



the BEMS Tumbler

March
2009

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

Next Meeting:
March 12, 2009
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



*This month remember
to wish a
Happy Birthday to*
Brian Beaupain on March 1,
Jeannino Scott on March 1,
Shirley Stewart on March 6,
L. W. (Bud) Wollam on March 8,
Yoshi Akers on March 13,
Joe Poston on March 16,
Jeff O'Brien on March 19,
Jose Tello on March 19,
Delores Geraldson on March 20,
Brian Waters on March 27,
Alice Swartz on March 28,
David Nelson on March 29,
Jacqueline Pattie on March 31,
*and also remember
to wish a
Happy Anniversary to*
John & Brenda Haworth
on March 28 (45 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.

morganaphix@yahoo.com

Officers & Directors 2009

President Bob Pattie
Vice President Scott Burch
Treasurer Richard Russell
Secretary Pete Williams
Director Bill Cook
Director Dick Morgan
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Federation Representative Jerry K.F. Chilson
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Field Trip Bill Cook
Tumbler Editor Keith Alan Morgan
Webmaster Keith Alan Morgan
Shop Operations Cheryl Edgar
Shop Instructors:
 Casting Joe Poston
 Faceting Cliff Frome
 Jewelry Carolyn Sealfon
 Lapidary Dick Morgan

Club eMail address is
morgangraphix@yahoo.com

2009 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 Mike Blanton

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>**

Discourage Those Snails!

Don't throw away those worn out sandpaper discs. Instead, cut a slit up the radius, and lay them down like a collar around the stems of your plants. Slugs won't cross the scratchy surface!

from Breccia, 1/09



March



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2 Board Meeting 	3 Lapidary Jewelry	4 Jewelry Class	5	6 Faceting Class	7 East Kingco Show
8 East Kingco Show	9 Lapidary Shop	10 Lapidary Jewelry	11 Jewelry Class	12 General Meeting 	13 Faceting Class	14 Spokane Show Cedar Ponds Trip
15 Spokane Show	16 Lapidary Shop	17 Lapidary Jewelry	18 Jewelry Class	19	20 Faceting Class	21 North Seattle Show
22 North Seattle Show	23 Lapidary Shop	24 Lapidary Jewelry	25 Jewelry Class	26	27 Faceting Class	28 Walker Valley Trip
29	30 Board Meeting 	31 Lapidary Jewelry				

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

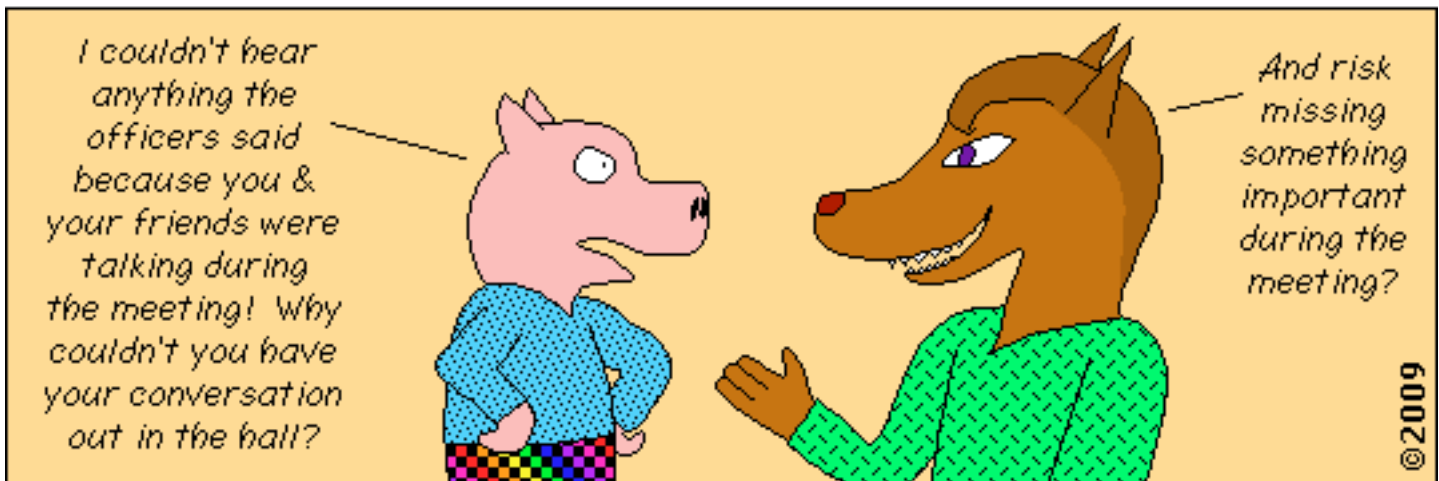
Jewelry Shop Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:30 pm
 Jewelry Class Hours:.....Wednesday.....10:00 am to 5:00 pm

