



ROCK-N-ROSE



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VOLUME 35

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2009

Coming Shows, 2009

August 22-23
Jasper, TX
Pine Country G & M Soc.
Events Center

September 5-6
Arlington, TX
Arlington Gem & Mineral
Club
Arlington Conv. Center

September 26-27
Denison, TX
Texoma Rockhounds
Denison Senior Center

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good program by Keith on placer mining for gold. He demonstrated the technique and found a few flakes of gold. The Indians in East Texas were known to mine for gold, silver and lead to trade with and there is even a book on The Lost Mines of East Texas at the Jacksonville Public Library (unless Penny still has it checked out). Lots of discussion about raising dues to cover the costs of printing the newsletter. Several options explored. Both Robert and Gene volunteered to have someone with software expertise help us figure out how to put our newsletter out via e-mail. If enough people take this option dues will not need to be increased. If they do need to be increased, they will still be a bargain. Also, still looking for a volunteer Webmaster. There was some discussion about the possibility that we may need to find another place to meet in the near future. While we are working with The Discovery Science Place to find out what they want from us we also need to be actively investigating a building to use as a clubhouse (meetings, classes, etc.). If anyone has a lead on a possible building or building site in the Tyler area please let me know. Someplace where we could hold classes and showcase our talents would be a big help to the club. People want to learn how to do things with the rocks they find and the club has members with lots of talent, so we just need a place to get them together. Club auction is scheduled for the next meeting, September 7. Good opportunity to get some unique specimens at a reasonable price. Hope to see you there. Until then, happy hunting

Rip Criss



Editor's Note:

Hi guys, I am working on figuring out a way to get the newsletter converted to E-mail form. The most recent was scanning it page by page and attaching it in an email. This was semi-successful, with a few glitches, such as the pages coming up on one side of the screen instead of centered (I have no idea how to fix this), the second being that only 7 of the pages fit in one email, lol. However, I am going to get this figured out, so if you wish to be put on the email list, please update your email information with me for when it can be sent that way. Friends' thanks for being patient with me.

Your humble Editor, Susan Burch

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August Meeting Minutes

The ETG&MS meeting was called to order by President Rip Criss at 7:06 p.m.

First order of business was acceptance of the minutes of the July 6, 2009 meeting as published in the Rock-N-Rose newsletter. A total of 21 club members were present including new members, Ron and Elsa Jerger.

Treasurer Jeri Kitchens gave the monthly financial report followed by a request from Rip for help for editor, Susan Burch, in converting the newsletter to an email format. Several members expressed a willingness to volunteer a friend's expertise. Keith Harmon spoke regarding the possibility of increasing club yearly dues to perhaps \$15 individual or \$25 family to cover the increase in costs. A general discussion followed with members expressing opinions and concluding with Tom Stringfellow making a motion to increase club dues to \$22.50 per person. Failing a second to the motion, the members agreed to consider options to reduce cost of the newsletter and revisit the issue at a future meeting.

Next item was the need to have the September club meeting held on Labor Day, September 7 due to the possibility that the meeting room would not be available on another Monday. Also, the September program will be the annual club auction due to a conflict with the auctioneer's schedule for the October meeting. Following membership consideration of the options, Tom made motion to have the meeting on Labor Day, seconded by Gene and a unanimous approval vote.

There were no field trip reports and none scheduled.

Keith spoke to the members about the possibility that the Discovery Science Place will start charging the club rent for use of the meeting room and that the current rate is \$150 for 2 hours. A discussion about the terms under which the club has been using the meeting room ensued with lively participation. Options for future meeting places were considered and members requested to bring ideas to future meetings. Under consideration is purchase of land and construction of a new building, with attendant costs or the option of a long-term rental of an existing structure. One idea was to approach city officials to see if there are empty buildings which could be utilized by the club with minimal rent in exchange for upkeep and renovation of the structure. Rip expressed a desire to have a place where club owned equipment could be set up and members could use it and teach others.

Gene said that plans are still being formulated to have a wire wrapping class at a later date.

