

Tar Heel Tailings

A newsletter for Gem and Mineral enthusiasts in and around the Raleigh, North Carolina area.

Special Interest Articles:

- President's Report
- Gemstone & Mineral of the Month
- March Rock Trip Pictures
- Rock Show Pictures

Individual Highlights:

President's Report	1
Gemstone & Mineral of the Month	1
March's Business Meeting Minutes	3
Treasurer's Report	3
Rock Crystal	5
Upcoming Shows:	6
March Rock Trip Pictures	6
Rock Show Pictures	7
Vug Sites:	7

President's Report - Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

Spring at Last
The Show has Passed
Blink twice and it Comes
Again Fast

April is our month of relaxation after the annual gem & mineral show. Two things will happen at this meeting -

This is our annual Potluck, so bring something delicious.

The Show will be discussed - the good, the not so good. Bring your observations of how to improve, what did improve from years past and what was perfect just as it was.

I will be taking copious notes. It will be like a brainstorming session so improvements can be made next time and fine tuning will be in place. Among the topics will be the new chair at Silent Auction and the Lounge (kudos to Gerald for the homemade meals) and the new chair in Hospitality for the 2015 show.

I want to warmly thank each one of you who put in volunteer hours and made the show a success in 2014. We should all be grateful for each other.

Hope to see you next week,
Cyndy Hummel,
President, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Gemstone & Mineral of the Month: Diamond & Quartz by Obsidian Harris

Diamond is the ultimate gemstone, having few weaknesses and many strengths. It is well known that Diamond is the hardest substance found in nature, but few people realize that Diamond is *four times harder* than the next hardest natural mineral, corundum (sapphire and ruby). But even as hard as it is, it is not impervious. Diamond has four directions of cleavage, meaning that if it receives a sharp blow in one of these directions it will cleave, or split. A skilled diamond setter and/or

jeweler will prevent any of these directions from being in a position to be struck while mounted in a jewelry piece.

As a [gemstone](#),

Diamond's single flaw (perfect cleavage) is far outdistanced by the sum of its positive qualities.

Continued on page 4



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.tarheelclub.org

Program & Refreshments

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:

Coordinator: Need Volunteer

April	Pot Luck
May	OPEN
June	OPEN
July	OPEN
August	Ice Cream Social
September	Walt Milowic
October	Hummels
November	OPEN

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

April	Potluck & Show discussion
May	Kenny Gay "Minerals from Crabtree"
June	Bob Crocker & Greg Dillon "Gold prospecting in NC"
July	Randy Bechtel "Volcanic Eruptions of Montserrat of the Leeward Islands"
August	Ice Cream Social AND Cabbing Demonstration by Robin Suddaby
September	The Smithsonian by George & Obsidian Harris
October	Grab Bags
November	Elections & Thank You from The Club

Remember, the club will reimburse you for up to \$75 (bring your receipts to the treasurer).

April B-Day Members

Paula Beavdoin
Bob Bendelow
Chad Carabello
Kimberly Cathey
Pat Chapman
Hilton Freed
Robert Neyland
Lana Sargent
Tom Todaro
Charles B. Weil



Membership applications may be mailed to:

Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.
Attention: Treasurer
10609 Chelsea Drive
Raleigh, NC 27603

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. - March Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 18th, 2013

Attendees = 38 (approximately)

Opening of Club Meeting:

At 7:58 PM, Cyndy Hummel called the meeting to order.

New Business:

New Members and Visitors:

Cyndy introduced and welcomed the new folks who were attending the meeting. The new folks were greeted by applause by club members in attendance.

Miscellaneous New Business:

Cyndy also noted folks who had Birthdays in March , and what sparked their interests in minerals.

The floor was opened to commentary.

George Harris addressed various gem & mineral shows.

Greg Dillon addressed credit card processing for the Geode booth.

Shirley Green mentioned that Minerals brought for the grab bags were donated.

Old Business:

No Old Business

Door Prize:

Pete Barra won the Door Prize and he chose an amethyst cluster.

Close of Meeting:

Cyndy asked if there was a motion on the floor to close the meeting to which George Harris made a motion to close the meeting & Obsidian seconded it. The club meeting was closed at 8:10 PM.

