

Kock-N-Ro

PAGE 1

VOLUME 46

TYLER, TEXAS

JANUARY 2020

Upcoming Events

JANUARY 18-19 FREDERICKSBURG **ROCKHOUNDS** LADY BIRD JOHNSON PK. **FREDERICKSBURG, TX**

JANUARY 24-26 EAST TEXAS G&MS 24th ANNUAL SHOW **ROSE GARDEN CENTER TYLER, TX**

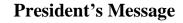
FEBRUARY 16-17 WILLIAMSON CO. G&MS **GEORGETOWN COMM CTR GEORGETOWN, TX**

FEBRUARY 22-23 CLEAR LAKE G&MS PASADENA CONV. CTR PASADENA, TX

MARCH 7-8 GULF COAST G&MS RMB REG. FAIRGROUNDS ROBSTOWN, TX

Inside This Issue

- 2. January Meeting Minutes
- 3. Club Activities & Events
- 3. Field Trip Information
- 4. A Look into the Past
- 5. Tyler Library Display
- 6. Fundraisers
- 7. News Tidbits
- 8. Kinney's Bench Tips
- 8. Shop Time
- 10. Note from the Editor
- 11. Information



There is nothing like walking in the footsteps of those who have gone before us to understand their travels.

My head is still spinning after getting just a small exposure to what the leaders of our club do to keep it moving along smoothly.

Having accepted one of those positions, I hope I can help to maintain the momentum of our club.

It was great to see the turnout at the last

meeting. We must be doing something right, as we seem to be adding new members to our roster.

I would like to see even more, and to that end, we have several projects in the works to increase our public exposure and outreach.

Our physical facility lends tremendous potential for that as we complete our planned work areas and educational displays.

I am looking forward to our first group of students to visit our "educational center" for a peek at what we love about lapidary and geology.

Please keep in mind that we need to identify a recipient for our annual scholarship. Ideally, we would like to identify a student with an interest in earth sciences.

Thanks to all who turned out for our show preparation day on the 11th. Things are pretty hectic right now, and I know everyone is looking forward to this being one of our best shows. See you all there.

David Russ

New president David Russ presents outgoing president Fred Mahaffey with Anhydrous an Amethyst in appreciation of his 3+ years of service in the office.





ISSUE 1

ROCK-N-ROSE

TYLER, TEXAS

MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met for its regular monthly meeting on January 6, 2020. Past President Fred Mahaffey called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm and turned the gavel over to newly-elected President David Russ. David asked for a show of hands of visitors and new members. By my count of introductions, there were seven new members and two visitors. David asked for approval of the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Kinney Polve made the motion, Terry Roberts seconded, and the motion carried. Marcia Graham gave the Treasury report.

Announcements:

- There will be a critter workshop this Saturday, the 11th, beginning at 9:00 am.
- Kinney said the February issue of the newsletter would be the poetry issue and asked for contributions.
- Fred spoke on field trips. His leads are Midlothian cement quarry a previous pond has been pumped out and fossils and different Septarian nodules than what we have found in the past; guided field trips to Mason for pegmatite; Arkansas quartz; New Mexico; & Oklahoma.
- Kinney said new name tags will be ordered on the 7th and cost \$10.00. They are Texas shaped and red with white letters.
- Lapidary group Terry said it normally meets the 2nd Saturday at 2:00 pm, but this month it would be the critter workshop at 9:00 am.
- Mineral group Charles Creekmur said it meets the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 pm. There won't be one in January, but February will be a discussion on Fluorescence.
- Gem group Richard Armstrong said the group meets the 3rd Thursday, the 16th, at 6:30 pm. The discussion will be diamonds.
- Fossil group David said this group meets the 3rd Tuesday, the 20th, at 6:30 pm. He is working on a trip to Oklahoma.

There was no old business to discuss. New business:

• Randy Harmon suggested a rock swap during our break times in the meetings.

• Fred received a gift of an Anhydrous Amethyst for our thanks for his three terms as President.

With no further business to discuss, David asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Ed Grounds made the motion, Kinney seconded, and the motion carried. Door prizes were drawn, there was a break for refreshments, and the program was about the annual show. The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2020 at 6:45 pm.