Keith announced that he and Charlotte will have another rock sale in their backyard on September 12 & 13th. The last sale, June 6, totaled 5,000 lbs. of rock taken out and Charlotte said that didn't even make a dent in the amount of rocks they have.

Door prizes were awarded and a short break for refreshments preceded the night's educational entertainment.

Keith presented the program on Gold Prospecting in the Rapid City, South Dakota area. Pictures and slides showed the difference between placer gold and lode gold and he had samples of different kinds to pass around. He had brought sluice boxes and different types of pans used in the search for gold and demonstrated the proper techniques. The large group of children present at the meeting watched in fascination as Keith swirled the water and "mud" around in the pan and the yellow flecks began to appear. He shared insights into what to look for when panning and the best types of pans to use.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted by Penny Hawkins, Club Secretary



**YOU ARE INVITED TO
KEITH & CHARLOTTE HARMON'S
BACKYARD
ROCK AND EQUIPMENT SALE**

**September 12 & 13, 2009
9:00 AM until 5:00 PM**

**We have about
40 TONS OF ROCKS OF ALL KINDS
And
USED ROCK SAWS, TUMBLERS,
LAPS AND OTHER USED
EQUIPMENT**



8316 OXFORD DRIVE
TYLER, TX
903-581-4068



Starting at I-20 and Hwy 69: Take 69 South to Tyler (about 7 miles.) Turn right onto Loop 323. Continue on loop 323 to S. Broadway Avenue (South 69). Turn right onto Broadway (the mall will be on the right corner). Take Broadway to Heritage Dr. (there will be a light here and the median will be ending here). Turn left onto Heritage. Go on Heritage to the stop sign. Turn right onto Harvard Drive. Harvard T's into Cambridge. Our house will be on the left. (If coming from Shreveport, take Hwy 271 into Tyler from I-20 then turn on Loop 323 and go south to Hwy 69 (at the mall).)



Fools Gold

By Fredricksburg Rockhounds member (and AGMS member) Ed Gage

The story that the old man told,
 was filled with hope as he looked for gold.
 He'd braved the heat of the desert sun,
 and spread his bed when the day was done.
 Crawling and climbing he would not stop,
 on to the gold fields he'd harvest his crop.
 He waded water under the trees,
 into rushing currents up to his knees.
 When he fell he started to freeze,
 into water so cold nearly thirty degrees.
 He sprang from the water dripping wet and cold,
 forgetting the water and his age of old.
 Everything he knew and what he was told,
 he knew he'd found the mother lode.
 He frigidly sank to scoop up the sand,
 knowing he'd soon be a rich man.
 The glitter of gold mixed in the sand,
 sinfully laid in his desperate hand.
 The flakes were gold or so it seemed,
 but in the shade it would not gleam.
 The old man's curses filled the air,
 as he ranted and raved in despair.
 It was iron pyrite he'd been told,
 he didn't have a bit of gold.

~From Fredericksburg Rockhounds Newsletter 11/07; via Stone Chipper 08/09



TEXAS METAL ARTS FESTIVAL

Years ago Lester W. informed the club about a new festival that was starting up, Texas Metal Arts, a Festival in Gruene. Since then, Les P and I have been going every year, except the one year they cancelled due to rain, YES rain! This year the dates are Saturday, September 12th and Sunday, September 13th. There will be about 32 artists, and yes I mean artists, nothing made outside of Texas! Along with all these wonderful artists, there will be demonstrations both days, approximately 12 each day. Visit the website, www.texasmetalarts.com for more information, schedule and pictures. Les and I usually spend most of both days there as the demos are wonderful as well as the surroundings! We will see you there!

~Respectfully submitted, Susan Postlethwait via Stone Chipper 08/09



Gem Treatments by Martin Barstow

With demand for rare gemstones at an all-time high and with prices soaring for them, the market is there for enhancements and fraud. Here are a few of the treatments that have been uncovered during the past year. A reputable dealer will disclose these when selling a stone (if he knows of them) and the price should reflect these, but, as always, know your dealer and—buyer beware.

