips. Often we or our guests do have small injuries which may require some first aid. Following is the current recommendation of the HSA for a first aid kit.

CONTENTS	1 - 5 Persons	6 -25 Persons	26 -50 Persons
Adhesive plaster	12	20	40
Sterile eye pads (Bandage attached)	-	2	4
Individually wrapped triangular bandages	2	6	6
Safety pins	2	6	6
Medium individually wrapped unmedicated wound dressings (approx. 10 x 8 cm)	-	6	8
Large individually wrapped sterile unmedicated wound dressings (approx. 13 x 9 cm)	1	2	4
Extra large individually wrapped sterile unmedicated wound dressings (approx. 28 x 17.5 cm)	-	3	4
Individually wrapped wipes	8	8	10
Paramedic shears	1	1	1
Pairs of latex gloves	1	2	2
Sterile eye wash	1	2	2

via Breccia, 4/06; from CFMS Newsletter, 5/06

Skunk!

Whether you encounter 'Pepe Le Pew' on a field trip or in your backyard, here's an environmentally friendly, veterinarian-approved, remedy to remove his lingering foul scent. Mix 1 box baking soda, 1 pint hydrogen peroxide, 1 pint of water, and a couple of squirts of dishwashing liquid. Wet wipe the affected areas with a cloth dipped in the solution. What a relief for both you and your pet.

via Breccia, 12/06-1/07; via The Pick and Dop Stick, 12/06; via Quarry Quips, 9/06; from Pick and Pack, 9/06

Tsavorite

Tsavorite is a brilliant variety of grossular garnet getting its color from vanadium. This relatively scarce gem is a real competitor to the emerald but is less expensive. It was discovered in Tanzania in 1968 and occurs in two types of rock, crystalline limestone and graphic gneiss. Cut gems seldom exceed one carat. Larger ones are rare and in demand by collectors and connoisseurs. Stones over 5 carats may cost more than \$1000 per carat. After the first tsavorite was discovered, the Tanzanian government refused to issue licenses for mining and export. A Scottish geologist, Dr. Campbell Bridges, believing he could, in theory, extend a line from the tsavorite-bearing strata in Tanzania across the border into Kenya, secured land at the end of this line, began to dig, and found another deposit in 1971. To keep his location secret he covered the windows in the transportation vehicle, blindfolded his workers and used a different route each day. He kept a young python in a container with his mined stones to prevent theft. This mine is located near the Tsavo National Park in Kenya, not far from the Tsavo River, which is how the gem got its name.

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 1/07; via Golden Spike, 1/07; from Orange Coast Gazette, 10/94



Shows

February 10 & 11: Saturday 8 am - 5 pm; Sunday 9 am - 4 pm
Whidbey Island Gem Club & Pebble Pushers, Annual Sweetheart of Gems Show
 Oak Harbor Senior Center
 51 SE. Jerome Street
 Oak Harbor, WA

February 17 & 18: 10 am - 5 pm
West Seattle Rock Club, 41st Annual Show "President's Gemboree"
 West Seattle Alki Masonic Temple
 4736 40th Ave. SW
 Seattle, WA

February 24 & 25: Saturday 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
Everett Rock & Gem Club, 54th Annual Gem Mineral & Jewelry Show
 Washington National Guard Armory
 2730 Oakes Ave.
 Everett, WA

February 24 & 25: Saturday 10am - 7pm; Sunday 10am - 5pm
Idaho Gem Club, Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, & Fossil Show
 Expo Idaho/Western Idaho Fairgrounds
 Glenwood & Chinden
 Boise, Idaho



Internet Addresses

Gem and Mineral Exploration Company
<http://www.gemandmineral.com/>
 from Kyana Gemscoop, 11/06

Volcano World
<http://volcano.und.edu>

US Geological Survey, Volcano Hazards Program
<http://volcanoes.usgs.gov>
 via Breccia, 7/06; from Chips and Chatter, 7/06

<http://www.opalmine.com>
 via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 10/06; from NFMS Newsletter, 6/06

Indy Gem
<http://www.indygem.com>

Turquoise Village
<http://www.turquoisevillage.com>

Gram Cabbing
<http://www.cabbers.com>

Dinosaur Farm
<http://www.dinosaurfarm.com/>
 (sells dinosaur toys)