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

South Sound Show Committee Meeting...1st Wednesday.....11 am to 12 pm
 BEMS Board Meeting:.....Monday (10 days prior to General Meeting).....7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
 BEMS General Meeting:.....2nd Thursday.....7:30 pm to 10:00 pm

The Big Bad Rockwolf

by KAM



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BEMS Board Meeting Minutes February 2, 2009 

by Pete Williams, 2009 Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:05

Members Attending

*President Bob Pattie**Editor Keith Morgan**Vice President Scott Burch**Shop Dick Morgan**Treasurer Rich Russell**Health & Welfare Carolyn Sealfon**Secretary Pete Williams**Refreshments Esther McKain**Shop Operations Cheryl Edgar**Mineral Council Brian Waters**Federation Mike Blanton**Guest Jackie Pattie***Shop:** Pick-up of hazardous waste has been requested. Last clean-up of both shops went well.

New Business: Recreation sent an employee services quarterly survey that we need to fill out for our dedicated rooms. Bob filled out the facilities usage form for club general meetings the 2nd Thursday of each month and for our dedicated rooms. We were unable to reserve the big room for the December Christmas party as the round dancers club reserved the room for every Sunday. Saturdays were not available either. The room where club meetings are held was reserved. The picnic area by the Renton Library was reserved for August 9. Bob will bring some of the WSMC field trip guides/maps to the club for sale to members. The club receives \$1 per sale. The Board of Natural Resources will be ruling on regulations on recreation and land use at their February 3 meeting.

Programs: Scott developed a list of about a dozen ideas for live demonstrations or presentations at club general meetings. Meeting adjourned at 8:05.

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 by Bob Pattie

In January of this year the US Senate has passed "The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009". The US House of Representatives is expected to pass their form of the bill sometime in February. For the people that took the time to read the "over 1000" pages of the Senate bill, it becomes very obvious that is the sum of many different bills that have been lumped together. Many of these individual bills have been presented in the past and did not have enough support to pass, and by combining them with other bills they now have something for everybody, especially those that are interested in adding to the Wilderness areas or just protecting land from the general public usage. In my opinion, the good news was that the bill did not add any additional lands to our 31 Wilderness Areas of the State of Washington. The items about Washington; was to give 1.5 acres of area for space to build a building for the Fire and Rescue office in the Snoqualmie area, give ownership of some area around a dam in Douglas County, to build a trail along the path of the great Ice Age floods from Montana to Ocean, and designation of the multistate Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail. The Big Sky Wilderness was just designated a wilderness area last year and is not a part of this bill but it is included in the 31 areas designated as Wilderness in Washington. This bill has a number of different sections and just one of them is related to Wilderness, the others designate lands for other types of protection. Some of our neighboring states had a number of areas designated as new or adding to existing wilderness areas. In my opinion, the bad news is that with each of these bills and others in the future, we the general public, lose more area to practice our hobbies and teach our young about nature, geology, history, etc... Some people feel they must protect all land as if it was National Park and not let our children get a little dirt under their fingernails. We have a total of 42,612,000 acres in the State of Washington, and about 4,424,000 acres of Wilderness (as of 1995), 1,932,000 acres of National Parks, 2,101,000 acres of Tribal Lands. We have 15,513,000 acres that is government owned, National Forest, BLM, and State Land or about 36% of our land, it seems that we should be able to share these lands so everyone could enjoy the benefits of living in the State of Washington. My wish is that everyone takes an interest in what is happening around them and make a conscious effort to work together for the benefit of all.

