

# Happy New Year



## The Petrified Digest

January, 2024

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### Welcome Friends and Rockhounds



Group photo from this year's Christmas Party



## Meet Your Fellow Club Members

### Bob Grant

Bob Grant has led a life of adventure. In 1967, he served as an MP in Saigon during the Vietnam war. After gaining a high military clearance, he was put in charge of a microwave communication station that sent and received sensitive information.

After he completed his 3-year hitch in the Army, Bob returned to Washington and worked as a carpenter for a couple of years. He then decided to join the Air Force to become an electronics technician. I'm sure I speak for all in thanking Bob for his service to our country.

In 1974, while stationed in Mississippi, Bob bought a kit and built a kayak. He would launch it off the Gulf Coast and paddle several miles out. There, he enjoyed the solitude of being alone on the water. He successfully honed his fishing skills to the point where he was selling his catch commercially.

Bob took his kayak to many different places. As I said, he is the adventurous type, so he wasn't too nervous about navigating it through breakers to the beach or paddling it in the Everglades near alligators.

Years later, Bob was living in Northern California when he found himself enjoying the solitude, fishing in his 17-foot kayak about 12 miles offshore from Pacifica Beach. "I could see down into the water about 20 feet." He told me. However, Bob wasn't alone. He had attracted the attention of an unwanted visitor.

"It was about five feet beneath me when I first spotted it. Even though the water was clear, I could only see it when it partially rolled onto its side, exposing the white underbelly of a Great White Shark." Bob went on to explain that sharks must turn their bodies to direct their vision, and this was what the shark did to check him out. As he went on, recounting the events of that day, his voice became louder and took on a sense of recalled urgency, "It was a big one."

As big as my boat!"

The shark followed him for 20 minutes or so. "I was aware that the underside of my boat resembled the body of a seal. I was lucky that the shark didn't investigate further." Bob went on to explain that sharks investigate with their mouths. "The outer portion of the kayak was made of Naugahyde. It looked and felt like skin." Bob told me that was the last day that he launched the kayak in the ocean.

After leaving the Air Force, Bob worked for the State of California as a heavy equipment mechanic for about a year and a half. He then decided to, "Just go live in the woods," so, he loaded his young family up and moved near Williams Lake, BC about halfway between the southern and northern borders of Canada.

Bob said, "It was great. We had moose in the front yard and grizzly bears in the backyard." That lasted a little less than a year due to the harsh winter conditions. Bob said, "Once the cold and the snow set in, you weren't going anywhere for a while. Temperatures reached 40 below"

Bob decided to begin commercially fishing for salmon in Alaska. He even moved there and lived in a log cabin for a while. Around the same time, he joined the Air National Guard. The Guard and the fishing dovetailed together nicely, as he could fit one around the other.

Bob was living in Lynden, WA in 1984 when he met his future wife, Peggy. She had two sons and Bob had three at the time. They combined their two families together and were married the following year.

Bob continued to commercial fish, making annual trips with his boat from Bellingham to Alaska. He also went through a process, over time, of upsizing his fishing vessel. Over a period of twenty years, he went from a little 12-foot boat that he used in the Gulf, to a 16-footer, to 21-footer, to a 24-footer, to a 32-footer, to a 42-footer and then to a 44-foot boat. The five boys in the family served as the crew for the family's commercial fishing enterprise. Bob was good at seeking out the best fishing spots that would yield a good catch as well as be a safe place to fish.

After 5 years of annually navigating his boat from Bellingham to Ketchikan through the inland passage, Bob decided to transport his boat by ferry. This greatly reduced his transportation costs. After ferrying the boat to Alaska for a few years, Bob decided to leave the boat up there, which simplified the process even more. He had bought a partially built 60-foot fishing boat and set to work completing its construction. Once completed, he didn't put it in the water.

He decided it was time to retire from fishing, so he sold the boat. Bob told me, "You have to give up everything else to take care of the boat. There's no time for anything else." Bob then added, "Taking care of a fishing boat is like having another wife."

