

Tar Heel Tailings

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

Special Interest Articles:

- July – Local Quartz Crystals, The Other SiO2
- Gypsum Crystals of the Naica Mine, Mexico
- Reel Mine Field Trip Report

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President's Report: Jura Mountains, France

I am writing to you from Germany on my way back from Europe with my daughter. I would like to thank Joe for standing in at the last meeting. I spent most of my time in the Jura Mountains of southern France being a chaperone for

my daughter's exchange group from Enloe High School. When I was not busy with them, I was able to do a little sightseeing on my own. If the name of the mountains didn't click, think Jurassic Park. The Jura Mountains are

home to some of the best examples of Mesozoic rocks found anywhere. They extend from Switzerland through Morocco. I went from the Cretaceous to the Jurassic. I have some pictures of some sauropod
Continued on page 7

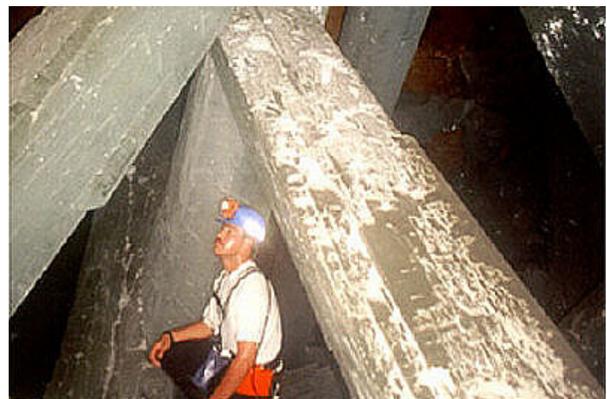
Gypsum Crystals of the Naica Mine, Mexico

By Thomas Krassmann | Originally published on The Giant Crystal Project:
<http://giantcrystals.strahlen.org/america/naica.htm>

The Naica mine with its enormous gypsum crystals may well be called the "Queen of the Giant Crystal localities". Giant crystals in general are exactly this : of remarkable dimensions ! But they are not necessarily nice or esthetic in the common sense and in fact they only rarely display free growing crystals. In Naica they do ! And all what you ever imagined about giant crystals in the interior of the earth, about enormous vugs filled with

glittering crystals so large, you can walk among them, comes true in Naica ! This is the place to be for the real giant crystal enthusiastic and quite frankly I would be glad and honored, if I ever have the opportunity to visit this place. Though the Naica

mine is no show mine, but still a working and producing lead - zinc mine owned by the Penoles Company. Continous mining goes on since more than a century and in 1910 the first of several crystal caves was discovered in a depth of 120 m



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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.tarheelclub.org

Program & Refreshments

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:

Coordinator: Jeanette Baugh
villagegems@yahoo.com

July: Ken Carlson
Aug: Ice Cream Social
Sept: OPEN
Oct: Corinne & Cyndy Hummel
Nov: OPEN

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

July: Local Quartz Crystals, The Other SiO2
Aug: Ice Cream Social
Sept: OPEN
Oct: OPEN
Nov: OPEN

July Program: Local Quartz Crystals, The Other SiO2

This program will be a 'Part 2' to our program last month on agates, jaspers and other types of chalcedony found locally. Scott LaBorde and myself will be presenting quartz crystal specimens we have collected from Wake and Chatham counties, hopefully with an assist from Dennis Herman. I would like to start with a re-cap of what we talked about last time and try and answer any questions we may still have about chalcedony and its relationship to quartz, then proceed into Part 2. Hope to see you there. Joe Moylan

Tar Heel G & M Club 2010 Show Treasurer Summary Report

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Vendors | \$124.48 |
| Geodes | \$906.55 |
| Hospitality | \$379.01 |
| Silent Auction | \$334.54 |
| Amount cleared for entire show | \$1,744.58 |