Sold for years as an expensive red gem, Andesine has turned out to be in fact cheap brown-yellow African labradorite heated and diffused with copper and iron. Many of these were sold on TV on the various gem and jewelry channels, and buyers are now suing these vendors for fraud.

Bismuth-based glass filler has been found in pink sapphires and rubies by Gem Research Swiss (GRS).

Lead-glass filling for star rubies has been around for some years, but they are now using a low-heat version (800–1200 degrees C) that is new. This is evidently being done in Thailand.

GIA (The Gemological Institute of America) has found synthetic rubies in the market that were heated in order to disguise their artificial origin. Dealers are offering them as —natural heated ruby. The normal gem testing process in a laboratory will easily fail to identify a heated ruby as synthetic.

The GAAJ (Gemological Association of All Japan) has identified rutilated [containing fine, embedded needles of rutile, titanium dioxide] quartz filled with oil and resin in order to improve clarity.

GEMLAB from Germany has warned of a new type of synthetic quartz that is heated and then passed off as natural ametrine. Ametrine is always heated. Basically this new trick goes along the lines of heating synthetic ruby to sell it as —heated natural.

Cobalt-coated tanzanite was found by the GIA. Tanzanite is always heated into permanent color change, but this —color can be scratched off.

A new —center-fusion to color topaz has been developed by Sithy Gems. So far topaz was irradiated into blue, vapor-color coated into —Mystic Topaz, and diffused into blue and green. The new center-fusion is basically the high-pressure-heat gluing of an artificially colored piece of topaz onto a colorless topaz. The finished stones, when mounted in jewelry, will resemble high-priced natural stones. Only testing by a gemologist reveals the treatment.

Sithy Gems also offers color-coated Tsavorite and moonstones. A new type of blue sapphire is being produced by inducing cobalt oxide under high heat into colorless or brown corundum. The new process is called —Tanusorn and was developed in Thailand, reports the GAAJ. The resulting sapphires are not very nice, but they are cheap and widely available.

GIA has found lead-glass filled color change sapphires. Lead-glass filling can essentially be applied on any fractured or fissured gemstone, but is so far mostly used in ruby. In 2008, lead-glass filling started to show up in other varieties, too. As always, buyer beware and be educated before buying! If the price seems too good to be true, the stone has probably been treated.



Gemstone Of The Month

Rutilated Quartz

by

Les Connally – Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society

Most everyone is familiar with Quartz, but much fewer people are familiar with Rutile.

Rutile is an Oxide of Titanium or TiO_2 and may be of many forms, but frequently of needle like crystals and in many cases form in Quartz, hence the term Rutilated Quartz. The rutile can take on several colorations, such as red-brown, blood red, golden and black. These crystals may be oriented in radiating sprays or in random array. They may be in clusters or as single random crystals. So far as I have seen the Golden sprays are usually in clusters and the red rutile seems to be in more random arrays.

Rutile has one of the highest indices of refraction 2.6 –2.9 and one of the highest dispersions of most minerals. The rutile itself has a mohs hardness of 6-6.5 and a specific gravity of 4.2-4.3. ¹ The material may be found in many localities such as, Australia, Madagascar, Norway, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, The United States and Brazil. The word Rutile is from the Latin Rutilus – the Latin word for red. ²

Some of the most beautiful, with the golden sprays are from Brazil. These are becoming harder to obtain and higher priced.

Ref:

1. Mineralogy, by Kraus, Hunt, & Ramsdell.
2. The Internet

<http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-rutilated-quartz.htm>

Via Rock Prattle 08/09



SHOP TIPS

FROM THE ROCKHOUND DICTIONARY:

Findings: Stuff you find.

Faceting: A complex way to ruin a good mineral.

Friend: One who can see the star in your sapphire.

Geode: A poem to G. (often written in hollow verse)

Grinding Wheel: A bearing going out on your old truck.

Fortification: Two twentyfications; a large gulp of good whiskey.

Gentleman: A man who holds the door open for his wife to carry the rocks in.

Diamond: The hardest stone known to man to get back from his old girlfriend.

