

Tar Heel Tailings

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

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

Thank you for a wonderful Year. Due to personal reasons, I will not be able to continue as the club president. Our elections for club membership have arrived again. I hope you will give your support to the incoming elected officers. Our nominee for secretary has unfortunately had to step down.

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Special Interest Articles:

- President's Report
- Prospectors
- 2014 THGMC Show Date (See Upcoming Shows)

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Prospectors

By Michael Troutman

Million-Year-Old Minerals

Can you imagine finding \$35K? How about in a hole? No? That is exactly what a group of Colorado miners do on the daily – if they're lucky.

The Weather Channel's Prospectors are adventurers with spirits from a different time. Since the discovery of gold in 1859 Colorado has garnered a rich mining heritage. As resource and skill evolved over the last decade and a half so have those who mine. Fighting the elements, rockslides and the inevitability of human greed these prospectors risk their lives at dizzying heights to bring home a

check. Colorado's mining industry pull minerals thousands of years old from the earth valued at more than \$2 billion.

Is the risk financially and physically worth it? These miners think so, and their

gem finds reflect that. The Dorris family has been appraised for quarter of a million dollar pockets. Amanda Adkins has found thousand dollar gems, and Rich Fretterd fetched himself a \$35K topaz on his

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.tarheelclub.org

Program & Refreshments

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:

Coordinators: Mike Troutman; Emily Carabello

November **Volunteer Needed**

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

November Elections

Please Contact Mike Troutman at 919.676.3161 to volunteer. Remember, the club will reimburse you for up to \$75 (bring your receipts to the treasurer).

2013 September Treasurer's Report

July Ending /	
Aug. Beginning Balance	\$5,423.27

Deposits (+)	
No deposits	

Sub total	\$0.00

Checks	
Fair 2014 deposit	\$2,000.00
Wm Holland student	350.00
IMP newsletter	138.08

Sub Total	\$2,488.08

Aug. Ending /	
Sep. Beginning Balance	\$2,935.19

November / December B-Day Members

Tom Bapple
Kaleigh Bishop
Jayson Boyd
Daniel Cathey
Milissa Ellis
David Harris
Scott LaBorde
Debbie & Jerry Miller
Michael Troutman
Ron Wheeler

Gerald Cook
Joe & Vicki Corporon
Michaella Dillon
Judy Fersch
Sarah Gray
Obsidian Harris
Becky Healey
Janet Jones
Jan Little
Kenneth Troutman, Jr.
Barbara Watkins



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. – October Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Oct 15th, 2013
Attendees = 30

from the Blue Ridge Parkway at Gooch Gap, located between mileposts 336 and 337. Distance from Charlotte is about 112 miles.

Opening of Club Meeting:

At 7:46 PM Jack Fried called the meeting to order. He then mentioned that this evening we would be putting together the 1st series of grab bags. He then went on to welcome newcomers/members to our meeting.

Old Business:

Web

Both Jack and Joe M. noted that we need improvements to our web presents. Jack then requested a board meeting for to go over this and other pressing issues.

Education

Jack noted that the Education Committee members had given a couple of excellent presentations and that he had some additional requests.

New Business:

Wildacres

Nancy spoke about the wonderful time she had at Wildacres Retreat. Wildacres Retreat: A conference center offering its facilities to nonprofit groups which conduct educational or cultural programs and seminars.

Wildacres is situated on 1400 acres at an elevation of 3,300 feet atop a mountain called Pompey's Knob, near the Blue Ridge Parkway. It is halfway between Asheville and Blowing Rock in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains.

Among the many groups using the facilities are mineral and lapidary societies, music and art master classes, religious and interfaith groups, medical, social science, natural sciences, academic, environmental and senior citizens groups. All groups must be nonprofit and have planned educational programs.

There are two lodges, a dining hall building, a library and auditorium, a mineral and lapidary workshop and a pottery studio. All buildings are heated. Meals are served family style. All sleeping rooms have private baths and have either two twin beds or one double and one twin bed. There is a spacious lobby and several large and small meeting rooms. When weather permits, the patio can also be used for assemblies.

