

Tar Heel Tailings

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

Special Interest Articles:

- Prez Sez
- Gemstone & Mineral of the Month
- Field Trip Report

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Prez Sez

Welcome to the beginning of Autumn. As we head to the close of the year, I want to make progress on the By-Laws. The Board will meet on Sunday to discuss. All final changes will be published in the newsletter prior to any vote. Then the attending membership must vote on any changes before it becomes official. So the timeline is publish in October and vote in November.

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August Door Prize - Pyrite by Corinne Hummel

It glitters in the rock. But, alas, all that glitters is not truly gold. And that is the reason for its nickname - "fools gold"

The oldest recorded use was as a flintlock to start a fire. If struck hard, you can see a spark for yourself.

There is mention of it being used as a mineral detector and radio receiver. No explanation of how this came about, or how it was done.

Next in line for oldest use: manufacture of sulfur dioxide for sulfuric acid. As sulfuric acid it is used

in the manufacture of fertilizers, vehicle batteries. Used as a dehydrating agent in dyes, detergents, and explosive devices. It is used as a oxidizing agent: {when hot

it dissolves non-reactive metals} Example:

Iron and steel companies use it to remove rust and scale from its products before selling them.

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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

September Walt Milowic
October Hummels
November OPEN

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

September The Smithsonian Gem Collection,
Museum of Natural History, 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).

Field Trip Information

Baldwin Place Farm

When: Saturday, September 20, 2014, 10:00 am
until. DO NOT ARRIVE LATE!

Where: 1438 Foxfire Rd., Asheboro, NC

Collecting focus: Pay site, \$20.00 per 5 gallon
bucket... You must provide your own bucket.
Looking for Angled Plated Quartz, possibly
with amethyst on it.

Requirements: No one under the age of 10 allowed.

Tools: Shovel, Trowel, Gloves, Maybe small brush,
Safety Glasses if you plan to break any rocks,
Hammer, Drinks or Snacks, Newspaper to
wrap your specimens in, Rake or other similar
tool.

Bug Spray is a MUST!!

Who: Please RSVP to Shirley. 919-274-1837 or

Richard60Green@yahoo.com

704-263-9593. Randy Davis

September B-Day Members

- Jim Bilau
- Mike Franklin
- Mary Harbison
- George Harris
- Pat Jackson
- Randy Jones
- Cornelia Lazareanu
- Gary McCutchen
- Mark Mills
- David Niederkorn
- Emily Pointer
- Karen Santala
- Linda Searcy
- Collin Taylor



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. - August Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 19th, 2014

Attendees = 23

Pre-Meeting:

At 7:40 pm, the Frozen Desert Social began with the various desserts that folks brought. Thank you to all who made that possible.

Opening of Club Meeting:

The meeting commenced at 8:00 pm.

New Business:

There were 4 new folks who were introduced and how they got interested in rocks & minerals.

Birthdays in August were addressed

The Hamilton family just started with their son.

Funds were donated to Kenny Gay for a Project his is about to work on.

To both Wildacres & William Holland funds were donated to the amount of \$500.00 each.

Mineral Kits for School kids/ Walt do we need more?

George suggested \$\$ to Dr. Mike to do minerals.

Bob Bendelow took the floor and talked about the microscopes on the counter, that were displayed. And one was donated to Dr. Mike! Alright now!

August Door Prize - Pyrite

Continued from page 1

It is also used to fix color in fabrics, and in perfume, paints and disinfectants. If listed in any products you use around the home, use with care.

Used acid is often recycled using a {Spent Acid Regeneration} SAR Plant. This is kinder to the planet and a much cheaper way to dispose of used acid or buying new acid products.

Concrete used for roads or building cannot have pyrite in it. Oxidation will occur when pyrite is exposed to rain, air and moisture. This changes and damages the concrete. You may have seen this as rust stains in a quarry as the pyrite in rocks change. The run off becomes acid rain and damages soil, air and water. Care must be taken when mining rock with great amounts of pyrite.

