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IRIS (RAINBOW) AGATE

Iris agate exhibits a rainbow of colors when a thin slice is polished and it has a bright light behind it. You may have iris agate and not know it because it isn’t sliced thin enough or polished (it can be checked before polishing by wetting both sides with water or oil and looking through it). Most iris agates only have a thin band of iris, but some rare iris agates have a spectacular wide band of color.

Many people are confused by the difference between turtleback agate and iris agate. This could be because some iris also exhibits the turtleback structure. Some turtleback agate is quite beautiful, but if it does not contain the right internal structure to be iris agate it is nothing more than turtleback. To the left is a photo of turtleback agate that is not iris agate.

Below are several photos of outstanding iris agate:

For a more scientific discussion on iris agate, see the paper by Francis T. Jones of Berkley California. It was issued in volume 37, 1952 of American Mineralogist. This paper may be viewed at http://www.minsocam.org/msa/collectors_corner/arc/iris.htm

Above, an iris agate (also has turtleback structure) found in central OR by C. R. Price, Olympia.

Above, an iris agate of unknown origin without the usual crystal center.

KMGS annual picnic to be held in July

The KMGS annual picnic in Raab Park in Poulsbo, will be Saturday July 11th from 12 AM to 4 PM, so we will not have our “regular” Friday night meeting for this month. See page 2 for more picnic details. Also, as in the past, there will be no meeting (or newsletter) in August due to the KMGS involvement in the Kitsap County Fair.
July Birthstone - Ruby

A ruby is a pink to blood-red colored gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum (aluminum oxide). The red color is caused mainly by the presence of the element chromium. The ruby is considered one of the four precious stones, together with the sapphire, the emerald and the diamond. Rubies arouse the senses, stir the imagination, and are said to guarantee health, wisdom, wealth and success in love. Ruby is a variety of the gems species corundum. It is harder than any natural gemstone except diamond, which means a ruby is durable enough for everyday wear. Fine-quality ruby is extremely rare, and the color of the gem is most important to its value. The most prized color is a medium or medium dark vivid red or slightly purplish red. If the gem is too light or has too much purple or orange, it will be called a fancy-color sapphire. See more at: http://www.americangemsociety.org/july-birthstone

August Birthstones—Peridot & Sardonyx

Two birthstones are available for August birthdays: Peridot and Sardonyx. Peridot is said to host magical powers and healing properties to protect against nightmares and to bring the wearer power, influence, and a wonderful year. As peridot is a gemstone that forms deep inside the Earth and brought to the surface by volcanoes, in Hawaii, peridot symbolizes the tears of Pele, the goddess of fire and volcanoes. Today, most of the peridot supply comes from Arizona; other sources are China, Myanmar, and Pakistan. This gemstone comes in several color variations ranging from yellowish green to brown, but most consumers are attracted to the bright lime greens and olive greens. Peridot, in smaller sizes, often is used in beaded necklaces and bracelets. Sardonyx is a form of onyx and is recognized by its layers of reddish brown and white banding. It was popular with the ancient Greeks and Romans who carried into battle talismans of sardonyx engraved with images of heroes such as Mars or Hercules, believing that this would bring courage and victory. Because of its attractive banding, sardonyx has long been used to fashion cameos (carved raised figures) and intaglios (the reverse of cameos). This gemstone is found throughout the world. The most attractive specimens are found in India, but material also is mined in Czechoslovakia, Brazil, Uruguay, Germany, and in the United States. See page 5 for more information on sardonyx.
June 2015 KMGS meeting minutes

(Thanks to Pat Jolly for jotting down the first few lines for me, as I was running late.)

The meeting was called to order by Bryan, there are no guests this meeting. Bryan gave an update about Leslie, who is now at a facility on Pottery Avenue in Port Orchard.

Volunteers are still needed for the fair, so please contact Doug Leider and help out! It is always appreciated and always a great way to get the word out about our club.

