

ROCK N ROSE

Volume 47 Issue 3

TYLER • TEXAS

March 2021



Cover Photo: Aaron Thomas

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ROCK N ROSE

THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1 - 2, 2021

Kilgore Geekend
Downtown Kilgore
Kilgore, Texas

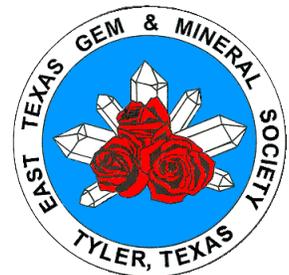
May 22 - 23, 2021

Tyler Gem & Mineral Show
East Texas Fair Grounds,
Building E
Tyler, Texas



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Rock-N-Rose Newsletter

231 Scott Street
Nacogdoches, TX 75961



May
1-2,
2021

KILGORE

GEEKEND

ETGMS is going to participate in Kilgore Geekend May 1&2, 2021. Downtown Kilgore.

We will need volunteers to help at the booth both days.

Contact Margaret Kilanski - mkilanski@yahoo.com if you can volunteer or have any questions.

ROCKHOUND OF THE MONTH

Terry Roberts March 2021

We are proud to announce Terry Roberts as the March Rockhound of the Month. Terry fought with all his might to get a complete refund, for cancelling the 2021 Annual Show, from the Rose Garden Center. He writes a monthly column for our newsletter, leads the Lapidary sub-group, makes beautiful cabs and wire-wraps them, and he is always present at our workdays.

You are appreciated for your hard work.

The Gemology Group *is Coming Back*

**Richard D. Armstrong, Certified Master Appraiser, NAJA
AGA ASG, GIA GG, GIA GP, GIA AJP**

Just before the pandemic we had several members complete the 2nd course in our Gem Identification Program. We were going to start the practical lab portion of the program when the pandemic put a stop to it.

Last year during the pandemic it looked like my dog Ginger had a serious degenerative autoimmune disease, degenerative myelopathy, that would require my 24/7 attention to take care of her. I felt that I would not be able to continue as chair of the Gemology Group. The board was unable to find a replacement.

I had Ginger DNA tested and she does not have the gene for DM. Her Vet now agrees with me that it is likely diabetic neuropathy. She has had diabetes for over 2 years. I have had her on natural supplements for the neuropathy and she has responded very well and is at least 90 percent recovered. I am now comfortable with leaving her for a few hours at a time for club and group meetings. Therefore, I have volunteered to resume chairing the Gemology Group.

We will resume meeting as soon as the board allows. Since it has been over a year we will review gem identification for the first few meetings before offering the practical lab work. We will have more on that later. The review will not be just book review as I plan to work in some hands-on practice with the tests on the gems.

Gemology Group meetings are open to everyone who is a member of the ETGMS.

