

# ROCK-N-ROSE

THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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VOLUME 44

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 7

JULY 2018

## Upcoming Events

**JULY, 21**

**ETGMS ROCK SWAP**  
ETGMS CLUBHOUSE  
TYLER, TX

**AUGUST, 11-12**

BATON ROUGE G&MS  
TRADEMART BLDG.  
GONZALES, LA

**AUGUST, 18-19**

ARK-LA-TEX G&MS  
BOSSIER CITY CIVIC  
CENTER  
BOSSIER CITY, LA

**OCTOBER, 13-14**

TRI-CITY G&MS  
MAYBORN CIVIL CENTER  
TEMPLE, TX

**OCTOBER, 19-21**

AUSTIN G&MS  
PALMER EVENT CENTER  
AUSTIN, TX

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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to all of our new members,

It is really exciting to see all the group activities going on and our members are getting excited about the Lapidary, Mineral, and new Gemology Subgroups. It is also exciting to see some of the new members getting involved with the club activities, making suggestions, and coming up with ideas to help make the club better. We are already in mid-summer and will start planning activities in preparation for our show in January.

We are having a Rock Swap on July 21st, 9 am – 4 pm. Are you interested? We will invite other Mineral Clubs to participate and will host it at the clubhouse. If you would like to set up a table and bring some of your rocks, minerals, fossils, and lapidary work, please contact me and let me know so I can put you down on the list. Please only bring one table no longer than eight foot. If you want to set up outside out of the back of your vehicle (like tailgating) that is fine also.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon. Remember, stay hydrated and be safe while out in the heat.

Fred Mahaffey



Once a prisoner of the deep, lock away in a rhyolite graveyard. They were allowed to see daylight for only a moment, only to be cast into a bag. They now lay in a pile. Waiting, but for what? Will they ever see daylight again? Is this part of a bigger picture? To find out more, visit page 8.

## MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society met for its regular monthly meeting on July 2, 2018. Fred Mahaffey called the meeting to order and asked the new member to introduce herself and her interests. Fred asked for a motion to approve the June minutes. Julia Toombs made the motion and Gene Goar seconded and the motion carried. Colleen Hayes gave the treasury report.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OLD BUSINESS:

- Marcia Graham made two announcements. She is selling natural soaps that she made from green clay and selling 13 wire-wrapped cabs as a fundraiser for the clubhouse.
- Kinney needs articles for the newsletter.
- Carolyn Davis asked each club member to contact a school official from their school district beginning August 1<sup>st</sup> in reference to the annual show.
- Clubhouse sign – Fred asked for designs to be thought about and drawn up and sent to him. Allen Brown and Amy Long showed theirs.
- Fred asked that anyone who wanted to use the building for another purpose to please check with him or Terry Roberts first to make sure it won't conflict with something else.
- Richard Armstrong is proposing starting a Gemology sub-group. A sign-up sheet is available. There is no firm date and time yet.
- Lapidary – Terry Roberts reported that the next meeting is July 14. In October, the Rose Festival Arts & Crafts Fair would be a good place to fund-raise.
- Mineral – Charles Creekmur – Please sign up if interested. The program will be on the pegmatite mine in New Mexico, its history, minerals found, and pictures of it. The meeting will be July 10 at 6:30.
- Fossil – David Russ is out of state July and August.
- Rock Swap – July 21 from 9 am – 4 pm. You will have to supply your own table, and you are limited to only one table due to limited space. Kinney said they may even sell some of the equipment that can't be used in order to move it out.
- Field trips – No leader yet for this group. Suggestions: Amy mentioned a woolly mammoth venue in Waco where a herd has been discovered and a building has been built around it. Gene mentioned the Ross Perot Museum. Petrified wood

in Henderson in August? Mt. Ida, Arkansas Quartz Crystal Dig in October?

- Randy Harmon – On July 18 at 10:30 he will give a presentation on rocks at the Lindale Library, and asked for give-away rocks and help with set-up.
- Food at Rock Swap – Can't sell but will put out a jar for donations.

### New Business:

- Two desktop computers are needed, one for the Treasurer & one for programs.
- Join the Chamber of Commerce. Richard is a member and will ask questions.

