



# East KingCo Rock Club

## May 2011 Newsletter

### OCTOBER MEETING

- Location:** Juanita Community Club  
13027 - 100th Ave. NE, Kirkland, WA 98034
- When:** Friday, May 20, 2011. 7:00 p.m.
- Junior Program:** A craft project to make cabochon bugs. The adult meeting starts at 7:00.
- Regular Program:** Maureen will give a presentation on cabbings. The adult meeting starts at 7:30.

### NEWS AND MINUTES

#### BOARD MEETING MINUTES: MAY 1, 2011

May board Meeting – held on May 1st @ 7:30 at Norma & Kevin's house.

We started the meeting going over the topics for the upcoming meetings. The May program for Adults is to learn cabbings, led by Norma; this has since been changed and will be led by Maureen. We still needed to come up with a kid program, so we talked at length about many options. Norma had many ideas and showed us all different ways to figure out kids programs. This was very helpful and I think will make doing the kids program easier when we get stumped.

We decided to make bugs out of cabs, sticking with the cab theme. This will be a hands-on project for the kids, since lately most have been more instructional.

The rest of the months are the same as planned, except we now have a kids program for October. We decided on having the kids break open rocks for fossils. The club already has the material to do this.

- The June program for Adults will be Gold panning, led by Stan. The kid program will be led by Vance and he will be showing the kids how to make an electroscope.
- July & August we do not have club meetings, but we do have a 19 day dig in July, from the 1st to the 19th. The 19 day dig will be led by Norma & Kevin and they will be going to many dig sites in places like Wyoming, Utah and Colorado. If you are interested in coming along, talk to Norma and Kevin.
- September will be Rock club bingo as usual, this is a blast.
- The October adult meeting will be a surprise member bringing in a fabulous personal collection to show & tell. The kid program is breaking open round rocks that have fossils inside to discover the surprises.
- The November meeting is the charity auction for search and rescue.
- The December meeting is the Christmas party.

We had a raffle drawing for the members of the board for the first time as an incentive to keep people coming to the board meetings. We talked about calling one of the new members to let them know their email is not working.

We need to have the club vote on if we want to do a winter club rock sale. Also discussed was the need to have club members add articles to the newsletter. Every member not already donating time to the club on the board or on a committee, should take some time to do an article and email it in to Bruce to add to the newsletter. It can be an article with pictures or not, simple or elaborate. An experience they had rock digging or a love of rocks. They can research and do an article on what they learned, the ideas are endless.

The rest of the meeting was mainly used to discuss the new storage shed project. We talked about the size of the project and the amount of cement needed. The sidewalk is planned to be 5" deep x 4' x 45' and the square pad for the shed, 12' x 12', this has since changed to 12' x 14'.

We discussed the need to have a contract with Kevin Rust and the rock club, to protect both parties interest. We talked about work parties that will need to be held to get this project done and how to get members involved in the club.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Lewis  
Secretary

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: APRIL 15, 2011

April Meeting – held on April 15th @ 7:30 at Juanita Community Club.

The kids meeting started at 7:00 and they created crystal structures with cut and folded paper and rubber bands & glue. Lots of varieties of shapes were created such as Cubes, Pyramids, Octahedrons, etc.

The main meeting started out with door prizes being drawn and handed out. New members were announced and welcomed into the club. Birthdays were acknowledged and birthday bags were handed out to those members that were at the meeting.

Field trip reports were given and we discussed some interesting finds. Saddle Mountain had lots of great things and many took home some wonderful finds. There was a cautionary tale of scorpions that were discovered at this site and information regarding scorpions was passed out for members to be cautious but not fearful. The next field trip report was on Kalama which was successful as usual, and some new sites were scouted out for future digs. The last field trip discussed was the Cedar Ponds trip where lots of gorgeous jasper was found.

We had show-and-tell; many people brought things from some of these latest digs, they were beautiful.

The rest of the meeting consisted of Sharon demonstrating how to bronze and make molds for items to bronze. This was very interesting and Sharon had a lot of great information to share with all of us.

The meeting ended with the finalization of the raffles and auctions and the winners received their prizes.

We enjoyed snacks at the beginning and the end of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 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!

## SADDLE MOUNTAIN GEOLOGY: NORMA MCDONALD

Since we recently had a field trip to this location, I thought it would be nice to give some geologic background info to go with those pieces of wood we brought back.

About 15-20 million years ago (Miocene period), in the area near Vantage that we call Saddle mountain now, was a vast and lush forest with streams and rivers and lakes, hills and mountains. The area was kept lush by frequent rains coming from the Pacific that were not yet blocked by the Cascade mountain range – they hadn't formed yet.

Wood from the forest would enter the water systems as driftwood and get water soaked and sink to the bottom, where it would be protected from what was shortly to come... massive volcanic cracks that erupted to produce big lava flows. The lava and ash would cover the forests, and block or divert the rivers and streams; making new lakes where more wood would pile up and sink. Floods would come from the north bringing other wood floating down the waterways and add to wood at the bottom of the lakes and marshes. All this water logged and sunken plant material and logs were in better position to be preserved from the ravages of the lava flows. Then in between lava flows and eruptions there would be period of peace where the forest would regrow to get buried again and again by the repeated eruptions. This went on for about 10 million years eventually lava flows covered an area about 200,000 square miles and about 2 miles deep in some areas. The layers of wood are encased in this ash/lava flows and over time silica bearing water replaces the wood cells which keeps its look of wood and other minerals like iron, and manganese mixes in to make the wood have beautiful colors.

At the end of the Miocene period, the Cascades uplifted creating a mountain range that halted much of the Pacific rains from reaching the central region and changed the area to an arid, semi desert that we have today. Over time the Basalts have been stripped away by erosion, uplift and flooding exposing the layers of Petrified wood that we collected on our field trip.