Submitted by Julia Toombs, Secretary



February Special Poetry Edition

I received one early entry poem for next month, but it's going to take a lot more to have a great selection of poems. There always seems to be a shyness when I say I need a poem for the newsletter, but last time I asked for poems for a special poetry edition, the response was fantastic. Not to mention, they were all fabulous. Some of you even wrote two or three. I say it's that time again. You have about two months, but don't put it off. You can send them in now, and I will hang on to them until February. I'll even loan you my copy of Creating Poetry, if need be. After two years of waiting, maybe I'll receive a poem submission from one of our junior members. I can always hope. Don't wait! Get those poems sent in.

ROCK-N-ROSE

TYLER, TEXAS

JANUARY 2020

CLUB ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

- January 23^{rd} Show setup 8:00 am until?
- January 24th = First day of the show, "School Day" 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.
- January 24th Dealers' Dinner 5:30 pm.
- January 25^{th} Show 10:00 am 6:00 pm.
- January 26th Show 10:00 am 5:00 pm.
- January 26th Show teardown 4:30 pm. We will start with packing up extra items from the silent auction, then at 5:00 pm we will pack up everything else.
- February 3rd Monthly meeting 6:45 pm.
- February 8th Lapidary / Jewelry Group meeting 2:00 pm.
- February 11th Minerology Group meeting 6:30 pm.
- February 18th Fossil Group meeting 6:30 pm.
- February 20th Gemology Group meeting 6:30 pm

All field trips are subject to change at a moment's notice.



2020 Field Trip Schedule

Stay in contact with the trip leader.

A Guide to Field Trips ETGMS 2020

by Fred Mahaffey - ETGMS Fieldtrip Chairman

Above is a tentative schedule of proposed field trips. I believe there are a few more that can be added in as well and as details are ironed out, they will be posted. One thing we stress is safety and only active club members are allowed to participate. Other Gem and Mineral/Fossil clubs are invited as they follow the same rules we do. However, everyone will need to sign the field trip release/sign in form for each trip before we will allow anyone to start hunting. Some of the places we may go will be on private property, and we have to abide by the wishes of the property owner(s). If you



Continued on page 4.

ROCK-N-ROSE

TYLER, TEXAS

JANUARY 2020

have not handled yourself properly in the past, and the property owner asks that you not participate, then you will have to sit out that field trip. We are not only representing our club but all Gem and Mineral Clubs, so being respectful and obeying all rules and laws is required. When information for a field trip is posted, please read all the safety information and follow it. There may be some places that require a hard hat and goggles or safety vests, etc. I look forward to a fun year of rock and fossil hunting. I hope you will join me on the journey.

A Look into the Past By Julia Toombs

I wasn't going to do an article this month, because my mind is split between two major events in the next 30 days. I need to create things for my display case at the Show, and I am leaving soon on a 24-day vacation out of the country. But colleague and friend, Margaret Kilanski, reminded me that I had not used her biography yet. I found it mixed with other papers. I've apologized and below you'll find out about the life of our Webmaster extraordinaire.

Margaret's life began in Modesto, California. At the age of 12, her family moved to Beaverton, Oregon. She worked for more than ten years in the banking and trucking industries, focusing on new business and technology development. Her primary role was as a project manager. She retired in 2008 and hasn't looked back.

Margaret and Neil have been married for 32 years and have one daughter. Before moving to East Texas in 2019, they lived four times in Oregon, and once each in Washington, North Dakota, and Arizona. "Their biggest adventure so far" has been an "around the world" cruise for four months in 2009. She came home with rocks, of course, and left rocks in special places for friends that had passed on. In Lithuania, she bought a labradorite set in a custom silver pendant. She and the silversmith talked for over an hour about his process, where he got his stones, importing rules, and more. He had bought the labradorite in her pendant in Tucson, Arizona, the previous year. Margaret had been there at the same time and at some of the same shows, so they may have seen each other. What a small world!!!



Margaret's first recollection of rocks is from the age of five or six. She was walking down her grandfather's driveway and picked up some small shiny rocks. She pocketed them, because she liked them. Her mom was not amused when the laundry was done. When she was ten, her grandfather took her and her siblings on a road trip from California to Gilmer, Texas. They stopped at a few tourist traps and Margaret was fascinated by the turquoise, coral, goldstone, petrified wood, and fossils, but not so much by the rattlesnakes!!

