



# ROCK~N~ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2016

## Coming Shows, 2016

**August 20-21**  
Bossier City, LA  
Ark-La-Tex G&MS  
Bossier City Civic Ctr.

**August 27-28**  
Gem & Mineral Show  
Jasper, TX  
Pine Country  
G&MS Events Ctr.

**October 8-9**  
Temple, TX  
Tri-City G&MS  
Mayborn Civic Ctr.

**REMEMBER  
TO KEEP  
HYDRATED  
IN THE  
SOUTH-CENTRAL  
SUMMER HEAT**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer is definitely here, and I think it's time to find more things to do inside. It's this time of the year that makes me glad that my workshop has air conditioning. The bad thing is, I can't spend all my time inside. We had a great time on the Missouri field trip, and we brought a lot of good material back with us. Hopefully once we get it all cleaned up, we'll have a bunch of good items for the silent auction and the wheel of fortune. So I guess I will have to get out in the heat, and get it all cleaned up. Fred Mahaffey hasn't planned a formal field trip for August, but he did email out some suggestions on places to go this month. Looks like I'll be going to Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society's show in Jasper this month. It's always a treat to get away and visit with members of other clubs.

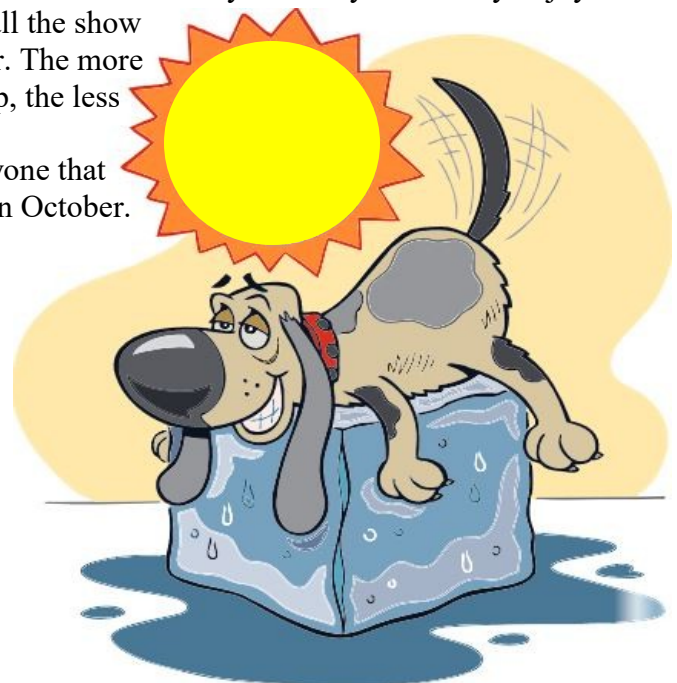
If you missed the August meeting you missed a great program on collecting agate in northwestern Utah, near Wendover, UT. The program for September will be from a DVD series, complements of Mike Howe, Emeralds of Columbia. Also in September, we will have the annual election of new officers, so everyone try to attend.

Due to the Labor Day Holiday, the monthly meeting will be held on September 12, so make a note on your calendars.

October looks to be a busy month, with Keith's Rock Sale, our annual club auction, and a Critter Workshop. We always have a lot of fun making critters for our January show. This year I want to encourage the parents of our junior members to try to attend. This is one activity that they will really enjoy. We will need help loading up all the show supplies in my cargo trailer. The more hands that volunteer to help, the less work for everyone.

Also, a reminder to everyone that membership dues are due in October.

Kinney Polve



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## AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

President, Kinney Polve, call the meeting to order on August 1, 2016 at 6:50 p.m.

Visitors and new members were asked to introduce themselves. The visitors were Ray and Ian Richard. New members were Terri Whitefield, Cody Floyd, and Jerry Beare.

A silent auction item was open for bids and door prize tickets were for sale.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. Terry Roberts made the motion and Sheri Breedlove seconded it.

Trish Hamilton, treasurer, gave a treasurers report:

**Lapidary Arts Group:** The next meeting will be August 13th at the home of Terry Roberts. It will be a general meeting with no one particular topic. Bring your show and tell, and questions. If you want to be a part of this group sign up with Terry so he can include you on class emails.

**Mineral and Fossil Groups:** No report available from David Russ.

**Field Trip:** Fred Mahaffey, Field Trip Chairman, reported that due to the hot weather we would not have an August field trip. He will plan trips starting again in September. He brought examples of finds made on the trip to Missouri for all to see. October 8th is the date for a trip to the Midlothian Cement Quarry to hunt for fossils and septarian nodules.

