



ROCK -N- ROSE



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Coming Shows, 2007

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FIELD TRIP INFO

Please, note the interesting changes in the Field Trip Department, along with messages from Marilyn Austin, about herself and Bob Jameson and also a note from Laura Wilson. These letters are on pages 3 and 4...

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Don't forget that our December 3rd meeting will be the annual holiday meeting with lots of food (brought by each member) and a gift exchange (always fun). Also, there are still places available on the sign up sheets for the vendor dinner, show setup and take down and the January show. Remember, this is OUR show and we ALL need to participate to make it a success.

November's here and Thanksgiving Day approaches !! A day to gather with family/friends and reflect on what we have to be thankful for or possibly to eat way too much food and collapse in a stupor on the living room couch. But why limit your thanks giving to just one day ?

The Japanese have a practice known as Naikan (pronounced Nikon, like the camera) which means "inside looking" and is practiced every day. It is based primarily on three questions:

1. What have I received from others?
2. What have I given to others ?
3. What troubles/difficulties have I caused others?

As you reflect on every person who played a meaningful role in your life since your birth (mom, dad, grandparents, friends, teachers, etc.) you most likely will be amazed at how much you have to be thankful for. As a species, we tend to focus on what we don't have instead of on what we do have. This focus on the negatives leads to feelings of hopelessness, resentment, despair, jealousy, etc. Try focusing on what you do have and you will feel better about yourself and life in general (some studies have shown that you'll also be healthier and live longer, in addition to enjoying life more). Give it a try !! What have you got to lose except for depression, boredom, jealousy, etc.?

"Life is what you make it." Marcus Aurelius

"We have met the enemy and he is us." Pogo

Robert (Rip) Criss



October Minutes

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Club met on Monday, November 5, 2007 at the Discovery Science Place in Tyler, Texas. President Rip Criss called the meeting to order at 6:55. He welcomed visitors Larry & Rita Shoup from Illinois who came with Jim & Carolyn Monroe. Sylvia made a motion to approve the minutes as published. Jon 2nd and the motion passed. Standing in for Jerri Kitchens, Rip gave a treasurer's report. Emily and Pete reported on the petrified wood field trip to Jasper and displayed a very nice specimen of palmwood found by Jerri's friend at their campsite near the lake.

There was no old business. Under new business it was announced that Bob Jamison had a heart attack while with his daughter in North Carolina out collecting -- you guessed it -- rocks. He had quadruple bypass surgery and is doing fairly well but will be recuperating there with his family. Jack announced that we will also be missing another club member, our field trip chairman Marilyn Austin. Since she has moved out of town to be with her family, we need to select another field trip chairman. Marilyn has put a lot of effort into that position and will be missed. All volunteers will be gratefully considered!!! Jack volunteered to WORK WITH someone on this effort.

Keith discussed the club's upcoming gem & mineral show on January 26th & 27th. He had sign-up sheets for all shifts and jobs and urged members to sign up for more than one shift. He also reminded us of display cases available to present members' collections. The dealers will need help doing tear-down on Sunday afternoon as well as preparation and setup Friday morning. There will also be a workday at Don's shop, date to be announced at the next meeting. We will need contributions for the Wheel of Fortune and the Silent Auction table. Annette Cunningham will be in charge of the dealer dinner on Friday night, a potluck supper, and food has to be there by 6:00. Keith will have advertisement fliers available for members at the December meeting. Al McWilliams suggested passing out some free tickets at the local schools to encourage student attendance. Don asked for donations of grocery bags and newspapers to wrap auction items in. The rock food table folks will be there and the grand prize will be a unique piece of amethyst donated by the club. Don volunteered to make a dino footprint cast for the jr. grand prize. Keith urged everyone to take part in the show and welcomes all suggestions for improvement.

President Rip reminded everyone that the Christmas gift exchange will be the program at next month's meeting. Don't forget to bring a gift pertaining to our hobby. Al announced the Dallas club gem & mineral show on the 17th, then we drew door prizes. Lucky winners were Darlene, Ernestine, Lester Langston (new member), Pam Carpenter and Sylvia.