Prez Sez

Continued from page 1

Our web designer has become somewhat delayed with another project. My goal is to get this accomplished by the end of the calendar year. I will do all I can so this project will happen in a timely manner.

Thanks to Walt Milowic for volunteering for refreshments this month.

Our own Obsidian & George Harris will present a summary of their recent excursion to the Smithsonian Institution.

Cyndy addressed the calendar with the Easter dates and their place with the show.

Dr. Mike addressed the New Tick flyer. That was updated. Cyndy addressed the Fieldtrip for that coming Fri. looking for Fossils.

Old Business:

On a sad note Kenny Gay cancelled his workshop week that he won. So the next in line will have that opportunity.

Door Prize:

The Door Prize drawing was done and Corinne Hummel chose a Pyrite cluster.

Congratulations! Corinne Hummel.

Program:

"Cabbing Demonstration": Robyn Sudaby

Robyn started the Cabbing Demonstration, which entailed a lot of twists & turns about cabbing. It also included details about the cabbing machine being used, and the type of belts on the machine, and so on.

Close of Meeting:

Cyndy called the meeting to a close at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Obsidian Harris,

Secretary, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Pyrite can be found in sedimentary rock, metamorphic rock, quartz, and even in coal beds. And sometimes even with gold! No wonder the old miners had such a hard time with "fools gold".

On the metaphysical level: It symbolizes the sun and promotes the recall of beautiful memories of love and friendship. It promotes seeing and understanding what lies behind and beneath words and actions.

Carrying a piece of pyrite can be used to protect oneself from negative vibrations in the form of pollution – protects one working in a dangerous environment.

Vibrates to the number 3.

Corinne Hummel

I trust they will have interesting things to show the group.

Check out this month's field trip. This is available to most kids and we have attended and had a good time. Digging in the dirt can be fun!

See you Tuesday,

Cyndy Hummel

President, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Hiddenite Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show (And Mine Dig!)



Hosted By The Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association

September 25th - 27th, 2014

At The Hiddenite Center in Downtown Hiddenite, North Carolina
Show hours: 12pm - 6pm Thursday, 9am - 6pm Friday and Saturday

Admission is FREE!

**Gems - Minerals - Fossils - Cutting Rough
Jewelry - Faceted Stones**

This show will coincide with the annual Hiddenite Craft Fair.



**DIG YOUR OWN MINERALS
IN HIDDENITE, NORTH CAROLINA
Every Rockhound's Dream Location!**

**Sharpes Emerald Prospect Mine Dig
September 27th, 2014**

We will have a one day dig at the Sharpes Emerald Prospect in Hiddenite, NC. This is a new mine site. Specimens found on the last dig here included gem grade muscovite mica, green and blue beryl, smoky quartz crystals and cutting grade smoky quartz. We will have a machine in prior to the dig to open new areas.

Date: Saturday September 27th - Location: Sharpes Emerald Prospect
Hours, the dig will begin at 8:00 am and end at 5:00 pm

Fee: \$25 adults, children 12 and under are free.

All attendees should find Jesse or Andrea Sackett upon arrival to fill out a release form and make payment. Directions: From I-40 East, take Exit 132, take Hwy 16 North towards Taylorsville, Take Hwy 64 East towards Hiddenite. Turn left onto Prichard Lane, look for MAGMA sign on right. The mine is approximately 1 mile from the gem show at the Hiddenite Center.



September Mineral - Azurite

By Obsidian Harris

<http://www.galleries.com/Azurite>



Azurite is a very popular mineral because of its unparalleled color, a deep blue called "azure", hence its name. Azure is derived from the Arabic word for blue. The color is due to the presence of copper (a strong coloring agent), and the way the copper chemically

combines with the carbonate groups (CO₃) and hydroxyls (OH). Azurite has been used as a dye for paints and fabrics for eons. Unfortunately, at times its color is too deep and larger crystals can appear black. Small crystals and crusts show the lighter azure color well. Azurite is often associated with its colorful close cousin, [malachite](#).