Bryan moves us right into show and tell, his favorite part of the night. Wilma Eads has some neat examples for her talk tonight about her trip to Israel. Gordy Eslava brought some nice fire agate and Ellensburg blue that he has recently cut. There is a piece that took 25 hours to grind and it is beautiful! He has some bits to show as well that he uses to carve and shape stones on his new machine. Pat Jolly has been to Israel, and she brought a necklace as an example of “King Solomon’s Stone” which resembles chrysocolla or a mixture of other greenish blue minerals. Vangie brought some thunder eggs which include a chalcedony egg and they are all from Richardson’s Ranch at the blue bed. She has made a night-light out of a slice from a thunder egg which looks very pretty when lit. Connie Miller brought some Richardson’s Ranch thunder eggs which resemble a crab, and one that resembles a great white shark that she purchased! Garry Mahan has a Lucky Strike thunder egg that Terry Iversen had collected and given to Nancy as a gift with some interesting orange coloring in it. He has another thunder egg with really nice banding. Pat Fagan brought some things he’s been working on. He does some nice jewelry, wire wrapping, and beading. He has a cute bumble bee agate that resembles a bumble bee. Dean Cooper has some Priday thunder egg that is really pretty with nicely colored plumes. He has a lovely geode with a “diamond” inside! Dean has an interesting story about his father’s claim and a barium stone which is ground down into a powder that is used for medical purposes. His father owned the claim and sold it to a company that mined the barium. Tony has Richardson’s Ranch thunder eggs, and also some from Montana that are really nice. He has some great examples he got last year from the red beds at Richardson’s, and he just returned from a quick trip there. Jaden, a junior, has some obsidian and petrified wood to show, and a quartz crystal that he made into a necklace and some other great treasures! Nice shares! Eric Foss has our finds from Crystal Mountain on last month’s field trip. There is red jasper agate, moss agate, and blue agate with nice banding. Our second trip was to Teanaway where we found jade and jasper in nice dark greens and various shades up to white.

Our program tonight is by Wilma Eads (see photos on next page). She was given a trip to Israel for 13 days and took 1281 photos! She is showing us mainly the rocks tonight. There are many comparisons to rocks in the bible. Wilma has beautiful photos of rocks she saw while on her trip. Many with carvings, photos of rocks around the Dead Sea, and the natural pillar named “Lots Wife” on the shore. There is a lot of salt on the shores of the Dead Sea you can see from the photos. She rode a cable car up the mountain where Roman encampments were visible below. There are archeological digs being excavated such as Beit She’an, a large city with beautifully carved columns and a mall, and even stone plumbing. Peter’s house in Capernaum has pots in the kitchen, and there are carvings on the stone floors. Megiddo is another famous dig site, complete with a “Wilma” stone, which is actually a very large mill stone. There are stones everywhere! There are many wonderful photos of Jerusalem and Golgotha, and Petra. Petra is entirely sandstone, and there are many amazing tombs that have been carved right into the canyon walls like the famous Treasury. Thanks Wilma for a great program full of great photos and very interesting information!

Break time, then there are a few brief announcements. The next business meeting will be Thursday, June 18th. The goal is to discuss the July picnic details. We hope to see you there! The next general meeting will not be until September 17th. Pat Jolly announces that the results of the auction were successful and plenty of funds went to the scholarship. The Hard Rock Beaders will be meeting for a Bead Exchange. Wednesday, June 17th at 6:30 at the Vantage Apartments in Silverdale. Arrive between 6:00-6:30 at the middle entrance when someone will be there to let folks in. Come to exchange beads and supplies and enjoy a good time!

It was a great general meeting as usual, so that’s all for now! Hope to see you at the picnic!

Your Secretary,

Danielle Foss
June program photos

Wilma giving presentation on Israel

June board meeting minutes

The business meeting was held on June 18th and began at 7pm. Several board members and committee chairpersons were in attendance to discuss the latest club business. Please feel free to attend these meetings, as all members are welcome and encouraged to attend. The business meetings are on the following Thursday after the General meeting, and begin at 7pm, so be sure to join in the discussions and feel free to bring some show and tell just for fun.

