

Monthly Bulletin of the
West Seattle Rock Club, Inc.
Seattle, Washington



*** Website ***

<http://www.westseattlerockclub.org>

Our Club:

Practices the Rockhound Code of Ethics



WEST SEATTLE PETROGLYPHS

Mike Wall, Editor
P.O. Box 16145
Seattle, WA 98116
email: mike_wall@yahoo.com



2010



FEBRUARY

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S
DAY!**

WEST SEATTLE ROCK CLUB, INC.

Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 16145, Seattle, WA 98116

The purpose of this Club is to promote the study and enjoyment of the Lapidary Arts with good Rockhounding and good fellowship; and to further education and lapidary skills for all; to conduct field trips for exploration and collection of minerals, gems, rocks and fossils; to promote shows and displays; to publish a monthly periodical known as *West Seattle PETROGLYPHS* relating to club activities.

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2010):

President	Ken Schmidt	(206) 932-3626
Vice President	<Open>	<Open>
Secretary	Rachel Miller	(206) 935-8180
Treasurer	Audrey Vogelpohl	(206) 932-3292
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Director at Large	Lyle Vogelpohl	(206) 932-3292
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	Judy Ayers	(206) 633-0721
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	<Open>	<Open>
Newsletter - Editor	Mike Wall	(206) 935-4953
Current Past President	Ron Nims	(206) 764-9566

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS (2010):

2010 Show Chairpersons	Ron Nims	(206) 764-9566
	Dave Clausen	(206) 935-3040
Programs	<Vice President>	<Vice President>
Refreshments/Hospitality	<Open>	<Open>
Telephone Committee	Guayneitha Clausen	(206) 932-2657
	Sherry Eslick	(206) 938-2594
Historian	<Open>	<Open>
Field Trips	Brian Waters	(206) 774-8565
Webmaster	Donn Ullery	(206) 633-0721

AFFILIATED WITH:

Northwest Federation & American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
 Seattle Regional Gem and Mineral Show Committee
 Washington State Mineral Council
 ALAA – American Lands Access Association

Meetings are held on the Fourth Wednesday of each month,
 except for November which is the **THIRD** Wednesday and no meetings in July and December

The meetings are held in Adams Hall of the *Tibbetts United Methodist Church*

3940 41st S.W. (corner of 41st S.W. and S.W. Andover Street) Seattle, WA

6:30 PM – Junior Meeting 7:00 PM – Adult Meeting

Dues are: \$20.00 first year (including name badge), then: \$10.00 per adult member per year
 or \$15.00 for 2 adults in same family, \$3.00 per junior member per year

VISITORS ARE INVITED AND ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ALL MEETINGS

All material in this Bulletin may be reprinted if properly credited - Exchange Bulletins are most welcome.

CLUB CALENDAR**February 24, 2009****Kid's Meeting** (6:30 pm)**Program:** Displaying Your Hobby**General Meeting** (7:00 pm)**Program:** TBD – It will either be:

Red Rocks - by Dave Clausen

or

Gem Trees – by Clarence Engkraf

Show & Tell: Red or Heart-Shaped
Rocks**WHAT'S INSIDE**

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**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**

Hi Everyone,

Walking streams for rocks is good this time of year,
but watch the weather and stream flow.

Some Fun Trivia about streams.

1. The wearing away of soil and rock by a stream?
 - a. Melting
 - b. Erosion
 - c. Extrusion
 - d. Run off
2. Surface flow of water that appears after a rain?
 - a. Erosion
 - b. Run off
 - c. Base flow
 - d. Streamlet
3. Solid material (rocks) that is carried within a stream?
 - a. Erosion
 - b. Suspended load
 - c. Run off
 - d. Extrusion

Keep digging, Ken

2010 DUES DUE

DUES are past DUE.

If you have not paid your dues yet, it is time to pay. Renewal will be \$10 for one adult or \$15 for 2 adults in the same household. Junior (18 and under) membership is \$3 per year. Please bring to the February meeting OR send your check, payable to West Seattle Rock Club, Inc, to the Treasurer.

Audrey Vogelpohl
8810 37th Ave SW,
Seattle, WA 98126

Questions? Call Audrey at 206-932-3292.