After refreshments Don presented a slide show on agates pre-empted by some photos from the recent Oklahoma Arbuckle Mts / barite rose field trip. Photos included the stromatolites in the Ordovician layer, Blue River gneiss, Turner Falls overlook (including a brief cultural overview of past swimmers), Laura & Susan discussing art museums vs. the planned itinerary, and some great shots of many, many barite roses. Next were slides of the agate collecting trip in Mexico followed by some nice photos of all kinds of agate and Don's explanation of how geodes are formed. There were several appreciative noises from the crowd at many of the specimens featured. Thanks, Don, for coming through for us again.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Whisenant, Secretary



December Meeting

Annual holiday gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift related to our hobby (something YOU would not mind getting yourself). Also, if everyone brings their favorite goodie dish, we will all enjoy a delicious break time!



Update on Club Members' Bob Jameson and Marilyn Austin

Bob had a heart attack while visiting his daughter in North Carolina. They were at an emerald mine and he had just finished carrying his rocks up hill to the car when it happened. Thank goodness Stacey was with him because she is probably the only one who could have convinced him to go to the hospital. You all know how stubborn our dear friend is!

He had five bypasses and is now home with Stacey in Georgia where he'll stay until it's safe for him to come home. All five arteries had nearly 100% blockage. I've been worried about him a long time. He would get winded very easily hunting rocks.

This gives me a chance to pass on something I've learned that everyone who takes blood pressure medicine, like Bob and myself, needs to know. A study was done after the heat wave of 2003, I believe it was, in France when a huge number of people died . . . I'm remembering in the thousands. They found that people who were on blood pressure medicine had a very high incidence of succumbing to the heat. Reason, blood pressure medicine can compromise the body's ability to regulate heat.

I've personally experienced this on two occasions in recent years. One was the last time we went to Sulpher River. It was early May but hot as blazes. After a couple of hours I found myself getting so weak I didn't think I'd make it back to the car.

Second time was on a trip with the Austin Paleo group to Mineral Wells. Again, after two hours in a very hot place, my vision started to blur. I got back to the car post haste that time also.

Never had that sort of thing happen before, but never was on the meds before, so be forewarned. It just doesn't pay to push yourself beyond what your body can stand. Okay, old age is h***! Get over it. Lots of other stuff we can do. Like collect in the cool weather.

And now about myself. Long story short, my youngest daughter, Jennifer has had a major mental illness relapse. I'll skip all the details and history, but she has full blown schizophrenia and I'm in the process of moving to Austin in order to help take care of my grandchildren. Obviously, I'll have to resign as Trip Chair. Good news for me is that I'll have more time to be active in the Austin Paleo Society and join the local Gem and Mineral group so I hope I'll still see some of you from time to time. I want to stay on the e-mail list and maybe can make some of the trips as they come available. Am up to date on dues.

One of the great things I've been able to do is to participate in U.T.'s Paleontology Department's mass fossil inventory. The head of the department is a member of the club and club members have been meeting at the laboratory warehouse out on the north Burnet Rd campus to help with the inventory. There may be as many as 30,000 fossils or more and the inventory hasn't been done since 1971 so there was A LOT OF WORK. It's hard not to just spend the whole time looking at stuff. Some of the stuff has never been seen before or in this century.

I've enjoyed very much being a member of the club.

Marilyn



Note From Laura Wilson

Okay, now I've done it!
I opened mouth, and asked what you thought about me being field trip chair! Well, somebody's got to do it!

It's basically a volunteer job, (and at times...it could be...somewhat difficult). But, me being the traveler, I have located us some places to go, people to see, and things to do.

Some are repeats of trips past (with twists and different accommodations). Some are new, and un-scouted, but not without research, and at times other people sources of field notes.
I've lined up a field trip a month until May 2008.

Quartz @Jim Coleman Mine

Topaz hunting @ Mason, Texas

Trilobites & Dolomite on calcite with pyrite

@Galena, Mo & Black Rock, Ark.

Ammonites & Alluvial period [fossils @ Mertzson](#), Texas

21 mineral specimens @Morenci, N.M. (this required 3 days and flying to El Paso)



Gorman Falls @ Colorado Bend State Park

With an addition of local side trips to road cuts & local shops that have mineral specimens and throw in a few museums when the weather is hot, or nasty.

See you at the rock club meeting, with sign up sheets, and upcoming material to make our trips fun, and memorable.

Laura

My mantra for travel is:
"It's not the destination it's the journey."



The Most Precious Gems

Rock hounds who have been in the hobby for some time begin to realize that the most precious gems they have collected are the friends they have made along the way. Some are still in the rough, some are dull and colorless unless viewed in the right light. And like every gemstone in nature, they also have inclusions, sometimes referred to as flaws. If we enjoy them as they are, realizing that their warmth and beauty make up for their imperfections, if we concentrate of their better aspects, the flaws become insignificant and merely marks of individuality.