July B-Day Members

- Vickie Shore
- Barbara Todaro
- Jeffrey Lee
- Walter Milowic
- Paul Hobson
- Wayne Jessee
- Sylvia Johnson
- Keith Leese
- David McAllister
- Sandy Truelove
- Ann Wease
- Jeff Jenkins
- James Allsbrook
- Penny Rosser
- Randy Blatt
- Becky Davenport
- Tiffany Chrisey
- Shirley McCutchen
- James McMillan



Membership applications may be mailed to:

Tarheel Gem & Mineral Club
Attention: Treasurer
10609 Chelsea Drive
Raleigh NC 27603

Tar Heel G & M Club June Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Attendance: 29

In Walt's absence, Joe called the meeting to order at 7:42 pm Birthdays!

There was one.

Rock Joke?

Joe asked about people if they got their newsletters and they raised their hands stating getting their newsletter.

Joe commented about the room in the storage unit for stock.

He also noted about the By-Laws committee. And who would be attending that signed up for the committee.

Joe spoke to Kenny Gay and he is getting along.

Joe displayed items from a Glendon fieldtrip. And talked about trips in the Autumn of the year.

Bob elaborated about the fieldtrips via Magma.

Membership is as simple as giving a e-address.

Joe commented that the largest Amethyst on display at the Grandfather Mountain museum.

Joe mentioned Jeanette who brought munchies -food & drink-. Thank you Jeanette!

The Door Prize Winner was Allen Lawrence who chose a Large Quartz Crystal from Arkansas. Congratulations!

Jeanette is in the process of getting information about display cases for a year at a Civic Center in Raleigh.

Joe passed around a note pad for people attending the By-Law committee. And roughly what day it would be on.

One young man announced a fieldtrip to Oregon for Jaspers, Obsidian, Thunder Eggs. And Opal in Nevada.

Joe went onto the program of the types of Jaspers and Agates. John Heinz also had his collection on display of Jaspers & Agates.

Happy Rock Hounding Obsidian

Tar Heel G & M Club 2010 Show Treasurer Report

VENDOR GENERAL FUNDS

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Deposits | |
| \$17,635.00 | |
| 450.00 Refunds | |
| <hr/> | |
| \$17,185.00 | Total Deposits |
| 1800.00 | Fairgrounds Fair Deposit |
| 30.11 | Postage |
| 53.44 | Show Flyers |
| 66.78 | Ink |
| | Butcher Block Paper / Raffle |
| 132.56 | Tickets |
| 221.84 | Post Cards / Posters |
| 40.00 | Shark's Teeth |
| 715.94 | Postage / Bags |
| | Independent Newspaper |
| 497.00 | Advertisement |
| 1082.06 | Friday Night Supper |
| 25.86 | Trailer Repair |
| 715.85 | Upstairs Food |
| | IMP Print Floor Plan Kerr |
| 12.93 | Scott BLDG |
| | Fairgrounds Remainder of bill |
| 10,084.00 | |
| 126.19 | Name Badges / Postage |
| 1412.91 | N & O Advertisement |
| 43.10 | Keys / Lock for Storage Unit |
| \$17,060.57 | |
| <hr/> | |
| \$17,185.00 | |
| <u>17,060.57</u> | |
| \$124.48 | |

GEODES

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Deposit | |
| 3918.50 | |
| | Expenses |
| 27.49 | Sound Dampening |
| 44.43 | Paper Bags |
| 35.18 | Paper Bags |
| 1951.66 | Geodes to cut |
| 322.50 | Saw Blades |
| 320.69 | Belts, Acrylic Stands |
| <u>310.00</u> | Start Up Cash |
| 906.55 | Cleared |

SILENT AUCTION

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|
| Deposit | | |
| \$493.56 | \$50.00 | Start Up Cash |
| | \$32.52 | Paper / Copies |
| | \$76.50 | Items purchased |
| <u>\$159.02</u> | | |
| \$334.54 | | Cleared |

