

Tar Heel Tailings

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

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

This is it! The meeting we prepare for the show by making grab bags and address and stamp our postcards. If you have not already done so, please sign up for a club area during this meeting. Show Chair contact is included in the newsletter, so if you are unable to make the meeting prior to the show, contact these folks.

Continued on page 4



Special Interest Articles:

- President's Report
- Show Information
- Door Prize Reports
- Larimar

Individual Highlights:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| President's Report | 1 |
| Show Information | 1 |
| Treasurer's Report | 2 |
| February's Business Meeting Minutes | 3 |
| Ammonite Fossil | 4 |
| The Mineral Larimar | 5 |
| Stibnite on Calcite | 6 |
| 2014 Show Chairpeople | 7 |
| Upcoming Shows: | 7 |
| Vug Sites: | 7 |

SHOW INFORMATION

by Cyndy Hummel.

Sign up to volunteer for different booth areas at the March meeting!!!!

You should wear your nametag at all times during the show. You may not be allowed entrance prior to show hours without your 2014 nametag.

Set-up time is 5 PM on Thursday, March 27th at the fairgrounds, Kerr Scott building. Tables and chairs should already be in place. Expect to paper tables for each club booth area; Silent Auction, Geode, Hospitality, Demonstration and

Display Case Tables and haul boxes and assemble display cases. We are usually finished by 8PM. The more helping hands we have, the sooner we can finish! Friday morning each club booth area will remove items from boxes and organize the areas to their preference. The dealers set-up early Friday

morning beginning at 8AM. Club members also set up their own demonstration/sales area and display case on Friday no earlier than 8AM. Breakfast snacks and coffee will be available all three mornings. The pre-ordered Panera supper on Friday will be delivered at

Continued on page 4



Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

10609 Chelsea Drive
Raleigh NC 27603

Cyndy Hummel – President
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.tarheelclub.org

Program & Refreshments

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:

Coordinator: Need Volunteer

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

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| March | Grab Bags & Postcards |
| 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).

March Treasurer's Report

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Jan. Ending / | |
| Feb. Beginning Balance | \$5,405.46 |
| ----- | |
| Deposits (+) | |
| Dealer Deposits | \$1,130.00 |
| Member Deposits | 565.00 |
| ----- | |
| Sub total | \$1,695.00 |
| ----- | |
| Checks Written (-) | |
| None | 0.00 |
| ----- | |
| Sub total | \$0.00 |
| ----- | |
| Feb. Ending / | |
| Mar. Beginning Balance | \$7,100.46 |

March B-Day Members

- Clare Anderson
- Doane Bridges
- Bill Chapman
- Joanne Fried
- Dennis Herman
- Fredora Jones
- Fred Lentz
- Kevin Little
- Sarah Milowic
- Vickie Penninger
- Ron Simmons
- Sharon Starke
- Joseph, Joey & Cathy Stephens
- Roxie White
- Fred Young



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. - September Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Feb 18th, 2013

Attendees = 38 (approximately)

Opening of Club Meeting:

At 7:30 PM, Cyndy Hummel called the meeting to order.

Prior to the meeting Corinne helped members take care of paperwork for the coming year's membership.

Presentation:

As of 7:40pm Cyndy introduced Steven Hughes as the guest speaker and his presentation. He is a Graduate Student from the NCSU Geology department and in charge of the biannual Field Camp.

Steven started off the presentation with photos, a bit of video, and talking about the process of identifying sedimentary & pegmatite rocks in various areas out in the southwest parts of the U.S., namely New Mexico, Arizona & Colorado.

Noting how in a given area of miles, yards or feet, the soil can be different with erosion showing types of mineral build up. While noting this in drawings, with coloration for dimension, depth, height and so on. Also, noting that when rocks are moved from one area to another for building construction on the ground, that changes the electro-magnetic layout in the area. This is noted by the molecular structure of the minerals or rocks. A magnetometer was used in noting the differences.

There was also the use of ultra-sound to search deep into the soil to look at the composition of possible buildings that were buried by sediment over time.

One interesting note about the presentation about the group of folks going out into the field is the "Bag of Destiny". Each person picks out a name from the bag and they get to work with that person for that day, regardless of likeability. It was noted that one pair of partners ended up getting married some time later. Now there is a thought.

During one of the group's excursions in the field, Steven even noted a type of snake that he came across by accident.

New Business:

New Members and Visitors:

Cyndy introduced and welcomed 5 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 a Birthdays in

January & February and they relayed to the club how their interest in minerals occurred as their hobby or way of life. They are: Marion Broadway, Ken Carlson, Jack Fried, Walt Milowic, Greg Dillon and Victor Krynicki.

