

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

JANUARY 2010

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

2010 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President:	Tom Winslow 800-589-4619	Editor:	Velda McLean 828-757-8814	Show Chairmen:	George Max 828-328-9107
Vice President:	Baxter Leonard	Field Trip:	Harry Polly		Baxter Leonard
Treasurer:	Zan Ritchie 828-495-8456	Education:	828-728-9553 Glenn Bolick	Scholarship:	George Max 828-328-9107
Secretary:	Jean Moran 828-638-8408				

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.



**Bragging Rock
Contest**

- Best Self Purchased*
- Best Self Collected*
- Best Self Crafted*

All of these categories must have been during the year 2009 only.
NO PRIOR YEARS.

Please come early enough to get set up.



Grab Bag Packing Saturday

January 23rd - 9:00 A.M
 Mingus Science Building
 Campus of
 Lenoir Rhyne College



Dues Are Due

See Treasurer Zan Ritchie
 To turn in you annual
 Dues and Information Form.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tom Winslow, Club President

I am really looking forward to the Bragging Rock Contest. This year I will not be bringing a rock or relic because I have been too busy to really acquire a worthy piece.

Tuesday may be cold or snowy bit please do not let that deter you from your solemn duty to attend and participate.

I am looking forward to the New Year and some great field trips and programs. Let's give 2010 a good start.

On a personal note, my doctor told me last year that most of my existing and potential health issues might be resolved by losing my excess weight. So from June 1 I lost 65 lbs and I think he might be correct. In place of dreading hip replacement surgery, I am now able to winter backpack in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park with my sons and grandsons. So, please listen to your doctor.

Tom

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC

Minutes

December 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Club President Tom Winslow. He welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked if there were any visitors at the meeting. Rodney and Becky Billings were visitors. The minutes were approved as they appeared in the December newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Next, the treasurer's report was given by Zan Ritchie. He stated that the club's checkbook balance was \$9,882.07 pm December 8, 2009.

Show Committee: It was stated that the "History of Mining" Kenny Gay and a gold display would be central exhibits for the show.

Field Trip Report: No information was presented on field trips.

Education Committee: Glenn Bolick reported no information on education.

Unfinished Business: John Latsko indicated that he had lapidary equipment for sale.

Next month's meeting will feature a bragging rock contest including best purchased, best crafted, and best collected.

Auction: The process for the Christmas auction was provided including that at least 25% of bid to go to club. The steps for bid increases were also described. The auction then offered for purchase by those in attendance. Members and guest present also enjoyed Christmas goodies provided by club members.

The meeting concluded with the end of the auction.

Respectively Submitted by,

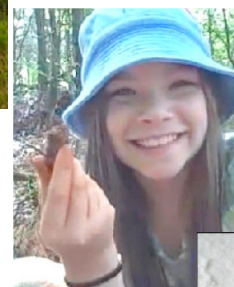
Betty Hollar, Acting Secretary

BRAGGING ROCK CONTEST

Categories:



Best
Self Purchased
in 2009



Best
Self Collected
in 2009

Best
Self Crafted
in 2009



All of these categories must have been during the year **2009** only. **NO PRIOR YEARS.**

JANUARY FIELD TRIP

Harry Polly, Field Trip Coordinator

The January Field Trip will be held on January 16th, WEATHER PERMITTING. We be traveling to Marion to Explosives Supply Company Gravel Plant. This trip was arranged by Larry Huffman and his friend Allen Leathernman. (Thanks Larry and Allen). Don't know what we will find, but bring the usual quarry tools, i.e. crack hammers, chisels, pry bars, buckets, food and drink. We will meet in Marion at exit 86 at the Luv Gas Station. Allen will lead us to the quarry. We will meet at 9:00 AM. It is about 12 miles to the quarry. We can stay until 3:30. We will be parking at the gate and walking about 1500 yards. As January can be unpredictable weather wise, I say WEATHER PERMITTING. If there is rain, sleet, snow, or temps below freezing, WE WILL NOT GO. Any questions, give me a call.

GRAB BAG SATURDAY

On January 23rd, we will hold our yearly grab bag make up day. We will meet at the Mingus Science Building on the campus of Lenoir Rhyne College at 9:00 A.M. If you have material to donate, bring it with you. It needs to be clean and no larger than fist size. We will stay until we run out of material, usually around 12:00 Noon. Any questions, call Dr. George Max. Thanks George for heading this up again this year.

Harry

WELCOME TO WILDACRES 2010

by Jane Kuehn, WA Workshop Committee Member



Coming to *Wildacres* is like a warm embrace by an old friend. After the windy, scenic climb up the Blue Ridge Parkway, the gravel and dirt road twists its way to the pinnacle of the *Wildacres* Retreat at 3300 feet.

