



# *the BEMS Tumbler*

June  
2008

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

Next Meeting:  
June 12, 2008  
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 was not known at  
press time

**First Place for Small Bulletins  
in the 2007 NFMS Bulletin  
Editors' Contest!**



*This month remember  
to wish a*

*Happy Birthday to*

*Diana Noble on June 4,*

*Leonard Bahr on June 7,*

*Anna Burch on June 8,*

*Nicholas Fulmer on June 9,*

*Melissa Wayland on June 14,*

*Larry Fritz on June 24,*

*Carolyn Mackey on June 24,*

*June Farran on June 25,*

*Margaret Squires on June 27,*

*Brenda Haworth on June 29,*

*Dick Morgan on June 29,*

*and also remember*

*to wish a*

*Happy Anniversary to*

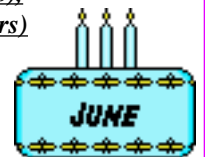
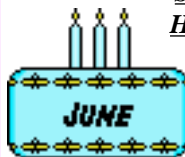
*Eugene & Wanita Martin on June 5 (54 years),*

*Alan & Mel Pagel on June 9,*

*Timothy S. & Cathye Pinkerton on June 16,*

*Sharon & Jack Berosik on June 23 (46 years),*

*Herman & Vera Gelbach on June 30 (59 years)*



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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.

morgangraphix@yahoo.com

## Officers & Directors 2008

President *Malcolm Wheeler, Sr.*  
Vice President *Mike Brimmage*  
Treasurer *Richard Russell*  
Secretary *Pete Williams*  
Director *Bill Cook*  
Director *Dick Morgan*  
Past President *Mike Brimmage*  
Federation Representative *Michael Blanton*  
Federation Representative *Jerry K.F. Chilson*  
Mineral Council *Bob & Jackie Pattie*  
Refreshment *Esther McKain*  
Membership *Keith & Dick Morgan*  
Health & Welfare *Carolyn Sealfon*  
Library *Charlotte Churchill*  
Video Library *Stephanie Jurado-Smith*  
Raffle/Display *Keith & Dick Morgan*  
Field Trip *Bill Cook*  
Tumbler Editor *Keith Alan Morgan*  
Webmaster *Keith Alan Morgan*  
Shop Operations *Leslie Brooks*  
Shop Instructors:  
    Casting *Joe Poston*  
    Faceting *Cliff Frome*  
    Jewelry *Joe Poston*  
    Lapidary *Dick Morgan*

Club eMail address is  
***morgangraphix@yahoo.com***

2008 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 **morgangraphix@yahoo.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.bemsonline.com>**

Jade from the Qinghai Province of China will be used in the 2008 Olympics. White jade in the gold medal & light green jades in the silver & bronze medals.

## Licking Rocks Can Be Dangerous, And Even Fatal!!

Always use water from a squirt fun or bottle to wet stones. At least one death has been attributed to a fungus contracted from licking a rock specimen. Materials containing arsenic, Mercury, Selenium, some of the Boron and even Phosphate minerals can be deadly.  
via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 5/08; via Carny Hound, 1/08; via Rock Rollers, 8/07; from Rock Rattler 10/96



JUNE



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2 Lapidary Shop	3 Board Meeting 	4 Show Planning Meeting	5	6 Faceting Class	7 <i>Puyallup Show First Creek Trip</i>
8 <i>Puyallup Show First Creek Trip</i>	9 Lapidary Shop	10 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	11	12 General Meeting 	13 Faceting Class	14
15	16 Lapidary Shop	17 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	18	19	20 Faceting Class	21
22	23 Lapidary Shop	24 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	25	26	27 Faceting Class	28
29	30 Lapidary Shop					