A contest was started for the membership to see who knew what mineral was shown on the name tags worn. Our speaker Steven Hughes won a "lighted loop" as a prize for doing so.

A note of appreciation from the club was noted to Joe Stephens for his article on Chris Wright's passing back in January 2014.

Old Business:

I would like to take a moment to extend a note of Appreciation to Nancy Holland who has moved away, that for more than 8 years worked to keep the upstairs G & M Show Lounge going for the membership & dealers. Quite frankly, I think she spoiled us, to be honest.

Also noting, and I think Greg gave some mention about this at the meeting. That "Runners" are definitely needed.

Thanks to Cyndy for the Sign up sheets for the upcoming G & M show materialized.

Marion announced a reminder to the membership to bring minerals to the March meeting for the grab bags to be made.

Show commentary... the hospitality booth needs to be covered at all times but if we don't have enough volunteers, then the silent auction and geode areas can be closed during non-busy times. I hope we have loads of folks helping to avoid this issue. I know we can do it!

Reminders for the next Meeting:

At the March meeting the members will be busy making grab bags and addressing post cards to go out.

Door Prize:

The following 2 folks won the Door prize drawings. Mary Harbison chose a Stibnite cluster for her prize. Amanda Dean chose a Ammonite fossil plate carved out of a matrix of Ammonite fossils.

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.

Respectfully Submitted
Obsidian Harris,
Secretary, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

President's Report

Continued from page 1

Please volunteer especially if you are new. This is the easiest way to help and learn about the club and it is great fun, too!

Looking at the sign up sheets, we need AT LEAST 3 people for each time period. At the Hospitality someone specifically to identify the rocks in grab bags is needed at peak times.

Please look at the Food sign up list. We have several openings. If you would like to volunteer for the snacks, contact me so we don't have more than one person doing so.

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

SHOW INFORMATION

Continued from page 1

5PM. Lunch is provided on Saturday & Sunday for club members who are currently volunteering at the show, no dealers. The purpose of these meals is to feed our own volunteers who work all day so they need not worry about their meals.

Water, soda, coffee and tea will be provided for both dealers and club members throughout the three-day period.

Sunday evening is pack-up and takedown for dealers and the club. Display cases are disassembled and wrapped in the table paper. Each booth inventories

and boxes their items. Everything is then carefully placed in the storage trailer or rental unit.

Show hours for customers are -

Friday, March 28 3PM – 8PM

Saturday, March 29 10AM – 6PM

Sunday, March 30 10AM – 5PM

Remember, ENJOY the show. This is a rewarding and exciting time!!!

Ammonite Fossil

By Amanda Dean

An ammonite was a predatory marine species that dwelled within a spiral shell or a nautilus shell. The name "ammonite" came from the Greek Ram-horned god, Ammon. It would snatch prey, such as small fish, using sharp, beaklike jaws hidden inside a ring of tentacles. Movement through the water was aided by a tube-like structure called a siphuncle that would pump water and air through to act as a jet. Such method of travel in the sea was similar to how squids and octopi traveled. This creature was indeed alive during the age of dinosaurs.

The ammonite shell grew as the species grew. Although very tiny at first, the ammonite could grow up to six feet in diameter. Comprised of individual chambers, the shell told the age of the creature by counting the number of chambers. For example, a shell with 13 chambers would have lived only one year, and a shell with 26 chambers would have lived two. The ammonite as a fossil may feature patterned details on its outer shell called Sutures. These are found beneath the outer shell wall and are only visible if the fossil was weathered or polished. The patterns mark where the shell's layers have grown and connected together like tiny puzzle pieces. This construction provided strength for the ammonite's shell to endure great depth pressure. Suture formations are useful for telling what time period the ammonite may be from. These

formations are Geometric (Paleozoic), Ceratitic (Triassic), and Ammonitic (Jurassic).



Ammonite fossils can be found on every continent and come in all natural colors. Their rapid growth and spread out distribution allows for a great way to index and date rocks. If one is found in clay, the minerals in the clay will preserve a pearl-like luster. Ammonites were fossilized by becoming prey for larger species and their shells discarded to sink to the bottom of the ocean. Mineral rich sediment covered the

shell and preserved the shape and color. The colors ranged from vibrant greens, blues, yellows, reds and violets.