Editor's Note: Backup Copies by Keith Morgan

Back at the Christmas Party I was given an article for the Tumbler & somehow I lost it. To make matter worse it was the only copy the writer had, so he had to rewrite the article. So if you are giving the editor an article, please make sure you have a copy, just in case. There is a copy machine in the Rec Center that members can use.

I am really sorry it happened.

Sumner School Science Fair, February 7, 2009 by Dick Morgan

I was asked to give a presentation of geology facts and a display of rocks, minerals & fossils at the Sumner School Science Fair. It started at 9:00 in the morning and ended at 3:00 PM. Usually there are many more children than adults, but this time it appeared that more adults were asking questions about how the items were formed. Also there were more questions than usual about the lapidary hobby.

In March there will be the area schools' final science fair at PLU and I have been invited to give a presentation there for the fourth year.

BEMS General Meeting Minutes February 12, 2009

by Pete Williams, 2009 Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:30

There were 3 guests in attendance.

There was one correction to the minutes. The Opal Club and not the Puyallup Club were sponsors of last year's South Sound Show.

Tumbler Editor's & Webmaster's Report: Keith is requesting officers check page 2 of the Tumbler to verify that their information is correct. He is also requesting all members to verify their addresses with the list that he maintains. Please send any new articles for the Tumbler and pictures for the web page.

Treasurer's Report: Mineral Council maps of collecting sites are available to club members for purchase for \$9.

Shop Reports: Jewelry class is doing well. Classes are full through this summer, but Carolyn is accepting names for a waiting list. Classes are Wednesday's from 10:00-4:00.

Library: Copies of *Rock and Gem* magazine are available for checkout.

Health & Welfare: Everyone must be healthy as no notifications of illness were received.

Federation Report: The mid-year meeting will be in Kennewick in conjunction with their annual shop. There is a show in Yakima that same weekend.

Field Trip Report: Next field trip is March 28 at Walker Valley. Members are asked to call the person leading the field trip to ensure nothing has changed. There is also a trip planned to Cedar Ponds on March 14.

Mineral Council: The next meeting is on Tuesday. Some members interested in going on a field trip to Kalama have been unable to make contact with any of the key holders. Only 3 clubs have keys to the site and there are many restrictions.

South Sound Show: Flyers to advertise the show are now available for distribution. The show will be held November 13-15.

Old Business: The annual club picnic will be at Liberty Park on August 9. We have the location reserved all day.

New Business: The Puyallup Club has some American Niagara pressure washers for sale for \$120. These can be used for cleaning crystals or specimens. If there is a large enough quantity the price could be reduced to \$50. You may contact their club.

Guests to the Kent building will soon need to sign in and wear a numbered badge that will need to be returned upon leaving. This is for security reasons. They may also be required to sign indemnity clauses.

Cheryl showed a wheel from the shop with several chips on the side from members pressing a large stone against the side. This is not only dangerous, but completely damages the wheel.

Program: The program was a video on *Return to Mt. St. Helens*.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33.

Displays:

Ed Laville - Smack'em rocks

Carl Dewey - Small geodes & geode conglomerate from Nelson, Nevada (near Las Vegas)

Eric Chilson - Plume agate

Jillian English - Sunstone

Jerry Heiser - Fluorite slab, sage amethyst, goldstone, coral, amethyst points, labradorite

Always A Rockhound by Tim & Cathye Pinkerton

A word to the wise, always take a few rock tools when on vacation. Recently my wife & I took a trip to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

On a previous trip to the islands I noticed as I was taking a bus ride to my time share, a small quartz vein approximately 100 foot long & a foot wide at the top at a 30% angle at the top and tapering to 1 inch at the bottom.