### Announcements:

- If you would like to present the club program in September let Kinney know.
- Last month we were asked to help the Discovery Science Center with their upcoming auction. If you have something for the auction bring it to the next club meeting on September 12th.
- Remember the October club meeting is our annual auction. Bring items to be auction by Keith Harmon and bring your money so you can join the action.
- Mark you calendar for October 1st. That is Keith Harmon's Annual Backyard sale. If you need any rocks or equipment plan to be there.

**Old Business:** The Scholarship Application is complete and will be given to anyone that is interested in applying. Let Kinney or Carolyn Davis know if you or someone you know would like to apply.

**New Business:** No new business was brought to our attention.

A motion to adjourn was made by Trish Hamilton and seconded by Fred Mahaffey. All enjoyed refreshments and visiting. Door prize numbers were drawn.

Terry Roberts presented a program of slides and information from his rock-hunting trip to Utah. He went to Wendover, Utah to hunt plume and flame agate.

Our next meeting will be September 12th due to Labor Day.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Davis



# ROCK HUNTING HEADQUARTERS

Hi! Everyone,

As mentioned at the monthly club meeting we are not scheduling an outdoor field trip this month due to the extreme heat. (That does not mean we can't have an impromptu Field Trip) Below is a list of activities you may be interested in:

## August:

Ark La Tx Gem & Mineral Show 20th, 21st in Bossier, LA.  
Gem & Mineral Show, Jasper Texas 27th, 28th in Jasper, TX  
(these are listed in the monthly newsletter with more information.)

## September is open

## October:

Keith Harmon's Rock Sale, 1st  
ETGMS Annual Rock and Mineral Auction, 3rd  
Ash Grove Cement Quarry, Midlothian, TX, 8th at 8 a.m. sharp!

—I had someone ask me a few questions about what we hunt for at the cement quarry. Fossils are abundant in the limestone quarry (Fish, sharks teeth, etc.) Also we have found pyritized fossils and iron pyrite balls (nodules), septarian nodules with calcite crystals. I will plan to bring some examples of finds from the last visit from 2014 to the next meeting. We were unable to visit last year because the open pit mines were flooded.

Fred Mahaffey



*At left, complete shark tooth found by Jack Shull. Middle, concretion with pyrite. Photos by Colleen Hayes.*



**A ROCK PICK'S VIEW**  
By Mary Owens

I'm just a lonely rock pick,  
Used only once in a while.  
I see many grimaces.  
Rarely do I see a smile.  
I'm stuck in a dark drawer  
Or pushed up on a high shelf,  
When no one wants to use me.  
But, I come back to myself  
When my owner needs a pick  
To dig around in some rocks.  
Then, he dumps me in a bag  
Or in a car trunk that locks.  
When we get to a good site  
With the hidden rocks galore,  
I feel the scrapes, bangs, and dirt  
As o'er the spot he does pore.  
Only when I uncover  
A precious crystal or gem  
Does my owner now admit  
That I am special to him.



# Cab of the Month

We have two entries for Cab of the Month for August. Pictured top right is a fire agate by Terry Roberts. It is a free-form cab that, in Terry's opinion depicts a prairie fire with several fire tornadoes rising above the ground in the inferno. He collected the fire agate from the Silver Island Mountains located north of Wendover, UT and west of the Bonneville Salt Flats.



Shown bottom right is an Imperial Jasper Heart Cabochon by Kinney Polve. The color and quality of this cab is really 'heart stopping'.



Members please send in photos of your work. Others will enjoy seeing what you've been up to in the hobby.

*Kinney Polve  
Polve's Treasures Jewelry*



### AUGUST MEETING OF THE JEWELRY/LAPIDARY GROUP

Fifteen members of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group attended the August meeting at the home of Terry Roberts. There was a lot of interest in hearing about the adventures of John Schulz's summer job at the Last Chance silver mine near Creede, CO. Before John's presentation, Terry showed the group four beautiful cabs made by a friend who wanted them wire wrapped for his new wife. Kinney Polve brought about 20 cabs that he recently completed, many of them heart shaped. He did a wonderful job on polishing the cabs. Richard Armstrong also

reported that he did several tests on some examples of Moctezuma agates that Terry gave him to determine if the pink bands contained Manganese as the chromophore. He was not able to conclusively determine if Manganese was the primary chromophore or if Iron contributed to the color in the agates.

John brought out several items that he recovered from the Last Chance Mine, including several hand forged spikes and nails used in holding narrow gauge rails on cross ties inside the mine and nailing support timbers in the mine tunnels. He also had some very nice chunks of sowbelly agate and amethyst (many of which contained silver) that he plans to slice for cabs and other decorative items. We ran out of time for him to give us a complete narrative of all his experiences while working at the mine site and may finish it at a later meeting.

Pete Keiser also gave a presentation along with some great photos that he has taken at the mine over the last several years. He has visited the site to collect specimens and to help the owner with some of the work at the mine. He had several slides that showed the area in Autumn when the aspen leaves had changed colors. I know that many magazines would love to show these pictures in their pages.