The International Colored Gemstone Commission labeled ammolite as the new organic gemstone in 1981. Only 1 out of 100 ammonite specimens is eligible to be ammolite and has been deemed the rarest gemstone in the world. Ammolite is not hard and must be treated as fragile as a pearl or opal. They can be found in museums worldwide. Its specifications are composed of a mineral composition of nacreous layer:

The Mineral Larimar

By Obsidian Harris



Larimar variety is of the tough type hence its ability to withstand carving and faceting. There is a legend that Larimar was originally discovered in 1916 and its locality subsequently forgotten. In 1974, Norman Rilling, a visiting member of the US Peace Corps, found the locality together with Miguel Méndez, a Dominican native. Together they named this stone "Larimar", which is a combination of "Larrisa" (Méndez's daughter's name) and "mar" (sea in Spanish). Due to its scarcity and limited source, Larimar is difficult to obtain outside of the Caribbean. The color of Larimar is caused by copper inclusions. Its color is rarely solid; it is almost always blue with interconnecting white lines and rough circles. A radiating pattern of crystal needles can often be observed within the Larimar. The blue color can vary in intensity from very light to greenish-blue to deep sky blue. Deeper blue colors and less white are more desirable.

Larimar has been used in the same manner as turquoise and is even seen in contemporary Native American jewelry. It has been quite versatile in its applications to other jewelry varieties. Larimar offers a different color to those who like polished stone jewelry.

PROPERTIES

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <u>Chemical Formula</u> | NaCa ₂ Si ₃ O ₈ (OH) Sodium Calcium Silicate Hydroxide |
| <u>Color</u> | Blue, Green, Multicolored |
| <u>Hardness</u> | 4.5 - 5 |
| <u>Crystal System</u> | Triclinic |
| <u>Refractive Index</u> | 1.59 - 1.65 |
| <u>SG</u> | 2.7 - 2.9 |
| <u>Transparency</u> | Transparent to translucent |
| <u>Double Refraction</u> | 0.038 |
| <u>Luster</u> | Silky |
| <u>Cleavage</u> | 2,2 |
| <u>Mineral Class</u> | Pectolite |

ALL ABOUT

Pectolite is usually a soft and very delicate mineral composed of dense radiating fibers, but sometimes the fibers are tough and interlocking and make it very solid. The

aragonite (96.92%), strontium (0.48%), iron (1%), silicon (1%) and titanium (0.6%); with trace elements each of aluminum, barium, chromium, copper, magnesium, manganese and vanadium. Heating shows the mineral to be 0.44% water, and the hardness is 4 on the Mohs scale of hardness.

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Although Larimar has a very attractive color, it is a soft gemstone and is easily scratched. Its color may also fade upon prolonged exposure to strong sunlight. This, combined with its scarcity, limit its popularity as a mainstream gemstone.

USES

Larimar is mainly used as cabochon and beads, and can be used for rings, earrings, bracelets, and pendants.

TREATMENTS AND ENHANCEMENTS

Larimar gemstones are not treated and enhanced. Some forms of inexpensive white gemstones are sometimes dyed blue to resemble Larimar.

SOURCES

The only source of Larimar is in the Dominican Republic at the Filipinas Mine in Los Checheses.

SIMILAR GEMSTONES

Larimar has a very distinct color pattern that is hard to confuse with other gemstones.

- See more at:

http://www.minerals.net/gemstone/larimar_gemstone.aspx

<http://www.Galleries.com>

METAPHYSICAL

Larimar Stone Information including the Metaphysical Spiritual Meaning and healing properties.

Larimar is an "Earth Healer Stone", representing peace, clarity, healing and love. Its used to stimulate heart, throat, third eye and crown chakras. In addition this stone can stimulate meridian energy channels in the feet. Together

these influences collide to creating a new view ones position in the world, bringing a spiritual, unearthly view of the self and their place in this life whilst opening channels to physical change.

This outer to inner, energy change also allows the crystal to be used for channelling work, and or the purging of subtle entities. The crystal can be used in the other direction, from this reality to the other dimensions, providing the crystal with journeying shamanic qualities.

The stone is also associated to Leo, and is said to vibrate to the number 55. Larimar is a form of Pectolite. Pectolite occurs in a wider range of colours, where as Larimar appears typically as a Blue, Blue White. The Origin of Larimar Stone is the Dominican Republic.

Courtesy of <http://www.Shamancrystal.com.co.uk>

Stibnite on Calcite Door Prize

By Mary Harbison

Stibnite, sometimes called antimonite, is a sulfide mineral with the formula Sb_2S_3 . This soft grey material crystallizes in an orthorhombic space group. It is the most important source for the metalloid antimony. (Wikipedia)

The Chinese occurrences have become the latest producers of the most exceptional Stibnite specimens, with some of them producing crystals enormous in size. The most important Chinese deposit, as well as the world's largest antimony mine, is the Xikuangshan Mine, Lengshuijiang, Loudi Prefecture, Hunan Province. Other important Chinese localities include the Wuning Mine, Qingjiang, Jiangxi Province; Qinglong, Guizhou Province; the Dahegou Mine, Lushi, Henan Province; and Nandan, Hechi Prefecture.