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

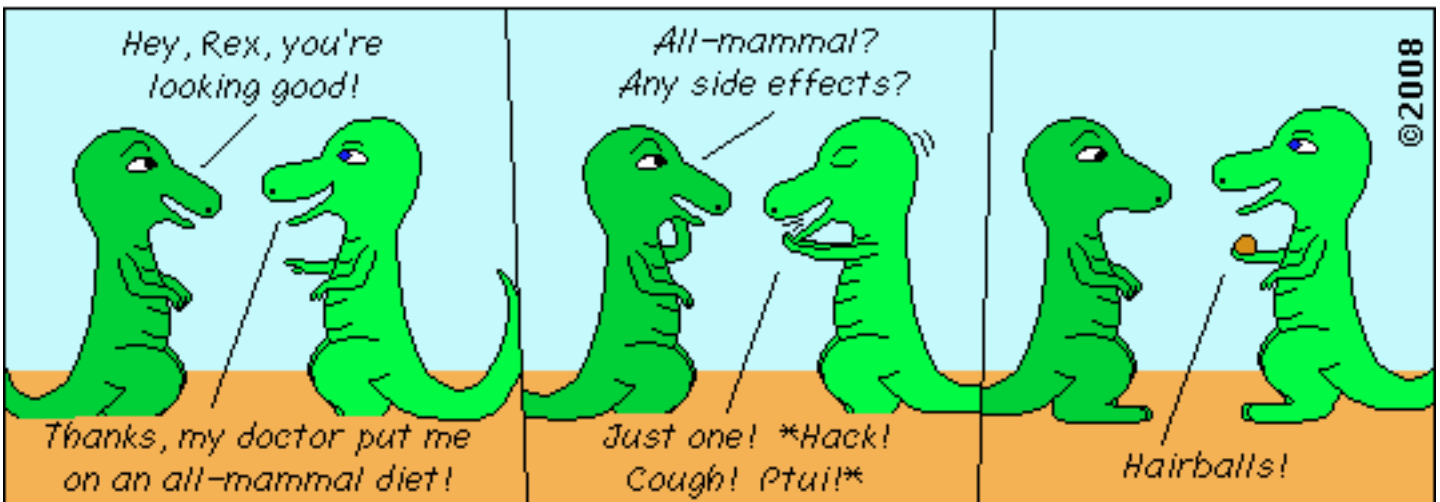
Jewelry Shop Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:30 pm  
 Jewelry Casting Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:30 pm (Casting Information All Day)

Faceting Class Hours:.....Friday.....4:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Show Planning Meeting.....1st Wednesday.....11 am to  
 BEMS Board Meeting:.....Tuesday (9 days prior to General Meeting).....9:30 am to 10:00 am  
 BEMS General Meeting:.....2nd Thursday.....7:30 pm to 10:00 pm

**Fossil Food Fun**

by **KAM**



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

**BEMS Board Meeting Minutes April 29, 2008**



by Keith Morgan, Editor

Members Present

*President Malcolm Wheeler*

*Editor Keith Morgan*

*Library Charlotte Churchill*

*Field Trips Bill Cook*

*Mineral Council Bob & Jackie Pattie*

*Shop Dick Morgan*

*Guests Karin Wheeler & Pat Morgan*

Meeting began at 9:45 AM, President Malcolm Wheeler presiding.

**Library:** Malcolm is working on getting a 5-drawer cabinet for videos.

**New Business:** New locks on door to recreation center. Red light & green light on them. Raise handle to clear if combination not working.

Considering replacing the Vice-President because of problems keeping him from doing his job.

**Field Trips:** Considering various possibilities.

**Mineral Council:** Not much happening. No change at Saddle Mountain yet.

**South Sound Show:** Collecting contracts from dealers, 16 tables so far. Instructed Webmaster to put a notice on the website.

**Old Business:** Dick Morgan was invited back for next year's science fair.

**Shop:** Full classes on Monday nights.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.

**Safety Tips for Rockhounding at the Beach**

1. Know the tides. Is the tide going out or coming in? The tide changes four times a day. Tide books are available at most hotels, motels and local retailers. Outgoing tides are best for rockhounding.

2. Watch the ocean wave conditions. Are there big or small waves? Ocean conditions change rapidly.

3. Watch for sneaker waves. These are a series of waves that keep pushing water up the beach. Even with a minus tide, the water can reach the bank or higher.

Listen constantly for crashing waves. Sneaker waves are sometime silent as they come in.

4. Stay off logs. Waves can quickly and easily move logs weighing tons. People are killed when logs roll on top of them.

5. Watch for logs in the surf.

6. Know your escape routes.

7. Watch for failing rocks. Don't hunt rock and fossils in areas where the cliffs are unstable. Tons of debris can come down without warning.

