



THE BEMS TUMBLER

OCTOBER
2007

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

Next Meeting:
October 11, 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 be a video on
Fossil Shark Teeth



*This month remember
to wish a Happy Birthday to*
Angelina Slee on October 1,
Jacqueline Myers on October 1,
Jack Berosik on October 5,
Patrick F. Myers, Jr. on October 6,
Renee Farrow on October 10,
Keith Alan Morgan on October 11,
Barbara Oxborrow on October 21,
William Arundell on October 25,
Gerald Edgar on October 25,
Arta Gerhard on October 29,
Ross Berglund on October 30,
Fred Thompson on October 30,
and also remember

to wish a Happy Anniversary to
Katherine Wittick & Wesley V. Anderson on October 19
Joel & Debra Jurasek on October 20 (28 years),
Ross & Marion Berglund on October 27 (45 years),
Elliott & Barbara Woodward on October 27 (42 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 2007

President Malcolm Wheeler, Sr.
Vice President John Carter
Treasurer Richard Russell
Secretary Keith Alan Morgan
Director Dick Morgan
Director Bill Cook
Past President Mike Brimmage
Federation Representative Michael Blanton
Federation Representative Jerry K.F. Chilson
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 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

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 **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>

Young Richard's Almanac by Dick Morgan

Socialism is a desire for a free lunch you don't deserve.



Why does an unfortunate death of a friend always bring to mind some of the most enjoyable times you had together?

Halloween, the time of illusion, Trick or Treat, & we get to see it with all the people running for public office.



OCTOBER



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 Lapidary Shop	2 Board Meeting 	3	4	5 Sequim Show Faceting Class	6 Sequim Show
7 Sequim Show NW Rockies Trip	8 Lapidary Shop	9 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	10	11 General Meeting 	12 Faceting Class	13 Marysville Show
14 Marysville Show	15 Lapidary Shop	16 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	17	18	19 Faceting Class	20
21	22 Lapidary Shop	23 Lapidary Casting Jewelry	24	25	26 Faceting Class	27 Bellevue Show
28 Bellevue Show	29 Lapidary Shop	30 Board Meeting 	31		Happy Halloween! 	

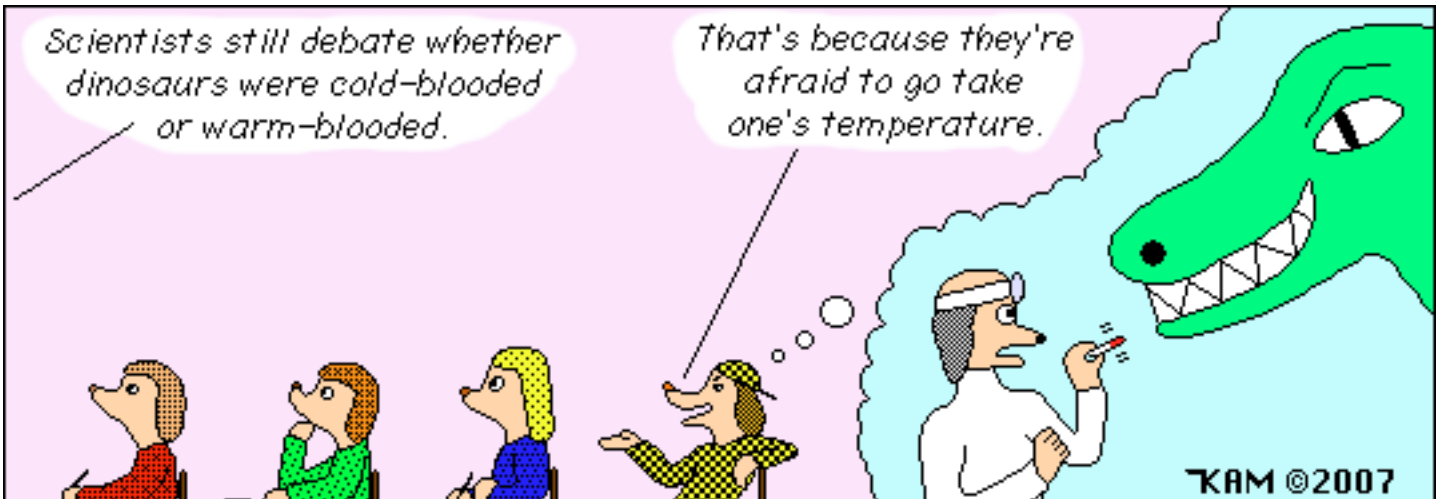
Lapidary Class Hours:.....Monday.....7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
 Lapidary Shop Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:00 pm