Meetings will be the

3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

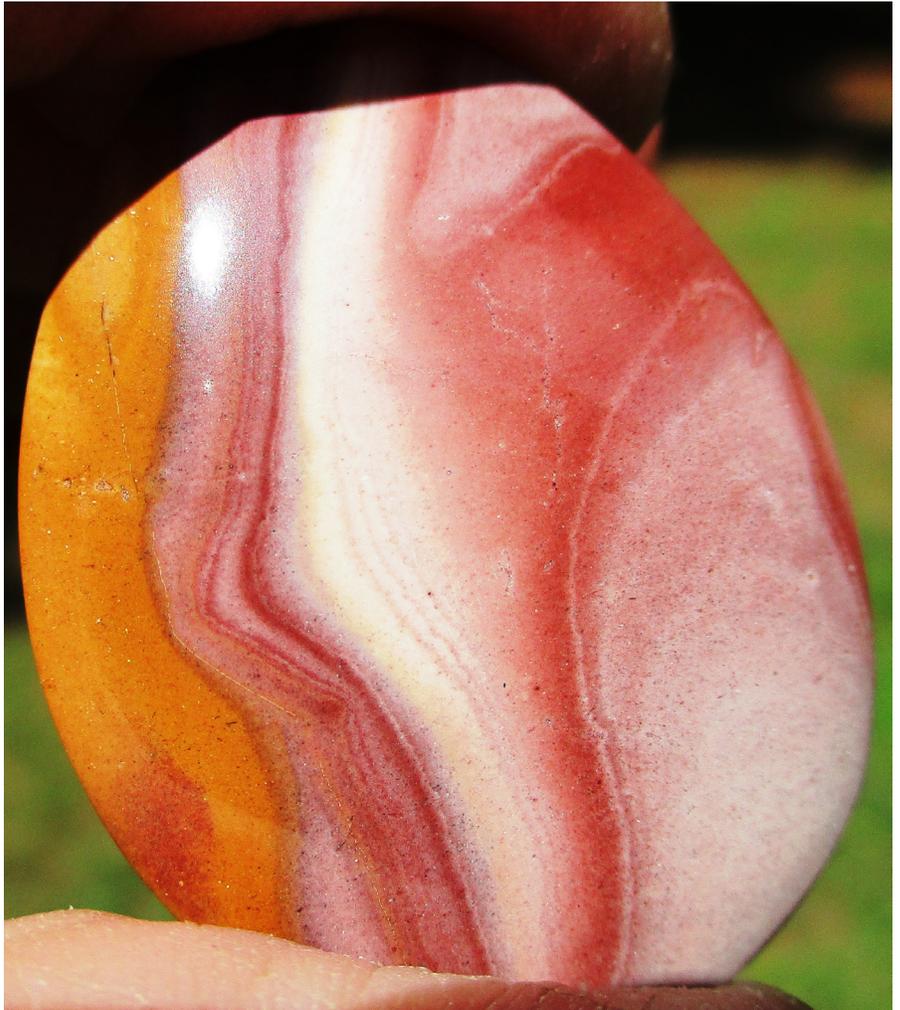
If you love gems (and who doesn't) you will learn a lot at our meetings.

Hope to see you there.

