

Tar Heel Tailings

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

Special Interest Articles:

- President's Report
- The Central NC Mineral Club - Giant Rock & Gem Sale
- Rare Mars Rocks Crashed to Earth in July

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President's Report

We will soon be in the Dog Days of Summer but we do not have time to crawl under the pickup truck and take a nap in the shade. There is, as always, much to be done.

Actually, with more rock, gem, and mineral clubs disbanding and folding every year, the Chinese Cabochon and Cut Stone Invasion making it easier

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Rare Mars Rocks Crashed to Earth in July

by Mike Wall, SPACE.com Senior Writer

A hail of Martian meteorites crashed to Earth last July, and collectors and scientists around the world are snapping up the ultra-rare rocks for display and study. The meteorites fell in the Moroccan desert in July and were recovered a few months later. Scientists confirmed today (Jan. 17) that the rocks are Martian, presumably blasted off the Red Planet by an asteroid strike. The rocks are a rare treat for researchers, allowing them to investigate relatively pristine chunks of Martian material. Such freshly delivered

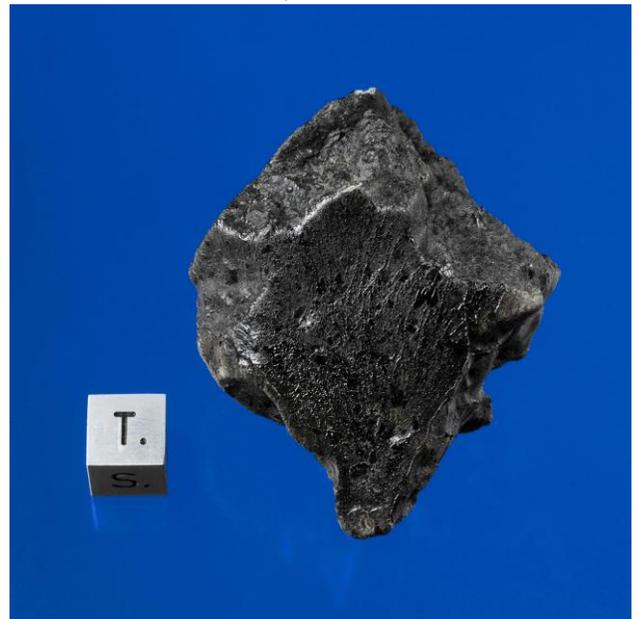
pieces of the Red Planet have been found on only four other occasions, the last time in 1962.

As a result of their scarcity and scientific value, the

rocks are selling for incredibly high prices — 10 times the price of gold or more.

More on Mars Rocks - page 4

A sample of a Mars rock from the Tissint meteorite fall, which dropped chunks of the Red Planet into the Morocco desert in July 2011.
CREDIT: © 2011 Darryl Pitt / Macovich Collection



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

Program & Refreshments

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:	
Coordinator: Jeanette Baugh (919) 522-9044 villagegems@yahoo.com	
June	Open
July	Jack Fried
August	Ice Cream Social
September	Walt Milowic
October	Cyndy and Corinne Hummel
PROGRAM SCHEDULE:	
June	Meteorites – Nicholas Gessler, Ph.D.

We still need someone to sign up for the June and Nov. meetings. Remember, the club will reimburse you for up to \$40 (bring your receipts to the treasurer). Thank you, Jeanette Baugh

May Treasurer's Report

Mar. Ending /	
Apr. Beginning Balance	\$8,480.33

Deposits (+)	
Dealers	\$10,348.50
Members	490.00
Geodes	4,682.00
Silent Auction	832.30
Hospitality	1,160.04

Sub total	\$17,512.84

Checks Written (-)	
Checks	\$1,536.14

Sub Total	\$1,536.14

Apr. Ending /	
May Beginning Balance	\$24,457.03

Deposits (+)	
Members	\$30.00
Refund Food Money	67.37

Sub total	\$97.37

Checks Written (-)	
Fair	\$10,314.00
News & Observer adv	1,412.91
Trailor Rent	63.00
Motor Vehicles (Trailor)	24.00
Newsletter	155.32
Miscellaneous	198.42
Meeting Food	40.00

