

Tar Heel Tailings

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

Special Interest Articles:

- President's Report
- Rare meteorite found in Kansas field
- Field Trip Update

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President's Report

Hello everyone,
Another month has gone by and I still haven't lost all the weight I gained from our Ice Cream Social. There was so much ice cream that we easily could have fed another 20 people. Our numbers were a little light but I think everyone there enjoyed themselves. Thank you to all who brought ice cream and other
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Rare meteorite found in Kansas field

By Roxana Hegeman | Originally published on AP:
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15294523/>

GREENSBURG, Kan. — Scientists located a rare meteorite in a Kansas wheat field thanks to new ground penetrating radar technology that some day might be used on Mars. The dig Monday was likely the most documented excavation yet of a meteorite find, with researchers painstakingly using brushes and hand tools in order to preserve evidence of the impact trail and to date the event of the meteorite strike. Soil samples were

also bagged and tagged, and organic material preserved for dating purposes. Even before they had the meteorite out of the ground, the scientific experts at the site were able to debunk prevailing wisdom that the

spectacular Brenham meteorite fall occurred 20,000 years ago. Its location in the Pleistocene epoch soil layer puts that date closer to 10,000 years ago.
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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

Sept: Walt Milowic
Oct: Corinne & Cyndy Hummel
Nov: OPEN

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

Sept: Jeff Schlottman - Crystal Perfection
Oct: Mike Franklin - A Tale of Two Meteorites
Nov: OPEN

Tar Heel G & M Club

July / August 2010 Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	\$18,017.94
Deposit	15.00
	<u>\$18,032.94</u>

Newsletter cost	91.37
Wildacres for kids	100.00
SS Storage	86.00
	<u>\$17,755.57</u>

August Deposits	40.00
	<u>\$17,795.57</u>

2011 Show Signs	111.90
NC Fair Deposit	2,000.00
IMP Newsletter	162.92
Staples copy card	25.00
IMP address list	14.01
Fair Trailer lic copy	17.95
Scopes for member use	329.94
Wild acres for J.Baugh	50.00
"	" 280.00
SS Storage	86.00
	<u>\$14,717.85</u>

Ending Balance \$14,717.85

Sunshine Report

Club member Keith Leese was in a really bad car accident on September 9 and is in critical condition in the trauma center at UNC Hospital. Room 2703.

Contact Sean Sweeney for information at 493-6198.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Moylan

September B-Day Members

- Jim Bilau
- Liessa Bowen
- Eileen Breckstein
- Mark Broadway
- Susie Canard
- Matt Cook
- George Drakulic
- Mike Franklin
- George Harris
- Pat Jackson
- Randy Jones
- Allen Lawrence
- Pat McCracken
- Gary McCutchen
- Veronique McMillan
- Karen Santala
- Lexi Todaro



Membership applications may be mailed to:

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

Tar Heel G & M Club August Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 17, 2010

Attendance: 27

Walt called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

Walt called for approving the minutes.

Joe addressed the changes about the sale of Grassy Creek. It did not sell.

Does this mean more shows at Grassy Creek?

Walt asked about accepting the minutes as written, a motion was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Walt asked if anyone had a birthday in August.

Walt had the rock joke. Having to do with the evenings event about both being two quarts.

There was no old business noted.

New business:

Jeanette addressed the windows to be used for the club displaying items.

There would be a Theme for each display case.

Walt proceeded with the door prize drawing.

Obsidian won the drawing. She chose a stone carving of a Turtle out of Ryolite known as Wonderstone.

Tom Todaro addressed the fieldtrips and talked about American Stone quarry possibly in September.

Walt addressed the dinosaur fossils in the newsletter. And what interest there was as he was contacted.

Walt made a motion to end the meeting to start the Ice Cream social.

Happy Rock Hounding

Obsidian Harris

September's Program

Jeff Schlottman, [Crystal Perfection](#) (Show Dealer)

I enjoy minerals and field collecting (and have collecting at various sites around the world). I came from a "naturalist focused family", and rock collecting was

one of many childhood (family) adventures. A large collection over those years led to swaps/sales, which led to the formation of Crystal

Perfection about 20 years ago. I currently setup at shows along the east coast, and also sell on the web.



Rare meteorite found in Kansas field

Continued from page 1

"We know it is recent," said Carolyn Sumners, director of Astronomy at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, as she surveyed progress on the dig. "Native Americans could have seen it."

The scientific expedition of the meteorite strewn field in western Kansas was put together by the Houston Museum of Natural Science and led by meteorite hunters Steve Arnold and Philip Mani. Johnson Space Center's Lunar and Planetary Institute, the Rice Space Institute at Rice University and George Observatory in Houston also sent researchers.

Fewer than 1 percent of the meteorites discovered on earth are pallasite meteorites, known for their crystals embedded in iron, Mani said.

Sophisticated metal detectors at the site initially detected what had been thought to be the largest pallasite meteorite ever discovered. But ground penetrating radar showed that object to be a steel cable.

