

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*

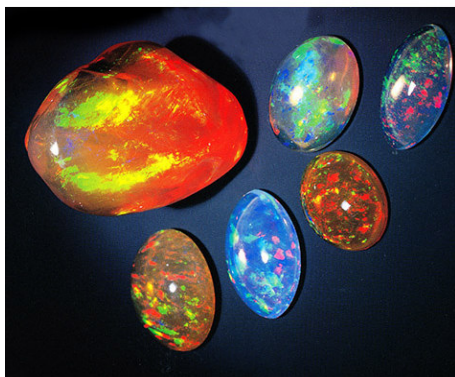
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### **OCTOBER 2011**

#### **BIRTHSTONE: OPAL**



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 Rock-hounding 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.

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OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2011):

Table with 3 columns: Position, Name, and Phone Number. Includes roles like President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Federation Director, Director at Large, Mineral Council Reps, Seattle Regional Reps, Newsletter - Editor, and Current Past President.

\*\*\*\*\*

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS (2011):

Table with 3 columns: Position, Name, and Phone Number. Includes roles like 2011 Show Chairpersons, Programs, Refreshments/Hospitality, Historian, Field Trips, and Webmaster.

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AFFILIATED WITH:

- List of affiliated organizations: 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**



October 26, 2011

**Junior Meeting (6:30 pm)**

**Program:** Burke Museum Box (a traveling study) on "Prehistoric Animals"

**General Meeting (7:00 pm)**

**Program:** "Introduction to the Study of Fossils", a NFMS slide program & a Silent Auction

**Show & Tell:** Bring 2 or 3 fossils that you have in your collection. (See article on Forms of Fossilization on page 5.)

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Fall is in the air and trees are showing us their best displays of color. What an exciting time of the year.

Now is the time for us to be planning our Fall Events, too. The Nominating Committee has been busy and will have a slate of candidates for club offices for next year. If you have said "yes" to the Committee, I thank you. Taking an office in our club is crucial to our continued success.

Diane Christensen and April Hichens are working on plans for the Christmas Dinner on December 9th. They will be letting us know more about this event and where you can help.

We will have some very nice items for a Silent Auction at our October meeting. These items are from collections of materials that have been donated to West Seattle Rock Club.

See you at the meeting.  
Lyle

**OCTOBER ADULT PROGRAM**

**Program:** "Introduction to the Study of Fossils", a slide program from the NFMS Library, illustrated with fossils of various types of marine life, land vegetation, bugs and prehistoric animals through the geological ages (about 25 minutes).

The above will be followed by a Silent Auction of some of the material from two recent donations to the West Seattle Rock Club.

**ITACOLUMITE, THE ROCK THAT BENDS**

It will bend and when turned over it will bend in the opposite direction. No known practical use has been found for this bend rock, but it is a source of gold and some diamonds in Brazil and India. It is also found near clay with diamonds in it in these countries. Itacolumite is a metamorphic rock. The rock is a most extraordinary kind of sandstone and will bend under it's own weight and slabs of it will bend even if the slabs are thick.

The rock's flexibility is caused by symmetrical quartz grains which interlock and therefore, rotate against each other when it bends. There is also some mica in it that helps as elasticity for the bending. Minerals of chlorite and talc are also found flexible. Itacolumite is porous to some degree from the water running through the rock.

*(via The CMS Tumbler, 11/10; Coastal Waves, Spring 2010; via Gems of the Rogue, 8/09)*

**2011 REFRESHMENTS**

Please take note if you are next on the list to bring refreshments. THANKS to everyone who has brought goodies so far!



- |                |                                    |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>October</b> | <b>Michael &amp; Lucie O'Clair</b> |
| November       | Gina & Miles Durnwirth             |
| December       | (Christmas Party)                  |