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

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



BEMS Board Meeting Minutes September 4, 2007



by Keith Alan Morgan, 2007 Secretary

Members Attending:

President Malcolm Wheeler

Secretary Keith Morgan

Librarian Charlotte Churchill

Shop Dick Morgan

Mineral Council Bob & Jackie Pattie

Guests Karin Wheeler & Pat Morgan

Meeting called to order at 9:40 am. President Malcolm Wheeler presiding.

South Sound Show: Malcolm got the Police Explorers to provide security for the show.

Old Business: The badges are being delivered to Malcolm.

Field Trips: The Rice Museum trip went well. Eleven people went.

Website: Include a size reference on pictures for items for sale on the website.

Elections: Need people to run for club offices. Dick Morgan will run for Director. Print a full page on elections in the Tumbler.

New Business: There will be a Home Schooler field trip on January 22. There will be 35-40 students. The club needs to work on making pre-forms, order coloring books, printing copies of puzzles, etc.

We need tumbled rock for the Puyallup Fair.

Mineral Council: The mineral council meeting will be this Saturday.

Shop: Malcolm found a hot pot left on twice! When last one leaving check the room for things left on & shut them off. Pull door tight & check that it is locked.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 am

Display Case Tips

Line your cases with fabric that have subtle tones like gray, beige, light blue (very effective with jewelry), pale yellow and no shiny fabrics. A base rule is little to no texture. However that may depend on the specimens displayed. Large or bulky specimens may look good on a textured piece of fabric where as small items get lost in the "texture" of the fabric.

Don't overcrowd your display case. It can have one large piece to many small pieces. Step back and take a look from a distance.

Use Labels. Don't leave the viewer guessing as to what they are looking at. Write large enough and neat so all can read the label. Check for spelling and correct identification of the specimen.

Wipe off specimens just before putting in the case. You want to show off the rock not your fingerprints.

from Gneiss Times, 11/06

Pictures of Phil Kirschner who demonstrated Flint Knapping at our September meeting. Pictures taken by John Carter



BEMS General Meeting Minutes September 13, 2007

by Keith Alan Morgan, 2007 Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm, President Malcolm Wheeler presiding.

Malcolm reminded everyone of the importance of signing in so Boeing knows how many people are using the facilities. 55 members attended.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the Tumbler.

Tumbler Editor's Report: The Tumbler is doing fine, but could use more members submitting articles.

Webmaster Report: One of the items listed for sale on the website, a grinder, sold, so potential customers are seeing the Sale page. Note: The website doesn't sell the item it just lists what is for sale & contact information for the seller.

Treasurer's Report: The new badges are in.

Shop Reports: Cliff Frome took some of his faceting students to the Spectrum Mines for sunstones.

Dick Morgan reported that his students are having fun trying different things in the Monday Night Classes.

Malcolm Wheeler found a dop pot on & water running with no one around in the shop. When you are the last one in the shop, TURN EVERYTHING OFF!

Field Trips: The field trip to the Rice Museum went well. The museum is especially interested in donations of material from the First Creek area.

Sign-up sheets were passed out for a planned field trip to Kaner Flats.

Library: Doing okay.

Health & Welfare: Former member Jim Mayhall's wife died, but we can't find a working address to send a card to.