Fred asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Kinney made the motion and Terry seconded. The motion carried. The next meeting will be August 6, 2018.

Submitted by  
Julia Toombs, Secretary



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THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF JEWELRY APPRAISERS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>July</b> 15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Rock Swap 8 AM – 4 PM
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	<b>August</b> 1	2	3	4
5	6 Monthly Meeting 6:45 pm	7	8	9	10	11 Lapidary/Jewelry Group Meeting 2:00 pm
12	13	14 Mineral Group Meeting 6:30 pm	15	16	17	18 Petrified Wood Field Trip

## LAPIDARY

Thirteen members (including two new members) of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group met at the clubhouse last Saturday (July 14) to talk about a fundraising event that we are planning. Terry told the group the qualifying rules for the 2018 Tyler Arts & Crafts Fair in mid-October that will be held at Bergfeld Park. He mentioned that attendance may not be very high due to the lack of public parking near the park. However, several members said the park is a popular site, and the public doesn't seem to mind parking along the neighboring roads and walking to the park. So, the group will still plan on attending the event at Bergfeld Park.

Terry brought up another venue that the group needed to consider for selling jewelry and other handcrafted items to raise funds, and that is the Edom Arts Festival which is held the week before the Tyler Fair in October. Despite the lack of time for resupplying our stock, the group was interested in attending this site as well. Terry will look into the requirements for getting space to set up our booth and let the members know if we can qualify. Two other members said they knew of another venue we might pursue in Tyler but couldn't think of the name. They said they will e-mail Terry as soon as they can remember it.

Several members brought new items to donate to the fund-raising effort. Kinney and Terry also brought some gold-filled and sterling silver wire for other members to use in making pendants.

The next L/J Group meeting will be held on August 11, 2018. The topic for this meeting will be twofold: We will need to get members to volunteer to man the booth for both venues in October, and we will talk about different polishing compounds, techniques, pads/buffs, and machines for getting that perfect polish on different types of minerals. Kinney has a new slow-speed polishing machine that may be what is needed to get a good polish on minerals that defy most lapidary techniques.

Terry Roberts

## MINERALOGY GROUP

We had a good group of 11 members show up for the Harding Mine program last night. We plan to explore the Garnet family of minerals next month.

Charles Creekmur

## NEW GEMOLOGY GROUP

After reviewing the sign-up sheet, I chose the 3rd Thursday for our initial meeting. That will be July 19th at 6:30 pm. I will not have a specific program but will be open to discussion about the group, member's interests, etc. You can ask any questions about gemology. For some, I am sure this is a new area of interest, and I expect there will be some questions. I would like to wind up the meeting by 8:30 pm, as I have a diabetic dog at home that needs to be fed on schedule and have her insulin shot at 9:00 pm. This is why I had to leave our regular meeting early.

Richard Armstrong



## A Little Knowledge Can Save Beaucoup de \$\$\$!

By Lynn Metcalf, Graduate Gemologist, GIA

Back in the late Dark Ages, the early 1990's, yours truly completed the grueling Gemological Institute of America's Graduate Gemologist program. While my spouse helped build the Internet 'cloud' in Tokyo, Japan, I practiced total immersion in the science and to some extent 'art', of gemology.

Soon, a military spouse from Yokosuka Naval Base asked for an evaluation of a ring with a large Alexandrite gemstone. Depositing the ring in my hand, she said she had gotten a 'good deal' on the piece while shopping in Bangkok, Thailand. Examining the ring, less than twenty seconds passed before I began to wrack my brain for a nice way to tell the buyer her 'deal' wasn't so good. How to tell her that the Alexandrite and diamond ring she prized so much was not what it seemed? And worth a lot less.

A full gemological exam was required to prove the case. When the upsetting truth was revealed, it was necessary to have thorough scientific documentation in place as backup. Taking a deep breath, I plunged into examining, testing, researching, and analyzing of the object resting under the microscope.