HOSPITALITY

| | |
|----------|----------------|
| Deposit | |
| \$814.25 | |
| 135.26 | Rock Candy |
| 166.12 | Grab Bag Rocks |
| 9.58 | Plastic bags |
| 50.00 | Start Up Cash |
| 74.28 | Rocks |
| 435.24 | |
| <hr/> | |
| \$379.01 | Cleared |

Gypsum Crystals of the Naica Mine, Mexico

Continued from page 1

underground. This so called "Cave of the Swords" contained extraordinary large swordlike selenite (gypsum) crystals up to 2 m size. The cave supplied large quantities of large scale specimen with magnificent "herring bone structure" selenite crystals to major mineralogical and collections world wide. It is a single huge chamber about 70m in diameter and is still accessible to geoscientists and even - as far as we know - to the public. A narrow winding path leads to the forest of crystals, which however have lost much of its luster and splendour over the decades.

In 2000 another crystal cave system was discovered at 300 m depth, even much more spectacular than the original discovery back in 1910. This newest discovery was named the "Cave of the Crystals" and it turned out to be one of the most spectacular geological and mineralogical discoveries ever made ! In fact it is a complex system of caves orientated along a geological fault, which yield free growing gypsum

crystals up to 12 m size (!) and 2 m diameter.



As the initial temperature inside the caves was 60°C and the humidity 100%, a detailed exploration of the caves proved extremely difficult. There is the story about a mine worker, who tried to steal some of the magnificent crystals shortly after the initial discovery, but was overwhelmed by heat, humidity and the low oxygen content of the cave atmosphere, lost consciousness and was found literally cooked by his fellows some days later...

That said, conditions in the caves are much more hospitable now and a lot of photos exist on the web showing cave explorers posing in T - Shirts within a maze of giant crystals. But serious exploration and documentation of the caves and the giant gypsum crystals still has its obstacles. Right now a group of italian speleologists - the Laventa group - has started a large scale scientific mapping project, using state of the art technical equipment to tackle the still hostile environment of these caves. Please have a look [here](#) for more information of this venture including an online diary.

The discovery of the giant gypsum crystals at Naica has triggered a wealth of geological research on this subject with the first papers published only recently. For more information please visit our [Reading Room](#). More scientific literature is likely to be published within the near future.

The Naica Gypsum Crystals in a Nutshell

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Mineralogy : | Gypsum, possibly some sulfide minerals |
| Crystal Size : | Mostly freestanding prismatic crystals up to 12 m |
| Geology & Origin : | Possibly hydrothermal replacement of limestone by sulphuric acids, more research is certainly warranted |
| Current status : | Active mine, access to upper crystal caves for tourists possible, access to lower crystal caves remain restricted |
| Remarks : | Spectacular freely developed (!) gypsum crystals up to 12 m, possibly the largest in the world |

Rock Collecting Trip to Oregon

Pat McCracken is trying to put together a small group of people to collect rocks in Oregon toward the end of August and into September of this year (it might be a week or two later even - I'm still working on the details). We would have the opportunity to collect a very wide range of materials including jaspers, thundereggs, agates, petrified wood, wood replacement, obsidian, sun stones. We will also plan a trip

to the rock museum in Medford, Oregon (one of the best collections of Oregon rocks that you will EVER see!). I'm still working on the price for the trip (still working with the individual ranchers where we will be collecting to determine best dates). Many of the sites are pay sites where we will have to pay 50 cents to 2 dollars per pound. You will find plenty of material to cut into cabs, specimens, faceting, etc... I

also hope to be allowed into some private collections where we can purchase outstanding material. We will be staying in hotels (not expensive ones) so don't worry about camping out. Trip will be approximately a 7-8 days long. For details of areas we will be collecting, dates, pricing, etc. please contact Pat McCracken: pat_mccracken@bellsouth.net or by phone 919-618-1330.