**WEST SEATTLE ROCK CLUB – GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

September 28, 2011

**Business:**

- The meeting was brought to order at 7:06 P.M. by club President Lyle Vogelpohl.
- There were 21 adult members, 15 junior members and 3 guests present.
- Janet Francisco distributed the door prizes to this month's winners. Mike Blanton, Molly Hatfield and Iris Ashworth won the door prizes.
- Lyle welcomed everyone and Audrey Vogelpohl introduced the new members; April Hichens and Alihaid, Aliyah and Sumiyah Mohamed. They were given their membership cards, name tags and badges.
- Lyle asked if there were any corrections or additions to the (August) meeting minutes. Since there were none, the minutes will stand as published.
- Petroglyphs editor, Mike Wall is still looking for original articles. Some suggestions were writing about a field trip you have taken or your interest in rocks.
- Brian Waters sent around a petition regarding land use. He is looking for members to write letters to get the WA State Legislature to write a bill that would incorporate "collecting rules" the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) has established for both Washington and Oregon. Joe Wernex can help you in writing the letter. His e-mail address is Jawernex@fairpoint.net
- April Hichens and Diane Christensen are working together to plan the WSRC Christmas party. Mark your calendars for Friday, December 9th. There will be more details soon.
- The nominating committee (Ken Schmidt, Audrey Vogelpohl and Dave Clausen) are seeking members to be officers for next year.
- Audrey reported that the NFMS (Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies) is on line. She has volunteered to be the junior coordinator for them. Diamond Dan will be doing a monthly publication called "Minnie Miners Monthly" and the WSRC will be able to copy up to 5 pages from the publication (as long as we give credit to Diamond Dan).
- The junior badge program is now on the internet, on the AFMS (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies) website. There are currently 15 badges available and an additional 5 will be added next year.
- Donn Ullery, the WSRC webmaster won an award for having the best website in the Pacific Northwest. The NFMS submitted his entry to the AFMS, where he placed 3rd in all the federations combined. Great job Donn.
- Lyle reported that Audrey and he attended the NW Rockhound Retreat in Oregon. Unfortunately, it was not a very productive week. Several obstacles including a forest fire, the instructors getting the flu, the camp cooks getting the flu, the campers getting the flu and eventually the health department closing down the retreat and sending everyone home made for the unproductive week.
- NOTE: Mike Blanton is looking for small clear bottles, preferably with lids. If you have some, please bring them to next meeting.

**Show and Tell – "What I did this summer"**

- Lyle Vogelpohl– brought his gold panning equipment which included his sifter, pans and vials of success. He also brought some cut cabs, some wire wrapped cabs and a very large piece of petrified wood.
- Audrey Vogelpohl – brought some amethyst chips that she created into a beautiful necklace. She also brought a gigantic stack of papers which represented her ancestry. She has been working on her genealogy for many years and even discovered that she and Lyle had common ancestors back in the 1630's.

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- Molly Hatfield – brought a couple of cool rocks she had gotten from her brother.
- Marshall Hatfield – bought a rock with basalt on it the had found at Lincoln Park.
- Bo Jeffers – brought “the good, the bad and the ugly” collection. In the ugly category, was a rock he got in NV with pyrite crystals on it, a gold rock from Road Mountain and some opalite from Yakima. In the good category he had pieces of jaspery material from NV, some petrified wood and some opalized and agitized Nevada red rock, some limb casts and some obsidian he had gotten in Burns, OR. In the bad category was an opalite that was bright red which was colored by mercury molecules and a piece of rainbow ridge rock.
- Mike Blanton – brought some nice pieces of petrified wood and said that he tumbled about 375 pounds of material this summer, and had donated most of it to other rock groups. (His tumbler holds about 75 pounds of material at a time).
- Janet Francisco – brought some beautiful azurite, malachite and several crystals that were formed into a flower.
- Lori and Torsten Toth - brought some beach rocks with crystals on them that they got while vacationing in Cannon Beach.
- Jackson Higuera – brought some jersey quartz which he found while in Switzerland.
- Mike O’Clair – brought several fossils with fish and leaves in them that he found at Cash Creek in BC.
- Lucie O’Clair – brought quartz she found was lucky enough to find while at camp.
- Miles Durnwith – brought some pumice from Mt. St. Helens he collected from the side of the mountain that blew.
- Heather and Kyle Kennedy – brought a shark tooth they got a rock shop, a trilobite and a very large garnet.
- Brian Waters – brought some green obsidian, a green WA jade that was beautifully polished, and numerous types of agates, including; jasper, brown, picture and bumblebee agate. He also brought a thunder egg.
- Logan Higuera - brought some fishing fly’s he created.
- Ken Schmidt- brought more beautiful polished material that he tumbled.
- Dalilah Higuera – brought a purple crystal (amethyst).
- Bo Hichens won the show and tell prize. The meeting was adjourned and delicious refreshments were served.

Thanks Clarence Higuera for the wonderful treats.

Respectfully Submitted, Diane Christensen, WSRC Secretary

### **FORMS OF FOSSILIZATION**

***(FROM THE FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA BADGE PROGRAM – SUBMITTED BY LYLE & AUDREY VOGELPOHL)***

Fossils are the preserved remains or evidence of past life (plant and animal). These include actual remains of the plant or animal (such as teeth), carbonized impressions, molds and casts of shells and other body parts, et., as well as evidence of an organism’s activity, such as chemical traces, burrows, footprints, or coprolites (known as trace fossils). Following are some common forms of fossilization.