Federation Report: The Butte show was very nice, unfortunately he left his notes about it at home, but officers were elected & business was conducted.

The Tumbler won First Place in the Bulletin Editor's contest with a perfect score of 100.

Mineral Council: Meeting was held last Saturday, but not many attended because of trips scheduled at the same time.

No answer on the ownership claims on three Saddle Mountain claims yet. They are trying to track down all the people involved in the land transfers.

South Sound Show: The November BEMS meeting is being held on the first Thursday (November 1) because show set-up is on the second Thursday (November 8).

SIGN-UP SHEETS!!! The show is getting closer & we need volunteers for various jobs. Sign-up!

Special thanks to Bob Bird for cutting & polishing thundereggs for the kids' raffle.

Take & pass out flyers for the show!

Old Business: The new badges are \$5 each.

The Federation is still collecting postage stamps. Give them to Mike Blanton.

New Business: Elections! We need people to run for office.

Program: Phil Kirschner gave a very informative & interesting demonstration of flint knapping.

Raffle: Eric Chilson won the special prize, selenite crystal cluster.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm

Displays:

John Carter - 35 pounds of quartz crystal clusters & sunstones from the Spectrum Mine in South central Oregon

Steve Mackey - Schist & black agate from the Greenwater River area; petrified wood found edging my flower bed; opal from Coober Pedy, Australia

J. Chilson - Montana material: Apatite from Calvert Mine; jasper near Wise River; agate & jasper from the Yellowstone River

Ed Laville - Smack'em Rocks

Fred Thompson - Obsidian

Eric Chilson - Jasper

From Atop The Rock Pile

By Malcolm Wheeler, Jr., 2007 BEMS President

Now is the time for all good men and women to come to the aid of our rock club !!!!!

Yes — PLEASE sign up for job times and displays for our show in Puyallup!

I know all of you are busy and I know I would love to see what you work on all year.

Our Club is full of giving and hard working people now is our chance to prove it again.

Thanks in advance for all your hard work and help.



What do you call a dinosaur curse?

A Tyrannosaurus hex.

via Quarry Quips, 9/06; from an e-mail from Richard Jaeger, RMFMS President

Club Elections

It's that time of year when we start looking for people to run for office to keep the club going another year. Do you want to make a difference? Do you have what it takes? Do you have a pulse? We need a minimum of one person to run for each of the following offices.

President - Runs the meetings. Deals with Boeing Recreation for the club's needs. One of the signees for checks. Must be a current Boeing employee.

Vice-President - Replaces the president when the president can't make a meeting. Is in charge of presentations for meetings, i.e. speakers, demonstrations, videos.

Treasurer - Handles the club's money and makes the yearly budget. One of the signees for checks. Must be current Boeing employee.

Secretary - Takes notes at the Board & General meetings and delivers the minutes to the editor for publication in the newsletter. Is responsible for correspondence as needed.

Director - A 2-year term. Person should be familiar with the club's activities and usually volunteers on committees such as shop rearrangement and inventory.

Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies Representative - Attends NFMS meetings and reports back to the club. Is the voice of the club to the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Washington State Mineral Council Representative - Attends the WSMC meetings and reports back to the club. Is the voice of the club at the Washington State Mineral Council.

If you wish to know more about the positions you can talk to the current holders of these offices.

President Malcolm Wheeler, Sr.

Vice President John Carter

Treasurer Richard Russell

Secretary Keith Alan Morgan

Director Dick Morgan

Federation Representative Mike Blanton

Mineral Council Bob & Jackie Pattie

Several officers would like to be able to step down, but they can only do that if someone else is willing to step up and do the job.

Four Adults And A Minor by John Carter

Four adults and a minor go looking for sunstones (red labradorite - although they come in many colors) at the Spectrum Mine in south central Oregon.

It was a four day adventure with lots of possibilities and hopes of finding the big one. Kaileen, Kellie and 5-year-old Kaitlyn from Idaho and Tamara and myself from Washington met at our friend Deborah's in Bend Oregon where we spent the night. We woke to a good breakfast and then we said our goodbyes to Deborah after thanking her.