**JUNIOR PROGRAM -
DISPLAYING YOUR HOBBY**
6:30 PM

Learn about entering a display case of your own collection, or work, in a show. What are the rules? What is the best way to display? Displays must be a Junior member's own work and effort, with coaching from a parent, guardian, or sponsor. At this meeting information will be handed out to help us display at our upcoming show May 1 and 2. Bring an idea or two on what you would like to display. Do we want to have a group display AND a display case of just your own material? See you at 6:30 ... don't be late!

WEST SEATTLE ROCK CLUB – GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2010

**Business:**

- The meeting was brought to order at 7:07 pm by club President Ken Schmidt.
- There were 19 adult members, 14 junior members, and 8 guests (4 adults and 4 juniors) present.
- Ken announced that we really need a Hospitality Committee Chairperson. This person would greet guests, be in charge of the meeting signup sheets, coordinate procurement and wrapping of door prizes, and ensure refreshments are being provided by members. If you are willing to do this, please contact Ken.
- Audrey Vogelpohl presented name tags to new members: Mark MacLaren Hichens and children Keir, Oz, and Bowie; as well as Future Rockhound of America (FRA) badges for the kids. Welcome!
- Audrey announced that tonight we were celebrating the 43rd birthday of the club with cake. Happy Birthday West Seattle Rock Club!
- Lyle Vogelpohl talked about an article in last month's Petroglyphs about legislation affecting rockhounds wishing to pursue their hobby of collecting minerals. We all need to show that we follow the Rockhound Code of Ethics i.e., if we dig, fill in the holes, so that we can overcome some of the bad images of miners who inflicted devastation on so much land. Please notify your elected officials that we want to retain some public lands for the public use of rockhounding.
- Lyle announced that the Gold, Gem, and Mineral Show in Monroe will be February 27 and 28.
- Audrey Vogelpohl gave a brief treasurer's report noting that dues are coming in – please see her if you have not paid yet. She is paying dues for our club to the WSMC and the NFMS.
- Brian Waters gave a WA State Mineral Council report. He announced the Mineral Council field trip this weekend (Jan. 30) to Cedar Ponds to collect red and yellow jasper. Our club will lead a field trip to Saddle Mountain October 2 and 3 to collect petrified wood and opal. Please see Brian if you have ideas for any other field trips.
- Show co-chair Rachel Miller discussed our upcoming rock club show:
 - o The show is Saturday May 1 and Sunday May 2.
 - o Rachel, show co-chair Dave Clausen and Audrey, spoke at the Juniors' portion of the meeting and discussed ways that juniors could get involved at the show including:
 - § Putting in their own display case
 - § Contributing to a joint junior display case
 - § Helping at the show grab bags/spinning wheel, gem trees, silent auction, or hostess table stations.
 - § Demonstrating cabochon making with Lyle.
 - o Rachel had an article in last month's Petroglyphs about show news. She passed around signup sheets for set up, tear down, security, the show theater, spinning wheel/grab bags,

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gem trees, hostess table, silent auction, rock tumbling, making grab bags, assisting with dealer and demonstrator bookings, and publicity listings. If you are willing to help out in any of these areas, please sign up at a meeting or contact Rachel or Dave.

- o The pattern for making the grab bags will be published in the Petroglyphs. We have lots of crocheted draw strings available for the sewers to use.
- o Audrey said that she has signed up Edna Nelson to demonstrate wire wrapping at the show.
- Lyle announced that we have grit for sale and cabochon making classes being offered. Please see Lyle if you are interested.

Show and Tell:

