



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

June, 2004

## Rockin' at Paulina

- by Bill Jacobi

Paulina marks the first WAMS field trip of the season. Paulina is located just southeast of Post, the center of Oregon. The hills and buttes surrounding the south fork of the Crooked River are the vast collecting area with some private land. It is here the prized Paulina Limb Cast can be found.

There was a good turn out for the field trip. I counted twenty-two WAMS members, most arriving Friday. Barry and Denice Ward with their two granddaughters arrived in the wee hours Saturday with the others arriving later. We brought our friend, Tracy Tracy, as a guest (yes, that is really her name, not a typo).

Ted Silver, Joe VanCura, Barry Ward, and some others at times, dug in a hole that Chris Wissinger had dug some huge limb cast out of during the winter. They found some nice small limb casts. Everyone else roamed the hills, buttes, ridges and ravines looking for limb casts. I think everyone found some nice small casts and nice small pieces of petrified wood.

Barry and Denice Ward brought material and built an outhouse. All club members were very grateful. Thanks, Barry and Denice!

The weather was great Friday. Saturday's afternoon rain provided a chance for everyone to take a break. Jim and Kathy Bennett had a big shelter where everyone hung out there during the rain and had a pot luck dinner that evening. We had a campfire each evening where most gathered to get warm and share the days findings. Spirits were high; everyone found some material.

Sunday some members left early, some went back out looking for limb casts, and a few stayed another day. I believe everyone had a good time in Paulina!



Jim and Kathy Bennett hosting a WAMS tent party

**NOTE: GENERAL MEETINGS WILL NOW BEGIN AT 6:30 P.M.**

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The Willamette Agate and Mineral Society, Inc. (WAMS) is a nonprofit organization and an Oregon Corporation, founded November, 1947. WAMS is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS), the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS), the Oregon Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs, the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), and the Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors (S.C.R.I.B.E.).

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Salem Senior Center, 1055 Erixon Street NE, in Salem, Oregon. Executive Board meetings are held with upcoming meetings announced at the general meeting, and all members are invited to attend.

WAMS was organized to stimulate interest in the study and collection of agates, minerals, gems, and fossils, and support lapidary work, education, scientific study of natural earth sciences, and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section #501(C)(3) IRS.

**WAMS Membership**

Membership fees are due by December 31st for the following year. Potential new members are encouraged to attend three meetings as a guest and complete an application form. Members will then vote to accept the new member. Members joining WAMS between the first of the year and October pay the full amount for that year. After October, full payment is due in December for the following year.

**Membership Dues:**

- Individual: \$12.00
- Couple: \$18.00
- Juniors: \$ 2.50

Guests are welcome and are encouraged to attend WAMS meetings!

**Website:** [www.wamsi.org](http://www.wamsi.org)

**2004 Elected Officers**

- President: Aaron Currier 503-393-2055
- Vice President: Kit Leshk 503-393-9102
- Secretary: Chuck Hunt 503-304-3886
- Treasurer: Linda Groah 503-873-6930
- Federation Director: Susan Robertson 503-363-9678
- Members at Large: Don Miller 503-585-5443  
Tom Robertson 503-363-9678  
Ray Plummer 503-361-7466  
Chris Wissinger 503-304-9400
- Board Chair: Jim Bennett 503-363-4974

**2004 Committee Chairs**

- Show Chair: Bob Harrison 503-364-2288
- Field Trips: Rob Leedy 503-371-6421  
Joe VanCura 541-753-2401  
Janine Owens 503-315-5751
- Bulletin Editor: **Volunteer needed**
- Education: Jennifer Ferrell 503-581-6970
- Juniors: Archie Jahnke 503-566-7507
- Nameplates: Dan Groah 503-873-6930
- Oregon Council: Ted Silver 503-585-2559
- Rules and Awards: **Volunteer Needed**
- Programs: Theresa Byrne 503-364-7190
- Property Control: Jodee Leshk 503-393-9102
- Public Relations: Susan Appleby 503-391-4221
- Advertising: Chris Wissinger 503-304-9400
- Publications: Bob Harrison 503-364-2288
- Scrapbook/Historian: Joyce Winters 503-364-5233  
Gerry Silver 503-585-2559
- Hostesses: **Volunteer needed**
- Refreshments: **Volunteer needed**
- Coffee: **Volunteer needed**
- Stamps: Peg Townsend 503-364-9829
- Sunshine: Jennifer Ferrell 503-581-6970

The Rockhound Rumbblings bulletin is published monthly for members of the Willamette Agate and Mineral Society (WAMS). The editor is not responsible for the authenticity of information in articles submitted for publication, nor are the opinions expressed therein necessarily those of the editor or officers of WAMS. Permission to reprint material in the bulletin is granted freely, provided proper credit is given. Exchange bulletins are welcome.