~From Yakima Gem & Mineral News, 01/01, via Golden Spike News, 12/00, Stone Age News, 1/04, via Stone Chipper 09/07



What is the Simplest Gem & What is the Most Complex?

The Diamond is the simplest gem – the chemical composition being all of carbon and crystallized isometrically. Tourmaline is the most complex. It is said that tourmaline's chemistry is more like a doctor's prescription than the makings of a respectable material.

~From Rock Chips, Deming G&M Society 1/07, via Quarry Quips, Wichita G&MS 1/07



Obsidian

Obsidian is overlooked by many collectors as something common and dull. Yet nothing could be further from the truth. For a start, obsidian's chemistry is identical to granite. But, unlike granite, because the volcanically erupted material has cooled quickly, crystals have not formed. Obsidian thus exists as a super cooled solution of silica with a total absence of internal structure, just like glass. For this reason, and in common with other glass-like materials, obsidian breaks with a typical conchoidal fracture. This curved, smooth type of cleavage occurs as a fracture follows the shortest path. Interestingly almost all obsidian contains a small amount of water. Steam from the eruption becomes trapped in cavities forming tiny bubbles. These give rise to spectacular varieties, especially the rare gold and silver sheen obsidians. Other inclusions are also common. Thus mahogany obsidian results from the presence of hematite, feldspars give rise to blues and greens, and quartz gives rise to the snowflake. Obsidian boring – no way!

~Author unknown, From golden Spike News, Golden Spike G&MS, Ogden, Utah, 7/03, via Quarry Quips, 3/04

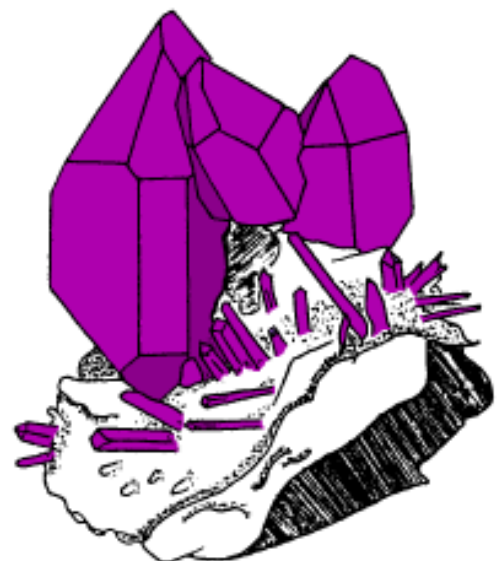


Black Quartz Crystals By Professor Emeritus, Evelyn Fielder Streng

Usually one thinks of quartz in terms of the clear “rock crystals” or perhaps in the treasured amethyst variety. The rock and mineral handbooks remind one that a variety of colors is possible, ranging to smoky, but not all include BLACK as an option. (Of course there is black chert/flint, quite common in Texas, but the subject here is crystals.) In 1994 I was at a dramatic exhibit of black quartz crystals on top of Mt. Pilatus near Lucerne, Switzerland. One ascends this snow-crowned peak by means of “the world’s steepest cog railway” to see the view. Since the view was completely “socked-in” by clouds by the time we got up that far, I had time to get a close look at the rock of the mountain itself, (a wet) gray limestone with white calcite veins suggesting its marine origin. No surprise, I had found that elsewhere in the Alps, as in Austria. However, in going to warm up inside the observation tower building, I discovered this wonderful exhibit. Now, the crystals were not from Pilatus (it’s limestone, remember), but from deeper in the Central Alps. I will translate and summarize excerpts from the brochure for the “Ausstellung”, available only in German. “Much folklore surrounds the appearance of the black quartz and other minerals in the Central Alps. There are said to be mysterious clefts in the rock walls where dwarfs live. Anyone entering those clefts will be stricken with illness but a yearning to see more. On the night of Good Friday, the dwarfs spread out their mineral treasure, glimmering in pale moonlight, while they do a wonderful dance. But woe to a chance observer: he will die before the end of the year!” The legend may have a kernel of truth. In deep clefts in the granite and gneiss there are mineral treasures like clear quartz, rose quartz, and others, collected and brought to daylight. However, the most coveted of these is the “Morion,” the deep translucent black which symbolizes the mystery of night. Black quartz was already known by the Romans; Pliny the Elder described it in his “Natural History” nearly 2,000 years ago. Georgius Agricola (1494-1551) gave this only black translucent gem the name “Morion.” The geologic origin is said to be from the formation of the Alps. As the folding was completed 18 to 20 million years ago, the enormous pressure caused clefts or rifts in the rocks in which crystals grew. There is clear quartz, smoky quartz, occasional amethyst, and the mysterious Morion. Calcite, chlorite, hematite, and rutile are also said to occur.