- Lyle Vogelpohl showed some beautiful Brazilian, Laguna and Montana agates as well as a banded carnelian. He also showed desert sage (jasper) and mookaite cabochons. He also showed off a lovely finished lapis lazuli wire wrapped pendant necklace. Lyle also displayed some hearts that he was able to make from rhodochrosite on a flat lap.
- Audrey Vogelpohl displayed an Ellensburg blue agate in a necklace made by Ella Cox. She also showed a ring, with a nice plume in it, made by Lyle with silver work done at the Hancock retreat.
- Brian Waters brought in some lovely wind chimes he made from polished and wire wrapped petrified wood and agates.
- Miles Durnwirth showed some Montana and some Oregon snakeskin agates as well as a piece of agatized coral.
- Paula and Thea Wickward brought in some garnets they had collected in the Lake Wenatchee area.
- Dave Clausen displayed some carnelian that showed pretty patterns when held to the light. He also showed a Brazilian enhydro agate (with encapsulated water), and some pieces of Ellensburg blue, Tahoma, polished Montana, and South Dakota grasslands agates.
- Alex Miller displayed a fire agate, a piece of moss agate which looked nice in the light, and some opal and thunder eggs with agate cavities collected from Richardson's Ranch.
- Joe Moushey showed a jasper cabochon belt buckle that Lyle helped him make. He is starting on a Bruno jasper neck slide.
- Marshall Hatfield (junior guest) brought in an agate, purchased at a Saturday market in Alaska, which was from the Mount Redoubt volcano.
- Logan Higuera showed a pretty banded agate slab.
- Delila Higuera displayed a nice pink dyed agate slab that her grandma bought her.
- Lucie O'Clair showed a really pretty large geode that she got from her grandma.
- Nolan Whorton brought in a mystery blue rock, a nice gem tree, a sand garnet, and an agate which was interesting because the light did not go all the way through it.

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- Ruby Whorton brought in some lovely rocks including an amethyst from her grandma, green fluorite, and a piece of peacock ore.
- Mike Blanton displayed a great find which was a tabletop book that he came across in an antique shop which was worth a lot more than he paid for it.
- Levi Erdman showed a piece of Ellensburg blue, a slice of agate, and a mystery rock.
- Ken Schmidt brought in some cabochons that he made over winter break including those made from blue lace, graveyard point, and moss agates. He also showed the silversmithing work he had done to make the bezels. Ken also brought in his latest batch of tumbled rocks. Please keep your tumblers going to supply the WSRC show on May 1st and 2nd. The club will supply rough material and grit, if needed.
- Marshall Hatfield won the show and tell prize.

Program:

- The program was a slide presentation that received the First Place Award from AFMS in the 2006 Program Competition. It included agates from throughout the Lake Superior Basin and from glacial tills in areas to which these agates were carried by ancient glaciers. Wayne Sukow is a member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies, a member of the Advisory Board of the National Science Foundation, and will be the featured speaker at the NFMS's Rockhound Retreat in September at Hancock Field Station, near Fossil, Oregon.
- The slides had some gorgeous close-ups of agates and some very interesting pictures of microscopic bits of copper and other metals sometimes found in agates.

Submitted by Rachel Miller, WRSC secretary

2010 REFRESHMENTS

Please take note if you next on the list. THANKS to everyone who has already signed up!



February	Bo Jeffers
March	Miller Family
April	Mike Wall
May	Wickward Family
June	Hichens Family
July	(<i>Summer Picnic</i>)
August	David Clausen
September	Erdman Family
October	Durnwirth Family
November	Joe Moushey
December	(<i>Christmas Party</i>)

EASY GRAB BAGS

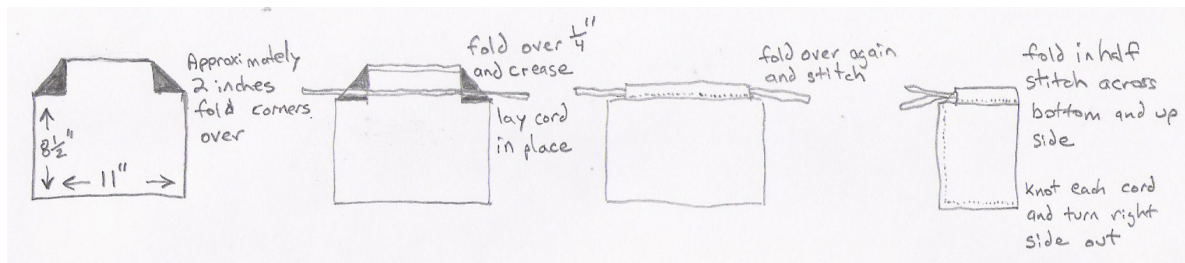
The easiest method of cutting out grab bags is to first cut out a cardboard pattern 8.5 x 11 inches. Lay the pattern on the material and trace around it with white chalk. Cut out material. The strings are made of any heavy cord cut into 24 inch lengths. (Rug yarn is good — strong and colorful.) Follow the diagrams below to sew. Before sewing press the folds with a hot iron or crease with the fingers to make the sewing job easier.

