

Tar Heel Tailings

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

Special Interest Articles:

- Prez Sez
- Gold and hiddenite
- John Preston (Prep) Maynard
- Mysterious Metal Balls

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NC Geology facts and factoids: Gold and hiddenite

By Chris Tacker

Every now and then I get tired of answering the same questions over and over again, so I write something to treat that question in detail. Then when I get the question, I direct the questioners to the article, roll over and go back to sleep.

The first article addressed the question of The First Gold Rush in North America: North Carolina or Georgia? Looking into the question in detail yields some interesting results.

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Prez Sez

By Cyndy Hummel

I want to give a SHOUT OUT to all who volunteered at the show. I hope I have included everyone who worked the show. In no particular order –

Cathy P, Charles W, Cindy S, Debbie M, Eileen B, George H, Hilton F, Joe M, Cyndy H, John G, Joseph S, Julie N, John N, Ken C, Larry M, Linda S, Marion B, Mike F, Mickey B, Molly G, Mitzi B, Obsidian H, Richard P, Rick B, Robert N, Ryan O, Susan K, Victor K, Walt M, Bill L, Mary H, Daniel C, Shirley G, Kaleigh B, Lorie L, Ken W, Lee B, Greg D, Jack F, Gerald C, Carolyn C – a total of 41 club

members.

The hours donated per person ranged from 2 to 34.5 hours. The total person hours donated was 529 hours. Give everyone a big hand of applause!

The list of people eligible for one of 2 drawings to Wildacres or William Holland who donated at least 8 hours of their time is –

Charles W, Cindy S, Debbie M, Eileen B, Cyndy H, George H, Hilton F, John G, Linda S, Marion B, Mike F, Mitzi B, Obsidian H, Ryan O, Susan K, Victor K, Walt M, Mary H, Daniel C, Kaleigh B, Lorie L, Greg D, Jack F, Gerald C, Carolyn C – a total of 25 club members.

If you didn't make the list this year, count on being at

the show next year for April 1, 2 & 3. If you would like to withdraw your name for the drawing in May, please contact me. I have kept all of the lists from the chair people in case of a question arising about hours. This is the first time a spreadsheet has been created on show hours. Hopefully, the method will improve AND donated hours will increase each year.

Please come enjoy the program on NC Diamond with Chris Tacker, Geology Curator, NC Museum of Natural Sciences.

Cyndy Hummel
President, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.
Show Chairperson

Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.tarheelclub.org

Program & Refreshments

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:

Coordinator: Need Volunteer

May TBA

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

May Chris Tacker, NC Diamonds
June Jewelry Artist Feature (Linda Searcy and possibly others)
July Scott LaBorde, Photographing Minerals
August Ice Cream Social
September Dan Cathey, Poland Mining Camp, Maine
October Gary McCutchen, Filing a Claim, How to Get Your Own Mine, grab bags
November- Elections/Movie: Mount St. Helens

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

Show Treasurer's Report

2015 Show Revenues

Subtotal \$25,772.63

2015 Show Expenses

NC State Fair \$12,470.00
Geodes Booth 4,865.57
N & O Advertising 1,081.71
US Post Office 869.54
IMP printing 246.11
Rocks /
Grab bags & trinkets 902.48
Paper rolls & bags 125.53
Food Upstairs 752.94

Subtotal \$21,313.88

Total \$4,458.75

Thanks,
Corinne Hummel
Treasurer, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

May B-Day Members

- Robert Barker
- Mickey Broadway
- Jim Davenport
- Molly Glass
- Shirley Green
- Richard Green
- Johnny Greene
- John Heinz
- Mark Hipps
- Corinne Hummel
- Kathryn Kyler



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. - April Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Apr 21st, 2015

Attendees = ??

Opening of Club Meeting:

Meeting delayed for potluck dinner that began at 7:40

Meeting was called to order by the president, Cyndy Hummel at 8:24

New Business:

Welcome to all. Meeting agenda is to discuss our latest show.

New members – We welcomed Dex Mills who told us a little about himself.

Birthday babble – Robert Neyland: He got started with rocks at age 61 while playing with his grandkids. He found emeralds here in Raleigh! Bob Bendelow was teaching a class

Cyndy is going to put the names of everyone who volunteered at the show in the next newsletter. Names will be drawn for two Wild Acres scholarships in May.

Double check workshop web sites to make sure the information is up to date.

Our Gem and Mineral Club is a member of the Eastern federation so check both federations for available workshop dates. \$530 for a single and \$370 for sharing a room

Talked about new T-shirts. Someone suggested a tie-dye shirt. Forest green, garnet/burgundy, sage green, slate blue, yellow, peach, and tan were also suggested. We will be getting just men's sizes to make things easier we'll try and get examples for everyone to help make choices at the next meeting.