Shop Time

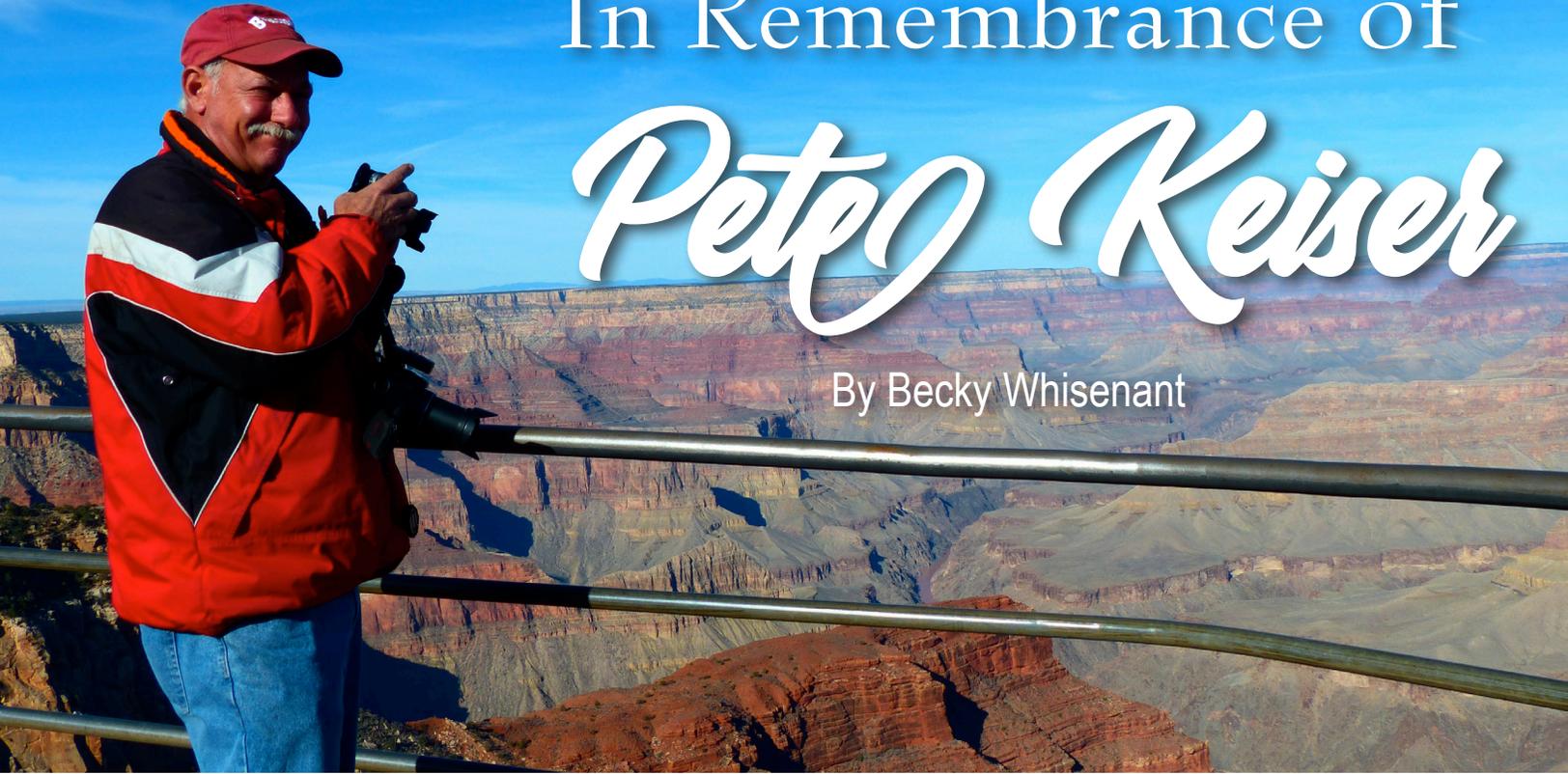
By: Terry Roberts

I've attached photos of two cabs completed last month. The first one is from a really nice agate slab that had a large open space lined with druzy quartz in it. The cavity was located near the edge of the slab, but I decided to try and cab it to see if I could avoid breaking off the thin strip of agate at the bottom. It turned out to be a real challenge, but I was mostly successful and only had a tiny chip break off during the grinding phase. The second photo shows a cab of Nevada Wonder Stone that that I sliced from one of the rocks that my wife bought me for Christmas last year. Two of the rocks of Wonder Stone are large enough that I may have a problem cutting them with my 14" saw. I'm not sure what the matrix is, but I think it is either sandstone or rhyolite, because I wasn't able to get a really pretty polish on it. However, I did get a decent shine using ZAM.



In Remembrance of *Pete Keiser*

By Becky Whisenant



Rock clubs draw people of all kinds, from all walks of life. A few days ago, our club lost a very good friend and committed member – Pete Keiser. Pete was young, 67. A perfunctory listing of the offices he held and years he invested do not begin to show what Pete meant to the club. A member since 1999, he filled, at some point, just about every job in the club.

He had traveled around the world in the oil industry in his younger years and loved to explore the western states. He had become friends with a mine owner in New Mexico and enjoyed spending time in the high desert country, not just for the rocks but for the beauty of it.

In the words of some long-time members: “Pete was always more than willing to do anything -- whatever it took -- to make the annual show successful, which provides the bulk of the club’s bank accounts. He especially

enjoyed working the silent auction but he wouldn’t sign up for a specific spot so he could be available for whatever was needed at the show. He just took care of it. He initiated some of the important show advertising by personal contact



and donated a lot of the raw material from which silent auction items were made that brought in a lot of money. He was always at the workshops and was a great volunteer, meeting and greeting people at club meetings. He would just take the bull by the horns and get it done.” (Keith Harmon, show chairman).

Becky Whisenant: “I personally lost a good friend in Pete. I have worked side by side with him many years in the silent auction, identifying items, sorting, visiting with bidders and dealers. As field trip chair, he planned some great trips and I believe he was the first one to get us into the utility company quarries in Waxahachie for collecting.

Pete made friends by just being Pete. He could come across as crusty and stubborn at times, but he had a heart as big as Dallas and an abiding interest in furthering the goals of the club. He was also very knowledgeable.

On my very first field trip about 22 years ago, there was a big turnout to collect ammonites at Lake Texoma. At the end of a long day there were four die-hards left chiseling chunks of ammonite out of the bank way down the shore: me, my 13 year old daughter and two members I met that day who

were just as intent as I was – a guy named Jack and a guy named Pete.