Please study the bag plans shown below. They show an easier and faster way to make grab bags. Jim Olsen deserves the credit for coming up with this easier method. Jim worked for years as a man's tailor and so has picked up quite a few sewing tricks.

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Time is saved by folding the two corners over diagonally, then folding the top down over the cord. Try it.



(via BEMS Tumbler, 10/98; via Owyhee Gem, 8/98; via News & Views, 3/96; via The Gates Rockhound Bulletin, 2/94)

Editors Note: Draw strings will be available at the February Meeting. Please bring any finished bags to the April meeting where we plan to fill with tumbled rocks.

COAL

by Brett Whitenack

2nd Place - AFMS Original Adult Articles
Competition, 2009

No one knows for sure who first discovered that the black, brittle rocks found in outcrops would burn and could be used for fuel. The earliest recorded mining of coal took place in China 10,000 years ago. Coal outcrops were mined in Great Britain during the Bronze Age, 2000-3000 BCE (Before Common Era), and the Romans used it across their empire. In the Americas the Aztecs used it for heat and also fashioned hard coal into ornaments.



The use of coal didn't really take off until the Industrial Revolution, however, up until then most mining was done by taking advantage of seams of exposed coal or digging shallow surface mines to obtain it. The Industrial Revolution changed that when coal began to be in great demand as the fuel to power steam engines used in manufacturing, and later, coal-fed steam engines were built for the railways and steamships.

Because of the great demand for coal, new mines were opened up that went deeper into the earth. These mines continued to be the main source until the twentieth century, when open pit strip mining became popular, but at an environmental cost.

What exactly is coal? It has been defined as a sedimentary rock of organic origin and is composed of the remains of plants that lived and died millions of years

ago in swampy regions. Their remains were buried, and over the course of millennia, they were compacted, and through a process called coalification were turned into one of five grades of coal.

The first grade, peat, is the accumulation of partially decayed organic vegetative matter. It is the lowest grade of coal and burns with only about half the heat value of high grades of coal. Lignite, the next lowest rank, is often called brown-coal and has a high percentage of volatiles. It also contains a lot of moisture and is mainly used in production of electricity where mines are close to the power plants.

The next two grades are related and sometimes hard to tell apart. Sub-bituminous coal is a grade that is between lignite and bituminous coal. It is used mostly as fuel for steam-electric power generation. Bituminous coal is a soft grade of coal and is also used as fuel in steam-electric power generation. It is also used for heat and power applications in manufacturing, and to make coke, an altered form that is used as a fuel and as a reducing agent in smelting iron ore in a blast furnace.



The highest grade of coal is also the best and is known as anthracite. It has the highest carbon content and contains the fewest impurities of all coals. It burns the cleanest and is primarily used for residential and commercial heating. From the late 1800s until the 1950s, it was the most popular fuel for heating homes and other buildings in the northern United States. Many can still remember when the coal wagon would deliver a supply to



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their home.

Coal was first mined in the state of Kansas near Fort Leavenworth and in Cherokee County in the 1850s from shallow, open mines. Several of these shallow coal mines were opened up in the southeast part of the state shortly before and after the Civil War to provide fuel for the railroads, since coal was less bulky and provided more energy than wood. The room and pillar method was introduced in Cherokee County in 1874 by the Scammon brothers from Illinois, and within a few years underground mining became the preferred method of mining in the state. Peak years for production were 1917 and 1918, with about 7.25 million tons produced each of these years.

In the early 1930s open pit strip mining again became popular, and numerous mines were opened up throughout southeast Kansas. During the 1960s and



1970s Big Brutus became a fixture near West Mineral and was the second largest coal shovel in the world. It was shut down due to high operating costs; it cost twice as much to operate as the coal it produced was worth.