But with about a dozen potential targets on the site, the team still uncovered a sizeable pallasite buried four feet under the ground and located a quarter of a mile from where Arnold and Mani found the world's largest pallasite meteorite a year ago .

The newest find weighs 154 lbs and measures 18 by 12 by 12, which is bigger than most such meteorites but

President's Report

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goodies. The homemade cantaloupe sorbet was especially good!

Field trips are starting up again and the American Stone quarry in Chapel Hill sounds like it might have some nice minerals. It would be great to see a lot of our new members there. This is a great way to meet other club members and get some great additions for your collections. I will be on a Boy Scout camping trip with our troop but I hope to break away and meet you there for a bit.

on par for this particular field, Arnold said.

"What is unique is not the size, but the fact it was found in context," said Patricia Reiff, director of the Rice Space Institute.

paleontologist, a naturalist, geologists, astronomers, and even an animator, who recreated the meteor fall for the museum.

But few garnered as much attention as Essam Heggy, planetary scientist at the Johnson Space Center's Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston. It was his ground-penetrating technology that pinpointed the site and proved for the first time that the technology could be used to find objects buried deep in the ground and to make an accurate three-dimensional image of them.

"It validates the technique so we can use something similar to that instrument when we go to Mars," Reiff said.

Such GPR systems had been used in the past to locate smaller meteorites in Antarctica where ice allows easier penetration of the sonar. But until the Kansas dig, the technology had not been successfully used for ground detection in heavy soils, like what might be encountered in Mars, to find meteorites or water there.

"When we find a piece of meteorite, each one is a new sentence we add to the book to understand the evolution of

the solar system," Heggy said.

The Brenham field was discovered in 1882. Scientists have since traced pieces of the shower as far away as Indian mounds in Ohio, indicating the meteorites were traded as pieces of jewelry and ceremonial artifacts. The site was largely forgotten in recent decades until Arnold and Mani leased eight square miles of it and began looking deep below the surface.

More than 15,000 pounds of meteorites have been recovered from the Brenham fall, with about a third of them found by the two men in the past year, Mani said. About three dozen meteorites have been pulled from the field by their Brenham Meteorite Co.

This week's find will end up as part of a new exhibit on comets, meteors, and asteroids at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The museum will pay about \$50,000 for it, Sumners said. It is valued at more than \$100,000, she said.

Under the lease agreement, the landowner and meteorite hunters split the proceeds of any finds, Mani said.

Landowner Alan Binford watched with interest as the scientists freed the meteorite, bagging clumps of his rich Kansas farmland around it.

"I didn't figure there would be that much scientific value," he said. "I never thought about them going to this extent. It is interesting history."

I was asked to pass on this information for another club. The Gaston County Gem, Mineral & Faceters Club show is Oct. 1, 2, & 3. It is held at Gaston County Park in Dallas, NC, on Highway 279 (Dallas- Cherryville Hwy). The admission is free and the hours are 9:00AM-6:00PM. It is 1 1/4 mile west of 321, Dallas. (Fossils, rough, gems, jewelry, and beading.) Dallas is near Gastonia and Charlotte so it will be a bit of a drive.

I was also called by Robin Cole, a gentleman from Hillsborough. He has

some specimens that he would like to sell. We met in Durham I took pictures of some of them that I would be glad to share with you. I also mentioned to him that we might be able to auction them off at one of our meetings. He had several very nice pieces including a beautiful Amethyst point about three inches in diameter. If you have an interest, please email me for more information.

Walt Milowic

Field Trip Notice

September 25th
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

American Stone in Chapel Hill
1807 Hwy 54 West

Findings could include: orange, brown calcite, sometimes quartz crystals, epidote

Must items to Bring: Hardhat, work shoes/boots, bug spray, shovels, buckets, rags, crow bar, hammer, sledge, eye protection water, snacks,
Open to: kids 8 and above, no toddlers

The Odessa Meteorite

Basic Information

Location: Odessa, Texas, U.S.A.
Latitude 31 degrees, 45 minutes, 21 seconds North, Longitude 102 degrees, 28 minutes, 43 seconds West.

Structural Class: Coarse octahedrite, Og, Widmanstätten bandwidth 1.7 ±0.25 mm.

Chemical Class: Group I, 7.35% Ni, 0.48% Co, 0.25% P, 0.5% S, 0.2% C, 75 ppm Ga, 285 ppm Ge, 2 ppm Ir.

Time of Fall: Late Pleistocene probably about 50,000 years ago.

History

The Odessa meteorites and crater are similar in many ways to the Canyon Diablo meteorites and crater. Not only are they the same type--Group I coarse octahedrite--but they both fell in the prehistoric American Southwest. The first meteoritic iron from Odessa was described in 1922. The Odessa Crater was first recognized in the late 1920s as meteoritic in origin by Daniel Barringer, the lawyer-mining engineer that first recognized the origin of the Canyon Diablo Crater.

