



ROCK-N-ROSE



Coming Shows, 2009

OCTOBER 24-25
AUSTIN, TEXAS
Austin Gem & Mineral Society
Parmer Events Center

NOVEMBER 7-8
AMARILLO, TEXAS
Golden Spread Gem & Mineral Soc.
Amarillo Civic Center

NOVEMBER 24-25
MESQUITE, TEXAS
Dallas Gem & Mineral Society
Mesquite Rodeo Arena

NOVEMBER 27-29
TERLINGUA, TEXAS
"Rock & Gem Fest"
Chihuahuan Desert G & M Club
Big Bend Motor Inn



FREE ROCKS!

Long-time club member (Waco G&MS) James Conder says, "I have boxes and crates full of rocks (14" X 14" X 14"), to give away to anyone who wants them." All James asks is that you call him before you stop by his house. James' phone number is 254-752-9147. He lives at 920 N. 22nd. St. in Waco, TX.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Not many folks at the meeting but we had a good program presented by Don Campbell. The program for next month will be "show and tell". Bring in something you collected during your travels, something from your collection or something you've made. Can also tell us about anything "rocky" you've learned how to do (wire wrapping, intarsia, cabbing, etc.). Will also be officer elections. As noted in last month's newsletter, it's time to elect club officers. As far as I know, the current officers are willing to serve another year in their present capacities but are also willing to step aside and let someone else have a go at it. December's program will be the Christmas gift exchange. We always have a lot of fun with this White Elephant Christmas. Hope to see you all there!!!

Rip Criss



ON A SAD NOTE:

One of our members, Darlene Bailey, has recently passed away. Condolences to her family. She will be greatly missed at the meetings and as a member...

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OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

On October 5th, 2009 the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm at the Discovery science Place in Tyler, TX. President Rip Criss asked for approval of the minutes and a motion and second was made to approve the minutes as printed in the newsletter. Motion was passed. There was no treasurer's report nor old business. There were no field trip reports. Under new business Jon announced that Jack Shull had surgery today at Mother Francis. At the November meeting we will have our annual Show & Tell program. Bring your treasures relating to earth science and our hobby and enjoy your time to share with the club some of your favorite pieces. Then at the December meeting we will have our usual Christmas gift exchange. The club members should also be thinking about nominations for next year's officers. We will be discussing this next meeting. Next was door prize drawings with winners being Darlene Bailey (who always wins something!), Michael Morris, Susan Oravetz, and Timothy Bailey, Susan also won the grand prize. After a break for refreshments, Don Presented a segment on volcanism in the U.S. from the Geology series by Dr. John Renton of W. Virginia University. Specifically, the lecture concerning the islands of Hawaii and Yellowstone National Park. Don's geologic maps of the area discussed made the presentation multi-dimensional and very interesting. The question and answer period afterward is one of the more rewarding facets (pardon the pun) of our club. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30pm
Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Oravetz and Becky Whisenant



NOVEMBER 2ND MEETING PROGRAM

Our November 2nd club meeting program will be show and tell night. We are asking club members to participate by sharing with the club what they have been doing this summer and fall in the way of field trip experiences. Showing us and telling us about anything they have collected, found, made created, purchased or bought at a gem and mineral show or rock shop. The presentations can be short and brief 5 min. or less if you choose. Come and show and tell us about what you have been doing in regards to our hobby.



NOVEMBER 7TH FIELD TRIP

We will have a field trip on Saturday morning, November 7th, to Lake Nacogdoches to collect fossilized sea shells and sharks' teeth. There will be a couple of other sites we will try to visit that afternoon. We will have more information at the November 2nd. Club meeting. Call Don Campbell @ 903-520-4085 for information.



FOSSIL CLEANING CLASS

Starting Saturday, November 14th., Don Campbell will be hosting a fossil cleaning class at his fossil lab. The class will run from about 8am. To 12pm. Don will furnish fossils to clean or you can bring your own. This class will be offered one Saturday a month for the next several months. Each class will be limited to three people because of limited space and equipment. Call Don @ 903-520-4085 for more information.



**The LMRA Rock Club
October 31st Field Trip to Brownwood, TX**

- Purpose:** To collect TEXAS FOSSILIZED HORN CORAL
- Date & Time:** Saturday, October 31st, meet at 10:00 am in the parking area outside the main entrance to Lake Brownwood State Park. (However, if you wish to hunt Friday or Sunday morning you may call Bob Boyd on his cell and he will make arrangements to meet you, 817-917-4977)
- Cost:** No cost.
- Location:** Near Brownwood, Texas
- Meeting Place:** Parking area outside the main entrance to Lake Brownwood State Park.
- Background:** We will be hunting along a road cut. The coral is weathering from the road cut and is on the surface. No digging is required. This hunt will not take more than 1-2 hours.
- Preparations:** Participants should supply all rock hounding and essential gear. For this hunt knee pads, gloves and a rock hammer should suffice. A long screw driver can be handy for prying fossils out of the ground. The area we'll be collecting in is grassy and hilly, so durable clothing such as jeans and hiking boots are suggested. There is always a possibility of encountering snakes, so be sure to keep children close to the hunt area and it would be best if they wore high top boots of some kind. Insect repellent is also recommended as there is a problem with ticks. Bring a hat for sun/rain protection and also a raincoat or poncho just in case. Be sure to bring buckets or boxes to carry your treasures home.
- Direction:** Suggested route: Take Highway 377 Southwest from Ft. Worth to Brownwood. Turn Northwest on Hwy 279 and travel for about 16 miles to Park Road 15. Turn East and drive 6 miles to the park entrance. We will meet at the gravel parking area just outside the main gate to the state park.
- Important Note:** There is no limit to the number of participants; active members of any rockhound club are welcome to join. This time of year, weather could be a problem, keep an eye on the forecast.



