

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

AUGUST 2015

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

2015 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President:	George Brown 828-292-7407	Editor:	Velda McLean 828-572-1826	Show Chairmen:	Baxter Leonard 828-320-4028
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Secretary:	Dean Russell 828-303-1448				

Club Address: PO Box 2521, Hickory, NC 28603-2521

Regular Meetings: Second Tuesday, 7:00 PM

St Aloysius Catholic Church

921 2nd St NE Hickory, NC

Annual Dues: Family, \$18; Individual, \$12; Junior, \$6

The purpose of the Club is to increase the individual's knowledge of the earth sciences and to aid in the development of lapidary and related arts and skills; to promote fellowship and exchange of ideas; to hold exhibitions, contests, lectures and demonstrations for educational purposes; to help interest more people in the gem and mineral hobby; and to capture and preserve the beauty of nature, the arts, and the works of man.

KENTUCKY FIELD TRIP Labor Day Weekendn



CATAWBA VALLEY
GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.
<http://www.cvgmc.com/>
Web Master: Mike Streeter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

George Brown, Club President

HOT!, HOT!,HOT!

Please if you are outside,
PLAY IT COOL!

Drink plenty of water,

Watch out for burns,

And keep it under your Hat!

George

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC. Minutes for July 14, 2015

The July 14, 2015 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by Secretary Dean Russell at 7:00 PM. There were 29 members and 6 visitors present.

Treasurer Report:

- 1) The bank balance was reported.
- 2) If you need a membership card, see Terry Russell.

Field Trip Report:

- 1) Little Pine Garnet Mine will be July 18th.
- 2) Kentucky Geode Trip is Labor Day weekend.

Education Committee:

- 1) Joan Glover and George Max went to the Anita Alta 4-H Camp in Caldwell County and presented to 24 children.

Show Committee: None

Old Business: EFMLS Microscope raffle tickets are still available.

New Business:

- 1) EFMLS Certified Case School is August 14-16, 2015. See Larry Huffman if you are interested in attending.
- 2) Spruce Pine Show is July 30-August 2, 2015, and Grassy Creek Show is July 25-August 2, 2015.
- 3) An update on Glenn Bolick was given.
- 4) Information only by Baxter Leonard, the NW Show held silent auctions during their show as a fundraiser. It was suggested that this would be a possible way to get minerals in the hands of children by doing "children only" auction.

Closing of Business: The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Program:

A presentation, *Big Rocks Travels Nevada and California*, was given by Club members Warren and Betty Hollar.

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Russell, Secretary

AUGUST PROGRAM

Rick Glover, Program Director

August program, *Collecting Prairie Agates in Nebraska and South Dakota*, will be presented by Rick and Joan Glover.

Rich



FIELD TRIP NEWS

Harry Polly,

Field Trip Coordinator

The field trip for August 15th for the CVGMC will be to Elk Park for epidote, magnetite, and augite. We will meet in the

Roses' parking lot in Hickory on Hwy 70E at 8:00 am. There will be a short walk in of about 1/4 mile. The dig site is located off of the Appalachian Trail. You will need crack hammers and chisels, scratching tools, food, water, and raingear. There are no facilities.

Kentucky Geode Trip, Labor Day weekend:

Ok folks, sorry for the mix up. The phone number for the hotel turned out to be a Best Western in Richmond, KY which is about an hour away from Danville. I have cancelled that block of rooms. If anyone has made reservations, please cancel them. I have called around. There are NO hotels/motels in Danville with accommodations for that weekend. The nearest that I can get to Danville is in Harrodsburg, which is about 10 miles up the road. There are plenty of rooms available there, with prices ranging from \$70-\$120. I only found one that would block off the rooms for me. The others would not block off or wanted to charge all on my credit card. I have reserved my room and blocked off the others at Days Inn, Harrodsburg. The address is

1680 Danville Road; phone 859-734-9431. Rooms reserved under Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club. They have rooms with double beds @ \$72.24, queen @ \$80.74, and king @ \$89.24. **If you are planning to go, call now and reserve.** They did ask that if you decide to cancel, give a 7 day notice. I have stayed at this hotel several years ago when it was a Best Western. It is right next to a golf course. It may not be as nice as the Quality in Danville, but we will be a bunch of dirty rockhounds. As long as the rooms are clean and the prices reasonable, it will be ok.