Post Meeting:

The meeting ended and the club proceeded with making the grab bags & postal cards.

The approximate number of bags made was 366, bringing our total to about 650 for the show.

Respectfully Submitted

Obsidian Harris,

Secretary, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Show Treasurer's Report

Geode Booth 2014

Cash	\$3,836.50
Credit Card	\$2,607.02
Sub total	\$6,443.52
Start-up Cash	310.00
2014 Total	\$6,133.52
2013 Total	\$4,742.75
Difference	\$1,390.77

Hospitality Booth 2014

Cash	\$1,147.27
Sub total	\$1,147.27
Start-up Cash	65.00
2014 Total	\$1,082.27
2013 Total	\$1,529.00
Difference	(\$446.73)

Silent Auction 2014

Cash	\$980.25
Sub total	\$980.25
Start-up Cash	50.00
2014 Total	\$930.25
2013 Total	\$413.55
Difference	\$516.70

April Gemstone: Diamonds

Continued from page 1

It has a broad color range, high refraction, high dispersion or fire, very low reactivity to chemicals, rarity, and of course, extreme hardness and durability.

Diamond is the April [Birthstone](#), and an alternate [Zodiac stone](#) for the Constellation of Aries.

Diamond is the ultimate gemstone in several ways:

- **Hardness:** Diamond is a perfect "10", simply the hardest substance known by a wide margin. Nothing can scratch a diamond other than another diamond. And a diamond can scratch anything, even a sapphire.
- **Clarity:** Pure diamond is completely colorless and transparent over a larger range of wavelengths (from the ultraviolet into the far infrared) than is any other solid or liquid substance - nothing else even comes close.
- **Thermal Conductivity:** Diamond conducts heat better than anything - five times better than the second best element, Silver! This characteristic is the basis for "diamond tests", as it is simple and cannot be faked.
- **Refraction:** Diamond has a relatively high index of refraction (ability to bend light), which gives it the high luster called adamantine.
- **Dispersion:** Diamond has a relatively high optical dispersion which gives diamond the "fire" that makes it so desirable.



Diamonds may be nearly any color in the rainbow plus browns, grays, and white. Shades of yellow are most common, followed by colorless. Blue, black, reddish, and greenish are more valuable (some extremely so).

Diamonds are found in a type of rock called

"Kimberlite", which comprises the core of certain volcanoes over especially thick portions of the earth's crust. This hard stone is mined and then crushed between giant steel rollers. The kimberlite is reduced to fine gravel, yet the extremely hard diamonds come out unharmed! Water is added and a grease covered roller sorts the diamonds from the gravel, as the diamonds stick to the grease. Typically, a single carat of diamond is recovered from a ton of rich ore.



Diamonds are found in many areas including South Africa, Russia, and even in Arkansas in the USA. In all cases, the diamonds formed deep within the earth's mantle, and were brought to the surface in volcanic eruptions. In many cases, the diamonds weathered out of the kimberlite by natural processes, and were transported downstream by water. Many diamonds are mined in the resulting [alluvial deposits](#) in areas such as along the coast of South Africa.

- See more at:

http://www.galleries.com/April_Birthstone#sthash.ujlb6qcu.dpuf

Diamond reflects your will and power aspects of the Divine, and it's a powerful healer when used by someone whose vibrations are resonating at its intensity. It is a catalyst for alignment with your higher self and it strengthens your will power and control over your physical desires. It breaks up blockages in your Crown Chakra and enhances abundance, trust, faithfulness, innocence and purity. When it is set with other stones it heightens the healing capacity of those stones. It signifies courage and it is said that a Diamond should never be lent to another – and if taken by fraud or force or coveted, instant karma will ensue. Sadly, despite its beautiful properties, Diamond has become one of the most blood-laden of all crystals. Like many other crystals with high market value and widespread popularity, its mining and sale is commonly steeped in controversy. Please be sure to cleanse and clear your stone thoroughly and ask for all karma associated with the stone to be released before using it in any way.