Green malachite is closely associated with azurite in many ways. Not only do they frequently occur together (pictured above), they also have very similar formulae. Malachite can also replace azurite, making a pseudomorph, or an exact copy of an azurite crystal (only now instead of being blue, it would be green).

The oxidation is persistent and actually ongoing, although very slow. Azurite paints made centuries ago have undergone the transformation much to the imagined horror of artists whose paintings of beautiful blue skies now have a most unusual green hue! Thankfully for mineralogists and collectors, this transformation is one of the most aesthetically pleasing in the mineral kingdom. Although the malachite may soften the sharpness of the azurite crystal, it generally leaves the specimen intact and a whole range of transformations from pure azurite to pure malachite can be obtained. There really is no comparison to any other mineral to mineral transformation in terms of overall beauty.

Azurite is used in jewelry and for dyes as mentioned above. It is also an unimportant ore of copper, although its significance has been more impressive in the past. It is still considered a minor ore of copper; mostly because it is found associated with other more valuable copper ores. Fine crystal clusters, nodular specimens, and interesting and beautiful combinations with malachite are important pieces in anyone's mineral collection. The magnificent color of azurite is worth mentioning again as it truly is a one-of-a-kind in the mineral world. Azurite is one of those classic minerals.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- **Color** is azure, deep blue or pale blue if found in small crystals or crusts.
- **Luster** is vitreous to dull depending on habit.

- **Transparency:** Transparent if in thin crystals, otherwise translucent to opaque.
- **Crystal System** is monoclinic; **2/m**.
- **Crystal Habits** crystals are irregular blades with wedge shaped terminations. Also, aggregate crusts and radiating, botryoidal, nodular and earthy masses.
- **Cleavage** is good in one direction and fair in another.
- **Fracture** is conchoidal and brittle.
- **Hardness** is **3.5-4**.
- **Specific Gravity** is **3.7+** (heavier than average).
- **Streak** is blue.
- **Associated Minerals** are numerous and include [malachite limonite](#), [calcite](#), [cerussite](#), [quartz](#), [chalcopyrite](#), [native copper](#), [cuprite](#), [chrysocolla](#), [aurichalcite](#), [shattuckite](#), [lirioconite](#), [connellite](#) and other oxidized copper minerals.
- **Notable Occurrences** include numerous localities worldwide, but special localities produce some outstanding specimens especially from Lasal, Utah; Bisbee, [Arizona](#) and New Mexico, USA; [Mexico](#); Tsumeb, Namibia; Shaba, Congo; Toussit, Morocco; Australia and in many locations in Europe.
- **Best Field Indicators** are color, softness, crystal habits and associations.

http://www.healingcrystals.com/Azurite_Articles_133.html

Azurite is called the 'Stone of Heaven.' It aids in developing psychic awareness, psychic skills and abilities, enhances intuition, and is said to guide you to be accurate in depicting psychic experiences to others. It is also an excellent stone for meditation, allowing you to slip into a meditative state easily, and can enhance prophesy and divination. Azurite is said to help control energy flow and to bring just the right amount of energy to any situation. It is helpful for general healing, for cancer prevention, liver issues, arthritis, joint problems, depression, the sinuses and skin problems. It will also work to align all of your chakras. Azurite cuts through illusion, so you can use it on your Third Eye to sooth, release and transform old patterning and belief systems.

Chakras: All, Frontal, Soul Star, Third Eye, Throat, Thymus
Astrological sign: None, Capricorn, Aquarius

September Mineral - Celestite

By Obsidian Harris

<http://www.galleries.com/Celestite>



Celestite is a favorite among mineral collectors. Its sky blue (or *celestial*) color is very pretty, and is unique in the mineral kingdom. Celestite also forms with other colorful minerals, making very nice combinations. Blue Celestite with bright yellow sulfur is one of the

most famous colorful combinations of minerals.