Margaret took her first lapidary class in junior high school. She did some serious damage to a few opals but was fascinated by the shaping and polishing processes. Her Dad took her class rock hunting for lake agates in a road cut known to the teacher. Some beautiful pieces were found and her first scorpion!!

While living in Oregon, she would walk the beaches twice a day, searching for agates, jaspers, corals, petrified wood, glass floats, and other interesting objects still in her possession. One day she found several small pieces of polished tiger's eye and thinks someone added to nature's bounty. With help from the internet and friends, she learned how to tumble stones. At the peak of her tumbling, she had ten three-pound barrels and three ten-pound barrels all running at the same time in the barn. (Cover your ears!!) Today she runs two three-pounders and one ten-pound barrel.

In Buckeye, Arizona, she was a member of the West Valley Rock and Mineral Club. Their field trips took her to areas for Apache Tears, agates, azurites, calcites, chrysocolla, fire agates, fluorite, jasper, jet, onyx, peridot, quartz, selenite, and others. She encountered rattlesnakes and scorpions, too. She has a picture of herself in a hole digging out fluorite in the Buckskin Mountains. (She couldn't find it when I asked for it to accompany the article.) Their club sponsored the annual HelzaRockin' Gem and Mineral Show, held outside in heat or rain. Just like the ETGMS show, it was three days of work and fun with vendors, school groups, and the public.

Since moving to Texas and joining ETGMS, Margaret has taken up silversmithing, cabbing, wire wrapping, and gem-tree-making classes. "Since I am not talented in the lapidary area: I have helped to build the website; I am Webmaster; have arranged the advertising for the show; and when possible, show up for the work-days at the clubhouse

TYLER, TEXAS

JANUARY 2020

and the show. I enjoyed the first field trip to Kinney and Vicky Polve's son's property for petrified wood. I was so tickled with the tiny crystal sparkles on my finds when I got them home and cleaned up. Last year, I tried my hand at cleaning quartz crystals using oxalic acid – you might have read my article in the June 2019 Rock-N-Rose issue. I had a great time at the live auction, Christmas gift exchange, rock swap, and annual show, and look forward to the next activity. I would like to be more involved in the sub-groups but family obligations come first.

"My mineral collection is eclectic and contains pieces that are special to me. I don't collect just to collect. I need to feel good about the stone. I especially love it when friends give me pieces that they just *know* should be mine. I like the energy certain treasures have. I have a piece of lapis with pyrite that I always wear when I need a little extra boost. Sometimes it *is* just about the sparkle. I have a special fondness for anhydrous. It amazes me how nature can capture a tiny drop of water and air in a stone. Recently I found my first anhydrous agate in one of my tumbling batches. I'm so happy to have it!! I've gotten the fluorescent bug and have just finished setting up a dark cabinet, and I've started adding to my collection.

"I know I'm blessed to be part of such a wonderful group that has so many gifted, talented, and patient teachers. My many thanks to you all. I'll leave you with a little tidbit about me. My 120-pound Amethyst cathedral only cost \$20. Buy raffle tickets. Somebody will win and it could be you!!!"

Thank you, Margaret, for your contribution. Please, let us get to know *YOU*, too. The questions that I'd like you to answer last appeared in the November 2019 issue. You are welcome to write your own biography.

I'm sure I'll come home from my cruise around South America with a few rocks. Terry sent me a forwarded email from a friend on Argentina River Crossing agates, a variety of Condor agate. I doubt my shore excursions will allow time for serious rock hunting, but I always look down when walking on a path, unless I am taking a picture. I can ask about rock shops, too. Though, the less time I have to shop, the better!! See you in March.

Tyler Library Display

Margaret Kilanski

ETGMS starts 2020 with displays at the Tyler City Library. These displays will be available for public viewing during regular library hours the entire month of January. This event kicks off our Annual Show activities.

Randy Harmon set up a display case on the first floor featuring many of his local and self-collected fossils, as well as several mineral specimens from around the world. I was at the library when Randy set up his case and several people stopped by to ask about items on display, collection locations, and exchange stories of their own collecting



experiences. On a separate table, there is lots of club and Annual Show information, as well as a box of free tumbles that Randy generously provides to the patrons. When Randy was setting up his display, there were two young boys who were enthralled with the box of tumbles and asked several questions about the stones. As you can imagine, Randy refills the box of tumbles box often during the month.