Bob told me that he took geology classes in college where he learned about plate tectonics. This caused him to have an interest in rocks and minerals and how they are formed. Some of his earliest experiences in rockhounding were strolls down the beach in Alaska. He told me, "I didn't really get into rockhounding until I knew what I was looking for." Bob and the family moved to Cashmere almost 40 years ago. He said, "I wanted to learn what was in the surrounding area." Bob developed an affinity for petrified wood. As a result, he began to regularly visit Saddle Mountain. Like fishing, this was another activity that the family could do together. They would take their motorcycles up there and cover a lot of ground in search of pet wood.

Bob told me that when he first began to explore, he was happy to find small pieces. However, in the same way that he put in the work to find the best fishing spots in Alaska, his perseverance in searching and learning about Saddle Mountain and other areas paid off and he began to find bigger and nicer pieces. He now knows every square inch of Saddle Mountain. These days he only collects what he considers to be museum quality specimens.

Bob also said he isn't all that interested in heavy digging or doing much cutting of rocks as he likes the specimens that he collects to remain in a natural state. He went on to say, "The smaller high-quality pieces are either put on display or given to friends. The large pieces go in the yard."

Bob joined the Ginkgo Mineral Society about 20 years ago, but he slowly drifted away and stopped coming to the meetings. However, about 5 years ago, he rejoined. He said, "I wanted to learn from others what they knew about Saddle Mountain, and I wanted to pass on what I knew." Bob and his family make trips to Saddle Mountain about twice a month. They aren't deterred by winter weather either, instead, choosing to go there year-round. Bob explained, "There isn't any snow there in the winter."

Peggy likes to collect rocks and make them into framed pictures. Bob enjoys helping her on these projects, looking for the perfect stone to complete the picture. Bob and Peggy are planning a beach trip to look for sea glass that will be used in Peggy's pictures. Many of you have seen examples of her work at one or more of our meetings. Bob is also a member of a knapping club. He and other club members make an annual trip to Glass Butte to do a bunch of knapping

and collect material for future projects.

Bob explained to me that he is concerned about You Tube videos that, essentially, advertise locations that then can become overrun with people. He was referring to not only rockhounding sites but also off-road vehicle sites. He spoke about the need to practice good etiquette. He then went on to say, "If there is some place you want to go, you better do it soon because it could be closed down at any time."

Bob is the adventurous type but be warned should you choose to accompany him on one of his outings. I say this because he told me, "I have taken a lot of people on adventures. They always have a good story to tell but they almost never ask me to take them again."

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## From Atop the Rockpile

Hello fellow rock and mineral lovers! Coming up in January we will have a great presentation by fellow club member, Kirk Laird, about fluorescence in minerals. How cool is that?! If you will be attending the club meeting on January 19th, please feel free to bring up to 3 mineral specimens that spark your curiosity on fluorescence. Kirk will be leading an activity after the presentation where you can check to see if the specimens you bring fluoresce under UV.

As we are in the midst of the winter months, it is time for us to start planning our club field trips for the spring and summer season. During this January meeting, we would like to discuss, out of a list of localities, which locations our members are most interested in exploring and visiting.

Along with our future field trips in mind, as we enter a new year and new beginnings, we would like to ask our members what they would like to gain from our club. Would you like to see more diverse field trip destinations? Would club members be interested in exploration trips? Would you all like to have more hands-on activity during our meeting? With consideration of progression, we will be suggesting to the members ways to invest in our club and its future in ways that could potentially bring more educational talks presented by reputable sources and professors to our meetings.

Thea

## From the Scribe

December 15th was the Christmas Party. The Club provided baked ham prepared by Dena Hanson. Members brought side dishes to go with the ham. After dinner, was the gift exchange for those that wanted to participate.

Jodi Rose brought some aventurine that she gave away and Dave Pruitt had nice wood stools for sale.

**Door Prize and Raffles:** There were no door prizes as the focus was on the party!

**Business Meeting:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by President Carol Smith. The minutes and treasurer's report were read and approved.

**Old Business:**

We are still looking for a shop.

**New Business:**

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm

Pam Lander, Acting Secretary

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# Christmas Party

The Christmas Party was held on December 15th. After everyone ate, it was on to the gift exchange. As my wife Liz and I are new to the club this was our first Xmas Party. It was a lot of fun shared with a lot of great people. A big thanks to all who helped to make it a big success.