If you have any questions, call me @ 828-244-6651.

Harry

JUDGES TRAINING FOR 2015!

By Larry Huffman

At the 2015 CVGMC show our members displayed a great variety of show cases. Some were judged by the EFMLS judges. Would it not be great if all our displays were judged? Would it not be great to have a program on Display Cases Rules? All we need is a trained Judge.

On August 14-16 2015, At the St Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs show a class on Judging will be taught. B Jay Bowman will be teaching the class from the AFMS Rule book. There is no class Fee!! The cost is your travel, meals and room.

If a club member(s) is interested in attending the judging class, we as a club should supply funds to help with the cost of attending. Our club has not had a certified judge since Glenn and Kathleen Bolick were active judges. Check your calendar, surly we have a club member who would like to attend the Judges class. All the details of the class can be found in the AFMS newsletter June-July addition, front page at www.amfed.org.

ANN KOEBBERLING



The Club extends *Get Well Wishes* to Ann and is hoping for a speedy recovery after her recent fall last Saturday.

TYLER SIMS



Club members extend our deepest sympathy to Ryan & Megan Sims and to Megan's parents, Dean & Terry Russell on the tragic loss of Ryan's brother.

Tyler Sims
GRANITE FALLS Tyler Sims, 29, of Granite Falls went home to be with his

Lord and Savior Aug. 3, 2015, at Frye Regional Medical Center. He was born Dec. 15, 1985, son of Michael and Melissa Reed Sims. Tyler was a Christian, loving husband, father, brother and son. All who knew him, saw his love for others and his relationship with God and devotion to church. He is preceded in death by one uncle, Mark Reed. In addition to his parents, Tyler is survived by his loving wife, Katie Norman Sims of the home; his son, Blake Finley Sims; **a brother, Ryan Sims and wife Megan** of Granite Falls; Father-in-law and Mother-in-law, Gene and Betty Norman; grandparents, Keith and Shirley Sims, Nick and Doris Reed all of Granite Falls; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Rebekah and Josh White of Morganton; several aunts, uncles, and cousins. The family will receive friends Wednesday, Aug. 5, beginning at 6 p.m. at Dudley Shoals Baptist Church. The funeral service will be Thursday, August 6, at 4 p.m. at Dudley Shoals Baptist Church with the Rev. Gordon West officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Tyler's cousins will serve as pallbearers. Honorary Pallbearers will be close friends and "Luna" Cycle Team Members and other cyclist friends. The family asks that Memorials be made to Dudley Shoals Missions Fund, 1882 Dudley Shoals Road, Granite Falls, NC 28630 or to Tyler Sim's Memorial, c/o Fiets Maan Racing Team, 110 Church Street, Lenoir, NC 28645. Mackie Funeral Home is serving the family. You may view the obituary online at www.mackiefh.com

GLENN & KATHLEEN BOLICK

We are thinking of you and missing you. Although you are not able to be here to work along side and give valuable wisdom and knowledge, the club will always be a storehouse of treasure because of your many years of service.



SAFETY MATTERS

by Ellery Borow, EFMLS Safety Chair

Dangers That Lurk in the Dark...

...and in the light can be present in many of our rockhound activities. Think of the avid field collector using power tools to drill holes in rocks so that they can be split using feathers and wedges - what a dust cloud is raised!

Think of the lapidary artist using her home-made machine with all its exposed drive belts and pulleys - both just waiting to grab a loose long sleeve cuff. Think of some kids in a quarry hammering on a rock -with sharp, splintery, rock shards spraying in all directions.

All the situations just described have obvious dangers-inhaling rock dust; catching clothing, hair and fingers in equipment pinch points; sharp shards damaging eyes, etc. While those situations harbor obvious hazards, other situations may not be so obvious as hazards.

Let's think of that avid field collector once again. To arrive at his work site he may have taken a short cut and walked across a small stream. Well, take it from one who knows, wet rocks can be very, no make that extremely, slippery. Falling and getting wet may not be all that serious, but falling and breaking a bone most certainly is.