*Photos by Vicky Polve.*

John Morrison brought some examples of Chinese Turquoise that he purchased several years ago while visiting China. The nuggets were beautiful and had colors ranging from almost green to a robin's egg blue. He had one nugget that was about the size of a grapefruit.

The L/J Group had a great time at the meeting and had many questions for those who made presentations. The meeting ended after everyone had a chance to go through the pile of slabs that Terry brought back from his collecting trip to the Silver Island Mountains in Utah. The next L/J Group meeting will be on Saturday, September 10, at Kinney's workshop.





# Safety Matters - Safety 101

*by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair*



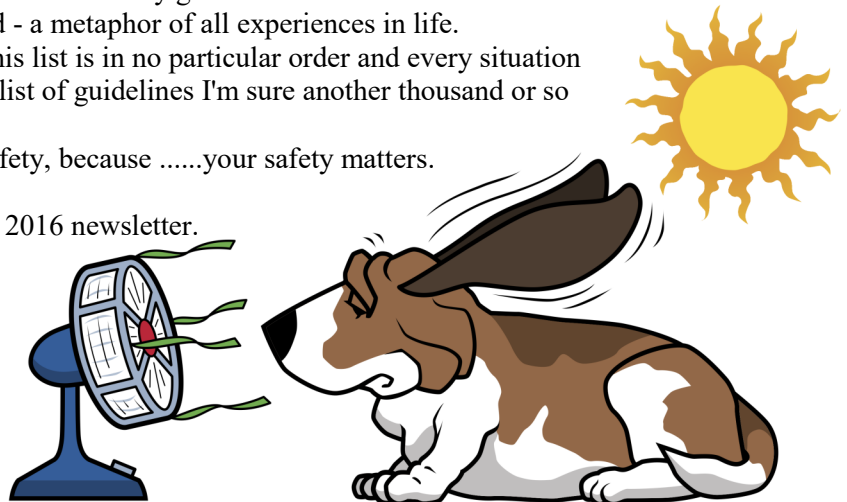
To my knowledge there is no rockhound, mineral collector, fossilhound, lapidary, jewelry maker, Safety 101 class being offered anywhere. In my years and years... and years of safety research I've sort of made up an informal list of what might be offered if there were such a course.

Now, I'm sure you all as good rockhounds, mineral collectors, fossilhounds, lapidary, jewelry makers are aware of, in one form or another, and follow pretty much a self-made list of similar guidelines and one more specifically tailored to your particular activities. So, the following list may be more of a reminder for veteran collectors and a good reference list for newcomers to our great hobbies.

1. Prepare yourself both mentally and physically for the task at hand
2. Wear and utilize any and all protective gear suitable for the task.
3. Stay hydrated and consider bringing additional water with you to offer to those less encumbered with thoughts of keeping hydrated .
4. Keep with you or know there whereabouts of a medi -kit, first-aid kit. Learn how to use the contents of the kit.
5. Let folks know where and when you will be both on the road and situated at a specific location.  
(Cell phone batteries are notorious for quitting at the most inopportune times.)
6. Keep your personal meds with you.
7. Know the guidelines, safety rules of the mine I quarry I building / equipment one is working with I on I in and by.
8. Keep the "Golden Rule" in mind, and, no, I'm not talking about the rule that says "He who has the gold makes the rules."
9. Mind the needs of the critters you bring with you, and the critters you meet along the way.
10. Set a good example in all you do. (I have a good story about motor neurons to relate in a later Safety Matters article)
11. Every minute has the potential to be one in which one can learn something and teach something -- or a little bit of both. Take advantage of those opportunities.
12. Take more rest breaks than you might think you need for the task at hand - - your body will thank you.
13. Mind the conditions in which you find yourself - too hot, too cold, too wet , too humid, too deep, too close to an edge or slope, too slippery, too hazardous, tooooo . . . anything.
14. Mind that your actions reflect on your club.
15. Note that your attitude makes a huge difference in what you do and how safe you are.
16. Keep your wits about you at all times, you will need them if not now , then later. Personally I have use up so many wits that I am down to a half of one, but that is another story for another time.
17. Have maps handy. Those GPS batteries are also ones that have a habit of failing when most needed.
18. Our hobby is not a race - take the appropriate amount of time to be safe.
19. Keep a personal protective kit with you in case one gets lost and need to spend more time that planned out in the wilds and woolies.
20. Keep in mind the AFMS Code of Ethics - it is as much a safety guide as it is ethics.
- 21 . Learn to fly the plane if the pilot is incapacitated - a metaphor of all experiences in life.
22. Clean up after oneself. As one might imagine this list is in no particular order and every situation demands it's own specific requirements . As a general list of guidelines I'm sure another thousand or so could be added without too much thought .