Celestite has the same structure as **Barite** (BaSO₄), and forms very similar crystals. The two may seem identical by ordinary methods, but a flame test can distinguish them. By scraping the dust of the crystals into a gas flame, the color of the flame will confirm the identity of the crystal. If the flame is a pale green, it is barite, but if the flame is red, it is celestite. The flame test works because the elements barium (Ba) and strontium (Sr) react with the flame and produce those colors. Normally barite is not blue, but many specimens of blue barite are often misidentified as celestite.

The nice crystals, good luster and attractive blue color make fine specimens of celestite an outstanding mineral for someone's cabinet or display case.

Beautiful celestite **geodes** are found in Madagascar.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- **Color** is usually blue but can also be colorless, yellow and tints of red, green and brown.
- **Luster** is vitreous.
- **Transparency** crystals are transparent to translucent.
- **Crystal System** is orthorhombic; 2/m 2/m 2/m
- **Crystal Habits** include the bladed crystals that are dominated by two large pinacoid faces top and bottom and small prism faces forming a jutting angle on every side. There are many variations of these faces but the flattened blades and tabular crystals are the most common. If the pinacoid faces become diminished or are absent, the resulting

prismatic crystal has a rhombic cross section. This habit is rather common in specimens from Madagascar. Also nodular, fibrous or granular.

- **Cleavage** is perfect in one direction, less so in another direction.
- **Fracture** is conchoidal.
- **Hardness** is 3 - 3.5
- **Specific Gravity** is approximately 3.9+ (above average for translucent minerals)
- **Streak** is white.
- **Associated Minerals** are **calcite**, **gypsum**, **strontianite**, **sulfur** and **fluorite**.
- **Other Characteristics:** red color in flame test (see above), some specimens fluoresce under UV light.
- **Notable Occurrences** include Lake Erie region of Ohio, Michigan and New York USA; Madagascar; Sicily and Germany.
- **Best Field Indicators** are crystal habit, color and flame test.

<http://www.thatacrystalsite.com/guide/properties-glossary.php?init=c>

Celestite opens you up to heavenly light and heightened states of consciousness! This includes the Angelic realm, connecting you to your Angels, guardians and Spirit Guides. It accelerates your growth and aids in creative expression, peace of mind, truth and clear speech. It is great for balancing your energies and promoting peace and the joy that flows from being centred. Celestite helps you with astral travel and dream recall, and its ability to clear your mind is cleansing and revitalising, especially if you are in a stressful situation. Physically, it helps you to get rid of toxins so that you feel more vibrant. It's good for pain relief too.

Chakras: Crown, Soul Star, Stellar Gateway, Thymus
Astrological sign: Gemini, Pisces



September Treasurer's Report

By Corinne Hummel

September Treasurer's Report

Jul. Ending /	
Aug. Beginning Balance	\$8,006.19

Deposits (+)	
No Deposits	\$0.00

Sub total	\$0.00

Checks Written (-)	
Newsletter	\$116.84
Wild Acres	500.00
William Holland	500.00
Kenny Gay Donation	250.00
Fair Deposit	2000.00

Sub Total	\$3,366.84

Aug. Ending /	
Sep. Beginning Balance	\$4,639.35

UPCOMING SHOWS

September 25 - 27, 2014: Hiddenite, NC - Hiddenite Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. The Hiddenite Center in downtown Hiddenite, NC Hours: Thursday, 12pm - 6pm; Friday and Saturday 9am - 6pm. Admission: Free. Minerals and Fossils from around the world. Cutting material, Quality Gemstones, Wire wrapping, settings, Geodes, Jewelry, etc. SLUICE - A real working sluice, \$3 & \$5 sand buckets; perfect for children and adults. Amethyst, Quartz Crystals, Faceted Stones mixed at random in buckets; you must might get that special stone or treasure! Contact Show Chairman, Richard Jacquot <rick@wncrocks.com>