~From Strata Gem 7-8/05. via Rockhouser 7/07, The Shin-Skiner News 11/07

“One of the chief charms of collecting is its uncertainty; never knowing whether you will come back empty handed or with half a dozen of the most priceless specimens you could wish for.” - Gerald Durrell, “The Overloaded Ark”

~From “Good Quotes for Editors” by Diane Dare, via The Shin-Skiner News 6-7/07; via Stone Chipper 08/09



Columbite-Tantalite

Interesting Stories About Mystery Mineral Names

Columbite and columbium (Cb) are derived from the poetical name of the USA – Columbia (not the South American Country of Colombia).

The metal was discovered and described in 1801 by an English chemist Charles Hatchett. He found this new element in a mineral sample that was sent to England from Massachusetts by John Winthrop in 1734.

Chemists later changed the name columbium to niobium at the 15th Conference of the Union of Chemistry in Amsterdam in 1949. Columbium/niobium and tantalum are extremely similar in chemical nature.

Tantalum (Ta) was discovered in 1802 and was very difficult to isolate. Thus it was named for the mythical figure Tantalus. He was condemned to be “tantalized” by standing in knee-deep water which receded if he bent to drink and under a branch of perfect fruit which moved away if he tried to reach them. Niobe was one of Tantalus’s daughters, thus the name chosen in 1949. By the way – many metallurgy books still use columbium for the metal (Cb).

Ah, now for a fun story. One of my former colleagues at Sandia Labs once worked at Ford Motor Co. in their chemistry department. He fielded a call from an individual who promised to make him (them both) rich! He seriously said that he had discovered a technique that would allow him to separate niobium from columbium! My friend hung up on him. Moral - Some people need to do more research before going off half-cocked.

Paul Llava;via News Nuggets 07/09



Some Surefire Signs You're a Rockhound:

- 1) The sign on the side of the road says "Falling Rock" and you pull over to wait.
- 2) Your kids bring you a "pretty stone" they've found, and you contrive to steal it. And you know you've done it. Don't lie.
- 3) You are convinced that buried deep in some secret government archive is a document that will conclusively prove that the entire US Apollo space program was conceived and developed for the sole purpose of getting a moon rock for a certain Presidential rock collection... The truth is out there!
- 4) You think the primary function of road cuts is tourist attractions.
- 5) You own more pieces of quartz than underwear.
- 6) Your wife has had to ask you to move rocks out of the tub so she could take a bath.
- 7) They won't give you time off from work to attend the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show and you go anyway.

Via News Nuggets 07/09

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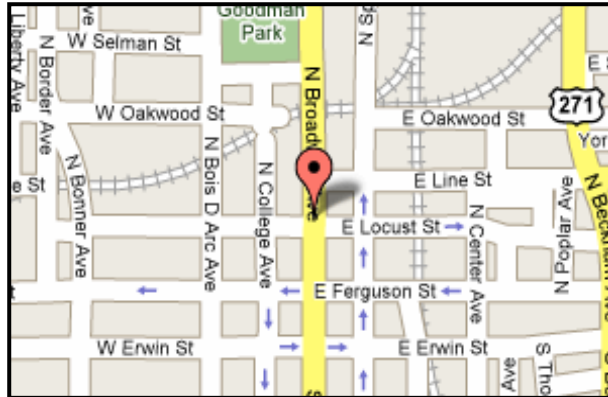
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THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS THAT DAY IS A HOLIDAY, THEN THE MEETING IS MOVED TO THE SECOND MONDAY. WE MEET AT THE DISCOVERY SCIENCE PLACE, 308 NORTH BROADWAY, JUST NORTH OF DOWNTOWN TYLER, TEXAS. MEETINGS BEGIN AT 6:45 P.M.

NOTE TO EDITORS

Feel free to use contents and graphics for non-profit newsletters. Give credit when and where due.

**Purpose of the East
Texas Gem & Mineral
Society**

Is to promote the study of geology, mineralogy, fossils and the lapidary arts. The public is always invited to attend all club meetings.

Annual dues are \$10.00 for adults and \$2.50 for juniors.

Please send any info or articles to be included in the newsletter to the Editor by the 15th of the month. Please keep your address, phone and email information 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.

Thank you... SB



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