\*Molds and casts. Calcareous shells may dissolve, leaving a cavity in a rock that is later filled with sediment or minerals, forming a mold and cast of the original organism. Only the general shape and form of the original organism is left.

\*Mineralization or petrification. Original shell, bone, or wood may be infiltrated or totally replaced by a mineral that seeps into pores via mineral-laden groundwater. When this happens, scientists can observe even tiny details of cell structure.

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\*Recrystallization. Shells may recrystallize, leaving original shell material but in a different mineral form. For instance, many shells are formed from calcium or aragonite, which changes to calcite during fossilization.

\*Carbonization. Between layers of finely bedded shale, original organic material may be compressed and distilled away, leaving only a thin film of carbon on a bedding plan, as often happens with leaves and insects that fossilize.

\*Original remains. Sometimes, animal or plant remains may undergo little to no alteration at all. Such is often the case with fossils such as teeth that are resistant to decay. Or an animal like an insect may be captured in sap, which hardens into amber, creating a natural time capsule that preserves the original organic material. (Scientists have been able to extract bits of ancient DNA from such insects!) In Siberia, creatures such as woolly mammoths have been found locked in ice that has remained frozen since the Ice Ages.

*(via Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program)*

### **AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY!**

by Pamela Hecht, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair

The excitement is building as we unveil the first of what we hope will be many wonderful prizes for the 2012 AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing.

A little history of our first 4 items that are a VERY SPECIAL donation to the AFMS Endowment Fund by Hi-Tech Diamond Company. I was contacted in June by e-mail from Hi-Tech's President Neer Patel asking how they would like to donate some lapidary equipment to help benefit our Endowment Fund drawing. After communications with Neer I received four huge boxes just days before our convention in July. I made an announcement at the convention in New York and now I'm happy to offer the chance for you all to have the opportunity to purchase a ticket or two or three or four or five or six or seven....you get idea !!!

This year's drawing is going to be different from those of the past in that the **first four items** will be available for you to pick which one you would like your tickets to be for should it be selected in the drawing. When tickets are purchased the prize # of either 1, 2, 3 or 4 will have to be written on the front of the

ticket as to which prize item you would like your tickets to go towards. This will only be for the first four prizes -- the remaining prizes, to be announced during the coming months will be awarded via a random drawing.

Please PRINT your name and address clearly on the other side so that we can read who won - better yet put an address label on you ticket along with your phone number.

And now, let's have a drum roll as we announce those first four prizes:



#1 CABKING-6V3 MACHINE is a direct drive 6" diameter diamond wheel grinding and polishing unit for all your cabbing needs This system is based on an industry leading adjustable, independently controlled drip feed cooling system that drips clean water on the wheels instead of bubbling up dirty water. Included is an accessory kit that features a flat diamond lap for putting flats on the backs of cabs as well a buffing disc with diamond paste. Donated by the Hi-Tech Diamond Company, it has a retail value of \$1,500.00.



#2 SLANT CABBER MACHINE is an angled lap

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machine in a 8" diameter size. The machine's unique 45 degree grinding angle makes it easier to see your work piece as you grind flats, work crystals, or make cabochons. The system allows you to grind, shape and polish gem material immediately. Donated by the Hi-Tech Diamond Company, it has a retail value of \$600.00.



#3 ALL-U-NEED MACHINE is a horizontal lap machine in a 6" diameter size. You can grind flats, re-work crystals, or make cabochons. The system makes it possible for you to grind, shape and polish gem material immediately. Donated by the Hi-Tech Diamond Company, it has a retail value of \$490.00.



#4 TRIM SAW MACHINE is a 6" machine with a diamond blade is ideal for trimming all kinds of stones. The saw has a large 15" x 9" working area. The durable housing is made of a rust-proof, unbreakable plastic. The motor is variable speed and ranges from 800 to 3400 RPM. Donated by the Hi-Tech Diamond Company, it has a retail value of \$440.00.

Want to donate a prize yourself? Send me your donation. If it's too heavy to mail, e-mail me a photo and description and we'll discuss how to get it to me in time for the drawing in Minnesota this coming July. My contact information is:

Pamela Hecht, 25393 Oak Street, Calumet, MI 49913  
(906) 337-2274 e-mail: <steverox@up.net>.

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. To order, make your check payable to "AFMS Endowment Fund" and mail it along with a stamped self-addressed envelope to your regional federation representative listed below. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number when placing your order.