I immediately got off the bus and noticed a reddish clay above and below the seam of quartz. As I poked around with a nail clipper, which is all I had, I saw small shiny nubs sticking out from balls of clay. I dug out several small vugs around 6 inches high by 6 inches wide. I brought home about a gallon of these clay balls not knowing what I had. When I got back I soaked them in acid and when all was said and done I had a bunch of wonderful "pin cushion" quartz clusters.

Well, back to our trip in November 2008, I remembered the quartz vein and brought several picks and other rock tools. When I returned to the vein the vug was untouched from my previous trip and I proceeded to extract several more balls of clay from the vug. The locals are not into rock hunting.

As we traveled around the islands, I noticed several other large quartz veins that will need exploration on future visits.

Pressure Washers For Sale

Tressie Hughs (253-840-4947) is selling 1 quart American Niagara pressure washers for \$120, although if we can get 10 people to order the price drops to \$50 each. \$5 shipping & handling.

From Atop The Rock Pile



By Bob Pattie, 2009 BEMS President

The State of Washington, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has approved the revision of the Recreation and Public Use of DNR managed lands, WAC 332-52-. They will become final on March 14, 2009. Our Walker Valley collecting site is on state land and the Washington State Mineral Council has a lease on this land which allows rockhounding. If you are planning on collecting on other DNR managed land be sure to read the new regulations about collecting, camping, road/trail markings, reservations, recreation permits, firearms/target shooting, pets and other general rules for using the public lands.

Young Richard's Almanac by Dick Morgan

Prosperity breeds generosity. The lower the stock market goes the less people have to give to charity.

The Department of Natural Resources has a free email newsletter, *DNR Recreation News*, if you'd like to receive a copy send an email with "Subscribe" in the subject to RecreationENews@dnr.wa.gov

Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 by Jon Lovegren

Word has it that this bill may come up for a vote in the House this week. So, voice your opposition to your Representative. An actual letter is best, but there may not be time. So, faxing a letter is the next best. Email is a distant third. Even if you have already done so, send another letter with different wording.

Is it worth the effort? Do we stand a chance? Read on...

While at the TGMS show in Tucson, I spoke with Dr. Robert Carlson president of the American Lands Access Association (www.amlands.org). ALAA is the political arm (read: lobbying) of the American Federation of Mineral Societies (AFMS).

We discussed the S. 22 Omnibus act and the impacts of the environmentalist organizations on this bill. I asked if there was any chance of defeating this legislation in the House given the environmentalist support. I was both surprised and pleased with his answer.

He suggested that while the campaign contributions from environmental organizations are huge, that various "public lands fair use" organizations may have many more voters. Essentially, the typical environmental organization member is relatively young with high disposable income, they are not necessarily involved in "grass roots" politics to any great degree even though they contribute to various environmental groups. When considering the diversity of folks in the "fair use" column, e.g., hunters, anglers, other outdoorsmen, off-roaders, rockhounds, RV'ers, etc, these are often older (relatively) voters with "not much money" to contribute to political causes. But, lots of us fit in this category and many of us have the time to write letters and make phone calls. However, this doesn't mean anything unless your opposition to this bill is voiced. The "2nd amendment" crowd is also opposed to this bill as it could significantly limit areas where hunting is allowed.

This bill changes many things. Among them, very large areas in southwestern Idaho and southeastern Oregon will become wilderness areas. Say "goodbye" to some incredible rockhounding areas there unless you are willing to hike many miles. While the areas in Southern California are relatively small, this time around. But this bill does change access to large areas of the Inyo and White Mountains. In the future legislation the Cady's and Afton Canyon are in the Wilderness sights. CalWild and others would love to see most of the California deserts become "managed conservation areas". The proposed California Desert Conversation Area (not part of S.22) would include all federal lands in Imperial, Riverside, San Bernadino, Inyo and eastern Kern counties. The would also like to see most of the Inyo and White Mountains be designated wilderness, as well.

So, be sure to remind your representative that not only your vote for their re-election would be affected by their action, but also that there are many others who you can influence as well.