8. Don't walk out to the edge. The waves undercut the banks and cliff.

9. Hunt rocks facing the ocean. Don't turn your back on the waves while hunting.

10. Be careful of slick bedrock on the beach. This is common in the wintertime.

11. Dress in layers. Weather conditions change quickly.

from Beachcombing In Lincoln County by the Oregon Coast Agate Club 2007

**Desert Safety Tips** by Bob Fitzpatrick, CFMS Field Trip Chair-South

Travel in the desert can be an adventure. It can also be a disaster if a breakdown or a sudden change in the weather catches you unprepared. Be aware of the hazards of desert travel, in both winter and summer. Harsh weather conditions can turn a desert outing into a tragedy. Acquire knowledge of desert survival skills. Travel in pairs for safety.

Plan your trip carefully. Tell someone where you are going and when you will return. Stick with your itinerary and let them know when you return. Do not travel in the desert backcountry without taking along appropriate maps. It is easy to become disoriented in the desert where many landmarks and rock formations look similar.

Dress properly. In summer, layered clothing slows dehydration and minimizes exposure. Good hiking shoes, loose fitting natural clothing, a wide brimmed hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen are a must. Desert temperatures can reach over 90°F and drop below 50°F in one day. Summer temperatures can reach 125°F in some locations. In winter, temperatures can often drop below freezing. Bring extra warm clothing.

Carry plenty of water. There are no dependable sources of water within the desert. A gallon of water per person per day is the absolute minimum that should be carried. When planning a hike, remember that water weighs approximately eight pounds per gallon. When the water is half gone, it is time to turn back. Don't forget extra water for your vehicle. Do not ration your water. It will only do you good if you drink it.

via Breccia, 4/08; via The Conglomerate, 8/05; from The Ghost Sheet, 6/05

**BEMS General Meeting Minutes May 8, 2008**



by Pete Williams, 2008 Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:30

There were 11 guests in attendance.

Minutes were approved as written.

**Tumbler Editor's Report:** Tumbler is doing well. The Tumbler could use more articles submitted from members.

Submitters receive free tickets to the raffle.

**Webmaster's Report:** Doing fine, but could use more pictures from member's field trips.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bills are being paid. There have been lots of new members recently.

**Shop Reports:** Monday night classes are doing well, but there is room for more members to attend. The shop is now using heavier blades on the trim saws and they are lasting longer. The waiting list for the faceting classes is getting shorter so if you want to get on the list please sign up. A reminder was made to leave the settings on the faceting machines where you found them when you are done. Also cabinets in the room were left unlocked. Please remember to lock them when you leave.

**Library:** There were 15 new books donated to the library by Esther McCain. The library has copies of the Council Report and DVDs and videos for checkout.

**Health & Welfare:** Les Brooks' son attended the meeting and reported that Les is in intensive care, but in good spirits.

**Federation Report:** The club needs to decide on an alternate to attend the next Federation meeting. A reminder was given for members to save their used stamps for donation to the Federation. Proceeds are donated to cancer research.

**Field Trip Report:** The Mineral Council is having a field trip to Saddle Mtn. and the Diatom pits on May 17.

**Mineral Council:** The next meeting is on May 17 in Ellensburg. There are still problems with locks being broken at Walker Valley.

**South Sound Show:** About 23 vendors have paid so far, many paying in full. In August the committee will be requesting volunteers.

**Old Business:** If you haven't yet paid for your dues or badges please see Rich. The cost of the badges is \$5.

**New Business:** None

**Program:** A wire wrapping demonstration was performed by Char Jorgenson. She also teaches classes in Woodinville.

**Raffle:** The special was won by Roger Pullen.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50

**Displays:**

*Ed Laville* - Smack'em Rocks

*Cliff Frome* - 4 sunstones

*Jackie Pattie* - Slate bowls

*Bob Bird* - Intarsia

*Carolyn Sealfon* - Crinoids from Indiana & a fossilized leaf in shale

*Eric Chilson* - Cabochons, zeolites, slabs, quartz clusters & druzy jasper

*Roger Glasscock* - Faceted sunstone & christianite

*Cindy Waters* - Petrified wood from Saddle Mountain, agate from Kalama

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**Raffle Notice**

The special item at the June meeting's raffle will be a slice of blue-grey lapis lazuli.