Chakras: All

<http://www.thatacrystalsite.com/guide/properties-glossary.php?init=d>

ROCK CRYSTAL, the clear and colorless variety of quartz

By Obsidian Harris



Rock Crystal is the name given to all clear colorless quartz. It is widely used as a popular ornamental stone and is also used as a [gemstone](#). Although it is one of the least expensive gemstones, cut rock crystal

has been used as imitation [diamonds](#). Rock crystal lacks the fire, color (of course) and the rarity to be ranked as a fine precious gemstone. None-the-less, rock crystal is in wide use as a gemstone due to its beauty, affordability, availability, and ease of cutting.



The most common use for rock crystal is in ornamental carvings. A well known ornamental carving for rock crystal is the crystal ball of fortune telling fame. While rock crystal is common it is hard to find large crystals of quartz with the clarity and size required for the crystal

balls that most of us associate with fortune tellers. Rock crystal is used for many ornamental carvings from spheres (crystal balls) to pyramids to obelisks to figurines to eggs to bowls to wands. There are also many fine chandeliers that are outfitted with rock crystal ornaments.

- VARIETY OF: [Quartz](#), SiO₂, Silicon Dioxide .
- USES: Ornamental stone and gemstone.
- COLOR: Colorless.
- INDEX OF REFRACTION: 1.544-1.553
- BIREFRINGENCE: 0.009
- HARDNESS: 7
- CLEAVAGE: none
- CRYSTAL SYSTEM: trigonal

Rock crystal can have the colorless clarity of pure water, unlike ordinary window glass which is a pale green. Yet the most common flaws - internal fractures - result in veils and colorful refractions that lend beauty to an otherwise ordinary object.

Rock crystal is an alternate and traditional [birthstone](#) for the month of April. Quartz is often associated with balance, clarity, and energy.

Many people prefer uncut clusters of rock crystal. These natural treasures look like crystal cities of



fantasy stories. The long slender clear prisms of quartz projecting upward from a common base are true mineralogical wonders that can be admired by all. They cost of good clusters of rock crystal is quite

affordable and comes from sources around the world. The best rock crystal sources are in the famous Hot Springs area of Arkansas, USA; Cumberland, England; St. Gotthard, Switzerland; Brazil and Madagascar. Large individual crystals of quartz have been found in Brazil, the largest weighs over 44 tons.



Rock crystal often has inclusions of other minerals and these inclusions sometimes produce popular varieties of ornamental stone. Golden rutile inclusions produce a unique stone aptly named *rutilated quartz* that has a very hair-like look. Another apply named stone is called *tourmalinated quartz* and

contains intricately crossing needles of black [schorl](#) [tourmaline](#) trapped in the clear crystal.



Phantoms are a result of inclusions which occur when other minerals such as [chlorite](#), [hematite](#) or even [milky quartz](#) form as a crust on the surface of the crystals during a hiatus in the crystal's growth. The

crystal then grows out and around the encrusting growth, encasing it inside. But since the thin encrustations formed over a crystal complete with crystal faces it appears that there is a crystal inside the crystal. The encrustations are often incomplete or diffuse and appear ghostly, hence the name *phantom*.

Rock crystal is only one of several quartz varieties. Other varieties that form macroscopic (large enough to see) crystals are as follows:

- [Amethyst](#) is the purple gemstone variety.

- [Citrine](#) is a yellow to orange gemstone variety that is rare in nature but is often created by heating Amethyst.
- [Milky Quartz](#) is the cloudy white variety.
- [Prasiolite](#) is the leek-green variety.
- [Rose quartz](#) is a pink to reddish pink variety.
- [Smoky quartz](#) is the brown to gray variety.

- See more at:

http://www.galleries.com/Rock_crystal#sthash.bNII8ms3.dpuf

Clear Quartz Crystals can be used to clear and activate the energy centers of your body, attuning well to your Heart Chakra and working very well with your Third Eye. It aids greatly in purifying your physical, mental and spiritual bodies. It heals negativity associated with your perspectives and judgments, and

UPCOMING SHOWS

May 1-4, 2013: Spruce Pine, NC - 2nd Annual Spring Grassy Creek Gem and Mineral Show. Parkway Fire and Rescue Department at 12966 Hwy. 226 South, Spruce Pine, NC, halfway between US 19E and the Blue Ridge Parkway (exit 331). There are 30 dealers who have all kinds of gemstones, mineral specimens, jewelry, beads, fossils, and lots more. Mine tours available. Admission is FREE. Parking is FREE. Hours are from 8 to 6 all days. Contact Donna Collis at collisdonna@yahoo.com for information.