Sub Total	\$12,207.65

May Ending /	
Jun. Beginning Balance	\$12,346.75

June B-Day Members

- Cleo Gallian
- Kay Kimball
- Eleanor Maness
- Tim Milowic
- Rachael Troutman
- Angie Tunney



Membership applications may be mailed to:

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

Tar Heel G & M Club April Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Attendees = 29

At 7:38 Joe Moylan called the meeting to order and welcomed several newcomers to our meeting and I know at least a couple of them filled out the membership forms.

Joe then opened by asking about how many members were able to make it to the North American Emerald Mine (Alexander Quarry), 531 Duncan Lane, Hiddenite, NC 28636 on Saturday, 28-Apr-12. Approximately 7 members responded that they had made the event. Julie Niederkorn shared some rock and mineral samples and Clair shared some photos that she had taken.

Joe then spoke regarding the Crabtree Emerald Mine in Spruce Pine, North Carolina, giving the history as follows with my augmentation:

1890's emeralds found by Alfred Chrisawn on property owned by Thomas Sparks.

1894, J.L. Rorison and D.A. Bowman acquired the property and began mining.

1895 – 1900, Tiffany and Co of New York mined emeralds.

1905 – 1908, successfully operated by the American Gem and Pearl.

1930 – 1935, operated under the ownership of Edward Fortner and J.P. Grindstaff.

1939 – 1957, the Crabtree mine stood idle.

1957, re-opened for a short time by the Little Switzerland Emerald Mines

1958 – 1964, the Crabtree mine stood idle again and flooded.

1965 – 1983, the mine was owned by Peggy Fortner and Bill Collins

1984 – 1994, Ledford, Roper and Duppenenthaler buy the mine and allowed the public to collect on the dumps.

1980's (late) the mine was idled for safety concerns.

2003, Roper and Duppenenthaler acquire sole ownership of the mine

2006, Mineral City Mining Co. asks Richard Jacquot, President of M.A.G.M.A. gem and mineral club, to manage the site.

David Tomlin brought in samples of the mine tailings for us to look at.

Joe noted that NAEM had been open the past weekend (May 12th and 13th) and would be open again to members of any federate club Memorial Day weekend (May 26th thru 28th). NAEM is usually closed on Saturdays. Cost of entry would be \$45.00 per day or \$85.00 for both days. If any should want to go they should contact Randi Van Vliet at 828-635-8083 or email at alexanderquarry@bellsouth.net so that Randi can get a head count. You will need to give your club's name also. Another noted that the cost for Camp Hiddenite was \$22.00 per day.

Obsidian Harris inquired about the Glendon Dig (Glendon Pyrophyllite Rock Quarry) 591 Glendon Carthage Rd. Goldston, NC. The quarry is known for its geometrically perfect pyrite and fluorite. The walk to the quarry was noted to be exceptionally muddy. Joe next commented on Terry Lofgren and John Kehoe who found a pocket of emerald crystals at NAEM that included a 30-carat emerald and 240 carats worth of loose emeralds - originally estimated to be worth between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

Joe next noted that the Reel Amethyst Mine in Iron Station, Lincoln County, NC would be open for Memorial Day weekend, May

25th-28th, 2012 and that we would be welcome. This is a M.A.G.M.A. event and the cost will be \$35.00 per day.

Joe next asked for the lists of volunteers from the THG&MC gem show. Corinne Hummel gave the lists for the Hospitality Booth and the Geode Booth.

Joe next talked about the Astronomy Days (May 21st and 22nd) at the Natural Science Museum in Raleigh. He noted that Nick Gessler from Duke University would give a presentation on meteorites and that the museum would be bringing out much of its stored samples and information on the subject including types of meteors and ways to identify them. Joe encouraged us to attend.