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**Badges**

The following is a list of badges waiting to be picked up. Ed Aguirre, Tom Applehans, Monte Ballard, Dan Clayton, Jane Davis, Jim Etwiler, Rusty Etwiler, Frederick Geraldson, Delores Geraldson, David Gray, Veronica Gray, Ted Harrison, Jean Harrison, Geneva Heiser, Keith Heiser, Neil Hofgaard, Ronald House, Shirley House, Ole Hopland, Thor Hopland, Alex Lane, Ed Laville, Kathy Ledbetter, Chris Ledbetter, Terry Martin, Gene Merritt, Don Printz, Orlie Runyon, Nan Runyon, Tod Stevens, Judy Stevens, Betty Swift.

See Rich Russell at a meeting to pick them up.

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**Les Brooks Update** from an email by Rich Russell

Les Brooks is doing much better. He has dialysis Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, so call to make sure he will be there if you want to go visit.

## From Atop The Rock Pile



By Malcolm Wheeler, Sr., 2008 BEMS President

Well, HAPPY SUMMER TIME! It's June again, time to dust off all your rock hunting and diving gear and go find pearls and alexandrite in your neighbors swimming pool.

Treasure and fun is where you find it. Please take time to share pearls of wisdom of your good luck and show us your royal treasure of delights that change color as spring gives way to summer days. As flowers bloom bright colors may your trips hunting gems do the same. Be safe, have fun and always take someone with you, so you can show off all your new finds...

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## Young Richard's Almanac by Dick Morgan

If old dogs can't learn new tricks, how come so many of our retirees are trying to learn new skills?

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## Words Of Caution by John Wright, Conservation & Legislation Chair

There are two major bills, which at present are working their way through Congress that you need to be aware of as they could severely restrict access to public owned lands:

The first one is HR 2016, National Landscape Conservation System. If passed, this bill will essentially place 26 million acres of public lands controlled by BLM under a "National Park" type system which will eliminate or severely limit any type of recreational mining. This bill could also open the door for BLM under the influence of special interest groups to add millions of additional acres in years to come. More information on this bill can be found online at: Lands Rights Network <alert@landrights.org>. Subject: House Mark-Up, Wednesday 3 12, On National Landscape Conservation System. (For more information go to American Land Rights Assoc. website - <www.landrights.org>).

The second bill that we should be concerned about is HR 5610, Designation of Wilderness Areas, which according to a BlueRibbon Coalition Action Alert, dated Wednesday, March 19, 2008, Subject: Shades of things to come?, <bralerts@sharetrails.org>, "the bill would designate just about 500,000 acres of Wilderness in West Virginia, Arizona's Tumacacori Highlands; the Redwood Mountain Grove in California's Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park; the Sabinoso Wilderness in New Mexico; Oregon's Copper Salmon area and the South Fork of the San Jacinto River Canyon in Riverside County, California." With these lands being designated as "Wilderness Areas" public access will be almost completely eliminated. (For more information, go to the BlueRibbon Coalition website <www.sharetrails.org>).

Once the 26 million acres of public lands controlled by BLM are placed under a "National Park" type system by HR 2016, it is very reasonable to assume that at some date in the not to distant future these sites will also be designated "Wilderness Areas" by a bill similar to HR 5610. The public may be allowed to visit certain parts of these areas to look but not touch. The really disturbing part about all of this is that the millions of acres covered by these two bills are only a small portion of a grandiose plan by special interest groups to eventually join numerous areas like these into plots far larger than your wildest dreams.

While we rest on our laurels, our adversaries are very diligently working to have public lands placed "Off Limits". They know that this is an election year and "Green" is definitely a popular theme with politicians lately. Who knows, perhaps they think there could be another Oscar or Nobel Prize waiting out there. Remember, we also have a vote and should certainly let our desires be known.

from AFMS Newsletter, 5/08

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## Glass And Colors by Ed Matson

While doing some arranging in my collection, I came upon some obsidian and "apache tears". Thinking back to what I read and know, Obsidian is a natural glass. The common dark color, as well as any sheen or other colors, according to most sources, are caused by some of the dark minerals that make up what would otherwise be a granite type rock, start crystallizing before it hardens. These crystals are visible under electron microscopes.

