

# Rock-It



## July 2002 Officers

President.....Patty Amos  
Vice President.....Steve Nelson  
Secretary.....Edna Nelson  
Treasurer.....Dick Parks

Federation Director.....  
Board Member.....  
Board Member.....  
Past President.....Alva Richardson

## Committee Chairpersons 2002

Show Co Chairman.....Steve Armstrong  
Show Co Chairman.....Patty Amos  
Registration.....Adele Casad & Laura Berry  
Sunshine \*\*\*\*\*254-2621\*\*\*\* Leona Conwell  
Juniors.....  
Refreshments.....Lenora Smith  
Club Historian.....Esther Lively  
Librarian.....Steve Armstrong & Joe Holas  
Program.....You got one see Patty  
Display Table.....Ken Thomas  
Lapidary Shop.....Steve Armstrong  
Membership....Velna Dunn .....360-573-2769  
6815 NE 137th Street Vancouver, WA 98686

Regional Advisor.....Randall Vessels  
Regional Advisor.....Jim Young  
Regional Advisor Alternate.....  
Greeter.....Keene Clay  
Regional Trip Coordinator.....Terry Ensell  
Weeklong Trip.....Keene Clay & Tim Fisher  
Club Publicity.....Keene Clay  
Oregon Council Rep.....Lenora Smith  
Oregon Council Rep.....Betty Bohall  
Oregon Council Rep.....Troy Smith  
Traveling Cases.....Helpers Wanted  
Custodian.....Randall Vessels  
Editor .....Victoria Vessels  
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The "ROCK-IT" is the official club Publication of the Mt. Hood Rock Club. The news deadline is the Monday before the first regular meeting of the month, for that month's publication. The contents of the "ROCK-IT" may be reprinted if credit is given to the "ROCK-IT" and the author.

MT. HOOD ROCK CLUB meets the second Tuesday and the fourth Monday of each month. Meetings are held in the basement of the United Methodist Church in Gresham. The Church is located at 8th and Norman. Regular meetings start at 7:00pm. Juniors are welcome!!

CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL Rock Room is open October - May Wednesday Nights 7-9pm Non members & members. Thursday nights 7-9pm Members only. \$2.00 Fee covers Saw & Polishers, Instructors. Jewelry Classes October to April Wed nights. School is located off of 181st between Division & Powell.

MT Hood Rock Club PHONE NUMBER 503-760-1825  
<http://www.geocities.com/mounthoodrockclub/>

## Learn More About Oregon's Geology

Rock hound resources provided by  
Department of Geology and Mineral Resources

Eagle Rock off Ore. Hwy. 380 (Post-Paulina Hwy.), 15 miles southeast of Prineville • (541) 447-6304 - Although this site has a reputation for difficult digging because of the rough terrain, rockhounds who search the base of the rimrock area may be rewarded with fine specimens of dendrites and agates.

Green Jasper off U.S. Hwy. 26, 30 miles northeast of Prineville • (541) 447-6304 - As its name implies, green jasper is what you'll find here, but it is scarce. You'll have to work for your prizes.

Limb Cast Area off Ore. Hwy. 380 (Post-Paulina Hwy.), 65 miles southeast of Prineville • (541) 447-6304 - Limb casts tinged in white, green and pink draw rockhounds to this area, which includes a total of seven different mining sites.

Maury Mountain off Ore. Hwy. 380 (Post-Paulina Hwy.), 40 miles southeast of Prineville • (541) 416-6500 - There are four separate public mining claims in this area, which is known for its yellow, green and moss agates.

More resources will be published for everyone's digging pleasure in next month's issue of Rock-It.

## Putting an emergency kit together

(information supplied by the American Red Cross and FEMA)

In putting an emergency or disaster kit together, there are six basics you should stock for your home: water, food, first aid supplies, clothing and bedding, tools and emergency supplies, and special items. If you have camping gear, you're already on your way to having an emergency kit.

Keep the items that you would most likely need during an evacuation in an easy-to carry container--suggested items are marked with an asterisk(\*).

Possible containers for a home kit include a large, covered trash container, a camping backpack, or a duffle bag.

For a portable kit, use a daypack or duffle with shoulder strap. Keep an extra kit in your car.

Water:

\*Store water in plastic containers such as soft drink bottles. Avoid using containers that will decompose

or break, such as milk cartons or glass bottles. A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water each day. Hot environments and intense physical activity can double that amount. Children and Seniors will need more.

\* Store one gallon of water per person per day.

