



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

## October 2008

### SUCCOR CREEK FIELD TRIP

~submitted by Dan Bontempo

The trip was shortened by rain, but still a very successful fieldtrip to Succor Creek, and a pretty good meeting of members of WAMS with folks from the Central Oregon and the Lakeside Gem and Mineral clubs. Big shout out and lots of thanks to Tom Robertson for putting the trip together. Also, much appreciation to Dale Huett of West Coast Mining who gave us the permissions to enter the Rocky Butte, Wild Horse, and Owyhee picture jasper claims.

WAMS members who have been out to these sites on previous trips may have been a little less excited than I was, but I have to say that this was the kind of trip I dreamed of when I moved to Oregon. Dale was at the Rocky Butte site with a huge excavator, and he made freshly dug material available to us at wholesale prices. The tailings were reasonably priced by the bucket – and they are very nice tailings too. The Wild Horse tailings may be a little more mundane when compared to the Rocky Butte tailings, but are still nice and extremely plentiful. How often do you get the chance to stand on several hundred tons of picture jasper? The pickings are slim at the Owyhee claim, but some folks still found small pieces with classic colors and patterns.

In all, eleven WAMS members and 2 prospective members made the trip. We had 11 folks from the Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club out of Kennewick, WA; and 4 folks from the Central Oregon Club. Everyone stayed at the Succor Creek State Natural area campground. Tom got there on Thursday to scout the condition of the roads. Several early-birds joined him and did a little advance rockhounding. Friday we made the circuit to Rocky Butte, WildHorse, and Owyhee. Friday night, Joe Van Cura led two short excursions to thunder egg beds up on top of each side of the Succor Creek Canyon above the camp. Saturday was to be Graveyard Point, but rain moved in Friday evening, and the dirt roads became unmanageable pretty quick. The trip was officially ended after breakfast on Saturday morning.

We packed up in the rain and drove our heavily rock-laded vehicles back home to Western Oregon. Before leaving the area, a few of us stopped in Nampa, ID at the home of Bruce Markus, original Owyhee Picture Jasper claim holder. We sifted through a few tons of great picture jaspers he is liquidating. After all, who doesn't need a little more rock? Look for bits and pieces from our trip on the door prize table at meetings this fall.



ROCKY BUTTE

Submitted by Daniel Bontempo

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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 dues are due by December 31 for the following year. Anyone joining WAMS between January and June pay the full amount. Anyone joining WAMS between July and December pay half the amount. Potential new members are encouraged to attend three meetings as a guest before completing and submitting an application.

**Membership Dues:**

- Individual: \$15.00
- Couple: \$24.00
- Juniors: \$ 2.50

Guests are welcome and are encouraged to attend WAMS meetings!

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

**2008 Elected Officers**

- President: Geri Esch 503-371-1472
- Vice President: Mary Haselbacher 503-393-5228
- Secretary: Walt Friday 503-363-9861
- Treasurer: Lee Anne Settlemeier 503-394-4283
- Federation Director: Marvin Bartel 503-364-4170
- Members at Large: Rob Leedy 503-371-6421  
 Thor Satter 503-949-0481  
 Bob Manley 503-845-6482  
 Larry Nasset 503-585-4390  
 Dexter Leonard 541-745-7517  
 Norm De Roux 503-371-4623

Board Chair: Janice Van Cura 541-753-2401

**2008 Committee Chairs**

- Show Chair: Janice Van Cura/Linda Groah
- Field Trips: Dan Bontempo 541-497-7916
- Bulletin Editor: Kristi Edwards 541-738-6811
- Education: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- Juniors: Jennifer Ferrell 503-551-1554
- Nameplates: Ted Johnson 503-362-6186
- Oregon Council: Vicki Johnson, 503-362-6186
- Rules and Awards: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- Programs: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- Property Control: Theresa Byrne 503-364-7190
- Public Relations: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
 : Susan Appleby 503-391-4221
- Advertising: Bob Manley 503-845-6482
- Publications: Steve Lawrence 503-585-8014
- Scrapbook/Historian: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- Hostesses: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- Refreshments: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- Coffee: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- Stamps: Aaron Currier 503-393-2055
- Sunshine: Karen Porter 503-371-7752

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.

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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

Summer has come and gone. Time to head to the beach and creeks for rock before the rain begins.

We had a great time at Succor Creek except for the flies in the day time and the moths at night. We are still cleaning up moths out of the car and camping gear. We got lots of nice picture jasper. Thanks again to Tom and Dan for a great trip.

I had great intentions of getting this newsletter in the mail Friday, but the OSU/USC game took top priority on Thursday night. **GO BEAVS!!!** and the ducks.