I live next to two older churches and both have stained glass windows. Stained and clear glass are our man-made analogs to obsidian, common opal and some forms of quartz. Glass has been around for much of human history and until the advent of modern mass production, was highly prized and more so was clear glass. Both were extremely expensive in relation to their times and one had to be of a certain income level to afford such a luxury. Hence, glass was limited to the wealthy nobility and the churches. At one time in Colonial America, you were taxed on how many panes of glass you had in your windows, so the thrifty owner would take out windows and close up the opening and use smaller windows where he could, assuming he could afford real glass in the first place.

In fact, glass is one of the few items in our lives that have dropped drastically in price over time since mass production was developed. The most told story of its discovery has it being found under a campfire on a beach in the Mideast 4 or 5 thousand years ago. Unfortunately, science has shown that the typical campfire cannot come near the melting point of quartz beach sand, which is around 2,300 C. More than likely, it was found in an early pottery kiln, where it is easy to obtain such temperatures. However, glass

is a mix of quartz, sodium carbonate, or today, calcium carbonate and other compounds which melt at a far lower temperature, about 1,500 C. These compounds can easily be found in some of the clays and glazes and even the enclosing furnace, so an accidental mix can happen, and the potter would find drips, runs, sags or puddles of crude glass in his kiln. So I thought an article about what minerals and elements are commonly used to color stained glass would be of interest, as many of the same elements color natural minerals.

Colors in glass (and many minerals) may be caused by addition of metals and/or other chemical compounds and how they interact with the glass and the way said colorants form in the glass itself and interplay with the light shining through. There are about four theories as to the cause of colors in glass as well as minerals, but they are not germane to this article.

Iron oxide makes a bluish-green, used for green beer bottles and the tint in common window glass. With chromium added, a richer darker green color as in wine bottles. Sulphur and carbon and iron salts make amber glass running from yellowish to almost black. In high tech borosilicate glasses, adding sulphur gives a blue color. Adding calcium gives a deep yellow color.

Manganese in trace amounts will cancel out the common green tint given from iron, or to make an amethyst color. In a very slow process, this manganese compound converts to sodium permanganate, which is a dark purple color. In some areas of the country, houses built more than 300 years ago have window glass which became lightly violet colored due to this change and are collectibles.

Selenium, as with manganese, is used to decolorize glass, or to make reddish color. This creates many pink and red glass colors. If cadmium sulfide is added, a brilliant red color known as "Selenium Ruby" is the result. Cobalt in as little as 0.025 to 0.1% yields the famous cobalt blue glass. The best color is achieved with a touch of potash. Trace amounts are used for decolorizing.

Tin oxide blended with antimony and arsenic oxides create an opaque white glass which we call milk glass. When first rendered by the Venice glassmakers, they made an imitation porcelain with it. A mere 2 to 3% of copper oxide creates a turquoise color. Ironically, pure copper metal makes a very dark red, opaque glass, and is sometimes used as a substitute for gold in the making of ruby-colored glass. Nickel metal used in varying amounts, can cause a blue, or violet, or even black glass. Lead crystal with nickel makes a purplish color. In reverse, nickel together with cobalt was used for decolorizing lead glass.

Metallic chromium is an extremely strong coloring agent. Depending on the amount, it will make a dark green or a black color. In cahoots with tin oxide and arsenic, emerald green glass is made. Chromium "aventurine", in which aventurescence was achieved by causing growth of large parallel chromium oxide plates suspended in the glass. Cadmium and sulphur makes a deep yellow color, often used as a glaze. However, cadmium is well known as a toxin. The high tech metal, titanium, produces a yellowishbrown glass, which can be called an amber glass. However, titanium is rarely used by itself, and is used mainly to intensify and brighten other coloring additives.

Metallic gold to the amount of around 0.001% makes the well known, rich ruby-colored glass, called Ruby Gold or Ruby Glass, and lesser amounts make a less intense red, often marketed as "cranberry" glass or in the Northeast, Cape Cod Cranberry Glass. The color is created by the size and dispersion of individual gold particles in the glass. Ruby gold glasses are usually made of lead glass with some added tin.