**Advertising Rates**

Member: Non-business - One (1) free ad per year or \$1.00/issue or \$8.00/year. (Business card size or 12 lines or 1/10 page).  
Non-member and members with a business - \$4.00/issue, \$35.00/year (10 issues), or \$17.50 for 1/2 year (5 issues). Same size regulations as above.

**Mailing Address**

WAMS - P.O. Box 13041 - Salem OR - 97309-1041



## Editor's Message

Hello Rockhounds,

'Tis the season for collecting, and it sounds like the members that were able to head over to Paulina to collect had a good time. Thanks to Bill Jacobi and Kay Storey for submitting a nice report for the Bulletin! Also, for those that couldn't attend, webmaster Susan Appleby has added a nice photo gallery on the WAMS website for your viewing pleasure: [www.wamsi.org](http://www.wamsi.org), and then click on the link "Photo Gallery" and select "Paulina Field Trip 05/04". Paulina is one my favorite camping, hiking, and collecting areas, and I'm sorry that Zach and I couldn't attend. We'll have to make a field trip of our own one of these weekends.

There are some good rock & gem shows coming up; be sure to look at the calendar in this Bulletin for updates. It's not a complete list; but will give you some dates to plan around.

Thanks for submitting those articles! Information can be submitted via the website at [www.wamsi.org](http://www.wamsi.org) (click on the "Rockhound Rumbblings" link on the left side to find an email link that will be forwarded automatically to my personal email address. Or send articles, photos, etc. directly to [sunshynnn@comcast.net](mailto:sunshynnn@comcast.net).

Janine Owens, WAMS Bulletin Editor  
Email: [sunshynnn@comcast.net](mailto:sunshynnn@comcast.net)

## President's Message

Hello fellow rockhounds,

We had another packed house at our general meeting in May -- over 90 in attendance again. Thanks to the Wissingers for providing some great video footage of our gem and mineral show.

The Executive Committee continues to work on improving the club operations and I send out an appreciative thanks to all those involved. Your efforts are important to everyone in the club. Anyone is welcome to attend the board meetings -- they are held at the Senior Center the third Monday of each month.

Hopefully everyone will get a chance to get out and do some collecting this summer. Please let me know if you are interested in leading short field trips for club members to local collecting areas.

I'd also like someone to volunteer to take over coordinating the general meeting programs. Chuck Hunt is the liaison to the NFMS and can get "canned" programs for us but I would like someone to organize a few lectures and/or guest speakers. Please contact me if you are interested. There was some interest in a talk on Opal and how to cut it. If anyone is interested in giving this lecture, please let me know.

I have the replacement t-shirts in and some extra ones left over. I'll have them at the meeting in June.

Regards,

Aaron Currier, President

## Upcoming NW Shows

June 2004 4-6	Puyallup Gem & Mineral Club Puyallup, WA
June 2004 18-20	Oregon Coast Agate Club Newport, OR
June 2004 18-20	Deschutes County Gem Show Redmond, OR
June 2004 24-27	Prineville Rockhound Show & Pow Wow Prineville, OR
June/July 2004 30-4	All Rockhound Pow Wow Madras, OR
July 2004 1-4	Sisters Roundup of Gems Sisters, OR
July 2004 8-11	The Thunderegg Capitol Nyssa, OR
July 2004 10-11	Cascade Locks Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show Cascade, OR
July 2004 24-25	WA Agate & Mineral Society and Tenino Rock Cruisers Tenino, WA

## AFMS News

Can be viewed at [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

## NFMS News

Can be viewed at [www.amfed.org/nfms/](http://www.amfed.org/nfms/)

QUARTZ CRYSTALS - 2 large clusters at 75-100 lbs each, about 23"L x 21"W x 9"H on each, nice sized crystals, good clarity. One purchased for \$3000, selling for \$1500 and the other for \$2500, selling for \$1250 **or both for \$2500 or make a reasonable offer**- Keizer, (503) 463-5545 – leave message