If you remain silent on these issues, now and in the future, many more popular rockhounding will become difficult to access. You're not allowed to complain if you didn't do your part to stop this land grab. Strangely, organizations such as the Blue Ribbon Coalition an off-roaders public use organization has taken down their "oppose S.22" letter generator. So, I'm having trouble finding any good examples of letters to send. If anyone has any, please post.

Finally, the "2nd amendment crowd" is very well financed and well organized. So, they have some of the most up-to-date info on the situation. <http://www.opposingviews.com/articles/news-update-congress-delays-bill-that-would-ban-guns-and-hunting>

from an email, 2/25/09

<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-s22/show>

from a followup email, 2/25/09

Good Info For E-Mail Users by Trudy Martin, SCRIBE

This should be followed by ALL of us who send e-mails. Please read the short letter below, even if you're sure you already follow proper procedures. An individual, who is a System Administrator for a large corporate system, has this to ask / say:

Do you really know how to forward e-mails?

50% of us do; 50% of us DO NOT.

Do you wonder why you get viruses or junk mail?

Do you hate it?

Every time you forward an e-mail there is information left over from the people who got the message before you, namely their e-mail addresses & names. As the messages get forwarded along, the list of addresses builds, and builds, and builds, and all it takes is for some poor sap to get a virus, and his or her computer can send that virus to every E-mail address that has come across his computer. Or, someone can take all of those addresses and sell them or send junk mail to them in the hopes that you will go to the site and he will make five cents for each hit. That's right, all of that inconvenience over a nickel! How do you stop it? Well, there are several easy steps:

1. When you forward an e-mail, DELETE all of the other addresses that appear in the body of the message (at the top). That's right, DELETE them. Highlight them and delete them, backspace them, cut them, whatever it is you know how to do. It only takes a second. You MUST click the "Forward" button first and then you will have full editing capabilities against the body and headers of the message. If you don't click on "Forward" first, you won't be able to edit the message at all.

2. Whenever you send an e-mail to more than one person, do NOT use the To: or Cc: fields for adding e-mail addresses. Always use the BCC: (blind carbon copy) field for listing the e-mail addresses. This is the way the people you send to will only see their own e-mail address. If you don't see your BCC: option click on where it says To: and your address list will appear. Highlight the address and choose BCC: and that's it, it's that easy. When you send to BCC: your message will automatically say "Undisclosed Recipients in the "TO:" field of the people who receive it.

3. Remove any "FW :'" in the subject line. You can re-name the subject if you wish or even fix spelling

4. ALWAYS hit your Forward button from the actual e-mail you are reading. Ever get those e-mails that you have to open 10 pages to read the one page with the information on it? By Forwarding from the actual page you wish someone to view, you stop them from having to open many e-mails just to see what you sent.

5. Have you ever gotten an email that is a petition? It states a position and asks you to add your name and address and to forward it to 10 or 15 people or your entire address book. The email can be forwarded on and on and can collect thousands of names and email addresses. A FACT: The completed petition is actually worth a couple of bucks to a professional spammer because of the wealth of valid names and email addresses contained therein. If you want to support the petition, send it as your own personal letter to the intended recipient. Your SCRIBE position may carry more weight as a personal letter than a laundry list of names and email address on a petition. (Actually, if you think about it, who's supposed to send the petition in to whatever cause it supports?)

6. And don't believe the ones that say that the email is being traced, it just ain't so! One of the main ones I hate is the ones that say that something like, Send this email to 10 people and you'll see something great run across your screen. Or sometimes they'll just tease you by saying something really cute will happen IT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN!!!! (Trust me, I'm still seeing some of the same ones that I waited on 10 years ago!)

7. I don't let the bad luck ones scare me either, they get trashed. (could be why I haven't won the lottery??)

8. Before you forward an Amber Alert, or a Virus Alert, or some of the other ones floating around nowadays, check them out before you forward them. Most of them are junk mail that's been circling the net for YEARS! Just about everything you receive in an email that is in question can be checked out at Snopes. Just go to <www.snopes.com>. Its really easy to find out if its real or not. If it's not, please don't pass it on.