The infamous and deadly uranium in the amounts ranging from 0.1 to 2% give glass a fluorescent yellowish to greenish color. There not enough radiation from uranium glass typically to be dangerous, but if ground into a powder and inhaled, it can be carcinogenic. Interestingly, when used with its direct opposite, lead, as in lead glass with very high proportion of lead, it produces a deep red color. (Nancy's note—Uranium compounds in ceramic glazes make the famous burnt orange color of Fiesta (tm) ware of the post war era).

Silver, as always, is the beautiful and mysterious lady at the Gala party. Silver compounds, notably silver nitrate, can produce a range of colors from orange-red to yellow. The way the glass is heated and cooled can significantly affect the colors produced. The chemistry involved is complex and even today is not well understood.

via Breccia, 5/08; via Gem Cutters News, 3/08; from Vug Examiner, 1/08

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## **Finding Rock Hunting Maps On The Internet** by Glen Miller

Here are some tips for locating free online maps (primarily USA). The good news is that there is a federal program that publishes digital products online that will provide complete national coverage. The bad news is that it is a federal program, subject to manpower and funding constraints, but it is a very good start.

The Internet is a source for many maps of other countries. I have viewed geological maps of Oman and even the Moon and Mars online.

Geological and Geophysical Maps - Finding The Map you need: Traditionally, one went to a state bookstore to purchase a paper map, hoping it was still in print. The trend today is to publish them online with free access! Tennessee will no longer be printing maps in advance. Maps that aren't online can be purchased for \$20 a map, printed straight from a digital file.

About.com = the quick and easy solution for links to state geological maps. About.com pre-searches and assembles all types and classes of information. If you go to their Geology or Maps sections and poke around, there are pages for state geological maps and state geological organizations. There is also <geology.com> with similar sources. They also list state authorities and links to their websites. Once in those websites, you may frequently find a free downloadable map for the local area you are looking for. The USGS has taken great steps to centralize the search for geological maps.

via Breccia, 3/08; from CFMS Newsletter, 2/08

**Red Sand** by Chuck Boblenz, SCVGMS member

If you have panned for gold in any part of the Sierras you will well remember the rush of excitement when your pan showed a tail of black sand as you swirled your pan. Seeing the tail makes one's heart beat faster as you look harder for that elusive shine denoting gold flakes in your pan.

Many folks have had this kind of experience, and the topic can be the center of conversation when a group gets into gold discussions and reminiscing of trips from the past. I must admit that it does give one a rush.

Recently Jeri and I journeyed up to eastern Washington near Wenatchee Lake and the town of Plain. Our oldest son had recently purchased a summer home on the Wenatchee River, which flows from Wenatchee Lake to the Columbia River, which it meets near the city of Wenatchee.

Shortly after taking ownership of the property, a group of booklets and Forest Service maps were found. The booklets provided some interesting reading and much useful information about what to look for and how to seek one's fortune.

The maps had been heavily used as shown with hand written notes, and some quadrants had been checked off in pencil. Those being marked appeared to be locations where creeks and water sources were shown to start, all flowing down to the Wenatchee River itself.

Wow! Now I was starting to see a possible pattern, and my enthusiasm was perking up and accelerating as we neared the town of Plain. It will be a real interest to see what the river will reveal, especially since I had packed my gold pans and extra tools into the truck with a twinkle in my eye.

After a couple of days chatting with family and friends, it was time to grab the gold panning equipment and head to the river.

The property backs onto the river itself and has a large island a short 15 to 20 feet from the river edge. The island is about 200 yards long and some 120 to 150 feet wide. The far side of the island borders the faster moving water for another 100+ feet before resting on the other bank of the river. This last bit of water moves rapidly enough to show small white capped waves along the surface. The earlier short stretch of water is very slow moving and well protected and shows a large number of pollywogs and salmon fingerlings.

A quick reconnoiter of the island shows it to be covered with river-worn boulders of a 12 to 14" diameter. All boulders are well rounded, suggesting they had traveled far to get here. Also, there were ten or so uprooted trees lying out there, root systems still attached. All appeared to have arrived a number of years ago and were quite dry.