Jodi Rose serving up dessert



Rick Lechner opening up a gift  
(Pam Lander in background)



Brenda Jackson deciding which  
gift she wants



Mslisha Maxey opening up a gift



Bob and Peggy Grant



The food line

## Where's the Equipment

Several of our members have graciously provided homes for our shop equipment. They will make the equipment available to Club members by appointment so we can still cut and polish the stones we collect. Below is a list of equipment with phone numbers to call to arrange an agreeable time:

Marcia Summers: A Genie 509-860-7556

Dave Stender: A Genie and trim saw 509-630-1176

Jodi Rose: A Genie and trim saw 509-763-9402

Carl Pederson: 18-inch slab saw (\$2.00 per cut), 10 inch slab saw, faceting machine 509-630-8239

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## Christmas Wrapping Fundraiser

Below is a report from Pam Lander on this year's Christmas wrap fundraiser. Pam and the volunteers did a great job.

Another successful Christmas gift wrapping. The total brought in was \$1406.00. Much thanks to those club members that gave of their time and energy during a busy trime. Thank you to Liz Hemberry, Carol Smith, Marcia Summers, Dena Hanson, Carol Lechner, Carl Pederson, Rogar Gill, Derek Corder, Lea Glenn, Peggy Grant, Jodi Rose, Chris Clausen and Pam Lander.

A special thanks to David Lander for providing the muscle to deliver all the totes of Christmas wrapping needs and picking them up afterwards.

### From the Vault

As of 12/7/2023	
CD	\$10,124.48
Savings Account	\$ 1,799.91
Checking Account	\$ 6,140.59
3 deposits	\$ 367.05
4 checks written (rent payments)	\$ (340.85)
11/30/23 End Bal.	\$ 6,166.79

#### David's Notes

Ginkgo annual memberships can be paid now for 2024.

Individual: \$20.00

Family: \$40.00

Senior (one): \$15.0

#### Sad News:

Brenda Jackson's mother passed away recently. Our hearts go out to Brenda and her family.

David Earhardt has been suffering with pnemonia. The good new is that he is recovering and doing well.

## Marketplace

		
Custom Ellensburg Blue Contact Carol Smith 509.884.3349 for some very reasonably priced items		

The Ginkgo Mineral Society was formed to promote the education of mineralogy and geology; to encourage the collecting of rocks and minerals; to provide field excursions to mineral collecting areas; and to promote interest in lapidary work.

Annual Dues: Individual-\$20.00, Senior-\$15.00, Family-\$40.00, Lifetime (20 plus years)-Free. Please mail your dues to Ginkgo P.O. Box 303, Wenatchee, WA 98807.

**Club information cards are available to handout to folks who show interest in our hobby. See David Earhart for cards to carry with you.**

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## Next Meeting

January 19, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Presbyterian Church

200 S. Kentucky, East Wenatchee

Email ideas, trip notes or photos

to: [Lizhemberry@hotmail.com](mailto:Lizhemberry@hotmail.com) Website:

[www.wenatcheerockclub.org](http://www.wenatcheerockclub.org)

Facebook page: Ginkgo Mineral Society

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## Club Officers

President..... Thea Stender..... 509-630-1391  
Vice President..... Derek Corder..... 425-270-0221  
Secretary..... Melisha Maxey..... 509-885-2996  
Treasurer..... David Earhart..... 509-860-0988

## Coordinators

Marcia Summers..... Membership..... 509-860-7556  
David Earhardt..... Nason Creek..... 509-860-0988  
Pam Lander..... Christmas Wrap, Grit..... 509-884-5135  
Carl Pederson..... Shop and Equipment..... 509-884-6980  
Carol Smith..... Rock Auction..... 509-884-3349  
Brenda Jackson..... Social Chairperson..... 509-884-5320  
Susan Oglebay..... Club Website..... 509-754-2665  
Thea Stender..... Chelan, Co. Fair, Museum..... 509-630-1391  
Ken Hemberry..... Newsletter..... 509-699-9450

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