The five of us set out for Plush Oregon. We drove all day and arrived at about 5:30 that evening and another 45 minutes to the Spectrum Mine. That last 45 minutes was 23 miles of some of the roughest road I've ever driven. 45 minutes of shaking was about all I could handle and I don't care what anyone else says about the road - you have to drive slowly.

When we arrived at the mine it was closed but the first person I met was Mikey the Miner, an employee of the mine. He showed me what we would be looking for. He recommended doing the conveyor belt for \$200 an hour. The mine however is a no fee dig. The next morning we decided to go for the conveyor belt and we spent the next hour snatching up a variety of different sized sunstones. We didn't get any really large pieces like we hoped for but it certainly was a lot of fun. After our hour was up we started working a pit to see if we could find our own sunstones. This is a little harder to do. The mine provides screens for material screening. You will need your own rock hammer and a shovel. It is hard work but you will be rewarded. All of us managed to find many sunstones but unfortunately nothing really big. We met a lot of nice people: Chris Rose the owner, Keith who ran the conveyor belt for us and Mikey the Miner. Everyone was very knowledgeable and willing to help.

We spent the first night near the mine under the stars but on the second night clouds had moved in and it felt like rain to me. So we decided to drive into Plush for fear of getting our campers stuck in the mud. And after that long hard drive in the dark, sure enough it started raining five minutes after we parked. (We got permission to park our rigs overnight behind the public park.) We headed for home early the next morning - half of our party headed for Idaho and the other half for Washington.



Lapidary & Faceting Safety by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chair

1. PROTECTIVE GLASSES should be worn when breaking, chipping or grinding rocks. GOGGLES and SAFETY SHIELDS should be worn in addition to the protective glasses when using caustic liquids, dressing grinding wheels, or creating large flying chunks of rocks.

2. GRINDING WHEELS should not be run faster than the speeds recommended by the manufacture. If you are unsure, run the wheel no faster than 2,500 surface feet per minute (SFPM).

POLISHING and BUFFING wheels are operated at a speed of 3,000 to 7,000 SFPM with 4,000 SFPM a good speed for most purposes. Stand to the side of the grinding machine when starting up and allow at least one minute of warm up time before starting to work. Do not let wheels become waterlogged. Start the water flow or drip after the wheel is up to speed, keep the flow adequate to keep the wheel and work cool and clear the removed material, and keep it running after the water is secured until the wheel is completely dry, otherwise it could have a heavy spot and be out of balance. An out of balance wheel could disintegrate upon restarting.

FACETING LAPS should be removed after spin drying, completely cleaned with a good dishwashing liquid to remove all residue, hand dried with a towel, and then placed back onto the spindle and spun at high speed until completely dry. This will keep the wheel from rusting and developing surface pits which can scratch, chip, or cause the work to separate from the dop, creating a "missile hazard".

Keep grinding wheels true. They will wear longer and there will be less chance of the wheel parting while in use. Grinding should be started near the center plane of the wheel and then moved back and forth across the face of the wheel so as to produce even wear. Do not force the work and take too heavy of a cut. The same process should be practiced with laps, using the full surface of the lap to produce even wear and avoid grooves to occur with time.

Wear appropriate eye, hand, and body protection when using dressing tools. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the dressing tool being used. Only the periphery or circumference of standard grinding wheels are designed for grinding. Never grind on the sides of a grinding wheel. Insure the work rest and peripheral guard are properly installed and only adjusted when the equipment is unplugged and not running.

3. BELTS and PULLEY's should be covered by guards to protect fingers and keep clothing from getting caught.

4. DOP STICKS or JIG's and FIXTURES should be used with small stones to protect the fingers and keep the stone from "flying off" if dropped or thrown by the wheel.