Joe then asked if there was any other business. Our attention was given to the following:

1. Request for possible programs on the DNA of gems and minerals.
2. The brochure promoting the sales of mineral specimen by the now defunct Chapel Hill Gem and Mineral Club at the Seymour Senior Center, 2551 Homestead Rd. Chapel Hill, June 5th from 5:30 to 8:30 PM.
3. Piedmont Open Air Gem and Mineral Sale, Saturday, June 23rd at the Hagan Stone Park Shelter #4 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.
4. George Harris donated a North Carolina Gems and Minerals poster from the Silver armadillo.

Joe Moylan was the winner of our door prize and selected a beautiful agate bowl.

Obsidian Harris was the winner of the "Tick Removal Tool" donated by Doc Franklin.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Jack Fried and seconded by Julie Niederkorn. The meeting was closed at ~8:24 PM and our attention was given to Joe Moylan and his excellent presentation on the types of stone and tools used by aboriginal residents of North Carolina.

Addendum

Tom Todaro has scheduled a new field trip.

FIELD TRIP DAY / DATE	SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2012
TIME:	08:00 am – 12:00 pm
QUARRY OPERATOR	VULCAN MATERIALS
QUARRY NAME	Vulcan Materials Jack Quarry
QUARRY ADDRESS:	23308 Cox Road, Petersburg, VA 23803
QUARRY LONG & LAT	37.160, -77.5094
QUARRY TELEPHONE:	704-283-4915
QUARRY IN-CHARGE	Tom Brazell
APPROX DRIVE TIME	From Raleigh ~2.5 Hours
TAR HEEL TRIP COORD	Thomas Todaro, 919-349-9143 (M), 919-639-7798 (H) caribtomt@yahoo.com

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Troutman, Secretary

President's Report

Continued from page 1

and more profitable to buy finished stones for jewelry than make them, and the new fashionable use of glass and metal only in jewelry, etc, I think we are extremely fortunate to have the membership, facilities and potential that we do. It would be a shame not to make the best use of our collective potential and Shine!

The Officers met recently and here are some of the topics discussed at that Board Meeting. Many, if not all, changes discussed would necessitate a rewriting of the By-Laws. This in itself is a major task, not to be taken lightly. We will be looking for the perfect three individuals to form a By-Laws Committee to review and debate the merits of a list of proposed changes. Any proposed changes will then be voted on for adoption by the membership.

In my opinion, the number one main proposal for consideration is the creation of a new office or position for managing membership, which is now part of the Treasurers' duties. This new position would be in charge of new memberships, renewals, and all contact lists such as who wants to be contacted about fieldtrips, who wants a hardcopy of the newsletter and who wants e-mail, etc.

There are also times that we hear of or are notified of events that may be of interest to many members but will come and go before the next newsletter comes out or the next meeting held. Do we want to initiate an e-mail contact list for such events or do we want to create a "forum" on our website for such communication? And, in that regard, we are in need of a new Web Master. If we cannot find a volunteer for that position from within the club, do we want to hire out for that service?

Or, we can look at the other side of the coin.

Since many of our members join only to be eligible for fieldtrips and other fringe benefits associated with membership of a federation club, and seldom, if ever, come to meetings and participate in the duties and functions of the club, maybe we should consider cutting back on the number of meetings held each year. Possibly take June, July, and August off and only meet to mainly prepare for the

The Central NC Mineral Club - Giant Rock & Gem Sale

June 5th, 2012, 5:30 - 8:30pm; Seymour Senior Center

The site was intriguing upon arriving. George & I went to look at what was presented at the show. There was an array of polished and rough minerals, gems and publications too. For children & Teachers there were items that were Free. There was also Fossils too. As I understand it, they look to have another show, later on. They had much more to present. I

Rare Mars Rocks Crashed to Earth in July

by Mike Wall, SPACE.com Senior Writer,

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News of the meteorites' Martian origin was first reported by the Associated Press.