Reel Mine Fieldtrip Report

The Reel Mine is a famous old amethyst locality in the town of Iron Station, Lincoln County, NC. It is known for producing the largest single amethyst crystal cluster found in North America weighing in at 165 lbs. This cluster is now on display in the museum at Grandfather Mountain.

After a 20 plus year period of being closed the MAGMA rock club finally persuaded the owners of the Reel Mine to open it up to rockhounds again as a pay per day to dig site. The third weekend dig since being re-opened was held June 25-27, 2010, and one is planned for the

fall of 2010 but the date has not been set yet.

This is an excellent place to go if you want your digging experience to be the total workout. Very little site preparation has been done so it is up to you, and whatever hand tools you choose, to find the amethyst. You have your choice also of digging in the softer saprolitic clays or the harder silica permeated granite. Veins of amethyst run through each. You just have to find them. Now that there have been three scheduled digs at the site, the natural geology of the site is starting to be uncovered. The

accumulated overburden and past prospectors tunnels and digs are getting worked through so more undisturbed areas are being exposed. MAGMA is talking about doing some extensive site preparation with heavy equipment before the next dig this fall. Anything will be better than the 106 degree heat index we experienced for this last dig. Slots are limited for these digs so you must pre-register and the \$20.00 per day includes camping at the site.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Moylan



2010 SFMS WORKSHOP CLASS SCHEDULE

Updated as of July 7, 2010

Workshop Staff

Wildacres Director, Roy Deere

Email: sfmswadirector@gmail.com

William Holland Director, Steve Henegar

Email: sfmswhdirector1011@gmail.com

Wildacres Registrar, Mrs. B. J. Gearhart

631 Lake Overlook Drive

Canton, GA 30114-6887

Phone 770-479-0963

Email: waregistrar2010@yahoo.com

William Holland Registrar, Lisa Roberts

996 Indian River Boat Dock Rd

Jacksboro, TN 37757

Phone 423-562-9555

Email: whregistrar10@yahoo.com

Education Chair, Danny Griffin

1320 Byrd Circle

Kingston, TN 37763

(865) 406-8802

Email sfmsedchair@gmail.com

The intermediate and advanced classes listed with an asterisk (*) require some prior experience by the student. Experience in a class provided by your local club, Workshop class, or self study may be enough. Please do not exclude yourself, if you're interested in one of these classes, without contacting the instructor first.

SESSION TWO - WILDACRES

MONDAY, August 23 - 29, 2010

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Precious Metal Clay Level 1 | Mary Ann & Ken Devos |
| Designers' Rehab | Barbara McGuire |
| Beginning Fused Glass | Barb & Herrick Jeffers |
| Beginning Silversmithing | Nancy English |
| Scrimshaw | Bill Wetzel |
| Cabochon Making | Pat Davis |
| Beginning Wire Wrapping | Rowan Rose |
| Addictive Seed Beading | Vivian Heath |
| *Metalwork Help & Special Pro-jects | Jeff Shears |
| Jewelry Bench & Tool Making | Danny Griffin |

SESSION THREE - WILDACRES

MONDAY, September 13 - 19, 2010

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| *PMC Advanced techniques | Mary Ann & Ken Devos |
| Bronze Clay | Gail DeLuca |
| Chain Maille Jewelry | Warren Collins |
| Beginning Silversmithing | Dana Ruth |
| Wire Wrapping | Rowan Rose |
| Metal Connections & Finishing | Charlotte Caughman |
| *Advanced Fused Glass | *Advanced Fused Glass |
| Addictive Seed Beading | Vivian Heath |
| Southwest Silver | Dan Haga |
| Advanced Faceting | Steve Hillenbrand |