Wildacres has a lending and reference library and gem and mineral displays.

Points of interest in the area include the North Carolina Mineral Museum, Mineral and Gem Mines, Blue Ridge Parkway Scenic Overlooks, Crabtree and Linville Falls on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Grandfather Mountain, two 18 hole golf courses and tennis nearby, and Mt. Mitchell, the highest peak east of the Rockies.

Wildacres is about 3 miles from the Little Switzerland post office. Nearest towns are Spruce Pine and Marion, NC. Access is available

<http://www.wildacres.org>

Elections

Jack explained that elections were coming up in the next normal THG&MC Inc. meeting and took nominations for the officers of the board as follows:

Pres: David Schulman
VP: Julie Niederkom
Sec: Nicole Harris
A.L.1: Bob Bendelow
A.L.2: Linda Searcy

Jack went on to state that further nominations could be made at the next meeting.

Club Tax Issues

Corinne, our treasurer, next spoke briefly regarding the tax issues the THG&MC is having, do to our old accountant's advanced age and mounting medical problems. I brief, there was a filing issue for the 2012 year. Corinne then describe how she was moving our accounts to a new "younger" accountant and that this should solve the issues. She went on to note that extensions had been filed by our new accountant and the ~\$700.00 penalty waved.

Door Prize:

The door prize was won by George Harris but he kindly donated the prize to one of our young members, Leanna T., who chose a beautiful piece of sulfur on Quartz. As a reminder, if you happen to win the door prize, please compose a short article for publication in our news-letter on what you won.



Close of Meeting:

~8:08 marked the close of the meeting through executive mandate.

Respectfully Submitted
Michael Troutman, Secretary

President's Report

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Nominations are still open and I hope we will have a few more people stepping up.

I would like to thank our present officers for the wonderful job they have done this year. We have a lot to do, still, and I hope we can pitch in and help out as often as possible.

In the upcoming months we will be busy getting ready for our show. We will still need volunteers and I hope you will all come out and support us.

We still have a few items that need to be addressed, like our web site and committees. Let's try and finalize them this year.

We had a lot of great field trips this year and we should continue have more. Please thank Tom Todaro for his great

Prospectors

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Colorado claim. The Prospectors race to make bank before the mining season is over, because come winter the mining stops but the bills don't.

Watch Prospectors Sundays 9/8c on The Weather Channel for more on the Prospectors and their fantastic finds.

<http://www.weather.com/tv/tvshows/prospectors/gem-discoveries-worth-thousands-photos-20131101>

Million-Year-Old Minerals



A variety of minerals that can be found in the earth. (_rockinfree/Flickr)

The cast of Prospectors makes their living carving precious minerals out of the sides of Colorado's largest mountains. The prospectors featured on the show risk life and limb to find the next big payday. Amanda Adkins, Steve Brancato, Brian Busse and the rest of the cast confront rockslides, inclement weather and claim jumpers to stake their claim and cash out big on Colorado's most valuable minerals.

These minerals and gems have personalities of their own. Here are some fun facts on the eight minerals these miners will be racing to excavate and sell to the highest bidder.

service to the club and give our support to Shirley Green who has taken his place. I am certain she will continue to give the club as much as Tom has.

I would like to thank George Harris for his continued help in editing our newsletter over the past year. He has been a great help to the club.

This will be our last meeting of the year and I would like to extend by best wishes to all and their families for a wonderful holiday season.

Thank you all,
Jack Fried,
President, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Smoky Quartz



Smoky Quartz, one of the most common minerals in the earth's crust. (JJ Harrison/Wikimedia)

This gem is the most common mineral in the earth's crust. It's abundance makes it worth considerably less than some of the other minerals found in the Colorado mountain ranges.