The main topic for this meeting was about making final arrangements for the July picnic. The club will provide burgers, hotdogs, and condiments, so please bring a tasty side dish or dessert! The group also discussed revisiting purchasing pins, hats, and shirts, and miscellaneous items with the club logo again if there's enough interest from the club. There are still some folks that would like to step down from some long-held chair positions such as the scholarships committee, club website, and club historian, and a new Vice President will be needed next year as well. Please consider donating just a little bit of your time to help the club out in this way. Scholarship recipients have been chosen and action will be taken soon to award them. There will be some discussion in the near future about a survey in order to gather data to report to the mineral council about rock hounding. This survey is to show that our hobby is still active and that there are still a large number of folks out there collecting on public lands. It is my understanding that this information will be reported to the state of Washington at some point to help lobby for the hobby, so be sure to fill out the information when it comes around! There will be more information to come, but that's all for now.

Your Secretary,

Danielle Foss

How we will play the 50-50 raffle game at our July picnic

You get a string of tickets equal in length to your height for $5. You split the tickets so you have matching numbers in “the hat” with what you have in your hand. Only one ticket is drawn. If you have the winning ticket you get half of the money that was taken in and the club gets the other half.
2015 Kitsap County Fair

Thanks to all of you who have signed up for watches, display cases and other duties at this year's Fair August 26th through 30th!

Tickets and parking passes will be sent to you as soon as I receive them from the Fair folks.

I do still need 6 more display cases (Juniors are encouraged to take part!).

I also need watch-standers for:
Friday, Aug. 28th from 6 to 8
Saturday, Aug. 29th from 6 to 8 p.m. and from 8 to 10 p.m.

Demonstrators (beading, wire wrapping, flint knapping, cabbing, faceting etc.) are also needed - passes will be provided to you.

Please call Doug if you'd like a chance to display or volunteer:
Home - 360-627-8142
Cell - 360-551-6921

Thanks again, and we'll see you at the Fair!!

Doug Leider
Fair Chairman for KMGS

What is sardonyx?

You may have noticed on page 2 that sardonyx is one of the August birthstones. Sardonyx is, according to the Free Dictionary; an onyx composed of layers of sard and chalcedony of another color, usu. white: used as a gem and to make cameos. So then you say, “What is sard?” Sard is, according to the Free Dictionary; A clear or translucent, deep orange-red to brownish-red variety of chalcedony.

According to Wikipedia, Onyx is formed of bands of chalcedony in alternating colors. It is cryptocrystalline, consisting of fine intergrowths of the silica minerals quartz and moganite. Its bands are parallel to one another, as opposed to the more chaotic banding that often occurs in agates. **Sardonyx** is a variant in which the colored bands are sard (shades of red) rather than black. Black onyx is perhaps the most famous variety, but is not as common as onyx with colored bands. Artificial treatments have been used since ancient times to produce both the black color in “black onyx” and the reds and yellows in sardonyx. Most “black onyx” on the market is artificially colored.

Club Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/KitsapMineralandgemssociety

Club website: kmgs.org
Hello Kitsap Mineral and Gem Society Juniors!! Summer is officially here and that means that there will be chances for rockhounding adventures with your family! Check out the Mineral Council Fieldtrip schedule and plan to go to one or two in the months ahead! [https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/](https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/) click on WSMC Wagonmaster Fieldtrips. There may also be some fieldtrips scheduled through KMGS to take advantage of. We will be waiting to see what you bring back at the September meeting display table.

We have the annual picnic potluck coming up on July 11th. We hope to see you there! We will have some games to play with some prizes, along with some pretty terrific potluck food to eat! Check out the article in this newsletter about the picnic.

I think Mr. Leider (360) 551-6921 dougsrocks1@hotmail.com) may want to fill some more cases at the Kitsap County Fair August 26-30th (KMGS Booth). It is a great time to learn about showing off your collection in a case. We need our Juniors to fill more cases at the Fair and at our Show coming up in November.

At our September Junior's meeting we will be working on a cool craft that features rocks that you can find in Washington State.

See you soon!

Kathy Reimers, Bobbie Sack and Jill Wetzel - Juniors Leaders

Rockhounding in Oregon

Several members of KMGS met up with C. R. (Richard) Price of the Olympia club for some fun rockhounding in central Oregon. Some photos of this trip are shown below:

L to R: (1) & (2) Ochoco wildflowers, (3) Tube agate, (4) more Ochoco wildflowers

Eric, Danielle, Shea and Ava in Post OR on the way to Maury Mt.
Rockhounding in Oregon (continued)

On this page:

Top L to R: (1) Danielle checking wild flowers, (2) Nancy, Danielle & Eric @ Maury Mt., (3) Ava, Shea & Garry at tube agate site.