More info about the Geology of the area can be found at the Ginkgo Petrified Forest Interpretive center in nearby Vantage, WA.

## MY HUNK OF OBSIDIAN EXPERIMENT: KRISTINE & BROOKE GNIOT

Obsidian is a passion of mine. I love to tumble it for two reasons:

1. It is soft and works quickly
2. I found a no-fail recipe that has never disappointed me! (Borax)

On March 18th, at mine and Brooke's first rock club meeting, Bruce walked up and said "Here, have a rock". He gave us a hunk of Mahogany Obsidian. I was very excited! Instead of slicing it up, I decided to tumble it whole. I



have a Lot-O vibe which is different than most vibes in the fact that it is a solid bowl instead of a doughnut shaped bowl. The manufacturer states that anything that can fit through the opening can be tumbled. I decided to try it out. Here's how it turned out:

← Rough rock that Bruce gave us.

I put it in the vibe in Graded #220 AO with 1 teaspoon of Borax and ceramics and ran it for two weeks, rinsing and recharging daily. The last couple of days I removed some ceramics and added obsidian cabs and slag glass. There were a



couple insignificant tiny chips left that I ignored because I noticed that some of the layers (next pictures) were too close to the surface and I didn't want to destroy them.

I then put it into 500 AO with 2 teaspoons of Borax and ran for 3 days. Rinsed and put it into 1000 AO with 2 teaspoons of Borax for 3 days. You know you are doing it right when the first 24 hours of 1000 hazes it up again. When 3 days of 1000 was done, I pulled the hunk. I never did move it to the polish bowl, it didn't need it. I could see my reflection in it and I was too worried that one of the layers would break.



Here is a picture of the top (Now it's the bottom. I originally thought that this was the best part of the rock; that is why the rough picture is of this side...)



Here is the bottom, er... now the top! When this rock was rough, this side was solid black and looked uneventful. I was wrong and surprised! Last picture is angled so you can see the layers. They almost look like sheets of paper.







Here is the Borax that I use (I can't explain this stuff, but I also use it for lapis, labradorite, slag, goldstone, and more...BTW this kills grass, plants, flowers etc..., be careful of disposal!!!)

Fun tumble! Thanks for letting me share it with you!

~Kristine & Brooke

## GLEANINGS: CONTENT FROM OTHER CLUBS

### GRANITES & SYENITES: THE STRATA DATA (THREE RIVERS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY)

[from a worksheet used in the Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society's Junior Meeting]

#### Review

What is a rock? A rock is a natural, solid, group of mineral grains, glasses, and/or organic solids. Let's make it simple: A rock is a lot of mineral pieces stuck together. We call these mineral pieces "grains." Rocks are named by the size of the grains, the kind of mineral, and how light or dark it looks. Rocks are divided into 3 groups according to how they form:

- 1) igneous (hot melted minerals)
- 2) sedimentary (layers of minerals)
- 3) metamorphic (pressure on minerals to change them to something else).

In igneous rocks, the grains are interlocking (like a puzzle).

One of the most familiar igneous rocks is:

#### Granite

Granite is formed out of at least three different minerals:

- always QUARTZ
- always FELDSPAR (usually ORTHOCLASE)
- always a dark mineral (usually BIOTITE MICA and/or HORNBLENDE)

It can have more than one kind of feldspar in it, or have other minerals, too. But it has to have QUARTZ, FELDSPAR, and dark minerals like BIOTITE MICA or HORNBLENDE. Usually it is light colored. You can also see the mineral grains just by looking carefully.



It also has to have a certain amount of each of them. The recipe for GRANITE is:

- 27% or more Quartz
- 3-10% dark mineral
- 63-70% Feldspar and other minerals

**What happens if granite has less than 27% quartz?** Then the rock is called:

## Syenite

Syenite has about the same recipe as granite except less Quartz and more of the other minerals. It has 10% or less quartz. If it has little or no Quartz at all, it will have the mineral NEPHELINE. Nepheline forms only when there is very little silica (needed for Quartz). Then it is called NEPHELINE SYENITE.

Nepheline Syenite has Nepheline, Feldspar, and dark minerals like Biotite Mica. But it also may have AEGERINE - a dark mineral and SODALITE (a blue mineral) that only form where there is little or no quartz.

## Questions

1. What 3 minerals or kind of mineral must be present for a rock to be called Granite?
2. What is the main difference between Granite and Syenite?

Michele Yamanaka for *The Strata Data, Bulletin of the Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society of Fort Wayne IN, 2/2005*, via Scribe.

## EAST KINGCO CONTACT INFO

<b>General Club Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:eastkingco@gmail.com">eastkingco@gmail.com</a>
<b>Newsletter and Web Site editor:</b>	Bruce Kelley, <a href="mailto:bruce.kelley@gmail.com">bruce.kelley@gmail.com</a>
<b>Club Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.eastkingco.org">www.eastkingco.org</a>
<b>Meetings:</b>	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](http://www.mineralcouncil.org) or the club website for more.

## SHOWS

- **May 21, 2011 – Seattle Mineral Market**  
10:00 am – 6:00 pm  
Lake City Community Center  
12531 – 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Lake City, WA  
<http://www.cannonmicroprobe.com/test.htm>
- **June 3-5, 2011 – Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club**  
Fri: Noon – 5:00 pm, Sat: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Sun: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Fruitland Grange  
11102 86th Ave. E. (112th St & 86th Ave. E)  
Puyallup, WA

## FIELD TRIPS

- **July 16, 2011 – Lake Wenatchee area**  
Garnets, Actinolite, Soapstone/Talc  
Sponsor: Mount Baker Rock Club