**Regional Salespersons:**

California Federation: Colleen McGann  
PO Box 224; Santa Clara, CA 95052  
<Colleen.mcgann@hds.com>

Eastern Federation: Carolyn Weinberger  
PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302  
<editor@amfed.org>

Northwest Federation: Evelyn Cataldo  
99509 Brandon Dr; Kennewick, WA 99336  
<ecataldo@cbtabs.com>

Rocky Mountain Federation: Richard Jaeger  
3515 E 88th St; Tulsa, OK 74137-2602  
<RjgrSci@aol.com>

Midwest Federation: \*

South Central Federation: \*

Southeast Federation: \*

\*Ticket requests should be sent to me until someone is named.

With your help and support we can make this a rousing success!

*(via AFMS Newsletter, 11/11)*

## ***DIAMOND CRYSTAL UNEARTHED***

*Lesotho Diamond Weighs in at 478 Carats*



***(N)ice... Once it is faceted, this diamond crystal has the potential to be a record setter. (Photo courtesy Gem Diamonds)***

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On September 8th a 478-carat rough diamond crystal was discovered in the southern African kingdom of Lesotho. The diamond was unearthed at the Letseng Mine in the eastern Mokhotlong district of the tiny country, which lies completely within the boundaries of the Republic of South Africa.



**A view of the Letseng satellite pit. The gray material is kimberlite, whose dykes and pipes host the diamond crystals. (Photo courtesy Gem Diamonds)**

The Letseng mine has a rich history of oversized diamonds being pulled from its depths. Since 1920, four of the twenty largest rough diamond recorded have been found at the Letseng mine. It also has been one of the most productive mines throughout its history. This new diamond rough has a chance to set a world record for the finest-quality cut diamond over 100 carats. The color and clarity have been analyzed, revealing a possibility of having a 100-carat-plus D flawless gem.



**Swing shift. Nighttime drilling takes place in the satellite pit at the Letseng Mine in Lesotho. At 10,000 feet above sea level, it is the highest diamond mine in the world. (Photo courtesy Gem Diamonds)**

We will have to wait see what the final faceted stone actually yields.

The Letseng mine is operated by Gem Diamonds in a partnership with the Lesotho government. It sus-

pending production after De Beers with-drew in 1982. The current operator, Gem Diamonds, acquired the mine in 2006, after it had reopened in 2004 under management by JCI. A Gem Diamonds press release about the unnamed 478-carat rough states that the mine is expected to yield for another 45 years.



**A view of the Letseng satellite pit. The gray material is kimberlite, whose dykes and pipes host the diamond crystals. (Photo courtesy Gem Diamonds)**

*(via Maplewood Nes, 10/08;*

*via [http://www.palagems.com/mineral\\_news\\_2008\\_v2.htm](http://www.palagems.com/mineral_news_2008_v2.htm))*

## **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.

### **Geode Polishing**

When you grind down geodes before the polishing stage, protect the crystals by placing a coat or 2 of shortening on the crystals. It will come off with soap and hot water after completion.

Another version of protection is to pack the geode with damp Ivory Soap Flakes. The grit or polishing agent washes right out and the remaining soap will soak away in warm water.

*(via The Planet Earth Post, Summer/08)*

### **Geode & Nodule Sawing**

When sawing geodes or agate-filled nodules, first look for the largest dome on the specimen. This dome was at the top when the specimen was forming. Saw

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through the largest dome and it is likely that you will expose the best "picture" or surface. If the piece is elongated or egg-shaped, saw length-wise in order to obtain the best exposure.

(via *The Planet Earth Post, Summer/08*; via *Fossil Trails, 1992*)

### **Metal Workers Tincture**

When a saturated solution of boric acid is dissolved in alcohol, it can be used to protect either silver or gold when soldering. Dip or paint the article in this tincture, burn off the alcohol with a torch, and then solder. Dip in usual pickling solution and little or no fire scale will develop.

(via *The Planet Earth Post, Summer/08*; via *Northwest Newsletter, 1992*)

### **Sanding Disks**

Instead of throwing away your used sanding discs, try this: mix in a small container: 1/4 tsp. of grit, pour on top 1/2 tsp. water glass (glue) mixed with 1/4 to 1/2 tsp. water. Mix and apply to used sanding discs and let dry for 2 hours. You will have discs as good as new.

(via *The Planet Earth Post, Summer/08*; via *Northwest Newsletter, 1992*)

### **Chrysocolla**

To bring out the color in Chrysocolla, put it in full strength Purex bleach for as long as it takes. This really brightens the blues and greens. This works with any copper material. REMEMBER: bleach with acid releases poisonous gas. Work in good ventilation.