Kinney and Vicky Polve brought life to the large display case on the library's second floor. In this case, they provided quite an array of minerals, lapidary arts and reference materials. Their display case demonstrates the serious side of lapidary arts with stone handles knives, jewelry, pine needle basket, stone carvings and more. Critters and rock art

Continued on page 6.

ROCK-N-ROSE

TYLER, TEXAS

JANUARY 2020

items captured the whimsical side. They incorporated reference materials with a collection of rock hunting books and maps. Several colorful mineral specimens captured the eye as well. The labeling Vicky and Kinney included provided information on the items on display.

Both displays included our club business cards, club information and annual show flyers.

Our "Thanks" go out to Randy, Vicky and Kinney for making the extra effort to put together their displays and bring wonderful and interesting visibility to the public on the possibilities of our hobby!!



Rock Food Table

The Rock Food Table is set to expand at this year's show. We will be adding a dessert table. I had intended to do the expansion last year but couldn't get the necessary supplies rounded up in time. Also, the exhibit will be making the journey to Pasadena, Texas for the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society's show on February $22^{nd} - 23^{rd}$.



Fundraisers

Terry Roberts and Marcia Graham set up a booth for the "Holiday in the Garden" event at the Rose Garden Center, in December. The money raised goes toward more equipment.

Kinney Polve had an online Facebook cabochon auction fundraiser, with cabochons being donated by Keith Harmon and Terry Roberts. Some of the proceeds from this event will be used to purchase a new bowl for the recently donated Raytech Vibra-tumbler and a banner for the side of the clubhouse building. The rest will purchase other equipment.

It is by the efforts of members like these that speed us toward our goals. Just think how fast we would get there if more of our members went the extra mile.



TYLER, TEXAS

If your dues are not paid by the end of the month you will be dropped from the mailing list. Please make sure that you complete the form in its entirety. Adult members are 18 and older. Please check whether the member is an adult or junior. Yearly membership fee is \$10.00 for an individual, and \$20.00 for a family. Be sure and list your interests, it helps structure the club to better serve the needs of our members. If you plan to mail in your dues, you'll find the club's mailing address on the last page of the newsletter. Don't let your newsletter subscription lapse.

	Member Regist	ration Form
Date	Paid Dues Paid \$	CASH CHECK
Name(s)		Adult Jr
Address		
City	State	Zip
Email		Newsletter via email Y N
Special Interest in Hobby		

NEWS TIDBITS

John Morrison donated a Raytech Vibra-tumbler, model number AV-75 to the club last month. With the need for lots of tumbled rocks, this will be a welcomed edition to our arsenal of equipment.

We held our pre-show workshop January 11th, to make items for our upcoming show. The few that did attend, worked hard making items, while other loaded show supplies in the club trailer. Sherry Breedlove made sure we didn't go hungry with her homemade soup.

The board met on January 11th, at 10:20 am. Most of the discussion was about the upcoming show, and getting a banner to put on the side of the building.

Plans are in the works to get the necessary permits to begin phase two of the building remodel. This will include another workshop, storage area, and a temporary saw shop.

We will discuss scheduling days to open the lapidary workshop at the February meeting. The equipment should be available for member's use a couple of days each month starting in February. It you want to have a say to which days would be most convenient for you, please attend the February 3rd meeting, or contact Terry Roberts or Kinney Polve.

With all that has been going on in the club lately, we dropped the ball on giving out the awards for Rockhound of the Month and Rockhound of the Year. These will be awarded at the February meeting. Remember to send in your nominations for Rockhound of the Month. We have a lot of members that deserve some recognition for their time and dedication to the club.

ROCK-N-ROSE

KINNEY'S BENCH TIPS

Choosing the Right Cabochon By Kinney Polve

Whether you're making your own cabochon or buying one, there are certain things to be considered. Shape, size, color, and the type of material are just a few of the basics to consider. If you are designing a

piece of jewelry, there may be certain design elements that need to be considered during the selection process. If you are making a wire-wrapped pendant, the girdle thickness and girdle design will be items that may be important. Also, you would want the back of the cab to be polished. If the cab is going into a custom silver piece, you will want to make sure it has a beveled edge on the rear of the cab as pictured. This allows clearance for the meniscus from the bezel solder joint.