October 3 - 5, 2014: Dallas, NC - 36th Annual Gaston Gem & Mineral Show. Gaston County Park, 1303 Dallas Cherryville Hwy, Dallas NC. 28034 (HWY 279), or GPS 120 Leisure Lane, Dallas, NC 28034. Hours: Fri & Sat, 9am - 6pm - Sunday 9am - 5pm. FREE ADMITTANCE and FREE PARKING. Minerals and Fossils from around the world. Cutting material, Quality Gemstones, Wire wrapping, settings, Geodes, Jewelry, etc. SLUICE - A real working sluice, \$3 & \$5 sand buckets; perfect for children and adults.

Amethyst, Quartz Crystals, Faceted Stones mixed at random in buckets; you must might get that special stone or treasure! Contact Show Chairman, Rick Perkins, at 704-825-9456 or online at <http://gastongemclub.weebly.com/our-show.html>

November 22 - 24, 2014: Columbia, SC - The Columbia, SC Gem & Mineral Society will hold its 46th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show 2014. Jamil Temple, 206 Jamil Rd. (Exit 106A off I -26), Columbia, South Carolina 29210. Hours: Friday November 22, 10:00 - 7:00. Saturday November 23, 10:00 - 6:00. Sunday November 24, 12:00 - 5:00. Jewelry, beads, loose stones, fossils, minerals, gold, silver, & tools for sale. Geodes sold & cut. Club member's rock collections on exhibit & lapidary demonstrations. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, children sixteen & under are free with adult. All military & their dependants are free. Contact information is: Sue Shrader...Publicity...803-736-9317 ashrader@mindspring.com Fax 803-736-2578. Sharon Sterrett...Dealers...803-356-1472 ssterrett@sc.rr.com The society website is www.cgams.org

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.

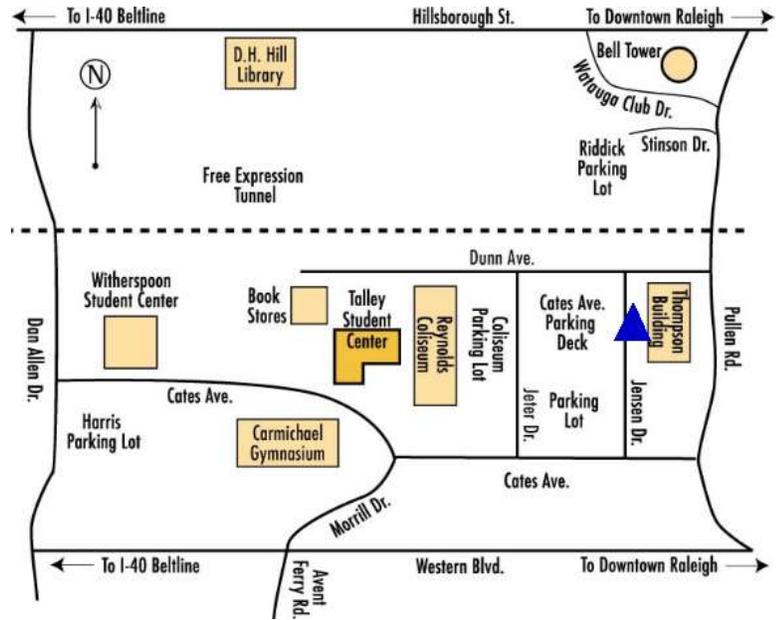
Park in the Cates Ave. Parking Deck off Jensen Dr. Enter Thompson Building directly across from the parking lot.

**Our Next Meeting is
September 16, 2014 @ 7:30PM
Thompson Building / NCSU Campus.**

About Our Organization...

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

Come and be a part of the Fun!



TAR HEEL GEM & MINERAL CLUB
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