We have two big plastic containers of extra shirts of the old color (turquoise). They will be sold at bargain prices for all sizes,

A club member has worked on our web site and he will be presenting it shortly. He will take care of it for free. Interactive free area for club members is possible. The site will be ready soon. Someone suggested Meet Up as an alternative for the web site.

General show comments:

Show dates for next year are April 1-3. For the next two years we have the first week of April.

This year was a headache for Cyndy. Hickory show caused problems splitting our audience and vendors between the two sites. Some dealers had problems; one wrote a bad check and was not invited back.

One backup dealer did not show and didn't call. One had a fire while driving and couldn't get here on time. We are looking for a new permanent dealer, in particular, a tool dealer, hand tools or machinery. We are looking for a book dealer also. Patrick Kelly will be back next year. We need

to check them out before they are invited to our show.

It was fun! Grab bags might be better with a rubber band instead of staples. Next year we will have plastic bags to use in the hospitality booth for grab bags after the paper ones are ripped open for ID. Rocks should NOT be painted. The heavier-weight grab bags are much better. Some we used were very thin. Why don't we buy some small Lucite boxes for people to put their rocks in? We sold a fair amount of geode stands. In the Hospitality Booth, we need a sample tray of everything that is in the grab bags. We need to save one of each as the grab bags are being made and IDENTIFY them. We were much improved on the pack up time. Everyone was pulling out at 7:30, a first!

The trailer was cleaned out of things we don't need and we found things we didn't know we had! The trailer should be easier to use next year.

Maybe we should have a video microscope so that EVERYONE, especially kids can see what everyone is looking at. It would be much better if more people can see the display at the same time.

Thank you Gerald Cook for the wonderful food!!! He was offered a lifetime contract!



Foot traffic was down since spring break was that week. Dealers noticed that many who normally come, did not. Cooler is better, more people come, and stay inside. Open for other ways to spread the news. Notice of our show was sent to several magazines; some got in and some didn't. One central web site for retail shows would be good to get our dates out there. Expo express is a good site that would

display our show for free. Independent and Southside Shopper would be good for us.

TV stations for community announcements are great, but we need someone to organize them.

The most popular exhibits for kids were the rocks from this area. Can we get the Craft center to advertise for us?

Start looking around NOW for places that have bulletin boards that we can use for advertising next year. Some post offices will let you post also.

Get our advertising in other shows like they advertise at ours.

Look for places that will take free advertising and let Cyndy know about them as soon as possible throughout the year.

Marion Broadway is stepping down as the Hospitality Booth and we need a replacement. Corrine suggested having three

people, one for each day to be in charge and helpers for each one. Marion asked if we could get any students to help identify rocks? Marion would be glad to help out the next person.

Field Trips:

Gem trip this weekend to Amelia VA, the Morefield mine.

Door Prize:

Charles Weil won the door prize this evening and chose a very nice Stibnite specimen.

Close of Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Walt Milowic,

Secretary, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

NC Geology facts and factoids: Gold and hiddenite

Continued from page 1



Schoolkids in North Carolina are taught the story of Conrad Reed, skipping church to shoot fish in the creek, and finding a huge gold nugget instead. That was in 1799. Gold was first discovered in Guilford County, North Carolina, and sent to Governor Josiah Martin in 1774. Gold was later found in Virginia in 1787, as recorded by Thomas Jefferson himself. The reality is that “gold fever” spread exactly like a disease, starting at the Reed property in 1799 (now Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site, well worth the visit), then to the neighboring farms, then to that region of North Carolina. These weren’t really gold rushes, they were just the development of a new money-maker in the communities. In 1828, the Brindletown Gold

Rush started in Burke County, North Carolina. Winter of 1829-1830 saw the spread of the fever throughout the Southeast with the start of the Dahlonega Gold Rush in Georgia. In 1849 gold was discovered in California and the gold fever was a nationwide phenom. Historically, it grew exponentially like any other disease, with isolated cases in 1774, 1787, and 1799.

The second article dealt with the question “Is the mineral hiddenite found only in North Carolina?” On a regular basis, somebody in a gem and mineral club will get into an argument with someone else about that question. I would get the call to arbitrate the disagreement.

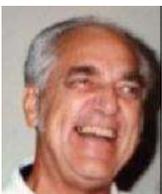
I set the second question against the backdrop of mineral nomenclature and 19th Century amateur mineralogists behaving like children. Mineral nomenclature can be a real snooze, but in this case, it’s important because there is no internationally and scientifically recognized mineral species named hiddenite. There are formal and detailed means of naming minerals, intimately tied to the science of mineralogy, all under the oversight of the International Mineralogical Association (IMA). By these standards, the formal name should be “chromium-bearing spodumene,” the chromium being the source of the anomalous green color. Hiddenite is a historical leftover, a gemstone name, and there really isn’t anyone in charge of names of

gemstones. In reality, every few years a new gemstone name will crop up as part of some marketing campaign. Mineral names are science, gemstone names are marketing.



