



East KingCo Rock Club

December 2010 Newsletter

OCTOBER MEETING

Location: Juanita Community Club
13027 - 100th Ave. NE, Kirkland, WA 98034

When: Friday, December 17, 2010. 7:00 p.m.

Junior/Adult Program: Potluck party! We will make trivets out of glass/rocks. We will also have an optional gift exchange. If you want to participate, bring a wrapped gift (handmade or about \$10 value, rock related in some way.) for each person in your party that wants to participate. If the gift is meant for kids write kid or Junior Geode on it. If it is meant for lady then write lady, etc. Setup at 6:30, the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

NEWS AND MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: NOVEMBER 19, 2010

The November meeting was held on November 19th @ 7:30 at Juanita Community Club. This was the yearly charity auction with all proceeds going toward the search and rescue in Kittitas County. We had the kids help set up the auction table at 7:00 when the kids meeting would normally take place. Everything that was up for consideration of the auction was set on the preliminary tables. Anyone that was interested in an item moved it to the final auction tables. This helped to ensure that each item up for auction had at least one interested party. This method worked well and helped get the auction off to a great start. We had lots of members and locals from the community attend, and seating was full.

We started with the kids preparing the auction and everyone checking out the items that they were going to bid on. Everyone mingled and enjoyed all of the food that was brought by the rock club. The auction started at 7:40 and the kids ran the auction, with everyone having a wonderful time. The kids had one person announce each item up for auction and another walked the item around for everyone to see. Bids were flying and everyone had lots of fun. There were lots of items to be bid on and time eventually ran out. At the end we had people come up and offers were made on the remaining auction items. Everyone went home with wonderful jewelry or rock specimens. We are all looking forward to the Christmas Party next month.

The meeting/auction adjourned approx. at 9:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Lewis, Secretary

MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

Club members are **encouraged** to send in photos and reports of recent activities and projects for the web site and newsletter!

MACRO-PHOTOGRAPHY STACKING: BRUCE KELLEY

When taking macro or microscope photos with high magnification, the depth of field (the range of distances from the camera that are in focus) is very small. This works fine for flat subjects like postage stamps or coins, but is a problem for mineral specimens with crystals sticking out in all directions! I've been experimenting with a program that takes multiple images, each taken at a slightly different distance from the lens, to produce images with a larger depth of field than would be possible with a single exposure.

I've always had trouble photographing this particular specimen of Pentagonite with Calcite and Stillbite from Wagholi Quarry, Poona, Maharashtra, India, because it requires about 5 mm of depth of field over 15 mm of field size. There's no lens that can get that all in focus at the same time.

For this example, I took 7 frames and moved the camera back slightly between each shot. Here are two of the single frames to show what they look like without the processing.



1) Focus on foreground (main subject is out of focus)



2) Focus on main crystal (foreground is out of focus)

Photo details for the geeky: 105 mm, f/2.8 macro lens (set at f/36) with 68 mm of extension tube. Seven shots with the camera moved .75 mm between. It was lit with 2 flashes from either side. CombineZP to align and automate the sharpest parts into the final and Lightroom to tweak sharpness, exposure and dust removal. (It's amazing how f/36 shows up the tiniest specs of dust on the camera sensor!) That long crystal in the center is about 4.5 mm long. CombineZP is free software available here: <http://www.hadleyweb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/CZP/Installation.htm>

You can see full-sized versions of these photos on my web site: http://brucekelley.com/macro_stacking.html

Here's the final version:



GLEANINGS: CONTENT FROM OTHER CLUBS

USING THE FLEX-SHAFT: PAM LOMBARDI, CANAVERAL MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY

The flex-shaft is one of the most useful and versatile tools to have in your shop. It's essential for drilling, carving, sanding, polishing, and engraving stone, metal, glass and even wood. Since the handpiece is a safe distance from the motor it can be water cooled. Stones and metal can get hot! Holding your work under water protects your fingers and can keep your stones from overheating and shattering.



The possibilities grow with optional attachments such as a drill press, milling table, hammer (a mini jack hammer!) for bending bezels, a mini wax lathe and many others. Just look in your jewelry supply catalog or website. The Allset Setting Guide System is a big help with cutting seats for pave', prong, cluster and channel settings. The most popular is made by Foredom. There are several motor choices available ranging from 1/10 hp to 1/3 hp, reversible or non. Reversible is preferred because it lets you back out of a hole and running in reverse tends to throw debris

away from you rather than into your face, but keep in mind that most fluted burrs and drill bits can only be run in the forward direction.

You will need way to control the motor. A foot pedal frees your hands to hold the hand piece and your work while varying the speed with your foot. I also use a dial control when I need a steady consistent speed. The most common hand piece is the Jacob's chuck type, just like your power drill has and uses a chuck key to open the jaws to accommodate drill bits and mandrels from 1/16 inch to 5/32 inch. Also available are quick-release, collet and others for special applications and dedicated usage.



You can get started with a few drill bits, an assortment of burs, some polishing and cutoff wheels. Choosing the right bur for your project can be a daunting task. The book "Making the Most of Your Flex-shaft" by Karen Christians is a wealth of information. It explains the many types and shapes of burs as well as alloys they come in and how to get the "best bang/buck ratio. For an excerpt from this book see: <http://www.ganoksin.com/borisat/nenam/flexshaftintroduction.htm>.

There are some excellent free online videos produced by Freedom, Inc. at this website: <http://www.freedom.net/flexshaftmaintenancevideos.aspx>.

Here you'll find: Introduction and Proper Set-up, Safety Guidelines, Handpieces and Accessories, Maintenance of Shafts & Sheaths, & Motor Maintenance.

Source: Canaveral Moonstone 5/2008, via SCRIBE.

EAST KINGCO CONTACT INFO

General Club Email: eastkingco@gmail.com
Newsletter and Web Site editor: Bruce Kelley, bruce.kelley@gmail.com
Club Website: www.eastkingco.org
Meetings: Our meetings are held the 3rd Friday of the month except July and August at:
Juanita Community Club
13027 - 100th Ave NE
Kirkland, WA 98034

UPCOMING SHOWS AND FIELD TRIPS

See www.mineralcouncil.org or the club website for more details.

SHOWS

- **February 26/27, 2011 – Everett Rock and Gem Club**
10 a.m. – 6(sat)/5(sun) pm
Washington National Guard Armory
2730 Oakes Ave.
Everett, WA
- **March 5/6, 2011 – East KingCo Rock Club**
10 a.m. – 6(sat)/5(sun) pm
Pickering Barn
1730 – 10th Ave. NW
Issaquah, WA