\* Keep at least a three-day supply of water per person (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for each person in your household for food preparation/sanitation).\*

Food

\* Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking, and little or no water. If you must heat food, pack a can of sterno. Select food items that are compact and lightweight. Include a selection of the following foods in your Disaster Supplies Kit:

- \* Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, and vegetables
- \* Canned juices
- \* Staples (salt, sugar, pepper, spices, etc.)
- \* High energy foods
- \* Vitamins
- \* Food for infants

- \* Comfort/stress foods

#### First Aid Kit

Assemble a first aid kit for your home and one for each car.

- \* Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
- \* Assorted sizes of safety pins
- \* Cleansing agent/soap
- \* Latex gloves (2 pairs)
- \* Sunscreen
- \* 2-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
- \* 4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
- \* Triangular bandages (3)
- \* Non-prescription drugs
- \* 2-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- \* 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- \* Scissors
- \* Tweezers
- \* Needle
- \* Moistened towelettes
- \* Antiseptic
- \* Thermometer
- \* Tongue blades (2)
- \* Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant

#### Non-Prescription Drugs

- \* Aspirin or nonaspirin pain reliever
- \* Anti-diarrhea medication
- \* Antacid (for stomach upset)
- \* Syrup of Ipecac (use to induce vomiting if advised by the Poison Control Center)
- \* Laxative
- \* Activated charcoal (use if advised by the Poison Control Center)

#### Tools and Supplies

- \* Mess kits, or paper cups, plates, and plastic utensils\*
- \* Emergency preparedness manual\*
- \* Battery-operated radio and extra batteries\*
- \* Flashlight and extra batteries\*

- \* Cash or traveler's checks, change\*
- \* Non-electric can opener, utility knife\*
- \* Fire extinguisher: small canister ABC type
- \* Tube tent or camping/backpack tent
- \* Pliers
- \* Tape
- \* Compass
- \* Matches in a waterproof container
- \* Aluminum foil
- \* Plastic storage containers
- \* Signal flare
- \* Paper, pencil
- \* Needles, thread
- \* Medicine dropper
- \* Shut-off wrench, to turn off household gas and water
- \* Whistle
- \* Plastic sheeting
- \* Map of the area (for locating shelters)

#### Sanitation

- \* Toilet paper, towelettes\*
- \* Soap, liquid detergent\*
- \* Feminine supplies\*
- \* Personal hygiene items\*
- \* Plastic garbage bags, ties (for personal sanitation uses)
- \* Plastic bucket with tight lid
- \* Disinfectant
- \* Household chlorine bleach

#### Special Items

- \* Remember family members with special requirements, such as infants and elderly or disabled persons
- \* Store your kit in a convenient place known to all family members. Keep a smaller version of the supplies kit in the trunk of your car.
- \* Ask your physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications.

Please be safe this summer season while out on digs and outings.

# MEMBER EXCHANGE & OTHER NEWS

## **Tubling Obsidian** (untested)

To avoid fracturing obsidian in the tumbler, use finely shredded plastic foam. The pieces should be the size of the rocks or slightly smaller, as large pieces show down the cutting action. Arizona Apache tears can be tumble-polished to a brilliant luster with cerium oxide mixed with dry cornmeal. Three or four days should do the trick. (Re-printed from July 2002 issue of Northwest Newsletter, a publication of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies.)

## **Variations in Basic Tumbling** (compiled and submitted by Randall Vessels)

I hope you will find the following information helpful. There are generally three different formulas or methods or what have you. The amounts of grit and so forth are for a 12 lbs. barrel. You will need to adjust the amounts of grit if your tumbler is larger or smaller.

### Method 1. Step 1.

Put about 10 lbs. of rock into the barrel with as many plastic buffer beads (plastic BBs) as it takes to fill the barrel to about two inches from the top this helps to keep the rocks from scratching each other while they tumble.

Add about 1 lb. of 60/90 grit and enough water to bring the total volume up to about 3/4 to 4/5 full. (A small butter tub is about a pound of grit.) The slurry mix creates foaming due to the tumbling action so don't overfill. Tumble this for 4 to 5 weeks with no interference. The grit breaks down to successively finer stages as it tumbles.

Next, drain and wash everything thoroughly.

### Method 1. Step 2.

The next stage is a pre-polish stage, you can use any good pre-polish, Tripoli, Aluminum oxide, or, a popular favorite, (its VERY inexpensive and I tumble a LOT of material) is diatomaceous earth. Again, 1 lb. of grit for 10 lbs. of rock and add water to the desired volume level. (change plastic BBs, rinse and reuse). Tumble for one week.