So please, in the future, let's stop the junk mail and the viruses.

Finally, here's an idea!!! Let's send this to everyone we know. This is something that SHOULD be forwarded.

I will be deleting all petitions and good luck forwards.

from AFMS Newsletter, 2/07

Preserving Iron Meteorites by Shawne Lardin

A new way to preserve your iron meteorites, especially etched ones, is to submerge them in ATF (Automatic Transmission Fluid) in a small Tupperware container. This prevents rust better than older methods, such as gun oil and WD-40.

For meteorites in glass display cases, you can enclose a VCI (Volatile Corrosion Inhibitor) with them. These Emitters contain special compounds which evaporate, forming a very thin layer only a few molecules thick, on the surface of all metals present.

For more information go to CortecVCI.com.

via Golden Spike News, 2/09; from Rockhound Rambling, 2/08

Minerals And Their Uses - Fluorite by Betty Jones

It is not unusual for a rockhound, especially in the early days of collecting, to confuse mauve or purple fluorite with amethyst.

However, it is really quite simple to distinguish the one from the other. The color may be the same, but the crystal form is quite different, amethyst having the hexagonal shape and pyramid top of quartz, while fluorite crystals form a perfect cube or octahedron¹.

Besides this, amethyst has the hardness (7) of quartz while fluorite is only 4 on the Moh's scale. For this reason, it does not make very suitable jewelry material as it scratches so easily. However, it does carve well, and the Chinese are known for beautiful carvings in fluorite.

Fluorite has a vitreous (glassy) luster, perfect cleavage, and is brittle. Although the cubic (six square faces) is the most easily recognized habit of fluorite, it can be found in octahedrons, and rarely in the dodecahedron², or even a tetrahedron³, all modifications of the cubic habit. It is thought that these forms are likely to grow at higher temperatures.

As we all know, fluorite is a fairly common mineral and also quite widespread. It is found in hydrothermal veins with the metallic ores, in particular with lead and silver, but also in igneous rocks such as granites and pegmatites. The minerals associated with fluorite are barite, gypsum, celestite (celestine), and dolomite, and it can also be found on its own with no other minerals.

Fluorite is often to be found on mine dumps where it was thrown by the "old men" as gangue (waste), for they had no use for it. However, it became known for its crystal beauty, and miners would bring out the best crystal clusters for sale to collectors. Some of the best samples in old British collections were acquired this way.

Fluorite sometimes produces fine crystals in the cavities in the limestone rock, having been formed in solution.

Thrown out as waste by the old miners, why is it so much in demand today? In fact, in Cornwall, England, in the 1970's, I found that they were reclaiming the mine dumps for the fluorite to be found there. It was, of course, due to industrialization. Fluorite was found to be of great use as a flux in the steel and foundry industries and for refining of aluminum.

The best grades were used in enameling iron for baths (before fiberglass) and for producing opaque and opalescent glass. It is also used for producing hydrofluoric acid and raw material for the chemical industry. This acid is essential to the manufacture of synthetic cryolite which is used as an electrolyte⁴ in recovering aluminum metal which is made from the mineral bauxite.

It also produces fluorine for the fluorides used as refrigerants and for fluorocarbons resins used in pipe and tank linings. We all know the Teflon linings on cooking pots and pans which saves us a lot of cleaning and scraping; this is a product of fluorine.

However, the major amount of fluorite is used in steel-making and as a flux in open-hearth furnaces to produce a slag to clean the steel of phosphorus and sulfur.

Fluorite that is colorless is important in use for making special optical equipment. However, it is becoming very common for synthetic crystals to be grown for this purpose.

Fluorite is found in a variety of colors. When pure, it is transparent and without color, but this is rare. The crystals may be commonly green, amber, dark purple, or mauve, but also, more uncommonly, pink, blue, or brown.

The unusual variety, known as "Blue John," is found only at Castleton in the county of Derbyshire, England.