With even a modicum of gemstone knowledge, the buyer would have known she was looking at a very poor simulation and kept the \$700 (in 1991 dollars) safely in her wallet. The final analysis of the "Alexandrite" ring: The stone was actually man-made synthetic spinel. The 'diamonds' were quartz. Surprisingly, the ring metal was, in fact, 14 karat gold. Those dark ages were really golden, back when gold was \$32 an ounce!

### So...What is Gemology?

Gemology is the study of gemstones. Although the application of scientific methods of testing is a recent development of the last fifty years, the study of gemstones goes back many centuries. The word 'gemology' was first coined in 1811 and its construction comes from the Latin gemma, meaning 'gem' and ology, meaning 'to study'.

The East Texas Gem and Mineral Society is proud to introduce a new sub-group: The Gemology Group. In addition to the Lapidary/Jewelry, Mineralogical and Fossil groups, our new Gemology Group will focus on industry standard established techniques for the identification of gemstones, rough and finished. Tying in to the geological aspects of mineral formation and location identification, the Gemology Group will help provide the in-depth knowledge so important in the accurate distinction between, and characteristics of, genuine gemstones, as well as simulated, man-made, and created stones. NOTE: Under this sub group, ETGMS will not under any circumstances provide appraisals due to potential insurance liabilities.

The first meeting of the Gemology Group will be hosted at the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society facility located at 2015 Deerbrook Drive, in Tyler, Texas, on Thursday, the 19th of July at 6:30pm. Please join us at the organizational meeting and bring your ideas to make the Gemology Group a vital and integral element of the ETGMS. Knowledge. Your credit card and money clip will love you for it!

## ACTIVE FUNDRAISING EFFORTS BY SOME OF OUR MEMBERS



*Above - Gene Goar donated all these cabs and Marica Graham wire-wrapped them.  
Below - Items donated by Marcia Graham, Amy Long, & Terry Roberts.*

The Lapidary group has been actively working on fundraising projects to raise money for the club. They realize that it will take money to make our workshops a reality, and this is one way to make it happen quicker. The group has devoted a lot of time to organize venues. Many of the item pictures will be available at ETGMS's table during the Rock Swap.



*Below - Marcia made soap to help support the effort.*



## CLUBHOUSE WORKDAY

A few of us met up at the clubhouse on Saturday morning before the L/J group meeting. Marcia Graham had come up with an idea to add a little color to the walls in the entry hallway. The partition wall was also needing a coat of paint, so the trim could be installed and get both rooms organized. We also reorganized the meeting area to get things ready for the Rock Swap. Volunteers also cleaned up the jewelry display cabinet that Keith Harmon donated. Photos by Vicky Polve and me.

Kinney Polve



*Terry Roberts and Kinney Polve putting the last coat of paint on the wall.*



*Marcia Graham might be happiest when she has a paintbrush in her hand.*

*Vicky Polve isn't afraid of hard work, but she definitely doesn't like the camera pointed her direction.*





I made a presentation to kiddos at Troup Public Library today. The young people got a few stories, explanations, and learned what the state rock is. They also got to dig in a grab bag and take a rock home.

I loved working with the youth, and the little blonde who brought me every rock, since she was at the end of the line. I noticed she stroked her cheeks with each rock she returned. We all enjoyed it. Sherry Breedlove



Keith Harmon donated a new coarse wheel for the club's Genie capping machine, so as soon as it is installed the machine will be ready to use. He also donated some tools used for silversmithing to go towards getting our silversmithing workshop set up, once we get the rooms built.



*Five slabs that I was able to cut from the largest of the six pieces of Pigeon-blood that Dean sent to me.*

I recently received a care package from a new friend I made while visiting my daughter and son-in-law in Utah last April. He is an excellent wire-wrapper and has been rockhounding in Utah and surrounding states since the 60's. He has not been able to collect rocks from Texas so I sent him as much rough and slabs that I could find in my own collections from west Texas. It wasn't much since it has been three years since my last visit out there. It's a shame that the Walker Ranch has been closed that long.