This list is just a good starting point. Be safe, think safety, because .....your safety matters.

AFMS June 2016 newsletter, via SCFMS July/August 2016 newsletter.





**This year has been a record setting one for over-filling rain gauges. Texas and Louisiana have received a huge amount of rain in a short period of time. Some areas have been devastated by flooding. Please keep our members, friends and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they try to recover.**



### CREAM OF TARTAR

In my little world, items like cream of tartar (potassium bitartrate) are not simply a super way to stabilize egg whites but also scandalously inexpensive cleaning secrets.

This long-forgotten gem of a cleaning agent may be used with a little water or vinegar to lift even the most stubborn stains. Unattractive grout driving you batty? Mold and mildew stains got you reaching for the Prozac? Burner pans and casserole dishes giving you fits? Cream of Tartar is your new best friend.

Cream of tartar is one of nature's best bleaching agents. Cream of tartar, a.k.a "crusted wine," is mixed with baking soda to create baking powder (bet you didn't know that.. okay, some of you probably did, you smartypants). While it is an acid, it's not harmful. It's an acidic salt which comes from grapes.

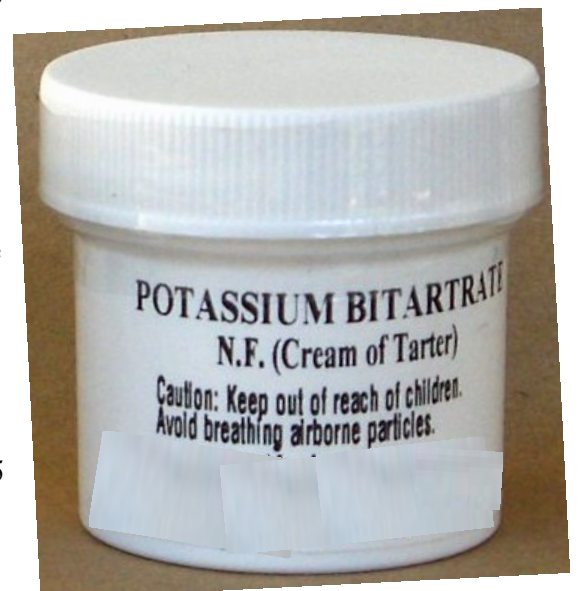
Use a few tablespoons of cream of tartar with hot water or hydrogen peroxide and clean any aluminum pans which have discoloration or any rusty drains, pans, or stains.

Do you have copper kettles? Mix some cream of tartar with lemon juice and rub the copper with it. Rinse and be amazed!

How about a porcelain sink, tub, commode? Rub the porcelain surfaces with cream of tartar and watch the stains disappear.

Fabric stains? No prob. Mix a few teaspoons of cream of tartar with some glycerin and use like spray-and-wash. The results? Well, I'm here to tell you that this stuff cured the ring around Joshua's shirt collars.

Just need a great nonabrasive cleaner? Mix 2 teaspoons of vinegar and 2 teaspoon of cream of tartar in a small dish (use 3 or 4 teaspoons of vinegar and 3 or 4 teaspoons of cream of tartar if you have more items to clean). Apply with your cleaning rag or scrub brush and let it sit for 5 -10 minutes. Scrub. Wash with hot soapy water.





Check us out on the web: [WWW.ETGMS.COM](http://WWW.ETGMS.COM)

THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

Purpose of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society: Is to promote the study of geology, fossils and the lapidary arts. The public is always invited to attend all club meetings.

MONTHLY MEETING:

First Monday of the month unless a holiday, then the second Monday, at 6:45 p.m.

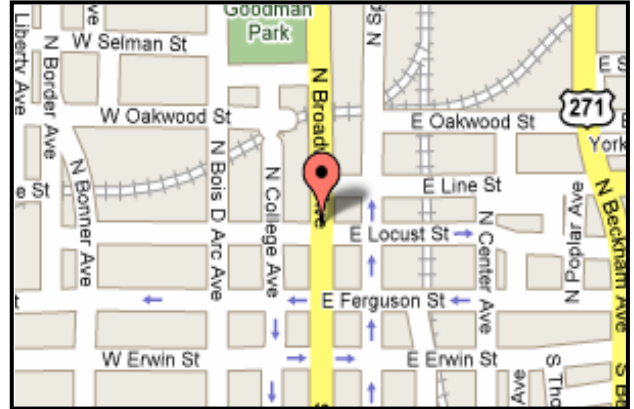
WHERE:

The Discovery Science Place  
308 N. Broadway  
Tyler, Texas

ANNUAL DUES:

- Adults: \$10.00
- Juniors: \$2.50 with adult membership
- Family: \$20

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