## Cool Websites

- by Susan Appleby

Thinking about attending the NW Federation show - July 23 - 25th in

Boise. Check out

<http://www.amfed.org/nfms/nfmsshow.htm> for more information

Links to over 200 mineral fossil gem and lapidary sites at [www.the-vug.com](http://www.the-vug.com)

The World of Rockhounds has a bit of news on everything at <http://www.worldofrockhounds.com/>

Interested in NW Geology and Fossils?? Check out <http://www.narg-online.com/>

MEGALANIA DINOSAUR NEWS PAGES at <http://members.tripod.com/~megalania/dinonews.html>

[www.wamsi.org](http://www.wamsi.org) for the latest information on meeting information and field trips. Rockhound Rumbblings is available for download and also available to read online and is posted before the monthly meetings. Please send information to me that you would like to be included. Want to get the Rock Spec page updated with information on Collecting sites, rocks, fossils and minerals next.

## Minutes from May 6 Meeting

- submitted by Kathy Bennett

Meeting called to order by president Aaron Currier at 8PM.

Secretary's notes by Chuck Hunt were in the newsletter accepted as printed.

Treasurer's report read by Linda was accepted as read. Bills as read were authorized for payment.

WAMS show report was given. Many discussions regarding the show. They are measuring the door for the truck again as they sent us the wrong size. Chris is working with them on getting this settled. Thanks to many people (see the president's message). Bob Harrison had a big thank you to everyone. Kit announced we had over 1160 school children. Great job Kit. Kit wanted to thank Katie and Kathy for their help. Also thanks to those who donated the rocks etc.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the vendor situation. The Executive Board has already addressed this in their meeting. The club voted to back them in their decision to not invite the vendor back.

There were some suggestions like a large clock for the silent auction; for the concession stand to stay open all the hours of the show and an executive board member to welcome visitors (taking rock donations, answering questions etc.).

There is a show chair committee consisting of Kit, Don Miller and Aaron to pick a show chair for next year. Anyone interested contact one of them.

Federation Report by Susan. By our number count we should be able to have one more Federation representative. Any volunteers? Also Susan is willing to put up a case for the Federation show. There is a Federation show in Boise in 2004.

Oregon Council report – Dan – The case in the capital will be changing in June.

Field trip report in the newsletter. Next one is Paulina in May. Hampton Butte is coming and also the Friends thunder egg ranch. August is the picnic.

Susan said we had some feedback on our website from some schools saying they liked the show. She also asked if we have an Education volunteer. Contact Susan or Aaron if interested.

Ted advised our next adjudication will be in October. September will be the next lapidary classes. Silversmithing is on Monday nights. August or September they will start new classes.

Chris said thank you for donations to the library. Aaron purchased some books and the club voted to purchase them for the library.

Stamps-Peg says to keep bringing them. Leave 1/2 to 1 inch around the stamp. Money goes for cancer research.

Old Business-Aaron showed the copy of the Thunderegg brochure (great job).

New business –  
Silversmith class- chance to buy old stock nickel silver. The price would be \$441.57 and would be available to buy on Monday nights at the class. It will be inventoried and kept in a locked briefcase by Ray. The club voted to buy it and sell it at a small percentage mark up for handling (ex. cost plus 5%).

New members names were read and voted on to accept.

Next executive board meeting the bylaws will be discussed for possible changes. Anyone interested is  
["May Minutes" continued on Page 5]

["May Minutes" continued from Page 4]

invited to attend. It will be the third Monday in May 6:30 PM at the Senior Center.

We need a volunteer to tumble club rock for the show. Don Esch has been doing it for several years and wants a break. Anyone interested contact Don or Aaron.

Thanks to those bringing refreshments (Sonia, Jim, Ken and whoever else brought). Volunteers for next meeting are Lyle, Julie and Karen.

Next program will be given by Ray. It will be on how to use the internet to learn about rocks.

Joe Smart will bring rocks for the door prizes and raffle next month.

Meeting was closed .

## Sheen from Layered Obsidian

By James C. Coe  
2512 East Ocotillo Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85016

- submitted by Ken Leith

A very attractive sheen effect can be obtained from layered obsidian which is often both bright and colorful. A lot of obsidian is formed with alternate layers of varying densities of color, but this fact is seldom discovered or utilized. A piece presenting a mottled appearance, as is common with mahogany obsidian, should be suspect for translucent layers. Obtaining sheen need not be a matter of chance. A slab cut at right angles to the layers as in Figure 1 shows these

TRANSLUCENT LAYERS

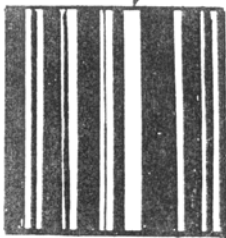


FIG. 1

layers if a light is placed in back of the slab. The translucent layers show up as lines of light, often tiny, but sometimes of considerable width, namely up to a fourth of an inch. It is these layers which make sheen possible as shown in Figure 2.