SHOP TIME

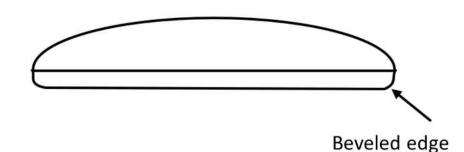
I guess slabs can do more than just make jewelry.

Marcia Graham

The photo (by Marcia Graham) to the right are some of the paintings Marcia painted on rock slabs.

> A new club member attended her first Club meeting, which happened to be our Christmas Party on Dec. 2. She had a great

time and picked a beautiful gift on her first try. Unfortunately, it was "stolen" from her, so she picked another gift. Alas, it was also "stolen", so she tried again. This time she was able to keep it. The gift was composed of at least 10 very nice slabs. She was particularly pleased with the Variegated Tiger Eye and the high quality Sodalite. Since she didn't have the experience nor the equipment to make cabs from these two slabs, she asked me if I could cut two cabs from each slab and wire wrap them as gifts for her and her mother. John Morrison, who brought her to the meeting, asked me if I could also cut a cab from each of those slabs and wire wrap them as gifts for a geologist friend of his who is visiting him from Mexico. I agreed to do the pendants, which are picture above. **Terry Roberts**



TYLER, TEXAS



ROCK-N-ROSE

TYLER, TEXAS

JANUARY 2020

The photo to the right shows a Cherry Creek Jasper cab that I tried polishing a couple of years ago. I could not get a decent shine on it using cerium oxide or tin oxide on leather or felt pads, nor could I achieve any polish using a 50,000-grit diamond wheel, so I tossed it to the back of my work bench. It was only recently that I came across the cab again and I decided to try ZAM on a Muslin buff as a last resort to polish the cab. While I could not get a polish on it that came close to the polish normally found on a quality agate cab, it is good enough to make it a good candidate for wire-wrapping in the future. Terry Roberts





I recently came across a Mahogany Obsidian blank that has been sitting in a pile of material on my workbench that was ready for cabbing, and thought it was time to see what it looked like when

polished. I'm glad I did because, it turned out better than I had expected it to. Unfortunately, the polish made it a good mirror that reflected my image, which distracts from the beauty of the cab. The second picture shows the interior pattern under transmitted light. Sometimes you get a scenic view with this material, but I couldn't find a "scene" in this one. Perhaps the reader may see something that escaped me. Terry Roberts

I recently sorted through some small slabs that I had cut and separated them according to their quality as cabbing or tumbling material. The cab pictured came from one of those slabs that I initially thought was just tumbling material. However, I took a second look at it, when I noticed the strange pattern of the yellow band at the top of the slab. Most of the slab was composed of a drab, brown moss-like material at the bottom, which detracted from the overall beauty of the slab. I cut the largest part of the brown material away from the bottom of the cab with my trim saw and



ground off the white agate material at the top of the cab so that more of the yellow band would be visible. The cab is thicker than normally desired in cabs, but this was acceptable so that more of the three-dimensional qualities of the yellow band could be seen. When viewed closely, (please ignore the scratches that I left, as I will remove them later when I have more time) you will notice how the band undulates in several directions and even follows a crack in the cab downward near the middle. I think the bubbles at the top are formed when the band formed over some of the red plumes that you see below the yellow band. Even though this band is too thick to create a Parallax effect, it serves as visual evidence of bands that do exist in clear agate and create the Parallax effect, which causes light to bend. I don't know exactly where this slab came from, but it definitely came from one of the ranches we hunt in west Texas, somewhere near Big Bend National Park.

ROCK-N-ROSE

TYLER, TEXAS

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I have sent in the entries for the 2020 Author & Editor Contest. We had 35 entries by twenty of our members. As with last year's entries, the competition will be stiff. When we have a lot of club members participate, we not only compete with other clubs in the SCFMS, we compete with our own members. I hope we come away with many of the top awards again this year. We'll know at the SCFMS Convention in October.