Anyway, Dean sent me some pieces of Red Horned Coral, Picasso Jasper (possibly a marble), Silver Creek Junction Petrified Wood (from near Park City, UT, no longer available since a housing addition has been built over the site), Black Ridge Agate (just south of Moab), Yellow Cat Carnelian (red wood, very small pieces found near Moab), and Pigeon-blood Agate (found southeast of the town of Green River just off I-70 near Moab). This is probably my favorite agate that he sent to me. I will get a map from him on where to look for it later. I just had to cut the largest



rock of this material to see what it looked like when cabbed. I found out that it is very hard, as hard to grind for a cab as Montana Agate, in my humble opinion.

I have attached pictures to show the Pigeon-blood Agate and some cabs that I've made recently while trying to catch up on the work that has piled up on my workbench since last year.

At first glance, it appears to be opaque and more of a jasper than an agate. In the picture to the left you can see the Pigeon-blood cab I finished in the upper left side of the group of four cabs. I don't know what the other three cabs are, but I liked them. The cab at the lower right side may be azurite and malachite, but I'm not sure. I don't

think it is chrysocolla, though. The picture to the right shows the pigeon-blood cab with transmitted light. You can tell it is translucent, which to me indicates it is agate rather than jasper. I will try to do some more cutting and capping on the other material Dean sent me when I get a chance.

Terry Roberts



*Thunderegg in the matrix at the Lucky Strike Mine.*

## A JOURNEY FOR ROCKS ENDS

By Kinney Polve

From all our collecting on our journey from Texas to Oregon, the truck is beginning to fill up. We can't stop now, there's still weeks to go. The next site we planned to hit was Whistle Springs Tunderegg bed. I'm more into lapidary material, but thundereggs can often have an interesting character. The drive north to the collecting site has some wonderful views of the scenic Ochoco Mountains. I do recommend a high-clearance vehicle for the last few miles of the journey. The average vehicle would probably be fine, but it would make for an interesting drive. The search for thundereggs is hard rock mining, so plan to spend some time and bring the right tools. After a few hours, and not much success, we decided to go try our luck at the Lucky Strike Tunderegg Mine. It is located just

a few miles from the Whistle Springs site, but don't plan to make this drive with a low-clearance vehicle. We unloaded our Polaris 6X6 from the truck to make the journey. The ATV was a much better choice for the road conditions, it sure beats bouncing down the road in the dually pickup. Once there, we met the Janis and Jeremy Smith. They pointed us in the direction of the digging site, and Janis gave us a few tips. In the digging area, they had exposed a nice bed of thundereggs, and the surrounding matrix was easy digging. In less than an hour, we managed to fill two buckets with some nice specimens. I was really enjoying digging out these beauties. Vicky finally said, "Don't you think we have enough?" Time to weigh up and pay the man, 88 pounds!

The time has finally arrived! The long-anticipated start of the Prineville Pow Wow is finally here. What's great about the Pow Wow are the field trips. Some of these locations are only open to the public for collecting during this event. Richardson Ranch is open to the public from March through October, but the Priddy Plume Thunderegg Bed is only



*Above (Photo by Paul Rose.) - Vicky Polve and I digging in the Priday Bed. Below – A view of the Pony Butt Bed*



*The view from the Friend's Ranch collecting area parking lot.*

open during the weeks of the Prineville and Madras Pow Wows. The Friends Ranch Thunderegg Bed is another location that is only open at this time. Thursday was the first day of the event, and we made sure we were on the list for these two field trips.

Bright and early Friday morning we were at the fairgrounds in line (a long line) with a bunch of other eager rockhounds, ready to head to Richardson Ranch. Once we arrived everyone listened to a short orientation, then we split up toward one of the many thunderegg collecting areas. The Priday Bed was our chosen destination. Collecting thundereggs at the Priday Bed is not an easy task. We prepared to do some hard rock mining. Hammer and chisel in hand, I went right to work. After four hours or so of banging the hard rhyolite, and about thirty pounds of thundereggs in our bucket, we decided that it was time to get a bite of lunch and move onto another location. Our next choice was the Pony Butt Thunderegg Bed. We had heard that some very interesting eggs had been dug from this bed, and we figured that this would be a good choice to spend the rest of the day. One great thing about the Pony Butt Bed is the digging is much easier. It didn't take long to fill the bucket with about sixty pounds of thundereggs from this location. Final tally for the day was ninety-two pounds of thundereggs.