Soldering on that silver pendant may produce a striking work of art; however, the flux and pickling fumes could be highly toxic. Wandering around a famous quarry to collect fluorescent minerals after dark one may see incredible treasures. What one may not see are the holes of unknown depth. Even a very shallow hole may cause one to lose one's balance - especially after dark.

Another commonly ignored and often underappreciated hazard is not keeping one's fingers in view. Reaching over an edge to grab a hand hold? One's out of sight fingers could find not a hand hold, but instead, a very unwelcoming critter hiding there out of sight. And not being able to see one's fingers as one holds a rock on that slab saw is just asking for pinch point trouble.

Putting your fingers in a hole to pull out the treasures therein? Again, take it from one who knows from experience, there could be something besides treasures in that hole, pocket, vug, cavity or crack. There could well be something that bites stings, etc. inside.

Working at that club show or workshop? A simple tester found at most hardware or electrical supply stores can be used to check those outlets, extension cords and power strips. While circuits can either work or not work, there are additional issues such as poor, faulty or missing grounds, reversed polarities and non-functioning GFCI's that are not so noticeable with just a glance.

Always keep in mind the potential of hidden dangers lurking in our rockhound hobby. Keep in mind that it is not just the dark of night that harbors hidden hazards, although night is when the monsters come out isn't it?

Please be safe with what you do and keep in mind the potential hidden dangers, as well as the not so hidden dangers lurking just around the corner.

Your safety matters!

EFMLS News --June-July, 2015

HAVING FUN AT THE JUNE 2015 CLUB PICNIC



Mini Miners Monthly

A Monthly Publication for Young Mineral Collectors.

July 2015 Vol. 9 No. 7

IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

This is a story about a wonderful, special mineral specimen that comes with a lesson every mineral collector needs to learn.

The dolostone of upstate New York can contain wonderful mineral surprises. In the Herkimer region of central New York, you can find doubly-terminated, water-clear crystals of quartz that are also known as "Herkimer Diamonds." In the Rochester area, specifically in the town of Walworth, you can find glassy, light blue fluorite cubes, brown to orange Sphalerite crystals, yellow dog-tooth calcite crystals and white to light pink dolomite crystals.



Imagine finding all of these crystals on the same piece of matrix?! Pictured here, below, is one such spectacular specimen. The specimen measures 4" x 2.5" x 1.75". The matrix is literally covered with crystals. And the crystals are nicely spread out around the matrix. Also, you can see that the fluorite cubes sit right on top, in the center of the specimen. You couldn't find a better specimen if you made it yourself!

Unless, of course, someone with a lot of time, patience and talent could make one for you.

This very special specimen was created by Louis Posman, an experienced mineral collector in Rochester, New York. Lou spent many evenings and many, many hours carefully selecting individual crystals and crystal groups. And then he carefully glued them on the dolomite matrix. This specimen is so well constructed that the only

way you can see it is a fake is if you look very, very, very closely where, in only a few places, you can actually see the glue. The other evidence that it is created and not natural is that on the bottom side, Lou signed it!

So what? Did you know that there are some (very few) mineral dealers who enhance, modify and create mineral specimens and then sell them for very high prices. Years ago there were some small, metallic, multi-faceted "hematite" crystals on the market. Made in a shop with a polishing machine. Clear quartz crystals are exposed to radiation and they turn jet black. Fresh chalcopyrite is heated to high temperatures and it turns a mixture of bright red, green, and blue and is sold as "Peacock Ore."

(By the way, there is natural Peacock Ore as well.) Agates are dyed and sold in bright, fluorescent colors like purple, red and blue. And through the years, some very good dealers have learned to glue crystals on matrix to both create and enhance specimens.

So what can a collector do? Study, read and learn. Visit mineral shows and closely examine specimens. Look for glue. If something doesn't look natural, ask questions like,

"Is that natural or has it been treated in some way?" An honest mineral dealer (and most mineral dealers are very honest) will tell you if the specimen is natural or not. Experience and education is your best defense against being tricked.

By the way, there are some mineral collectors who specialize in mineral fakes! Do you want to know more about mineral fakes? Please visit www.fakeminerals.com which is run by Justin Zzyzx. Justin is one of the world's experts on mineral fakes.

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Club Meeting

**Tuesday
August 11, 2015
7:00 PM**

**St Aloysius Catholic Church
921 2nd St NE
Hickory, NC**