"In the world of meteoritics, a fall is as good as it gets," said Carl Agee, director of the Institute of Meteoritics and meteorite curator at the University of New Mexico. "We know that everything we're looking at is Martian, and that there's nothing in there that is confusing matters."

show in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Fieldtrips could continue year-round.

This, to me, would be a step in the wrong direction. Because cabochon and faceting classes are offered at the Crafts Center, with our clubs sponsorship, we do not spend much time discussing or demonstrating these arts during club meetings, but there are MANY areas that we have not begun to explore or entertain, and we need all the time we can get to do that. But we cannot do it without active participation from our members. We undoubtedly have the potential and means to be the best Rock Club in the state, but we have to have members willing to get involved and participate. The list of possible projects that we could undertake and fulfill our Mission Statement is very long. There are other things that are simply a matter of organizing and finding the time to do.

On that note, I will sum up with an example; Election of Officers. The November before last there were no volunteers for ANY office and NO nominations. The elections were postponed until the next meeting. I understand how new members feel they have not been involved with the club long enough to volunteer or run for an office. They feel they do not know enough about how the club runs and it would be better to leave it up to the "old-timers" to run things. And they do not want to step on anyone's toes.

I would just like to say this to those old and new members that feel this way. YOU are the future of this club. It is your ideas and energy that will help us all to attain OUR full potential and we need you to step forward and get involved in any way that you can. How else will you learn? I would love to see a Board of completely new members elected this November. It would be GREAT for the club!

Hope to see everyone at the next meeting,,

Many Thanks for All that Everyone does,

Joe Moylan, President, TarHeel Gem and Mineral Club

even came across a rough piece of Rhodocrosite with crystalline outside, a 1/4 inch size piece of Epidote, among others. And to think, I had no intention to purchase while there. That idea went out the window. I look forward to going again. Till next time. Have fun!

Happy Rockhounding
Obsidian Harris

Martian debris rains down

Martian material is exceedingly hard to come by on Earth. Just 220 pounds (100 kilograms) of Mars rocks are known to exist on our planet, according to Darryl Pitt, curator of the Macovich Collection of meteorites in New York City.

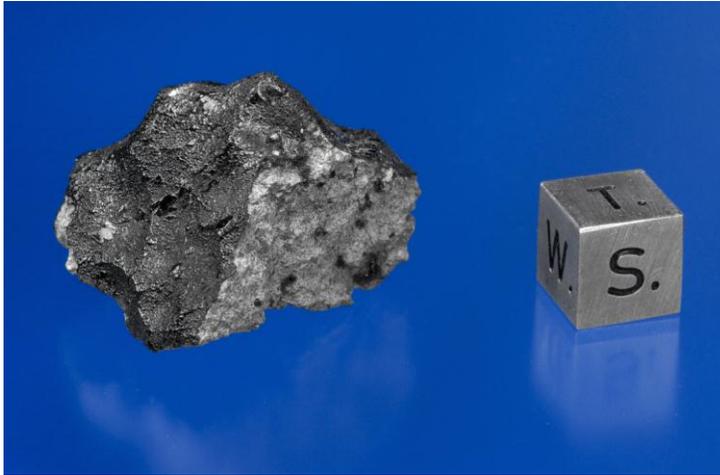
The newfound Martian meteorites — which are called Tissint, after the shower that dropped them to Earth — represent a significant percentage of this material.

"There's at least 11 kilos [24 pounds]," Pitt told SPACE.com.

Pitt said he had acquired more than 4.4 pounds (2 kg) of Tissint meteorites. He has been trading and selling pieces to collectors, museums and researchers around the globe, at prices ranging from \$8,500 per ounce to \$28,350 per ounce (\$300 to \$1,000 per gram), depending on the sample.

As of Tuesday, gold was selling for about \$1,650 per ounce (\$58 per gram).

"It's pristine material," Pitt said. "Five hundred dollars and \$600 a gram for a freshly fallen chunk of the planet Mars? I'd say that's a deal."