5. DUST MASKS or a SUCTION BLOWER should be used when dry sanding to avoid the inhalation of fine dust which can obtain silica or harmful compounds from the material being sanded. Silica can lead to SILICOSIS, a serious lung condition which can not be cured. It may well be prudent to wear a chemical mask when WET GRINDING or SANDING if the water is being recirculated and could have dangerous compounds in it from the materials being worked or previously worked.

6. ALCOHOL LAMPS burn clear and can burn skin and set combustibles on fire if not secured when not in use. Do not overheat dop wax or the dops which can burn the skin and possibly damage the work. Overheated or old dop wax can be weakened and cause the stone to fly off the dop. Select the correct dop wax for the temperature required for the type of stone being worked.

7. CONTAINERS should be properly labeled. Putting polishing powders in baking powder cans, for instant, without a proper identifying label, can be dangerous. Tin Oxide can cause illness if used in place of baking powder.

8. OXALIC ACID greatly facilitates the polishing of agates, but is caustic to the skin as well as a poison if inhaled or ingested. Oxalic acid can also burn the cornea of the eyes, resulting in impaired eyesight. SULFURIC and NITRIC ACID are sometimes mixed with polishing compounds when faceting sapphire and may be used on lead laps. Use the following safety precautions when using caustic chemicals:

A. Wear protective glasses with drip proof or mist proof goggles over them.

B. Apply the polish to the wheel with a brush.

C. Wear protective gloves and a rubber apron to protect the skin and clothing.

D. Wash any contact of the compound with the skin immediately with soap and water. The application of a baking soda pack is advisable, or sponging with a solution of baking soda in water. If any gets in the eyes, thoroughly irrigate with water. Medical attention is also advisable.

9. POLISHING COMPOUNDS used today are relatively non-toxic to most individuals. The use of detergents added to the polishing compounds may cause a dermatitis in some individuals and can be avoided by using masks, goggles, gloves, and rubber aprons.

10. EPOXY RESINS are very irritating to the skin and may cause severe dermatitis if contact is not avoided. Acetone will remove resin from the skin.

11. Modern CUTTING OILS are a primary skin irritant and can be a potential fire hazard. Avoid using older cutting oils, as some contain dangerous chemicals that can lead to serious illness if inhaled, ingested or absorbed through the skin.

12. Do not overload ELECTRICAL OUTLETS or place them in areas where they will get wet. If in doubt, have the circuits checked by an electrician. AN ELECTRICIAN'S FEE IS A SMALL PRICE FOR ONE'S OWN SAFETY! Install switches and motors in a dry place, where water from grinding and sanding will not splash on them. The shut off switch or plug should be within

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>).

October 7 *North West Rockies & North Seattle Club- Money Creek - Ore & Picture Jasper* - Meet at 9:00 am at Money Creek Camp - Bring light hardrock tools
Ed Lehman (425) 334-6282 or wsmced@hotmail.com
Kathy Ernst (360) 856-0588 or earnstkk@comcast.net

reach of the operator. Have all motors and outlets grounded. In case of faulty wiring or a short circuit, the ground will absorb the shock, not the operator. Standing on a rubber mat will provide some protection, but the mat will be wet and still transmit electrical current, which could be fatal. Ground fault (GFI) circuit breakers and outlets are recommended over plug fuses and standard outlets. If a person suffers an electrical shock, it is important to remove them from the source with a stick or other non-conductive item before beginning resuscitation. Shutting off the power source, if known, will also decrease the hazard to others in the area. Get medical attention as some effects of electrical shock can be delayed.

13. Use proper lifting techniques while moving items in the shop.

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 8/07; from EFMLS News, 11/05

Household Products That Can Be Used As Rock Cleaners by Betsy Martin

Safety: Always use plastic containers, rubber or nitrile gloves, eye protection, good ventilation, and great care when handling these products.

1. Zud or Barkeeper's Friend cleansers (contains oxalic acid) - Warm or hot solutions will remove iron stains and are helpful with clay deposits. These cleaners can be used with a toothbrush on sturdy surfaces.