There is a mountain there which consists mainly of fibrous, banded blue (purple) and white fluorite. The area was mined for lead by the Romans who used to carve it into vases and bowls, some of which have been found in Rome. To this day, Blue John is cut and polished into jewelry, ornaments, and decorative items. In fact, fluorite is found in more colors than any other mineral. It is interesting to note that heating and light tend to make the colors disappear, so we should keep our samples in darkness as the colors will fade. The variety of colors is caused by impurities and imperfections in the stone.

In the USA, Illinois, Tennessee, and Kentucky have produced beautiful crystals. Spain, France, Mexico, China, Russia, and the USA are some of the chief producers of fluorite, and good samples are often available.

1. Octahedron - a solid bounded by eight plane faces

2. Dodecahedron - a solid bounded by twelve plane faces

3. Tetrahedron - a solid bounded by twenty-four equal triangular faces.

4. Electrolyte - a nonmetallic electric conductor in which current is carried by the movement of ions

References:

Hurlburt, Cornelius S. Jr., Minerals and Man, Published by Thames and Hudson, London 1969.

Read, H.H., F.R.S. Rutley's Elements of Mineralogy, 26th ed. Published by Thomas Murby & Co., London

via Breccia, 2/07; via Gem Cutters News, 12/04; from Shin Skinner News, 8/04

Polyurethane Glue by Don Greene

If you've ever used polyurethane glue, you know that it doesn't store well after being opened. To prolong its shelf life, store the bottle upside down. An easy method of doing this is to drill a hole in a block of wood just large enough for the cap end of the bottle.

NOTE: Always buy the smallest bottle that will suit your purpose. With this kind of glue the economy size may not be the best bargain.

via Golden Spike News, 2/09; via Blue Agate News, 2/08; from Chips 'n Splinters, 3/05

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>).

March 14 *Marysville Rock and Gem - Cedar Ponds - Jasper & fossils - Digging & light hard rock tools - Meet at 9:00 AM at the Monroe Jack in the Box*
Ed Lehman (425) 334-6282 or wsmced@hotmail.com
Bob Johnson (425)-231-0716, bobinevrt@hotmail.com
Bill Moser, jj@comcast.net

March 28 *BEMS - Walker Valley - Quartz crystals - Meet at the gate at 10 AM*
Eric Chilson (360)-825-3138, infernalspawnofevil6@hotmail.com

Dendrites vs. Moss Agates: Orbicular Jasper vs. Polka Dot Agate

We are usually delighted, but not surprised, to find inclusions in crystals, e.g., quartz of one color or another, rutile, sagenite, and "stars". The appearance of inclusions in microcrystalline varieties of quartz, however, have a mysterious ambiance that brings out the name making propensities of collectors. When our vision of inclusions is obscured, our imagination takes hold.

Chalcedony (clear to cloudy), agates (clear but usually banded), and jasper (opaque) are all variations of silica oxides, with hardness between 6 and 7, which makes them very suitable for polishing. They may all have included material, and the nature of the inclusion is dictated by the composition of the host rock material and the manner of rock formation.

Dendritic chalcedony and moss agate are terms or names frequently applied to the same material. They are basically similar, but dendrites can form not only in chalcedony and agate, but also on limestone and soapstone and some sandstones. The dendrites, so called from the Greek dendron, or tree, are branching structures of mainly manganese and iron oxides, in or on the host material.

Dendrites occur in many places in the world, basically whenever water rich in oxides flows across rocks. The dendrites form on a surface and are two-dimensional, like snowflakes or frost crystals on a windowpane. If the rock is chalcedony, the dendrite forms on the surface, but more chalcedony may entomb it. The dendrites are usually earthy, black, brown, or reddish, but near Four Corners, in the eastern Mojave, near the junction of Hwy 58 & Hwy 395, rockhounds reputedly find blue.