Saturday started out much like the previous day. There were two field trips planned, McDonald's Ranch and Friend's Ranch, and we planned to hunt the both of them. We started with McDonald's Ranch. It is known for thundereggs, petrified wood, and Angel Wing Agate. The main item of interest here was the Angel Wing Agate. Angel Wing is chalcedony that form tubes running somewhat parallel to each other. It forms in the pockets of the rhyolite, so hard rock mining again. We weren't concerned with collecting more than a few specimen pieces, so we spent less than an hour at this location before moving over to the thunderegg bed. They call the thundereggs from this location "Green Eggs & Ham," possibly because of the green opal/agate in the inside. We only wanted a couple from this location.

For the rest of the day, we headed over to Friend's Ranch to hunt. Friend's Ranch is located only a few miles from McDonald's Ranch, and I found the thundereggs to be much more appealing at this location. It is quite a trip on the dirt road from the highway to the thunderegg bed. This was another location that the thundereggs were easy to dig out. I would guess it took less than one and a half hours to collect about a hundred pounds. It was time head back to camp and

*Continued on Page 10.*



*Above – Digging at the Radford Mine. Below – Yours truly digging out the largest thunderegg of the day. Photos by Vicky Polve.*



rest up after a few days of digging.

We had decided to spend Sunday at the pow wow. It was time to take it easy for a few days. This turned out to be a good choice. While visiting with one of the dealers, we were invited to go out with him to his thunderegg claim. It's always a bonus to hook up with someone from the area. Now we had plans for a Tuesday hunt.

We decided to go up to the White Fir Springs collecting area on Monday. Accompanied by some of my Facebook friends, that happened to be at the same campground for the pow wows. This is a well-known collecting site, so it's hard to know where the best place to dig would be. As with most old collecting sites, you never know if you're digging an area that was already dug thirty years ago. We did manage to find some material, but nothing to write home about.

We met Sam Seth at his Radford Bed Mine claim at 8 o'clock on Tuesday morning. There was a total of six of us there to move dirt and find some thundereggs. The Radford claim is an old claim, and the word is that when Mr. Radford died, they spread his ashes over the old diggings area. Some people I talked with thought that this area had been dug out, and there was nothing left to find, but that wasn't the case. We had to start out by digging back the hang wall a few feet, this was for safety reasons. Sam used his truck and a chain to pull out the rocks that were too heavy for us to lift. After about four hours of work, we had the claim area safe and ready to dig thundereggs. We ended up with about seven hundred pounds of thundereggs after two and a half hours. We divided up our finds. Then Vicky and I headed back to camp.

Wednesday was another planned rest day, doing a little grilling, visiting with our Facebook friends, and planning out

the rest of the week. Also, weathering out the bad storm that came through the area that evening.

The start of the Madras Pow Wow was on Thursday, so that's where we started out. Another Richardson Ranch field trip was planned for the day, but the storm that occurred the day before caused it to be cancelled. We spent half the day at the pow wow, and the other half resting up. After a month on the road we were starting to tire a bit. We planned to visit the Richardson Ranch again on Friday.

We arrived at the Richardson Ranch at 7 am, and the pits were open for digging. As with the last time, we started at the Priday Bed. We spent about five hours with the hammer and chisel, hoping to release a fabulous treasure from its rhyolite prison. With a bucket full of treasures, it was time to head over to the Pony Butt Bed again. We spent about forty-five minutes digging out thundereggs, then sorted there the pile for the best to take home. By the end of the day, we had one hundred and thirty-two pounds.

There comes a time when a decision has to be made, when to head back towards home? There's only so much rock that one truck can hold, and we were almost at that point. The decision was to make a quick stop at Colbaugh Processing in Kingman, AZ, then head east to Holbrook.

We arrive at Holbrook, AZ, and decided to stay an extra day. We always like hunting the gravel roads that are south of Woodruff, AZ, for petrified wood. I was in need of some smaller tumbling material to polish up for the club, and this



would fit the bill. We started collecting early, about 6 am, and by 9 am the heat was telling us that it was time to call it a day. It didn't have to tell me twice!