Systematic exploration was done in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Both trenching and drilling were done. The work was of such intensity that well-known meteorist Harvey Nininger was led to exclaim "Odeseccration" at the

If you are interested in attending please e-mail Tom Todaro with a yes or no. Tom will also need to know how many will be in your party. This should be a good trip, and by the way I am looking for another trip on October 1st. Place tbd

PS - If you need a ride to the quarry, just do a "reply to all" and arrange yourself. No need to contact me.

sight of the work. Magnetometer surveys revealed several small subsidiary craters.

In recent years, the area of the crater has been scoured by meteorite hunters equipped with metal detectors. The result has been a fairly plentiful supply of specimens.

The Craters

The Odessa crater is about 165 meters is about 535 feet (165 meters) across. The bottom of the crater is only about 6 feet (2 meters) below the plain and the rim rises only about 6 feet above the plain. The crater is filled with sand to a maximum depth of 30 feet. Four smaller craters were found near the main crater. All of these were completely filled. Efforts to find a large meteorite mass in the crater failed. more than one hundred holes were drilled without result. Thus, scientist hypothesize that the mass disintegrated on impact.

Minerals of the Odessa Meteorite

The Odessa mineralogy is typical of iron meteorites. The important minerals are:

Kamacite--this iron nickel alloy makes about 90 percent of specimens.

Taenite--the other iron nickel constituents taenite and plessite make up most of the remaining material.

Schreibersite crystals occur as laths or hooks. This is a very hard mineral that

PLEASE forward to other club members if I inadvertently omitted anyone.

Kindest Regards,

Tom Todaro
NC Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club Field Trip Dude
919-639-7798 (H)
919-349-9143 (M)
caribtomt@yahoo.com

will ruin a saw blade unfortunate enough to be put to the task of cutting a Canyon Diablo.

Troilite--this iron sulfide occurs as nodules mixed with graphite.

Graphite in nodules with other minor minerals.

Cohenite, an iron carbide, is very common. This mineral is even harder than Schreibersite.

Odessa Meteorites may contain Lawrencite, a chloride mineral that makes meteorites more subject to corrosion. The chloride may be an introduced mineral from salty sediment in the area of the crater. Special care must be taken to avoid corrosion in Odessas. (We are experimenting with methods of preservation and would be happy to discuss this matter with you.)

Further Reading

Rocks from Space by O. Richard Norton, Mountain Press, 1994.

Meteorites & Their Parent Planets by Harry McSween, Cambridge U. Pr., 1987.

Handbook of Iron Meteorites by Vagn Buchwald, U. of California Press, 1976.

Let's Investigate Magical, Mysterious Meteorites by Madelyn Carlisle, Barron's, 1992.

UPCOMING SHOWS

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.

October 2-3, 2010: Lexington, KY - Rockhounds of Central Kentucky. 20th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show and Sale, Kentucky National Guard Armory, 4301 Airport Road. Hours: Sat. 10 to 6 and Sun. 12 to 5. Mineral, jewelry, and equipment dealers; club sales and exhibits; hourly door prizes for adults and children; blacklight display; kids, quarry; and silent auctions. Grand door prize drawing at 5 PM Sunday. Admission Adults \$1, children 6-12 50 cents, max \$3 per family. Scouts in uniform get in free. Contact: Mona Ferrell monaferrell@yahoo.com or Trish Henson birdgal@att.net

October 15-17, 2010: Knoxville, TN - Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society. 19th Annual Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show, Kerbela Temple, Mimosa Ave. Show is \$4/per day per adult.

November 6-7, 2010: Melbourne, FL - Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society. Parade of Gems, Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus

Ave. Hours: Fri & Sat 10-5. Contact Don McLamb 321-723-2592 or fdjmc@aol.com

Nov 12-14, 2010: Pascagoula, MS - Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society. 20th Annual Magnolia State Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show, Civic Center Building, Jackson County Fairgrounds. Hours: 12th & 13th 10-6; 14th 10-5. Free admission. Contact John Wright (228) 875-9192 or osjbw@datasync.com

Nov 20-21, 2010: West Palm Beach, FL. 44th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Bead, and Fossil Show, Americraft Expo Center East, 9067 Southern Blvd. Hours: Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5. Over 60 dealers, door prizes, fossil dig. Free parking. Adults \$7, children under 12 free. Contact Barbara Ringhiser at bar5678@aol.com.

Nov 26-28, 2010: Mobile, AL. Annual Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show. Greater Gulf State Fairgrounds, Cody Road and Zeigler Blvd. Hours: Fri 2-7, Sat 9-6, and Sun 10-5. Contact Show Chair Jerry Shirey at (251) 458-2867 or e-mail rockhoundjs@aol.com.

Nov 26-28, 2010: Salem, VA - Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society. 31th Annual Gem, Jewelry, & Mineral Show and Sale, Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard. Hours: Fri 2-7, Sat 10-6, and Sun 12-5. Admission \$3 (all 3 days), under 16 free. Contact Jeff McFalls at e-mail rocky@rvmgs.com or www.rvmgs.com

Jan 14-16, 2011: Largo, FL - The Pinellas Geological Society. 35th Annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show and Sale, Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Hours: Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5. Free admission. Contact Hugh Sheffield (727) 894-2440.

How to Boost Geode Sales





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.