Middle L to R: (1) Ochoco wild flowers, (2) Eric @ tube agate site, (3) Ochoco wild flowers.

Bottom L: (upper) limb sections, (lower) Ochoco lace agate.

Bottom R: Holly gets a Rokon ride on a very hot day. Danielle balances pack on Rokon behind Garry. (Note: Holly is a little amputee pet & really seemed to appreciate the ride.)
**Note to KMGS members:** Our club is a member of the Washington State Mineral Council. As such, we are entitled to participate in any of the WSMC-sanctioned field trips. See the WSMC website at https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/

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**Field Trip Info**

Because of all the Weyerhaeuser land closures to rockhounds and the **current high fire danger**, many of the commonly frequented areas in the Pacific NW will be closed through the summer. Following are the planned 2015 KMGS field trips for July, August & September:

- **July 5th** Clallam Bay with David Carlson to meet at McDonalds in Poulsbo on Viking Way 4:30am. David’s number 360-824-1009 for other details or information.
- **August** (date TBD) Teanaway with Eric & Danielle Foss. Their number 360-621-5603 for further information.
- **September** (date TBD) Crystal Mountain with Gordon Eslava. His number is 360-621-2233 for any information or other possible short day trips.

John Hubbard 360-731-7899 is still available willing to take people out on trips just call to establish date, time, and location when he has an open weekend.

*Tony Schackmann*

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**KMGS 2015 CHAIRPERSONS**

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<td>Kathy Reimers, Bobbie Sack, Jill Wetzel</td>
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<td>Glenda Moore</td>
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Please contact the editor for any changes or corrections to this table.
Brad Smith’s Bench Tips for July

SOLDERING PRONGS

I often use prongs to hold an irregular cab or other object on rings and pendants. But prongs can be a little tricky to solder. You have to find some way to hold them all upright while soldering, and the simple butt joint that looks strong sometimes breaks when you start to bend the prong over the stone. There's nothing worse than having a prong break off when you're setting the stone *#~*!

I solved both problems with one little trick. It holds the prongs in position while soldering and it gives you a stronger joint at the same time.

Locate and center punch the position for each prong. Then drill holes a little smaller than your prong wire. Sand a small taper on the ends of your prong wires and stand them up in the holes. The wires support themselves, soldering is easy, and the joint is stronger because of the increased soldering area.

TWISTING WIRE

Twisting wire can be done with an old hand drill but goes much faster with a power tool. My preference is to use a screw gun, although a Foredom should do well.

Just make a little hook out of coat hanger wire (or use a screw-in cup hook) and chuck it up in your screw gun. Grip the free ends of the wire in a vice and slip the looped end onto your hook. Keep a little tension on the wires as you twist.

Note that a power drill is too fast a tool for this unless you have one with variable speed.

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon.com

Quick Quiz:
When is the KMGS Picnic, and where is it going to be held?
(Answers are somewhere in the newsletter.)
Send answer to kmgs@wavecable.com
"The Hard Rock News" is the Official Publication of the Kitsap Mineral and Gem Society. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the second Friday of most months at Chico Alliance Church Daycare (entrance in the back). Address: 3670 Chico Way NW, Bremerton, Washington.

The object of the Society is to provide a general dissemination of knowledge pertaining to the earth sciences; to sponsor regular meetings and field trips for the benefit of the membership and to be helpful along these general lines to one another. The Society is social and educational in character.

Looking Forward to July and Beyond... Update Your Home Calendars!

- The KMGS annual picnic in Raab Park in Poulsbo, will be Saturday July 11th from 12 AM to 4 PM.
- KMGS will participate in the 2015 Kitsap County Fair, August 26th through the 30th. (Set-up August 24th; Take-down August 31st.)
- The KMGS Fall Festival of Gems will be held November 21st and 22nd, 2015.

Editor Contact Information: Garry Mahan
kmgs@wavecable.com Phone: (360) 871-2815
Deadline for the September, 2015 Newsletter is August 25th, 2015

Feel free to contact me if you want to put an announcement in the newsletter. Please see the deadline for articles noted at the left.

gm