The greatest mystery of Morion is its black color, though chemically identical with the clear quartz, silicon dioxide. The color is explained by radiation. Deep in the Earth, radioactive isotopes send out their rays over a long period of time, affecting the quartz in the vicinity. There are “Morions” of various tones of color depending on the back-ground radiation. The most important locale is the Aar Massif in the Central Alps, with igneous and metamorphic rocks. Seeking such crystals in the Alps seems to be quite a hobby. Collectively, the hunters are called “Strahlers.” Occasionally new clefts with the minerals are found. This becomes more possible as glaciers recede; there must be many mineral treasures still under the ice. The exhibit was from an important 1986 find by two “Strahlers,” Ludwig Eller and Franz Zahn. After weeks of hard work seeking out clefts in the rock they came across an extensive group of the black crystals. Fortunately, there were a few black crystals available in the Pilatus gift shop! So now there is a little addition to the Silicate display in the Fiedler Memorial Museum at Texas Lutheran College. Yes, BLACK quartz crystals!

~From Earthworks 10/94, via The Southwest Gem 5/95, Stoney Statements 12/97, The Glacial Drifter 8/00, The Rockytier 10/01, The Roadrunner 1/07, via Stone Chipper 2/07





Metamorphic Rocks

Metamorphic rocks are formed when other kinds of rocks are changed by great heat and pressure inside the earth. The word “metamorphic” means changes. Think of metamorphic rocks as recycled rocks. When igneous, sedimentary, or even metamorphic rocks get buried deep beneath the surface of the earth, over millions of years the heat and pressure inside the earth change them into something else. Limestone can be changed to marble, sandstone can be changed into quartzite, and shale can be changed into slate. It’s just another example of how the earth is constantly changing!

—*from Rockhound Ramblings 2/06 via Rock Chips 4/06,
via Fredericksburg Rockhounds Newsletter, 05/06*



TEKTITE

A tektite is a glassy stone that may look like a teardrop, ball, disk, rod, dumb-bell or button. Tektites measure from about 1/2 inch to several inches across. They are black, dark brown or dark green, and they usually have grooved or pitted surfaces. Tektites differ chemically from meteorites, but some of them contain small bits of meteorite iron. Some scientists believe that tektites were formed when giant meteorites or comets crashed into earth. The blast melted the soil and splashed drops of liquefied rock over great distances. These drops solidified and fell to earth. Still others think that impacts on the moon blasted chunks of material weighing millions of tons through space into orbit around the earth. These chunks then broke into smaller that melted and solidified again while descending through the earth’s atmosphere.

~*From Oregon Rockhound Bulletin 2/04, via the Pyriter via Wasatch News& Views, Golden Spike News, via Stone Age News 4/04*



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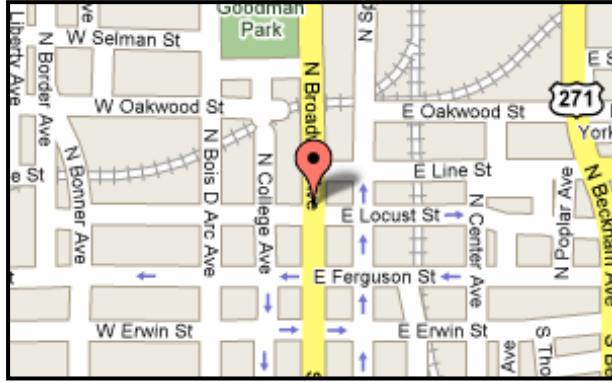
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THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS THAT DAY IS A HOLIDAY, THEN THE MEETING IS MOVED TO THE SECOND MONDAY. WE MEET AT THE DISCOVERY SCIENCE PLACE, 308 NORTH BROADWAY, JUST NORTH OF DOWNTOWN TYLER,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

NOTE TO EDITORS

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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.

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