Another sample of a Martian meteorite from the Tissint fall, which dropped chunks of the Red Planet in the Moroccan desert in July 2011

CREDIT: © 2011 Darryl Pitt / Macovich Collection

Learning about Mars

The other four fresh Martian meteorite falls occurred in 1815, 1865, 1911 and 1962. Scientists get excited by the chance to study such rocks because they haven't been contaminated much by Earth organisms and weather.

The Tissint samples, and others like them, thus represent the next best thing to a Martian sample-return mission, something many scientists long for but remains perhaps a decade away in the best-case scenario.

Researchers can glean a surprising amount of information about Mars from a small piece of the planet, said Agee, who acquired several Tissint samples for his institution.

For example, pristine Mars meteorites can reveal a great deal about the Red Planet's atmosphere and climate, along with its potential to host life. Some scientists will doubtless pore over Tissint specimens for signs of organic compounds, the carbon-containing building blocks of life as we know it, Agee said.

"Because it's so fresh, if you find organics in this sample, you can be pretty sure those organics are Martian," he told SPACE.com.

There's also the chance that Martian organisms — if they ever existed — may have left a mark in the meteorite samples. Some researchers, for example, claimed to have found fossil evidence of ancient Martian life in a meteorite called ALH84001, which was discovered in Antarctica in 1984. (Most scientists regard the claim as unconvincing.)

Researchers don't yet know how old the Tissint samples are — when they formed, and when they were blasted off the Red Planet. But that should be determined in the next few months, Agee said.

The large size of the newfound fall is also a blessing, ensuring that Martian rocks are studied and seen by many people around the world, he added.

"Everybody has access at this point," Agee said. "It will be widely distributed, so everybody will get a chance to study it, enjoy it and appreciate it."



Tissint Meteorite, Tata, Morocco, FALL, 18 July 2011, Martian Shergottite Specimen by Nicholas Gessler, Ph.D. at NC Natural History Museum
CREDIT: © 2012 George Harris

Note: Originally published in Space.com,

<http://www.space.com/14268-rare-mars-meteorite-rocks-tissint.html>

You can follow SPACE.com senior writer Mike Wall on Twitter: @michaeldwall.

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More Information on the Tissint Rocks at

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2087964/Mars-meteorite-shower-Morocco-yields-15-pounds-rocks-10-times-valuable-gold.html>

Piedmont Open Air Gem and Mineral Sale

Saturday, June 23rd 2012
Hagan Stone Park
Shelter #4
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Vendor set up at 8 a.m.

Be part of our premier outdoor event! Free Admission, Free Parking. BBQ concessions, door prizes, fun for young and old, rock collectors and the curious. Vendor fee \$25. Contact Steve Smith pteradon@triad.rr.com for application. Phone 336-454-8872

For directions please visit www.haganstonepark.com



Visit our website www.ggmc-rockhounds.com

UPCOMING SHOWS

June 23, 2012: Greensboro, NC - Greensboro Gem and Mineral Club. Piedmont Open Air Gem & Mineral Sale, Hagan Stone Part, Shelter # 4, Greensboro. Hours: 10-6. Free admission; free parking. For directions please visit www.haganstonepark.com

Sept 21-23, 2012: Jacksonville, FL - Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society. 24th Annual Show, Morocco Shrine Auditorium, 3800 Saint Johns Bluff Road, Jacksonville. Hours: Fri 1-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Admission \$4. Contact: Karen Olson (904) 448-5182 or e-mail jgmsnews@gmail.com

October 6-7, 2012: Lexington, KY - Rockhounds of Central Kentucky (ROCK). 22nd Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show, Kentucky National Guard Armory, 4301 Airport Road, Lexington, KY. Show includes minerals, jewelry, equipment dealers, club sales, exhibits, KY Agate, fluorescent displays, hourly prizes, and Grand Prize drawing. Admission: \$1 adults, \$0.50 children, \$3 max family; Scouts in uniform free. Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5. Contact: Allen Ferrell, 859-277-2469 or kyrock2010kentucky@yahoo.com.