2. Toilet Cleaner (the hydrochloric acid type) - Dissolves calcite rapidly.

After treating anything with an acid, rinse very carefully and soak in ample fresh or distilled water for a while to leach out any acid remaining in crystal seams and fractures. You can then follow up with a final soak in dilute Windex to neutralize remaining traces of acid.

3. Lime Away (dilute hydrochloric acid) - dissolves calcite more slowly. Rinse as you would for other acid treatments (see above).

4. Calgon - Dissolve this powdered water softener in water. Use for clay removal.

5. Vinegar (Acetic acid), soda water, colas (carbonic and phosphoric acids) - Will slowly etch out very delicate fossils in limestone. Rinse as you would for other acids (see above)

6. Iron Out (iron stain and clay remover) - Mix with warm water and use with good ventilation. It will lose strength if stored. Rinse with plain water.

7. Bleach - Dilute solutions of bleach can remove organic deposits and disinfect minerals collected in areas used by livestock. Rinse with plain water.

8. Hydrogen peroxide - Use to remove manganese stains. Rinse with plain water.

9. Citric acid - Use to remove manganese stains. Rinse as above for acids.

10. Windex (with ammonia) - A good clay deposit remover and final surface cleanup. Works well in ultrasonic cleaners. Rinse with plain water.

11. Distilled Water - Use to clean sensitive species and as a final soak after acid treatment.

Removing Thin Coatings:

On moderately hard minerals use toothpaste (a feldspar abrasive) and a toothbrush.

On hard minerals use toothbrush with pumice powder and water.

On calcite (including bruised places) - quickly dip in vinegar or Lime

Away and rinse thoroughly. Repeat. Soak in plain water afterwards to leach any acid from cracks.

Cleaning Tools:

Toothpicks, seam ripper, bamboo sticks, sewing needles in a pin vise, old dental tools, old toothbrushes, periodontal brushes, canned air, Exacto knife, single edge razor blades, cheap small stiff bristle brushes.

via Breccia, 6/07; via The Franklin County Rockhounder, 5/07; via Gem Cutters News, 4/07; from The Collecting Bag, 12/06



October 5 - 7: Friday & Saturday 9 am - 6 pm; Sunday 9 am - 2 pm
 Clallam Co., Gem & Mineral Society, Earth's Treasures
 Guy Cole Convention CT.
 Carrie Blake Park
 202 N. Blake Rd.
 Sequim, WA

October 13 & 14: Saturday & Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
 Marysville Rock & Gem Club, 33rd Rocktoberfest Show
 Marysville Jr. High School Cafeteria
 7th Street & State Ave.
 Marysville, WA

October 20 & 21: Saturday 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
 Hells Canyon Gem Club, 41st Annual Show
 Wonders of Rocks & Fossils
 Nez Perce Co., Fair Grounds
 1229 Burrell Ave.
 Lewiston, Idaho

October 27 & 28: Saturday & Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
 Bellevue Rock Club, Annual Show
 Vasa Park
 3560 West Lake Sammamish Blvd. SE
 Bellevue, Washington

October 27 & 28: Saturday 9 am - 6 pm; Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
 Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club, Adventures in Stone 2007
 Clackamas County Fairgrounds Pavilion
 694 N. E. 4th Ave
 Canby, Oregon

Shows

Shows



Internet Addresses

Kevin's Trilobite Gallery
<http://www.geocities.com/trilobitologist/trilobites.html>

Natural History Museum's Dino Directory
<http://internt.nhm.ac.uk/jdsml/nature-online/dino-directory/>

Miocene Tooth Fossils of Maryland
<http://www.mgs.md.gov/esic/brochures/teeth/index.html>

The Life & Times of Long Dead Sharks
<http://www.elasmo.com/>

<http://www.sharkteeth.com>

Coelocanth
<http://www.dinofish.com/>

<http://www.extinctanimal.com/>

The Museum of Unnatural Mystery
<http://www.unmuseum.org/unmain.htm>