Enclosed in this newsletter is the renewal form for next year's dues. The board has asked that these be paid before the end of the year and not at the Christmas dinner.

The meeting is at Pringle Hall and next month at the new Senior Center. Hopefully you can find the meeting places. I will try to include a map next month for the Senior Center in the November newsletter.

See you at the meeting.

Kristi Edwards  
Bulletin Editor

[kmedwards2@comcast.net](mailto:kmedwards2@comcast.net)

## Presidents Message

Don and I will be leaving for the claim on September 25, but will be back before October 2nd. Because of other obligations, I have not yet been to the site. Looking forward to finally seeing an area of Oregon that I haven't seen. A group from Washington will be arriving on Friday. It looks like we will have great weather.

Don't forget that the August meeting will be at Pringle Hall. I haven't seen the new building, so this meeting will be an adventure. Parking is from Cottage Street.

Thank you Tom and Sue Robertson for letting us have the WAMS Annual picnic at your place. Thank you for setting up the table and awnings. Looking over your driveway and rock piles and visiting with friends, kept us occupied. The food that members brought was great. I stuffed myself as usual.

**WE HAVE OUR SHOW CHAIR FOR 2009.** Actually co-chairs. Thank you Janice VanCura and Linda Groah for accepting the invitation. With the great job that they did on the NW Federation Show, the 2009 show should be a piece of cake.

I hope that you have been seriously thinking of the election of officers in November. If I could be President, most anyone can be.

The letter for show and tell this month is "L"

Thank you,  
Geris Esch

## Upcoming NW Shows

October 18-19	Hells Canyon Rock Club Nez Pearce County Fairgrounds Lewiston, ID
October 25-26	Clackemette Mineral and Gem Club Canby, OR
October 31- November 2	Springfield Thunderegg Club Coburg Road Springfield, OR
November 8-9	Skagit Gem Club Sedro Woolley, WA

## OCTOBER MEETING

A reminder that the October meeting will be held at Pringle Hall Community Center. The address is: 606 Church St SE (between Mission & Trade Streets) Salem, OR. Parking is on Cottage Street. The November meeting will be in the new Senior Center.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

~submitted by Theresa Byrne

This year's Christmas Dinner will be on Saturday, December 6, at 5:30PM at West Salem Roth's Banquet Room. Turkey dinner, complete with all the trimmings, will be \$8.00 per member and \$10.00 per guest.

Pre-payment is required. The Dinner Committee (Chris Beaty and Theresa Byrne) will be collecting money at the October and November meetings, and

would appreciate your signing up as early as possible.

We must have a firm number of people attending at least one week in advance. Those unable to pay at the October or November meeting must send their payment to WAMS PO Box 13041, Salem OR 97309, before November 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **WAMS GENERAL MEETING AUGUST 7, 6:30 P.M., 2008**

**~submitted by Walt Friday**

Geri Esch, President, at 6:32 p.m., called the meeting to order.

**BOARD AND OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Geri Esch, President; Walter Friday Secretary; Lee Anne Settlemier, Treasurer; Janice Van Cura, Chair of the Board; and Members-at-large: Dexter Leonard, Bob Manley, and Norm DeRoux.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** October 2, WAMS General Meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. at Pringle Hall. Philip and Reyna Knutson have offered the space their floral business was in to store show material. The board has decided to take them up on their offer. New WAMS Directories are available at the door. There will be adjudication at the October meeting and Ted Silver will be the judge.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the June 5, 2008, meeting were approved as published.

**APPROVAL TO PAY THE BILLS:** Lee Anne Settlemier, Treasurer, presented three bills to pay: Storage Unit for August \$38, Kristi Edwards news letter \$202 and May Haslebacker printing directory \$9.10. The member approved paying the bills.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Lee Anne Settlemier, Treasurer, presented a detailed treasurers report.

**PICNIC.** The picnic will be at Tom Robertson's place on Tomalo Drive on August 24, 2008. We will eat at 1:30 p.m. Rob Leedey will supply sports drink. The Robertson's are providing the location but are not managing the picnic. WAMS will supply the ham rolls, and drinks. Bring your own chairs, plates and silver. Games and tailgating after the food. A show of hands indicated we expect 50 people intend to be at the picnic. An opportunity will be provided to donate to the Scholarship Fund. Children's game will be card bingo with rocks for prizes. There will be a short Board Meeting at the picnic.

**SHOW:**

Show Chair: Janice Van Cura reported no one has appointed show chair for April 17, 18 and 19, 2008 show. For the time being she is acting as the Show

"Facilitator." The show committee is up and running. Chairs: Display Cases, Reyne Knutson; Demonstrators, Emily Start; Advertising: Norman DeRoux and Daniel Bontempo, Schools: Joe Start and Joe Van Cura, and Security: Joe Start and Daniel Bontempo; Dealer, Mary Haslebacker. Chairs that are vacant: Florescent, Set-up and take-down, etc. We are trolling for Volunteers.