May 7 - 11, 2014: Franklin, NC- Echo Valley Gem & Mineral Show. Echo Valley Showplace, 6456 Sylva Rd. (across from GLW), Franklin, NC; Hours: Wed. - Sat. 9 am - 6 pm. Sun. 10 am - 5 pm. Admission: Free, open to the public, wholesale & retail. Show Promoter: Damian Belghali; Email: DamianBelghali@gmail.com

May 8 - 11, 2014: Franklin, NC- Highland Road Gem Show. NE corner of Highway 441 Bypass and Highlands Road, Franklin, NC; Hours: 9 am - 5 pm, with many dealers available before and after these hours. Admission: Free to

it can be used to look at your inner negativity and stimulate positive thoughts. It helps you to redirect your materialistic energies towards the Spiritual realm. Clear Quartz can produce a healing force field of negative ions while clearing positive ions from the air, and cancels the harmful effects of radiation/radioactivity. A single Clear Quartz crystal, carried with you or placed in your environment will help maintain balance, energy and protection. Whether carried or placed somewhere, the force of the crystal stays attuned and connected to you.

Chakras: Crown, Earth Star, Heart, Link, Third Eye, Thymus

<http://www.thatcrystalsite.com/guide/properties-glossary.php?init=q>

the public. Show Promoter Info: Whistle Stop Mall, Stephanie Smith; Phone: 828-369-6341; Email: sns10005@gmail.com

May 9 - 11, 2014: Franklin, NC- G&LW Gem Show. Watauga Festival Center, 426 Watauga Road, Franklin, NC 28734. Hours: Fri - Sat: 10 am - 6 pm; Sun: 10 am - 3 pm. Admission: Wholesale Buyers Credentials Required; resale License. Show Promoter Info: Gem & Lapidary Wholesalers, Inc.; Phone: (601) 879-8832; E-mail: info@glwshows.net; Web: www.glwshows.com

May 9 - 11, 2014: Franklin, NC- Mother's Day Weekend Rock, Gem & Arts Show. Macon County Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road (US 441), Franklin, NC. Hours: 10 am - 4 pm daily. Admission: Free. Promoter: The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, Attn: Norm Holbert; Phone: 838-634-0350; Email: normholbert@comcast.net; Website: www.fgmm.org

March Rock Trip Pictures - Hanson Aggregates

By Mary Harbison



Rock Show Pictures

By George Harris



Vugsites

The following are some links to Web-Sites that may interest some of our members:

<http://www.amfed.org> / <http://www.amfed.org/sfms> These are the official sites for the organizing body that the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club is founded under. I would strongly urge all members to check them out on a regular basis.

http://www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar_newsletter.html The SFMS Lodestar Newsletter

<http://www.carolinageologicalsociety.org/CGS/Home.htm> This site provides numerous downloadable field-trip guide books, maps, and charts of the Carolinas. It will prove to keep any avid rock hound busy for years. Great Site!

http://www.ncminerals.com/ncmineralswebsite_files/page0011.htm And while we are on the subject, try this link. Its titled: Links of Interest to Rock hounds in NC. It will take you to a list of links for North Carolina gems and minerals.

<http://www.rockforkids.com/> Just like the name says, a nice place to steer the younger members.

Information & photographs of over 6300 specimens from the Glenn & Martha Vargas Gem & Mineral Collection.

<http://www.rockhoundlounge.com> Scott Laborde, a club member maintains his own web site that might be of interest to people collecting in and around Wake County.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29726500/ns/technology_and_science-science This site highlights a half dozen of the most recent significant fossil finds.

<http://appmodo.com/13971/mole-quest-for-the-terracore-gem-app-review-for-the-iphone-and-ipod-touch/> If you have an iphone or an ipod touch, this rock-hounding may be the game for you.

http://diamonddanpublications.net/index_files/page0009.html Diamond Dan's Mini Miner's Monthly

I would like to encourage all members of the THG&MC that maintain their own presence on the internet to send me a link to their site to be published in future Vugsites so that other club members may learn and enjoy the craft, the art, the interests that many of us have in common.