Dear fellow club members, for some strange reason, I felt the need to volunteer for the position of Gemstone Stamp Committee Chairperson for the SCFMS. Was it because of the fact that I used to collect stamps as a child and felt the nostalgia overcome me, enmeshed with the fact that I love gems and minerals? Who knows, not even I. However, I do need the help of each and every club member...please read the flyer below and write YOUR personal letter today!

YOUR HELP PLEASE

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies is attempting to attain Birthstones on U.S. stamps. We need you to actively support and promote the project by continuing letters or notes to the USPS. You do not have to be an AFMS member to write. Please mail your *PERSONAL* letter to:

The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development
US Postal Service
1735 North Lynn St., Room 5013
Arlington VA 22209-6432

Competition is stiff with about 50,000 proposals to the USPS annually. We are convinced that gem stamps, would be attractive. We and the public would use them, keep them, and we would all enjoy their beauty.

Don't you agree?



Take this sheet home as a reminder to yourself.

Personalize YOUR letter to Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

"I support the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' efforts to try to get gemstones on American stamps because": (Write you own reasons) Ideas:

1. Gems have never appeared on U.S. First Class stamps, and would be very attractive.
2. They would not be controversial.
3. Gems would continue the theme of "America's Mineral Heritage" stamps.
4. We and the public would all enjoy their beauty. Etc., etc.

Sign and date your letter and add your address.

Stamp your envelope and mail it off to the address above! **DO IT NOW**





FACETING DEMYSTIFIED
My first experience at faceting
By Susan Burch ETGMS Editor

Like most girls, all of my life I have been attracted to the shine of highly polished faceted stones. As I got a little older, I was given or acquired quite a few pieces of jewelry. The gold a frame for a variety of stones, from garnets (my birthstone), to sapphires, to diamonds and more. However, I never dreamed I would be able to learn how to make them...cut the stone to gleam and catch the eye. How to go about it though?

Having been told that many countries don't export their rough, they cut it "in country" and export the more valuable gems, most rock shows don't have dealers that sell valuable stone faceting rough or very little. The gem cutters have a constant quest for new material to facet and have to pay a premium for it when they find some. A five carat piece of emerald rough may cost over \$400 and a good 20 carat piece of peridot, over \$500! So, you can see my reluctance to just jump in.

Many gem shows I attended had a 'faithful to the art' faceter though...displaying gorgeous stones they had cut, some even offering to show those willing to learn how to cut their own. Cut your own stone...are you kidding? Mess up some lovely piece of rough, or even one of those expensive machines. Oh that would be the worst. So, needless to say, I would stand by watching for long periods of time, fascinated with faceting. Watching as a few others tried it, but never brave enough to try it myself.

That was until the 2009 Tri-City G&M Show I attended recently for club and federation reasons. Now, I had passed by this certain booth several times, even purchasing a gorgeous ring the dealer had made himself... He'd soldered the gold, cut the stone. Oh my, what a find, it did catch my eye. The gems on display had me entranced! The Faceter/Dealer's name was Jim Marler, and I guess I had passed by one too many times, as he offered for me to try faceting myself. Of course, true to my form, I backed away, unconsciously thinking I would mess it up. It's too difficult to cut/facet a stone, there's no way I could do it. However, he let me know that 10 year olds could do it, the material was quite inexpensive and it would not matter if I did not get it perfect as I was just learning.

Ah ha! Being the inquisitive person I am, it was time for me to learn. As I sat behind the Raytech-Shaw machine, noting the different aspects of it...the container to drip water down onto the lap (the wheel for cutting/polishing the stone) to keep it cool. The machine that holds the lap, a hand held 'gizmo', a bright light to see the details by, and so much more. What a lot to take in all at once, but it was time to jump in. This machine differed from other types in that it had the cutting head attached to a flat 'patten' (the hand-held gizmo) instead of on a mast. The names of the most popular mast types are "Facette", "Facetron", "Ultra Tec", "Graves" and "Polymetric". However, all the faceting heads are designed in a similar way, i.e., there is a 'protractor' for setting angles and a round index wheel (64, 72, 80, 96, or 120) for following the design pattern steps.