(via *The Planet Earth Post, Summer/08*, via *Pegmatite, 1992*)

### **Repolish Cabs**

Cabochons that have become dull by wear can be repolished without removing them from the mounting. Cut 1/4 in. diameter soft leather discs and put three of them on a Dremel or Foredom screw-type mandrel. Use this tool with Linde A or diamond paste and you can work carefully close to the bezel and around the prongs.

(via *The Planet Earth Post, Summer/08*, via *Pegmatite, 1992*)

### **Moonstone**

Moonstone will cleave. Be sure to grind it on a smooth wheel. It polishes nicely on felt with cerium oxide.

(via *The Planet Earth Post, Summer/08*)

### **Tiger Eye**

It is good practice to always grind, sand and polish tiger eye in the direction of the fibers to eliminate undercutting and damaging the fibers at the surface, which will prevent a perfect polish.

(via *The Planet Earth Post, Summer/08*)

### **What Rouge To Use?**

- Black rouge is for gold, silver, and German silver. Gives a high polish.
- Green rouge is for platinum, chrome, stainless steel, and hard materials.
- Red rouge is for gold, silver, and soft metals and materials.
- White rouge is for the harder metals such as platinum, chrome, stainless steel, and some of the harder material.
- Yellow rouge is for roughing in, as it cuts faster. It usually has a base of beeswax to hold the polish in. It is for hard materials such as chrome and stainless steel.

(via *The Tumbler, 9/09*; , via *Rockhound Rambling, 8/03*; via *Blue Agate News, 3/09*; via *RockCollector, 3/09*; via *Homer's Corner*)

### **Old Miner's Rule**

While a miner's tools, equipment and personal belongings remain in or next to a digging, that is his until he relinquishes it either by removing said property or announcing that he is finished digging in that area. Furthermore, specimens or rocks cached on or near said personal property are also the property of the miner and shall not be touched or removed without his express permission.

Every Rockhound Should Obey This Rule!

(via *The Tumbler, 11/09*; via *Golden Spike News, 10/09*; via *The RockCollector, 9/09*; via *Rock Buster News, 9/09*; via *Geode Strata Data, 9/05*)

### **Before Grinding & Sanding**

Before grinding and sanding cabochons, put cold cream on your hands and rub them until they are dry. This fills the pores and cracks in your fingers. When grinding, sawing, or sanding is completed, the dirt can be washed off easily. Also a good idea for painting.

(via *The Tumbler, 11/09*; via *Rock Rollers, 7/08*; via *Pick & Pack, 5/08*; via *Gemstar*)

**2011 FIELD TRIPS**

- Oct 29** Marysville Rock Club – Miller River – 9:00 @ Hwy 2 Skykomish, WA – Picture Jasper – Rock Hammer & Container – Christina Morrissey (425) 398-1300, cmvw@frontier.com
- Nov 5** Mt Baker Rock Club – Blanchard Hill – 9:00 @ I-5 exit 240 Gas Mart – Stilpnomelane in Quartz – Hard Rock Tools – Kris Menger (360) 927-0994, krismenger@comcast.net

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

**2011 SHOWS**

- Oct 22** 10am-5pm **Bellevue Rock Club Show**
- Oct 23** 10am-5pm Vasa Park, 3560 West Lake Sammamish Blvd SE, Bellevue, WA
- Nov 11** 10am-5pm **NW Opal Association and the Cascade Mineralogical Society Show**
- Nov 12** 10am-5pm Expo Hall, Puyallup Fairgrounds, Meridian St. S and 9th Ave SW, Puyallup, WA
- Nov 13** 10am-4pm
- Nov 12** 9am-5pm **Maplewood Rock & Gem Club Show**
- Nov 13** 10am-5pm Maplewood Clubhouse, 8802 196th St. SW, Edmonds, WA
- Nov 18** 12pm-7pm **Springfield Oregon Thunderegg Club Show**
- Nov 19** 10am-7pm Willamalane Center for Sports and Recreation, 250 South 32nd St, Springfield, OR
- Nov 20** 11am-4pm
- Nov 19** 10am-5pm **Kitsap Mineral Gem Society Show**
- Nov 20** 10am-5pm Kitsap Co. Fairgrounds, President’s Hall, 1200 NW Fairgrounds Road, Bremerton, WA

See the **Northwest Newsletter** for additional show listings and times.  
Available online at: <http://www.amfed.org/nfms/newslet2.htm>



**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**