For new members in the club, the contest judges your submissions to the newsletter. Not only do your submissions give our readers enjoyment and education, they can be award winning. Don't wait to be asked to send in an article, poem, etc., just do it! I have a bad habit of being forgetful when it comes to taking photos at club events. This is one area Where you can help out.

Remember, I need your poems for the February Poetry Issue. Please don't wait until the last minute to send them in. We had nine members send in poems last year. I know we can do better than that with 184 members in the club. It's fun, and it gets you involved. Please make the effort to get some of our junior members involved. I would like to see at least one poem from a junior club member.

If you look back through this month's newsletter, there was not one article submitted. Don't depend on the same members to do all the work. Take the time to write an article and send it in. If you can't think of a topic, just ask.

I want to thank those members that did contribute to this issue. Thanks David Russ, Julia Toombs, Fred Mahaffey, Margaret Kilanski, Marcia Graham, and Terry Roberts for your contributions.

UPCOMING ARTICLE

In March, I should have an article on West Texas agates, thanks to some wonderful photos courtesy of Robert Redmond. Keep an eye out, because it's

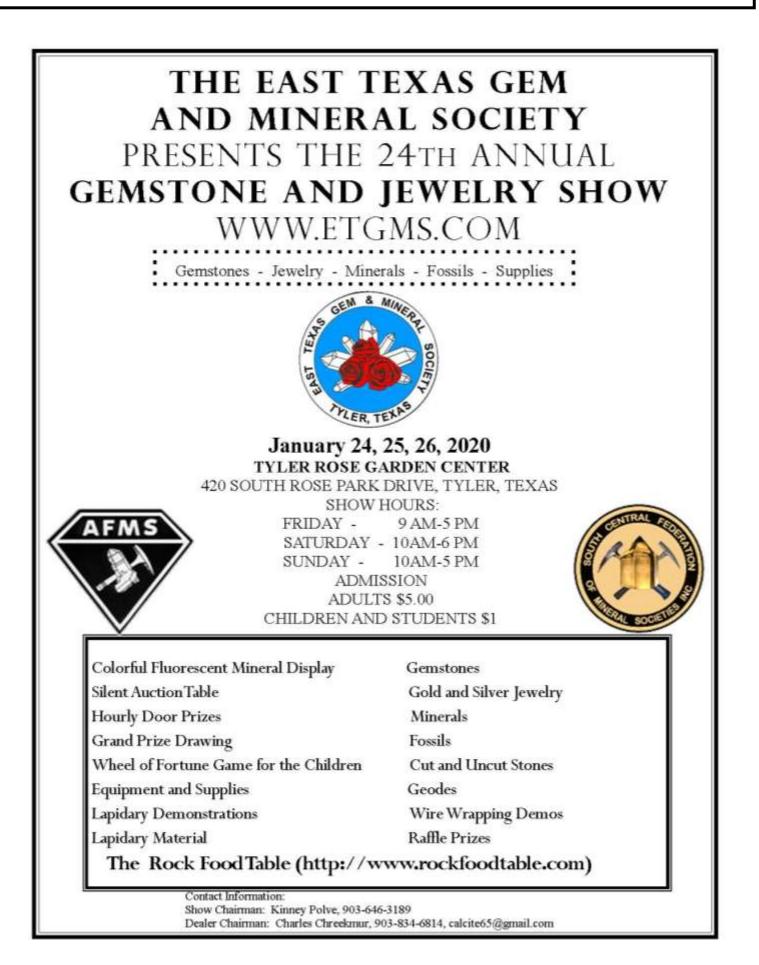
coming soon. Here's a little taste of what's coming up. Kinney Polve











Lapidary/Jewelry Group – Meets on the second Saturday of each month at 2:00 pm, except December and January. Terry Roberts leads this group. Contact Terry to have your name added to the email. terry.roberts45@yahoo.com

Mineral Group – Meets every second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Charles Creekmur heads up the group. Contact Charles to have your name added to the email. - <u>calcite65@gmail.com</u>

Fossil Group – Meets every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. David Russ heads up the group. Contact David to have your name added to the email. <u>dbruss50@gmail.com</u>

Gemology Group Meets every third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. The group is led by Richard Armstrong. Contact Richard to have your name added to the email. <u>keltfire@msn.com</u>

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