November 16-18, 2012: Marietta, GA - Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society. 27th Annual Rock, Mineral & Jewelry Show, Cobb County Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Parkway, Marietta, GA.

Hours: Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Free Admission. Contact Mary Ingram: 404-915-3588 or mandmingram@gmail.com.

November 17-18, 2012 (Always held the weekend before Thanksgiving): West Palm Beach, Florida - Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches. 46th annual gem, mineral, jewelry, bead and fossil show, South Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East, 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach. Hours: Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5. Free Parking. Admission \$7, children under 12 free. Visit website for \$1 off coupon. <http://www.gemandmineral.cc>. Contact show chairman, Barbara Ringhiser at bar5678@aol.com

December 8-9, 2012 (2nd weekend each December): Franklin, TN - Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society. Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, Fossil Show & Sale, Williamson County Ag Expo Park, 4215 Long Lane, Franklin (this is a new location rather than the old location at the TN State Fairgrounds in Nashville). Drive 20 miles south of Nashville on I-65 and take exit #61, turn east onto Peytonsville Road for 1/3 mile, and turn left onto Long Lane. Hours: Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5. Admission \$4 (2-Day Pass \$6.00), students 18 and under \$1, children under 12 free with adult. For additional information and maps visit www.MTGMS.org. Contact John Stanley, Show Chair, (615) 885-5704 or e-mail show@mtgms.org.



Pictures from Last Meeting

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.

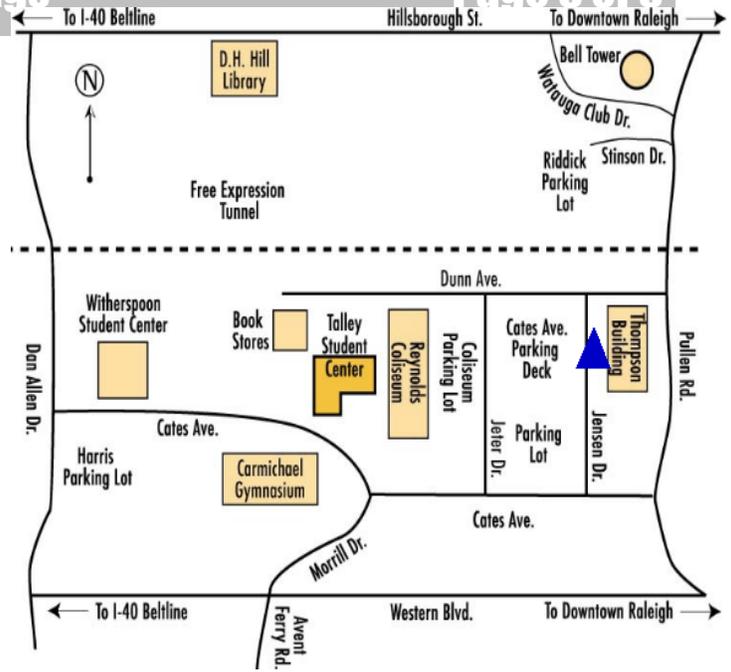
Park in the Cates Ave. Parking Deck off Jensen Dr. Enter Thompson Building directly across from the parking lot.

Our Next Meeting is June 19, 2012 @ 7:30PM Thompson Building / NCSU Campus.

About Our Organization...

The Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club was formed in 1974 as a nonprofit educational organization for people who enjoy the lapidary arts, earth sciences, and related subjects. The main objectives of the club are to investigate, preserve, and share knowledge of rocks, minerals, and precious stones, and to promote interest in mineralogy, paleontology, earth sciences, and lapidary techniques, among club members and among the general public. The club pursues these goals through publications, meetings, lectures, field trips, exhibits, demonstrations, and other activities.

Come and be a part of the Fun!



TAR HEEL GEM & MINERAL CLUB
10609 Chelsea Drive
Raleigh, NC 27603