Rumania has produced classic and aesthetic examples of Stibnite. Specific localities include Baia Sprie; Baia Mare (especially the Herja Mine); and Kapnik all in Maramures Co. Also in Maramures is the locality of Baiut, which produced groupings of unusually thick crystals. Other European Stibnite localities include Pöbram, Bohemia, Czech Republic; Stadtschlaining, near Oberwart, Austria; and Manciano, Tuscany, Italy.

In South America, there are several good localities in Peru, including Quiruvilca, La Libertad Dept; the Palomo Mine, Huancavelica Dept; and Raura, Lima Dept. Another important South American locality is the Socavón Mine, Oruro, Bolivia. In Mexico, a noted occurrence is San Martín, Zacatecas.

In the U.S., the best-known Stibnite is from the White Caps Mine, Manhattan District, Nye Co., Nevada. Other localities include the Murray mine, Independence Mountains, Elko Co., Nevada; the Stayton District, Hollister, Diablo Range, San Benito Co., California; the McLaughlin Mine, Knoxville, Napa Co., California; and the Red Devil Mine, Bethel Borough, Alaska.

**COMMON MINERAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Calcite, Barite, Stibiconite, Galena, Pyrite, Marcasite, Arsenopyrite

Physical Properties and much more can be found at <http://www.mindat.org/min-3782.html>

2014 Show Chairpeople

If you are unable to make the meeting, contact these people to volunteer in their areas.

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| Hospitality | Marion Broadway | (919) 612-0721 | thewirenut@charter.net |
| Geode | Greg Dillon | (919) 772-3164 | wgygunsmoke@aol.com |
| Silent Auction | Jack Fried | (919) 761-9390 | jacklfried@aol.com |
| Display Cases | Jack Fried | (919) 761-9390 | jacklfried@aol.com |
| Demonstration | Obsidian Harris | (919) 674-0243 | foxivy@nc.rr.com |
| Refreshments | Gerald Beck | (919) 848-3319 | gbeck23@nc.rr.com |

UPCOMING SHOWS

March 28-30, 2014: Raleigh, NC - 38th Annual Capital Area Gem & Mineral Show. Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC. Hours: Fri 3-8; Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5. Admission: Free and Free Parking. Contact: Cyndy Hummel; 919-779-6220; mchummel@mindspring.com; www.tarheelclub.org;

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.

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.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.

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.

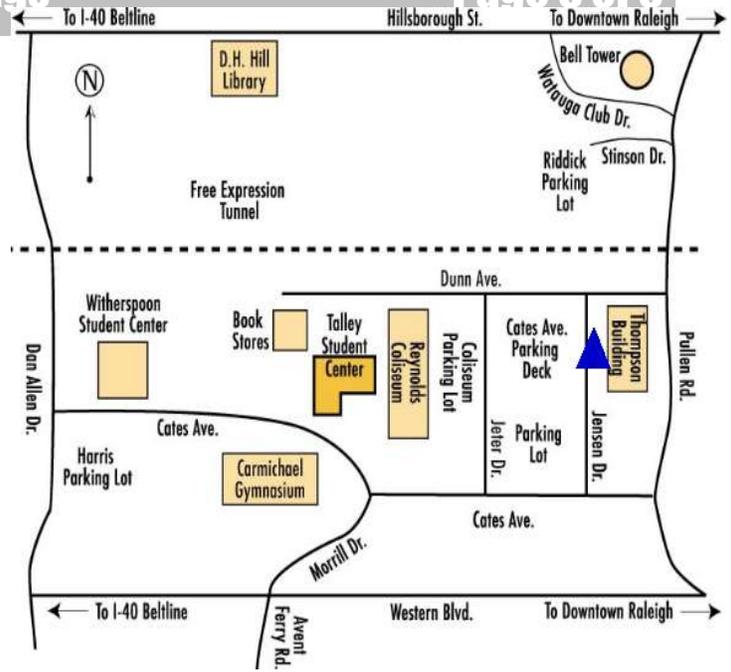
Park in the Cates Ave. Parking Deck off Jensen Dr. Enter Thompson Building directly across from the parking lot.

Our Next Meeting is March 18, 2014 @ 7:30PM Thompson Building / NCSU Campus.

About Our Organization...

The Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. 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