### ALL 3 methods.

The following is the same for all three methods:

Polish for a week using Optical Cerium polish. Unlike the grinding and pre-polish stages, your polish slurry can be saved and reused. (Optical Cerium is a bit pricey.)

Wash and rinse.

### ALL 3 Methods. Final Step.

After this is the High Gloss Wash stage (this is the final polish) ... rinse everything (rocks and barrel) then tumble with the following mixture for a week. One cup sugar and two or three tablespoons of non-sudsing dishwasher detergent (cascade works for me) this works out to a little less than a butter dish of detergent/sugar. Add a teaspoon of muratic acid (do NOT use a metal spoon. Let stand for a couple of minutes then tumble for a week. This results in a very high gloss finish on almost anything.

### Method 2.

Method two is similar. (I haven't actually tried it because I think the first method is easier, but that's what works best for me.) The members in the club that tried this method says it works for them.

The following excerpt is from the October 2001 issue of Rock-It as per special request from club members. The author of the article is Al Nutlile and it was originally published in Rock and Arrowhead Club's Aug. – Sept. 2001 issue of Dusty Rocks. Rock and Arrowhead Club is located in Klamath Falls, OR.

We know some will argue against our method, but here goes. Don't wash your stones at all after each week of tumbling with grit. Start with #50 grit. Tumble a week. Then DO NOT EMPTY THE TUMBLER. Add 5 teaspoons of new grit (one step finer) to the mixture in a three-pound tumbler. Follow this procedure through #190, #320 and #600 grit. Now finally, thoroughly wash the stones and tumbler before final polish.

For a really glossy finish, after washing out the polishing powder, add three spoons of sugar and one level spoon of Cascade or All or any non-sudsing detergent and about 10 drops of muratic acid. Let stand one minute – close tub and tumble for a week. We have run 11 tubs using this method and found that even ordinary sandstone comes out highly glossed. Except for the extra final steps, you save three washes and getting rid of the slur each time. Saves time, work, mess and still gets a better polish.

### Method 3.

This is not a very popular method for our club members, but it is good practice for beginners to see what would work for them. I started out using this method and, at that time, it served my purposes.

Start with the appropriate amount of 60/90.. tumble a week.

Drain /rinse/wash.

Then 190 grit...tumble a week.

Drain/rinse/wash.

Then 300 or 320 grit... tumble a week.

Drain/rinse/wash.

Then 600 grit..tumble a week.

Drain/rinse/wash.

Polish as above.

This method WILL work.... but its a LOT of extra work....(all that washing and such..) the up side to this one is you get to observe the process at every stage of the way.....(kind of nice for the kids...or to see once...)

As each and everyone of us have different styles and types of tumblers, it would not be a bad idea to try each method and see what works best for each of our needs. I have found some materials tumble better using one method over another.

# HAPPENINGS IN JULY & AUGUST

- July 9 Regular Meeting
- July 12-14 California Federation Show. Placerville, CA.
- July 17-21 American Federation/Northwest Federation Show. Port Townsend, WA. For more information, contact Chairman Bob Salhi at 3030 Center Road, Chimacum, WA 98325 or call (360) 732-4678.
- July 19, 21,29 Rock Swap and Camp-Out. Hosted by Klamath Rock and Arrowhead Club in cooperation with Roxy Ann Gem and Mineral Society. Contact Marvin Stump (541) 882-8341 or Garwin Carlson (541) 882-8276 for further details.
- July 20 Maplewood fossil hunt (NW Federation Show) Whiskey Creek Beach, PO Box 130, Joyce, WA 98343. Camping available by reservation. Contact Marcy Kleckner at (425) 481-7448.
- July 22 Regular Meeting – **CANCELLED**
- July 22-28 Mount Hood Rock Club trip to Kamloops area, Canada. Contact Dick Parks at (360) 892-3716 for more information.
- August 2-4 Spencer Opal. Spencer, Idaho. Contact Jim Scheirbeck (503) 284-4544. Need 20 people to commit for this to be a club-sponsored trip.
- August 17-18 Deer Creek, WA. Sponsored by Longview Rock Club. Call Emmett Johnson (360) 636-3497 or Jim Schrader (360) 274-8984 for more information.
- August 30-Sept. 1 “Quants Claims”. Prineville, OR. Sponsored by Clackamet Rock Club. Contact Norm Coker (503) 777-0932 for more information.

*Keep in mind when you are out digging this summer:*

**WE NEED CLUB ROCK FOR NEXT YEAR’S CLUB SHOW!!!**

We had a record-breaking year at this year’s show, let’s break it next year!!!