Overall, this was a wonderful trip. A lot of beautiful scenery, a truck load of rocks, and no trip delaying breakdowns. It may have taken us ten years to make it back to the area, but I'm glad that we did. I'm sure it will take many months to sort through our finds, and several more to cut open all the thundereggs.

## **EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**

### **ROCK SWAP**

**Saturday July 21, 2018**

**2015 Deerbrook Drive**

**Tyler, Texas**

**9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

**ETGMS will be hosting a rock swap.**

**Other rock clubs are encouraged to join us.**

**You can set up your table inside the clubhouse or just tailgate on the back lot.**

**We are limiting indoor space to one 6 or 8-foot table.**

**Come and buy, sell, or swap.**

**There should be a good selection of club-related items.**

**Bring your minerals, fossils, rough material, slabs,  
handmade items, equipment, etc.**

**It should be a great day for camaraderie.**

**And if that isn't enough, we will be cooking up some  
hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch.**

**See you there.**

**Lapidary/Jewelry Group** – Meets on the second Saturday of each month, except December and January. The meeting time is 2:00 pm. This group's meeting is all about lapidary (anything to do with cutting and polishing rocks) and jewelry making. Terry Roberts leads this group. To have your name added to the email list contact Terry Roberts - [terry.roberts45@yahoo.com](mailto:terry.roberts45@yahoo.com)

**Mineral Group** – Meets every second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. This group is all about minerals, how to identify them, geology and the locations they can be found. Topics are decided on by the group leader and the members. Charles Creekmur heads up the group. If you are interested in learning more about minerals, get your name on the email list for this group by contacting Charles Creekmur - [calcite65@gmail.com](mailto:calcite65@gmail.com)

**Fossil Group** – Meets every third Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. If fossils are your thing, or you just want to learn a little more about fossils, this would be the group for you. Topics about fossils, locations where they can be found, and geological time periods are all discussed in this group. David Russ heads up the group, and if you would like to have your name added to the email list, contact David Russ - [dbruss50@gmail.com](mailto:dbruss50@gmail.com)

**NEWSLETTER CONTENT:** Please send any original info or articles to be included in the newsletter to the Editor at the address or email listed below by the 10th of the month. Please keep your address, phone and email up-to-date, so that we can get the newsletter to you in a timely manner. Out-of-date information costs the club time and money in returned newsletters. If you need an issue dealt with quickly, don't hesitate to call. AFMS & SCFMS Newsletters will be emailed to members, as to not duplicate that information here, unless it needs to be repeated. Board meeting minutes are not published in the newsletter. If you would like to see a copy, contact an officer on the Board. The information in this newsletter may be reproduced for nonprofit use, as long as credit is given to the source. Thank you, Kinney Polve

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 regular monthly club meetings.**

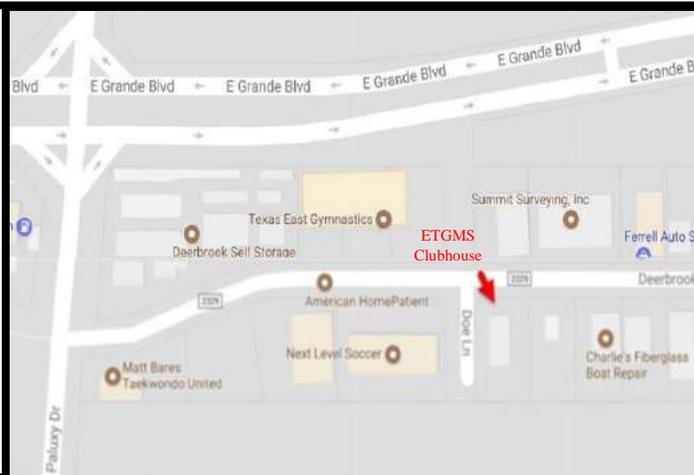
#### ANNUAL DUES:

Single: \$10.00 - Family: \$20.00

#### MONTHLY MEETING:

**WHEN:** First Monday of the month unless it's a holiday, then the second Monday, at 6:45 p.m.

**WHERE:** ETGMS Clubhouse, 2015 Deerbrook Drive, Tyler, Texas



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