The "mosses" of moss agate, not organic material at all but chlorite or celadonite, are visible impurities in the agate. Scientists attempt to distinguish between the two by determining, if possible, whether the dendrite/moss or the mineral rock formed first. The moss forms while the chalcedony is still gel like and can then form three-dimensional shapes with the stone. Moss agate, also widely distributed, can be a variety of colors, green, black, white, yellow, red, orange, and tan. It is widely used in jewelry, and polishes beautifully, if care is taken not to cut into and pluck the moss.

Multi-colored balls can appear in rhyolite flows. Rhyolite is a fine-grained igneous rock, if it contains sufficient silica to take a brilliant polish, and is sometimes called jasper. Orbicular material usually appears as a mass of rhyolite that has silicated. As the rhyolite cools, sometimes excess silica starts to precipitate out of the magma, forming spherical balls. The ball shape is the form that any extremely concentrated silica (cristbalite) takes, as opposed to the crystal form in dilute concentrations. However, any material that by composition or consistency is immiscible (not mixable) with the host magma will also form balls.

Regional metamorphism can also form orbicular jaspers. We hear names like Rainforest Jasper from Australia, Leopard Skin Jasper from Mexico, Poppy Jasper from California, and Ocean Jasper from Madagascar. We may find one color surrounding another, or bands of balls, veils of lighter colors staining the background. Polka Dot Agate, from Oregon, has iron rich spheres floating in a snowy extremely fine-grained jasper, along with veils of golden brown. The material is so fine-grained it is almost chert and resembles porcelain.

The rock distinction of jasper and chert is: if it's attractive, it's jasper; if it's dull, it's chert. Some jasper represents replaced limestone or dolomite, some occurs as nodules, and sometimes it is part of the gangue of mineral deposits by hydrothermal or meta-somatic processes.

Agates are translucent and usually banded, with sub-vitreous luster; jasper is opaque with a dull to pearly luster; to a rockhound, jaspagate is a fine mixture of the beautiful oxides.

via Breccia, 9/08; via Rock Chip Reporter, 4/08; via Petrograph, 6/03; from Calumet Gem

The Columbia-Willamette Faceters' Guild is having a 2009 Faceting Conference June 26-28, 2009, at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas.

Registration forms will be found on their website, <http://www.facetersguild.com>, registration opens February 26.



Shows



March 7 & 8:

Saturday 10am - 6 pm; Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
East Kingco Rock & Gem Show 2009
Pickering Barn (across from Costco)
1730 10th Ave NW
Issaquah WA

March 7 & 8:

Saturday 9 am - 5 pm; Sunday 10 am-4 pm
Rock & Arrowhead Club,
Wonderful World of Jasper
Klamath Co. Fairgrounds
3531 S. 6th St
Klamath Falls, Oregon

March 13 - 15:

Friday & Saturday 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
Rock Rollers of Spokane,
50th Annual Show "GOLD"
Spokane Fair & Expo Center
N. 604 Broadway & Havana
Spokane, WA

March 7 & 8:

Saturday 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society, *Gems Are Fine For 2009*
O'Connor Field House
2200 Blaine
Caldwell, Idaho

March 13 - 15:

Friday 9 am - 5 pm; Saturday & Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
Tualatin Valley Gem Club,
51st Annual Show "Nature's Design"
Washington Co., Fairplex
873NW 34th Ave.
Hillsboro, Oregon

March 21 - 22:

10 am - 5 pm
North Seattle Lapidary & Mineral Club,
55th Annual Rock and Gem Show
Lake City Community Center
12531 28th Ave. NE
Seattle, WA



Internet Addresses

Mineral Information Institute
<http://www.mii.org/>

Earth Healing crystals
<http://www.earthhealingcrystals.com/>

Wired Chemist
<http://www.wiredchemist.com/>

Idaho Rockhounding Adventures
<http://www.1rockhound.com/>

gold prospecting supplies
<http://www.lanternfeeder.com/>

Green Mountain Minerals
<http://www.greenmountainminerals.com/>

Relios Jewelry
<http://www.reliosjewelry.com/>

Gem Rock Auctions
<http://www.gemrockauctions.com/>

Gem Select
<http://www.gemselect.com/>