SESSION FOUR - WILLIAM HOLLAND

SUNDAY, October 10-16, 2010

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Silver 1 | Barbara Fields |
| *Silver 2 | Allen Jewell |
| Cabochons | Betty James |
| Chain Maille Jewelry | Roy Deere |
| Beginning Wirecraft | Rowan Rose |
| Opal Cutting | Sara Lee Boyce |
| Faceting | Bill Harbour |
| Designers' Rehab | Barbara McGuire |
| *Advanced Fused Glass | *Advanced Fused Glass |
| Cold Connections | Kim St Jean |
| Addictive Seed Beading | Vivian Heath |



President's Report: Jura Mountains, France (continued from page 1)

tracks found by a bicyclist as he was riding down a mountain road. He looked to his side and found a nearly vertical wall with some regularly spaced depressions that were later found to be dinosaur tracks. The former flat dinosaur track had been uplifted and folded by the creation of the Jura Mountains.

More recently, a new set of tracks, much more extensive, and this time

horizontal, was found near Plagne, France. If you Google Plagne, I'm sure you will find more information.

The area is marked off with stakes and plastic tape but the tracks are there for all to see. They plan to start investigating the site next year.

According to the family I was staying with, they are just trying to gather "free help" from graduate students to do the grunt work. At the bottom of the site,

they have already built a large parking lot in expectation of lots of visitors in the future.

I also saw some interesting geologic features including some micro-folding, or intense regional folding within a larger fold.

See you all in July.

Walt Milowic

UPCOMING SHOWS

July 22-25, 2010: Franklin, NC - Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC. 44th Annual Gemboree, Macon County Community Building US 441S. Hours: Thur—Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4. Adults \$3, Children 12 and under free. Contact 888-337-7529.

August 13-15, 2010: Gulfport, MS - Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society. 35th Annual Harrison County Gem & Mineral Show, West Harrison Community Center, 4470 Espy Ave, Pass Christian, MS. Hours: Fri 12-7, Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5. Admission: Adults \$3 & children under 12 free with paid adult. Contact: Tomsey Westermeyer Show/Dealer chairman at: 228-586-5279 or e-mail at: tomsey@cableone.net

September 4-6, 2010: Brunswick, GA - Golden Isles Gem & Mineral Society. 2010 Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show, Glynn Place Mall, I-95 exit 38, GA Spur 25 to Golden Isles Parkway, 2 miles. Hours: Sat 10-7, Sun 12-6, & Mon 10-5. Admission \$3. Contact Patricia Cox 912-265-4259 or hepacox@comcast.net

September 4-7, 2010: Hendersonville, NC—Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society. 28th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Show & Sale, Whitmire Activity Building, Lily Pond Rd. Hours: Sat & Mon 10-6, Tue 10-5. See www.hcgms.org

September 10-12, 2010: Winston-Salem, NC - Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club. 39th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Educational Bldg, Dixie Classic Fairgrounds (free parking through Gate #9 from 27th St only). Hours: Fri & Sat 10-7, Sun 12-5. Contact W.A. Marion at mariona1@yadtel.net

September 23-26, 2010: Jacksonville, FL-Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society. 22nd Annual Show, Morocco Temple, 3800 St Johns Bluff Rd. Hours: Fri 1-6, Sat 10-6, & Sun 10-5. Adults \$3/day or \$5/weekend

September 26-27, 2010: Hiddenite, NC-Western Piedmont Mineral & Gem Society. 21st Annual Hiddenite Gem & Mineral Show, Hiddenite Center at Sulpher Springs Road. Hours: Sat 9-6, Sun 12:30-6. Adults \$2 & children under 13 with adult free.

October 1-3, 2010: Dallas, NC— Gaston County Gem, Mineral & Faceters Club. Biggerstaff Park, Hwy 279(Cherryville Hwy), Dallas NC. Free admission, hourly raffles, gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry. Hours: Fri, Sat & Sun 9-6. Contact Jackay McDaniel 704-865-6748 or jackaythegrizz@aol.com or Connie Cole 704-864-4387.

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.html> 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.rocksforkids.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.

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.