**Show Policy.** Who gets in free? The board set the policy: The following get into the show free: Children under 12 year of age, club members wearing WAMS name badges, Dealer and their workers, WAMS member who work at the show, demonstrators and people who have display cases. The reason for requiring WAMS name tags is due to the growth of membership the folks working at admissions are not expected to know all members. Ted Johnson, Nametag chair, reminded that if you need a nametag don't wait till the last minute to order it.

**Cost of Admission.** Janice Van Cura noted that our admission is lower than most of the other shows and we also do not charge for parking. Also our net profit has been declining. The Board of Directors has decided to raise the 2009 Show admission from \$1.00 to \$2.00.

**INVENTORY:** Bob Manley said has a few reports of where WAMS gear is stored. Renewed his request for more information.

**OREGON COUNCIL:** Vickie Johnson reported that Hemlock Creek site near Medford is being closed by BLM. The Council is working on the issue. There is also a new case at the State Capitol Building.

**JUNIOR PROGRAM.** Jennifer Ferrell has not resigned as Advisor to the Youth Program (as previously reported), but she does need help.

**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE:** Nancy Plummer is having heart tests. Ray Plummer is feeling better after completing a treatment, but is week. Aaron Currier reported on the passing of longtime members Leonard and Muriel Watkins.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Daniel Bontempo was recognized for the wonderful brownies he provided. Next meeting: Vicki Johnson and Sonia Kleiner.

**NOMINATIONS:** Jerry Esch reminded that by November we need a slate of new officers. She will be Chair of the Board. Need: President \_\_\_\_\_, Vice President \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_, Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_ Federation Rep \_\_\_\_\_, three members at Large \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:30 p.m.  
NEXT BOARD MEETING: Picnic on August 24,  
2008, 1:30 p.m., October 2, 2008 at  
6:30 p.m.

## Weird Geology

### *Ultraviolet Auroras*

Ref: Strangeway, R. J., "How do auroras form?"  
*Physics Today*, p. 68-69, July 2008

The Northern Lights or the aurora borealis are an eerie, beautiful phenomenon best observed in Alaska and northern Canada, but also visible much further south. Driving west from New York City on I-80 late one night, I was surprised to encounter a large number of cars parked along the roadside with the drivers standing outside staring to the north. It looked like a scene from "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." Naturally curious, I stopped too, expecting maybe to see a UFO. No UFO's were visible, but what I did see was a wavy pulsing curtain of deep blue and purple – the Northern Lights.

What I didn't know at the time was that I should've hauled out my freshly collected calcite and willemite specimens (I had been at a night dig at the Sterling Hill Mine in Ogdensburg, NJ – a famous locality for fluorescent minerals) and checked to see if they glowed under the aurora.

The aurora is created when "energetic" particles from the Sun smash into the Earth's upper atmosphere. Mostly, these particles are the nuclei of hydrogen atoms (i.e., protons) and electrons. When they hit gas molecules in the upper reaches of the Earth's atmosphere (above 80 kilometers or 50 miles) they knock off electrons. As the electrons recombine with the gas molecules, they give off light.

The colors you see are a function of the energy of the solar particles. If the incoming particles have energies of a few hundred electron volts, they don't get below altitudes of about 200 km (125 miles) and they produce a red aurora. Solar particles with energies of about 1 kiloelectron volt (KeV) create auroras that are greenish-yellow. And their more-energetic buddies, those with energies around 10KeV, penetrate deeper into the Earth's atmosphere (below 100 km or 63 miles) and stir up auroral colors that can be deep purple.

If you get even more powerful solar particles, with energies above 100 KeV, the auroral emissions will occur in the ultraviolet. In theory then, one should be able to get a tan at night in the winter above the Arctic

Circle if the auroras are strong. In reality however, the auroral ultraviolet light is probably too weak to expect to be able to observe fluorescence in even the brightest fluorescing specimens. Still, it is an experiment to try one wintery night if you are in Point Barrow, Alaska, and happen to have a good Sterling Hill willemite with you!

### **FMS News**

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

**AFMS News at** [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)



**Oyhwee Sight**



**Succor Creek**  
Photos submitted by Rudy Appleby

# What's Rocking?

**WAMS General Meeting**  
Thursday  
October 2 at 6:30pm  
Pringle Hall Community Center  
606 Church St SE, Salem  
**Guests Welcome!**

**October Meeting**  
Still to be determined  
**October Show and Tell**  
Bring rocks/minerals/gems beginning with the letters  
**L**



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