Back to the question about hiddenite. Some people insist that only a gem-quality spodumene that is green due to chromium can be called a hiddenite, so hiddenite is only found in North Carolina. This isn't true. A search of the scientific literature revealed sites from Siberia, India and Brazil. There are actually more reported sites, but I only list the ones where they published their

In Memoriam - John Preston (Prep) Maynard



John Preston (Prep) Maynard
June 26, 1927 - April 29, 2015

Prep Maynard, age 87, loving husband and father, passed away surrounded by his family after a brave battle with pancreatic cancer. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Catharine (Kitty), sister- Sarah James (93), daughters, Linda Eddins (Charlie), Cherrie Robinson (Mike), Debbie Burney (Gary), Cindy Hopkins (Brad Howser), Angie McCabe (Noel), 7 grandchildren and spouses, and 4 great grandchildren.

Prep loved life and had a thirst for knowledge which he loved to share. His accomplishments are far too

chromium data. One thing I didn't go into in the article is that all of these discoveries come from pegmatite districts that also have emerald. An emerald is (often) a pegmatite mineral, a beryl that is green because it contains chromium. If beryllium pegmatites interact with a chromium-bearing wallrock to make emerald, then spodumene pegmatites can do the same to make hiddenite. Not only is hiddenite not limited to North Carolina, it's reasonable to expect to find it in pegmatite districts that contain emerald.

Future geoblogs will deal questions such as

- Are the Appalachians (the Brushies, the Uwharries, etc.) the oldest mountains in the world?
- Is the New River the oldest (second oldest, etc.) in the world?
- Does North Carolina contain more minerals (more different minerals, more gemstones, etc.) than any other place in the world?

All of these are what I call "fake superlatives." It's the sort of thing seized upon to attract interest, without a lot in the way of fact checking. I'm really not interested in debunking these claims. The fun part is that each answer is more complex than expected, and illuminates a new facet of North Carolina geology, and illustrates the way that geologists work and think.

<https://naturalsciencesresearch.wordpress.com/2013/01/03/nc-geology-facts-and-factoids-gold-and-hiddenite/>

many to list. He will be best remembered for his great sense of humor, his love of life and his kindness and love to all. He will be greatly missed, but always alive in our hearts.

A service will be held at 2:00 pm on Sat. May 9th at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on 1725 N. New Hope Rd, Raleigh, NC, 27604. A Celebration of Life to follow at the church. In lieu of flowers please send donations to Transitions Life Care/ Hospice (transitionslifecare.org/ 250 Hospice Circle, Raleigh, NC, 27607) or St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/newsobserver/obituary.aspx?pid=174766452>

Mysterious Metal Balls Found On Ocean Floor

The Huffington Post | By Macrina Cooper-White

What are those things?



Scientists dredging the seafloor in the Atlantic Ocean several hundred miles east of Barbados in January were surprised when their sled got snagged -- and, after freeing it from the seafloor, even more surprised at what it brought up.

The sled's nets were filled with heavy metal orbs ranging in size from golf balls to softballs. Images captured by the sled showed an entire field of what turned out to be manganese nodules -- researchers say it's the largest such deposit ever found in the Atlantic.



The manganese nodules, discovered in January during a recent scientific expedition in the Atlantic, are up to 10 million years old.

"Manganese nodules are found in all oceans," Dr. Colin Devey, a geologist at the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research in Kiel, Germany and the expedition's chief scientist, said in a written statement. "But the largest deposits are known to occur in the Pacific. Nodules of this size and density in the Atlantic are not known."

The nodules were found during a 42-day expedition through Jan. 26 aboard the German research vessel SONNE, which explored the ocean between South America and Africa, Live Science reported.

Some of the nodules may date back as far as 10 million years, as they tend to grow one to five millimeters every million years. That means they may provide insight into Earth's ancient environmental past, according to the researchers.

As to how the nodules form, the researchers said that's still a bit of a mystery.

The so-called "epibenthic" sled generally collects biological samples on the seabed.

Along with manganese, the nodules consist of copper, nickel and cobalt -- and may contain the rare earth elements used in smart phones and other high-tech electronics. For that reason, they're raising a debate over the risks and potential for deep-sea mining.

"Many questions about potential ore mining in the deep sea, however, are still unanswered," Dr. Matthias Haeckel, a GEOMAR researcher who is coordinating a three-year project to explore the potential environmental impact of deep-sea mining, said in a written statement. "We should get to know the deep sea better before we start to change it on potentially large scale."

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/02/19/bizarre-metal-balls-sea_n_6707830.html

April Potluck Pictures



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
May 19, 2015 @ 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