A few years later, my husband and I met up with Pete and Colleen in Colorado on the first of many wonderful days in the field. Over the years, we explored shafts at Magdalena, NM, banged rocks on Ruby Mt., pulled out beautiful samples all over the Blanchard Mine at Bingham on the backside of the Trinity Missile Testing site, ate Thanksgiving dinner on the hood of my truck at Nacimiento Mine in Cuba, NM and dug for amazonite and smoky quartz on the top of a mountain across the valley from Pikes Peak. On one trip, Colleen and I rode the train through Royal Gorge while my husband and Pete rafted the gorge. Of course it rained and class 3 rapids turned into class 5 as torrents of water -- carrying chunks of charred wood from up top -- poured off the sides of the gorge like waterfalls. My husband told me later that at one point, he looked over at Pete and there was nothing but a wall of water between them.

But one of the most impressive things about him was his generosity. When we lost everything in a house fire (including my huge rock collection), Pete was the first one to give me a box of rocks

to help replace what I had lost. And if a kid was around, Pete made sure they left with rocks.”

Colleen Hayes: “The first time I met Pete was on a club field trip to the Sweet Surrender Crystal mine in Arkansas, probably 20+ years ago, digging side by side chasing the elusive quartz clusters. Pete was an avid rockhound before ever joining our club, having spent lots of time in Colorado and New Mexico exploring.

He was eager to share his experiences and knowledge and we traveled together extensively rockhounding and enjoying his second hobby, photography. Pete never met a stranger, and was exceedingly thoughtful. He loved working with the club members during the shows and often supplied the most beautiful specimens for the silent auction. Pete was a true friend not only to me but to my extended family as well. He will be greatly missed.”

Our club is only as strong as our members. Pete set a great example of commitment and determination.

*He will be
Deeply missed at
every turn.*

The ETGMS Board of Directors is excited to bring you some good news!!

Keith Harmon, long-time member of ETGMS and a dealer at our annual show, is sponsoring a one-time event.

Tyler Gem and Mineral Show May 22 & 23, 2021 at East Texas Fair Grounds, Building E, in Tyler.

It will showcase the dealers that have been a part of our annual show for many years and the Rock Food Table.

There will be no fluorescent room, silent auction, kids' games, or school day. Keith does not have the material or workers to man them.

Keith will need volunteer help with admittance and monitoring the Rock Food Table. Please consider how you could help and contact him at keithharmon19@yahoo.com.

Margaret Kilanski, Webmaster

GROUP MEETS

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.

calcite65@gmail.com

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.

dbruss50@gmail.com

Gemology Group

Meets every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 - 8:30 pm

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NEWSLETTER CONTENT

Please send original articles to rockrosenewsletter@gmail.com.

Please send in a Microsoft Word format that can be edited.

The 10th of the month is the deadline.

Board minutes are not printed in the newsletter. If you would like to see a copy, contact a member of the Board.

THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

The 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

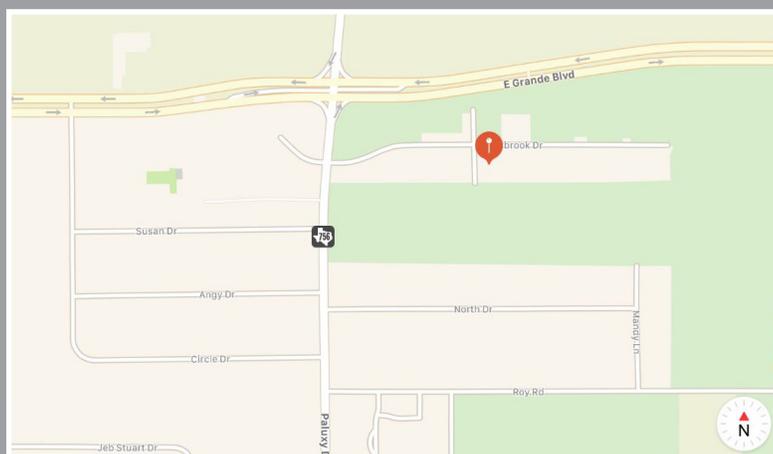
Single: \$10.00 • Family: \$20.00

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

Check us out on the web • WWW.ETGMS.ORG



CLUB ADDRESS AND TO SEND DUES

East Texas Gem & Mineral Society
P. O. BOX 132532
Tyler, TX 75713-2532

ETGMS CLUBHOUSE

2015 Deerbrook Dr.
Tyler, Texas



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