The rough piece itself was attached to the head using a dop wax, this is a mixture of wax and shellac. The wax makes it flow when heated and the shellac makes it hard when cool. That's why water is used to help to keep it cool while cutting. There are several commercial types of dop wax but the red,
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Sitting at the Raytech-Shaw cutting a 'stone'



brown and black varieties are the most popular. Some facetors don't like the wax dopping method and might use epoxy cement, or with certain heat sensitive stones (opal, tourmaline) 'super glue' might be used instead of wax.

Jim explained to me that it is kind of like following a recipe, using math of course. Now that might seem like it would be complicated, but most of this has been figured out and written down for ease of use. (Ok, I'm thinking to myself that someone had way too much time on their hands to figure all this out, lol) One of the books we used was Aren's Encyclopedia of Gemstones and this book gives you all the info on the gem you are going to cut. Thus you have an idea of what you are dealing with (hardness, cleavage planes, etc), before you set any speed on the machine or start to cut. The patterns you could cut into the stones were amazing. Anything from multi-facets and stars to spiders, oh my! However, it's not the facet design pattern that makes the stone, it's the polish.

Turning the faceting machine on, adjusting the speed between 200-400 RPM, my heart jumped a little the first time I lowered the 'stone' onto the lap. Jim told me it's a 'feel' thing that develops as you cut stones...in general, a soft stone needs a lower RPM and a harder one needs higher speed. The first lap I began on was a 100 grit, to cut the rough shape and 'points' up the pavilion (the bottom of the jewel). As the first sides were put into the 'stone', I could actually hear the difference on the lap. It would start making a ticking sound. You then turn the little dial to the next measurement, and cut again. After learning how to change out the laps, I then used a 600 grit to work the same cuts a little finer, next was a 1200 grit blue lap. Then finally the multi-1000's (15,000-50,000) "Spectra Lap" cerium oxide polishing lap, which was a plastic sheet inundated with a fine polish slurry. The reason to use the finer grit wheels first is to get all of the facets even and the scratches removed, then they are polished. Again, what makes the difference between the stuff you can get cheap and a custom cut jewel, IS the final polish! After finishing the belly of the jewel, it was flipped over using a special "transfer" stand and a dop is waxed onto the finished bottom, and the "crown" is ready to be cut. A bit more care is required for the crown since the top of the jewel will be seen by all it is shown to!!!



My 'blue topaz' stone, in black and white, you can still see the sparkle!

Now as I had some club and federation business to tend to in the midst of learning to cut that 'stone', it took me longer than what it would take a master facetor to cut a gem of course. The very fastest cutters can do a stone in an hour, but the polish tends to suffer at that speed. It can take beginners days to cut a gem, unless they are taught right, as I was. Also, I've learned what 'TV' time is (7pm-10pm, when most people are watching TV) about three hours or less, is what it takes for Jim to cut most stones, with longer time on the more valuable or hard to cut ones.

It is true that the polish is what makes or breaks a gem cutter (did I emphasize that enough?) and I can tell you that from just my short experience. As the 'stone' I had just cut, started out as a 'plain ole' marble! That's right, the first was a cat's eye, which turned out really nice. So much better than I thought it would, I think I've become addicted to faceting. The reason why? The second, a dull light blue marble, ended up with a great sparkle to it. While I was cutting the marbles, many of the show's attendees stopped by to watch. Continued on page 7.



CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Robert (Rip) Criss 903-922-2856
P.O. Box 340
Oakwood, TX 75855

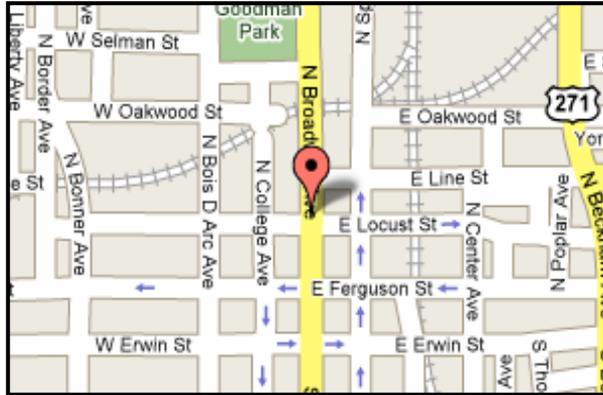
VICE PRESIDENT Becky Whisenant 903-795-3652
3786 CR. 2107
Rusk, TX 75785

TREASURER: Jeri Kitchens 903-245-8822
2533 Chelsea Dr.
Tyler, TX 75701

SECRETARY: Penny Hawkins 903-586-4463
134 CR 3151
Jacksonville, Texas 75766

FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN: Your name could be HERE!!!
Volunteer Today!

SHOW CHAIRMAN: Keith Harmon 903-581-4068
8316 Oxford ST.
Tyler, TX 75703



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



EDITOR: Susan Burch
20427 US. Hwy 69 S.
Alto, TX 75925

E-Mail: rockroseeditor@hotmail.com
Phone: 936-615-5397