A number of boulders showed books of mica to be breaking out of them and much sand was piled on the lee side of the downed trees where one would expect the flood waters to eddy and hopefully release any gold it may carry. OK. Now to get to work.

I selected one of the downed trees that seemed to have a nice pile of sand and started to use a hand shovel to fill my 5-gallon bucket. I did not fill it to much more than half full for fear it would be too heavy to carry to the water's edge.

I filled my 14" pan with sand and started the process. I soon got down near the bottom of the pan and did not see any black sand. Did I do the unthinkable? Did my haste cause me to swirl off the black sand too early? OK. Fill the pan again, slow down, and do a good job. I took my time and soon got to the pan's bottom. D\_ \_ n! Still no black sand! Where did I go wrong?

Upon a closer look, I could see a couple of complete crystal shapes which looked like garnets. This suggested that what I saw as red sand was garnet chips and pieces with an occasional complete crystal. Now it was starting to make sense and soon took away from the disappointment of not finding black sand.

The garnets and their chips appear to be almandine garnet which are a deep violet red and are often found in mica schists, which also explains my earlier mica findings. The specific gravity is 4.3, thus explaining their heaviness in my pan and the chips showing a grading color all the way to a light pink.

With this new found information, I soon completed the bucket of material and went back for a second one. This time I went deeper into the sand near the tree in hopes of finding layers of garnets. I must confess that I had already tweezered the larger pieces and some of the prettier chips into a glass bottle.

A couple of days passed before I selected yet another site to dig. This site was a tree of wider diameter, and the sand on the lee side of it seemed to have a firmer packing to it. This time the red sand was more predominant, and some crystals were near 2 mm in diameter. It provided the start to a good sample collection from the area. I did find one boulder of bull quartz that showed a grouping of garnet crystals still intact within the quartz, but was a single boulder at the stream entrance to the river. No others were found.

This was a neat bit of exploring and fun doing some physical work for a change, cause to do further investigation. Now I know something about the garnets of the area and understand my surprise at the red sand. The next time, I will make every attempt to get down to bed rock to see if there are indeed crystals larger than 2 mm.

The next time you hear someone speaking of red sand, you will be conversant about it, and maybe you can run into some in your travels, as well. I hope you do, and then we can compare notes. I look forward to it.

from Breccia, 2/08

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A rockhound's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

Rockhounds who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.

via AFMS Newsletter, 12/05 - 1/06; original publications unknown

### 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>).

**June 7 & 8**     *Ellensburg Rock club - First Creek - Geodes & thundereggs* - Will need digging & light hard rock tools  
*Steve Townsend, srtrocks@aol.com*

### Sticks And Stones May Break Your Bones But Splinters And Stickers Can Hurt You by Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair

It seems obvious that splinters and stickers do indeed hurt, but it may be that the damage is more serious than we recognize.

Most years I spend a couple of weeks assisting a deer hunting group in the Big Bend region of Texas. The ranch we have access to is about 15,000 acres and it is wild country. The most sobering aspect of this area is the fact that everything, and I do mean everything, sticks. In addition to the ever-present cactus in an impressive variety of sizes and colors, almost all other plants stick. Now I don't mean little stickers, but I mean thorns of size and ferocity that you do not see many places. Once you have allowed one of these thorns to deeply penetrate, you have a wound that needs attention. Since we hunt in a really remote area, both guides and hunters often have to take care of their medical problems. To see one of your friends digging in his leg with a sharp knife and tweezers to pull out the offending sticker is not a pretty sight. Applying a strong antiseptic is necessary, but can make a strong man cry.

You are now thinking "what can a person do"? I do not have all of the answers. As a matter of fact I do not have many answers but I will tell you what I do. First, I acquired some snake-proof boots and snakeproof pants. I put snakes in the category of nasty stickers and snake-proof outerwear will take care of most all types of stickers. Then I put together a little first aid kit just to handle cuts, punctures and abrasions. Finally I wear gloves. I don't just wear any old gloves, but I wear leather gloves that will repel thorns and the like. The last thing I do is try to be alert. Watch where you step and where you sit and try to not fall down. Vigilance can really pay big dividends.