The mines in the region continued to operate until the last one was closed down in the 1980s, after regulations and environmentalists made it more cost effective to import coal rather than to mine it. One of the issues with the open strip mines was that they leave deep ditches and high ridges. Before land reclamation laws were enacted, this land was abandoned and left to grow back to trees and brush while the trenches filled with water. In the 1990s a couple of coal mines were reopened and worked on a limited basis. The only bituminous coal mines still in operation today are very small, and they are found in Bourbon, Crawford, and Linn counties.

Another issue was that waste piles left behind contained massive amounts of iron pyrite. Pyrite is iron sulfide, and when it is exposed to water and oxygen it undergoes a chemical reaction that produces sulfuric acid; water, soil, and the areas surrounding mines that are polluted with sulfuric acid become unfit for agri-

culture and other uses. Today a concern is sinkholes, which are the result of abandoned mines collapsing and leaving large, gaping holes in the earth. These can swallow up buildings or equipment and seem to occur especially after heavy rains.

The other type of coal used in Kansas was lignite, and mines were opened up during the 1850s in the Cretaceous Age Dakota Formation in north central Kansas. Small mines were opened up mainly in Cloud, Ellsworth, and Republic counties, but are no longer worked today.

Coal mines in Kansas are being looked at again as a source of coal bed methane, a source of natural gas that can help ease the rising energy costs and reduce the state's dependence on importing this energy from other places.

References:

Belt, Mike. "Mining's Legacy: A Scar on Kansas." 20 March 2007. The Lawrence JournalWorld. 16 October 2008 <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/mining/>

Brady, Lawrence L. "Mining History in Kansas." 12 Dec 2005. United States Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration. 16 October 2008 <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/mining/>

Buchanan, Rex C., Tolsted, Laura L., and Swineford, Ada, 1986, Kansas Rocks and Minerals: Kansas Geological Survey, Educational Series 2.

(via AFMS Newsletter, 2/10; Post Rock, 11/08)

CEDAR PONDS

by Brian Waters, WSRC Field Trip Chairman

There was a field trip to Cedar Ponds on 1/30, but I didn't make it really.

First, a little background. Lisa had a cold that was turning into bronchitis, and on the morning of the field trip to Cedar Ponds at 1:00 am she was in such bad shape that we had to go to the emergency room. We didn't get back home until 3:30 am and I kind of tossed and turned until around 5:00 am, so when it came time to wake up to go on the field trip I didn't.

Later in the day, after I had woken up and ate breakfast the dogs and I decided that we we're going to go up to Cedar Ponds anyway. I thought we would miss everyone since we had gotten such a late start. We didn't get there until after 2:00 pm, but when we pulled up to the trailhead there was still a bunch of cars and there was a person that had

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just come out with his haul of jasper.

About halfway up the trail we ran into the field trip heading back to their cars, including Bo, and I was told that everyone had made a good haul and that there were still seams of jasper exposed and a tailings pile full of jasper because they had found more than they had wanted to carry out.

That is what I found at the digging site, a tailings pile full of pieces and exposed veins of jasper. After a quick look around I started digging away at one of the exposed veins and I pulled some nice pieces out pretty quickly. After playing with the dogs a bit I went back to work on one of the other veins, but it was in some harder host rock. After digging away for awhile I decided to take some of the overburden down to be able to better get my tools into where the vein was, but while taking the dirt down I came across another nice vein and carefully pulled it out.

Once I got that vein out I figured it was time to head back to the car, not only because it was getting late, but also because I had pulled out more jasper than I wanted to carry back to the car. The dogs and I had a great time, I got a lot of nice jasper, and I left more jasper in the tailing pile than was there when I arrived.

If any club members are interested I am willing to lead a club field trip up to Cedar Ponds on the Sunday after our March meeting, 3/28. The jasper that I found was mostly red, with some veins of agate in it, and I think some of it might have some of the yellow jasper in it too. We can discuss it at the February meeting and if there is enough interest we can set it up. I think that if we decide to go everyone will be able to find material to take home.

SHOP TIPS

Editor's Note: Shop tips featured in this bulletin have not been evaluated for safety or reliability. Please use caution when trying out any new idea.