- In the form of minute dust particles in the air, this gem scratches other gemstones of lesser hardness.
- Smoky quartz is transparent quartz that is brown, gray or black.

Aquamarine

Aquamarine, is quickly identified by its uniquely turquoise or light blue appearance. (Eelco/Flickr)

- This gem is a blue or turquoise variety of beryl
- This gem has long been considered the symbol of happiness and everlasting youth.
- This gem alternates with bloodstone as the birthstone for March.

Topaz

Topaz is a coveted gemstone and is often used in jewelry. (pithecanthropus4152/Flickr)

- The Egyptians believed that this gem was colored with the golden glow of the sun god Ra.
- In the 19th century, a pink version of this gem was discovered in Russia. The gemstone was so coveted that only the Czar, his family, and those he gave it to were allowed ownership.
- One of the most famous of these gems is a giant specimen set in the Portuguese Crown.
- Topaz is often found with quartz, and is used in jewelry.

Citrine

Citrine is a yellow/orange variety of quartz and is rather rare. (Sedona Hiker/Flickr)

- This gem is a yellow quartz and occurs very rarely naturally.
- This gem is named from the French for lemon, "citron"
- In ancient times, this gem was worn as protection against snake venom and evil thoughts.

Garnet

Garnet, which comes in many color varieties and goes from transparent to opaque. (jaja_1985/Flickr)

- This gem is considered to symbolize faith, constancy and truth.
- Occurs in many colors, the rarest is blue.
- This gem was thought to have strong curative powers. In powder, it was used as poultice to relieve fever.
- This gem was used in ancient Asia and the American Southwest as bullets

Fluorite



Fluorite, which is where the term fluorescence is derived due to often exhibiting this effect. (Arenamontanus/Flickr)

- Some believe this stone helps to develop internal vision.
- This stone is used mainly as a help against mental disorders and also for meditation and spiritual awakening

Amethyst



Amethyst, a purple variety of quartz. (MAUROCATEB/Flickr)

- This gem is a violet variety of quartz and is often used in jewelry.
- Leonardo Da Vinci wrote that this gem was able to dissipate evil thoughts and quicken the intelligence.
- This gem is considered to be a strong antidote against drunkenness and the gemstone still symbolizes sobriety.
- The highest grade of Amethyst is known as “Deep Russian,” and is rare and expensive.

Amazonite



Amazonite, the state mineral of Colorado. (Cobalt123/Flickr)

- This gem is a bright green color when polished and is often found in pockets with smoky quartz.
- Amazonite is Colorado’s state mineral.
- Legend says the name of this gem comes from the belief that it was found in the Amazon River.
- It is believed this gem enhances creative expression and unity with life.

<http://www.weather.com/tv/tvshows/prospectors/prospectors-mineral-guide-20131014>

Open Show Chairmanships

There are currently 2 Show Chairmanships that are open.

The Upstairs Lounge. Nancy Holland has been chairing this section for several years. She is moving out of state, so we will need a new chairman. If noone is willing to chair this position, then don't assume that there will be refreshments at the upcoming show.

Silent Auction. Tom Bapple and Becky Healy have been co-chairs for several years, but have decided to step down.

For the duties of these two positions, please contact Cyndy Hummel at mchummel@mindspring.com or by phone at (919) 779-6220.

UPCOMING SHOWS

November 22-24, 2013: Columbia, SC - 46th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show 2013. Jamil Temple (206 Jamil Road, Exit 106A off I-26), Columbia, SC 29210. Jewelry, beads, loose stones, fossils, minerals, gold, silver, & tools for sale. Geodes sold & cut. Club member's rock collections on exhibit & lapidary demonstrations. Show hours: Friday: 10 am - 7pm, Saturday: 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday: 12 pm - 5 p.m.; Admission: Adults \$5 - under 16 admitted free with adult. All military & their dependants are free. www.cgams.org; Sue Shrader (803) 736-9317; ashrader@mindspring.com;

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;

NEW THGMC Show Information just above!!!

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.

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.