Do not get the idea that you must "go west" to encounter stickers. Our yard in north Georgia has been left in the "natural state" because that is the way we like it. Most of the trees and bushes are wild crab apple and they will attack you with a vengeance. Add briars, blackberry bushes and other unfriendly varieties and you get the picture. On our farm we had Osage orange and black locust, both of which have well-deserved bad reputations. Is there any part of our great country that does not have stickers?

I haven't forgotten about the splinters. There are a great number of splinters that we encounter in daily life and we really should be a lot more concerned about them because any skin penetration can provide an access path for germs.

Splinters can be soft wood, hard wood, metal, glass, plastic, paint, and many other materials. Splinters can be insidious and really quite dangerous.

Obviously a splinter in the eye is a serious hazard but have you enjoyed a splinter under a fingernail? When we were much younger, a friend got a small splinter in his foot and could not locate it so he ignored it. Have you ever heard of phlebitis? He hadn't either until the doctor at the hospital explained why his leg was so severely swollen. Keep a magnifying glass and good tweezers handy and search out those pesky splinters.

The last splinter I want to warn you about is unusual and many have not encountered it. It is the common cat hair. No, not dog hair or any other type of hair, just cat hair. Now cat hair is fine, but a bit stiff and has a very sharp tip. If you get cat hair in your shoe it may take awhile, but it can get lined up so that the sharp tip comes up against the bottom of your foot. This most often occurs on the heel or ball of the foot. This little sharp spike will work its way between the layers of the "print" of the foot and work its way into your foot. You slowly begin to feel a little pain and you cannot see the source. The pain continues and finally you get serious about finding the source. When you find that little hair it will appear that it is growing out of your skin. When you pull it out, the relief will be instantaneous. I know this is hard to believe, but it does happen. Ask around and I will bet you will find someone who has experienced this unusual "splinter".

via Breccia, 4/07; from the AFMS Newsletter, 4/07

### Geology Corner by Ron Graichen

Botryoidal is pronounced (bot-ree-oy-doll) and is described as a group of globular forms. The word is derived from a Greek word meaning a "bunch of grapes". This bumpy texture is often seen in agates and on other minerals. It is proof positive that the specimen displaying botryoidal texture was created by water deposition. Smithsonite (zinc carbonate) often shows this form.

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 5/08; from Carny Hound, 2/08



# Shows

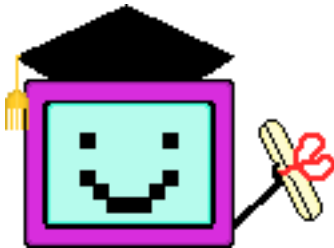
**June 6 - 8:** Friday 12 Noon - 5 pm; Saturday 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday 11 am - 4 pm  
**Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Puyallup Valley Gems Show**  
 Fruitland Grange  
 112th St & 86th Ave. East  
 Puyallup, WA

**June 7 & 8:** Saturday 9 am - 5 pm; Sunday 10 am - 4 pm  
**North Idaho Mineral Club Annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show**  
 Kootenai Co., Fairgrounds  
 Kathleen & Government Way  
 2-blocks E. of HWY 95  
 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

**June 13-15:** Friday & Saturday 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday 10 am - 4:30 pm  
**Oregon Coast Agate Club, 45th Annual Gem & Mineral Show**  
 Lincoln County Fairgrounds  
 633 NE 3rd St.  
 Newport, Oregon



## Internet Addresses



The Rare Earth Trading Company  
<http://www.rareearthtrading.com/>

William Nutt, Stone Sculptor  
<http://www.wnuttsculptor.com/>

Green's Rock & Lapidary  
<http://www.greenslapidary.com/pages/default.asp>

Unforbidden Geology  
[http://www.geocities.com/unforbidden\\_geology/](http://www.geocities.com/unforbidden_geology/)

Don's Maps - Paleolithic European, Russian & Australian Archeology  
<http://www.donsmaps.com/index.html>

Mineralogical Research Co.  
<http://www.minresco.com/>

Educational Innovations  
<http://www.teachersource.com/>

Cool World minerals  
<http://www.minershop.com/>

World of Amber  
<http://www.emporia.edu/earthsci/amber/amber.htm>