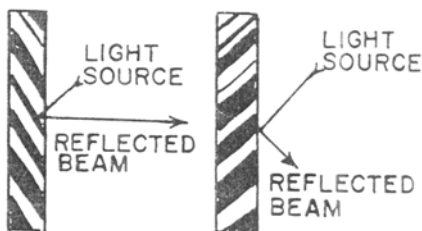


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

In Figure 2 the slab is cut almost at right angles to the first cut. It's the "almost" which is important. The edge of the slab shows the darker layers as oblique lines which may be dark or mahogany colored. Light penetrates the translucent layers and is reflected back out of the stone to the viewer in color. The more nearly transparent the translucent layers are the brighter reflection from the inner and more nearly opaque layers. The wider these translucent layers are and the more numerous they are, the more sheen is evident. Mahogany colored layers reflect a gold colored sheen, but darker layers reflect a silver-colored sheen to the viewer. This sheen moves as the slab is tilted and thereby attracts attention. Not all layers are as perfect as shown in the illustrations. If they were there would be no sheen if the slab is inverted as shown in Figure 3, where there is surface reflection only, without reflection from dark layers within. Because the layers are not perfect, some sheen may result when held in this inverted position.

There is no advantage in a high crown with this type of sheen if the proper cutting angle is chosen initially. In fact, there is usually more sheen if the stone is practically flat. The thing to strive for is to cut the slab to show oblique lines on its edges, and that is with the cut almost at right angles to that of Figure 1.

This isn't the only type of sheen found in some obsidian, but it is distinctive and changes as the stone is moved, or as the viewer moves, thereby attracting attention. Other stones with alternate light and dark layers should also show this type of sheen if the cut is properly oriented and if the dark layers have good reflecting surfaces. This possibility is being investigated.

## Other Obsidian Tips/Tricks

- submitted by Susan Appleby  
(from the Pseudomorph, 6/87 via many others)

**Safety Tip:** After obsidian is sawed, be sure to bevel the edges all around on your fine grinding wheel to keep them from flaking and chipping. Wear goggles or glasses at all times. If a small chip of glass (obsidian) got into your eye, it would be hard to remove as it is transparent and hard to see even with a powerful magnifying glass, and the edges may cut your eye to a great extent before it could be removed.

**Grinding Obsidian Cabs:** Approach your grinding wheel with the material at a slight horizontal angle. If brought straight in, it may be a "shattering" experience as obsidian fractures conchoidally, and this is a sure way to do it.

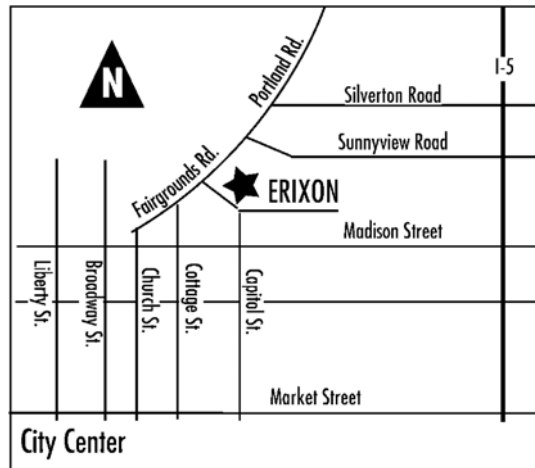
**Polish On Obsidian:** Keep the polishing wheel wet. A dry polishing wheel will result in blisters and scratches.

# What's Rocking?

**WAMS General Meeting**  
Thursday  
June 3 – 6:30 p.m.  
Salem Senior Center  
1055 Erixon St. N.E., Salem  
**Guests Welcome!**

**June Program**  
Searching the Internet for Gem & Mineral Information  
– Ray Plummer

**June Show and Tell**  
Bring rocks/minerals/gems beginning with the letter  
'O' for Show & Tell



Map to Salem Senior Center – 1055 Erixon



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