Trimming Slabs

Use a glasscutter to do your trimming of slabs. Saves your diamond blade for more detailed work. Use one with a carbide wheel, not tungsten. Put a good solid handle on it so you can bear down hard, then use pliers to break the slab along the scored line.

(via *The Tumbler*, 2/10; via *Rock Rollers*, 6/08; via *Scribe*, 2/08; via *Rock Chips*, 7/98; via *Rockhound News*)

Re-Polishing Glazed Jade

That glaze on your jade cab is caused by working with well-worn sandpaper. Try washing the stone in acetone, then washing in detergent two or three times, scrubbing with a toothbrush. Rinse well and try it on new sandpaper.

(via *The Tumbler*, 12/09; via *The Show Me Geode*, 8/09; via *The Show Me Geode*, 7/07; via *Rock Rollers*, 6/07; via *The Pegmatite* 6/05. from *Quarry Quips*, 5/05)

Pitting

Working with dark-colored Moss Agate like the black Montana variety, small pits may sometimes appear on the finished, polished surface. The light colored polishing powders, such as tin oxide or cerium oxide, often pack into these small pits, making removal difficult and white spots surely distract from the stone's appearance. Try rubbing a small bit of black India ink into the spotted area, and then try to rub off the ink. The white spots will disappear.

(via *The Tumbler*, 1/10; via *GCLFS Newsletter*, 1/10; via *Pick & Pack*, 12/09; via *The Rockcollector*, 12/09; via *Quarry Quips*, 8/09; from *Rockhound Rambling*, 9/08)

Hiding Fractures In Your Cabs

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

(via *The Tumbler*, 12/09; via *Rock Rollers*, 5/08; from *Glacial Drifter*, 4/08)

Epoxy Tip

If it is necessary to separate an epoxy joint, simply heat it as epoxy disintegrates at a temperature of 250 degrees F. This should be a warning to those who use heat to set epoxy.

(via *The Tumbler*, 12/09; via *Rock Rollers*, 5/08; from *Rockpile*, 4/07)

2010 FIELD TRIPS

- Mar 3** Everett Rock & Gem Club – Miller River – 9:00 @ Hwy 2 Skykomish – Picture Jasper – Crack hammer & container – Bob Johnson – (425) 408-0849 – bobinevrt@hotmail.com
- April 10** Mt Baker Rock Club – Racehorse Creek – 9:00 @ Nugent’s Corner IGA – Fossils– Morel mushrooms – Light hard rock & split – Brian Huges – (360) 671-7330 – rockhounder@live.com

See WSMC <http://www.mineralcouncil.org/index.htm> for additional field trips and details

2010 SHOWS

- Feb 27** 10am-7pm **Idaho Gem Club Annual Show**
Feb 28 10am-5pm Expo Idaho, 5610 Glenwood, Boise, ID
- Feb 27** 10am-6pm **Everett Rock & Gem Club, 57th Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show**
Feb 28 10am-5pm WA National Guard Armory, 2730 Oakes Ave., Everett, WA
- Mar 6** 9am-5pm **Rock & Arrowhead Club Annual Show – “Thundereggs and Geodes”**
Mar 7 10am-4pm Klamath County Fairgrounds, 3531 South 6th St., Klamath Falls, OR
- Mar 12** 9am-5pm **Tualatin Valley Gem Club – 52nd Show – “Back Again in 2010”**
Mar 13 10am-5pm Washington County Fair Complex, 873 NE 34th Ave, Hillsboro, OR
Mar 14 10am-5pm
- Mar 12** 10am-6pm **Rock Rollers Club – “Earth’s Treasures”**
Mar 13 10am-6pm Spokane Co. Fair & Expo Center, N. 604 Havana @ Broadway, Spokane, WA
Mar 14 10am-5pm
- Mar 27** 10am-6pm **Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society 62nd Annual Show**
Mar 28 10am-4pm 1641 Long Street, Sweet Home, OR

See the Northwest Newsletter for additional show listings and times.

HOW CAN YOU HELP

Your Federation: Save stamps and give to our club treasurer.

Your Hobby: Join ALAA. - Contact Lyle Vogelpohl

Other: Volunteer to teach beginners what you are good at.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ...

Cabbing ... contact Lyle Vogelpohl ... (206) 932-3292