When you step from your car, the fresh aroma of deep woods welcomes you into this majestic silence and the beautiful lodge beckons entrance. Crisp wooden porches are clothed in welcoming rocking chairs and a flagstone patio unfolds below you with yet more rockers and a breathtaking panorama of the Smokies.

The registration area is in the great room of the north lodge, a glass-enclosed lounge worthy of the finest ski lodge. Leather sofas and huge armchairs are arranged in three conversation areas with a gigantic fireplace dominating one wall. Handcrafted artwork is skillfully displayed and oriental carpets soften the polished hardwood floors.

Guest rooms are clean and spacious, lacking only a TV and telephone. The dining hall is a large, simple room that serves large, simple meals three times a day. There's a library, auditorium, and meeting room, as well as a canteen. Hiking trails crisscross the mountaintop and are rated on difficulty and duration. Workshops are all in outlying building., well equipped and expertly staffed.

The Eastern Federation has volunteers available 'round the clock to ensure smooth function and maximum enjoyment both in the classroom sessions and after hours. Class sizes are kept small so each student receives personal instruction every step of the way, and teachers are fully equipped with all the materials necessary to complete your project.

The keynote speaker gives six general interest talks during the week to the full assembly, but is available on campus for informal discussions. Mealtimes make excellent opportunities for in depth conversations and personal queries, but the evening porch sessions bring out the lively best of all participants.

Classes range from beadwork to bezels, from judging to geology, from photography to pewter work, depending upon the needs of the Federation and the availability of instructors. Metalworking classes often employ the use of torches and metal forming tools, while cabbing and faceting delve into perfecting a single stone. Intricate designs are produced in a never-ending variety and students are given an opportunity to show off their work at the end of the week. Other classes offered include wirewrapping, geology, photographing minerals and gems, beading, chain making, mineral id and scrimshaw.

Mid-week, there's a free day where students are encouraged to explore local attractions. Perennial favorites include gold mining, collecting trips to near-by quarries, road trips to Biltmore Mansion or Grandfather Mountain, hiking, and leisurely relaxation in the wonderful rockers. An afternoon tailgate session encourages participants to exchange, sell, or barter goods and there's an opportunity for some of the participants to give short programs which spotlight other interests the presenters enjoy.

As the week winds down and projects near completion, an evening session is dedicated to a 'good stuff' fundraising auction. This is an opportunity to invest in the future of *Wildacres* since proceeds are often used to purchase items used in future workshops while you acquire lovely items in the process. Many of the instructors donate finished pieces, fabricated specifically for the auction. Individuals donate rough, specimens, memorabilia, books, or craft

supplies relating to gem and lapidary work, and often, items purchased on free-day excursions.

The week culminates the following evening with a talent show. By this time, you've all become friends, so talent is optional. Songs, skits, jokes and recitations bring many to tears of delight while peals of laughter rock the room. Corny or clever, every act is applauded, every offering is appreciated.

The spirit of mirth carries over to the canteen where everyone congregates to polish off the last of our snacks and drinks. Rocking chairs grind far into the night as folks realize our week is at an end. Memories are molded and friendships are solidified.

BOB JONES AND LISA CARP

by Steve Weinberger, WA Workshop Committee Chair

What do Bob Jones and Lisa Carp have in common?



➤ Both are heavily involved in our hobby. Bob's interest lies mainly in minerals while Lisa's is in jewelry.

➤ Both are teachers - one a retired science teacher who still leads tours and gives frequent talks and the other, still at it.

➤ One lives on the west coast, the other on the east coast.



So what do they have in common besides a love of the hobby? Both will be speakers during the *2010 EFMLS Wildacres* Workshops! We're in for a real treat.

Session #1 will be held from **April 23 – 29** and Bob Jones will join us for his 5th trip east. Bob's currently Sr. Editor for *Rock & Gem Magazine*, and will leave right from *Wildacres* to lead a tour of collecting sights and museums in England.

Session #2 will be held from **September 6 – 12** and Lisa Carp, our east coast resident will be our speaker. Lisa's interests lie in jewelry. She'll be talking to us about tourmalines, newest finds, and some potential industry controversy.

Sounds intriguing, doesn't it. I hope that you will join us for one... or both...sessions at *Wildacres* this year. Doing so will expose you to some of the friendliest people around and to a fabulous week of fellowship, learning, friendship and sharing.

The *Wildacres Retreat* is located on a private mountain just off the Blue Ridge Parkway in Little Switzerland, NC. It's about an hour north of Asheville and about 30 minutes from either Spruce Pine or Marion, NC.

Tuition for the entire week session is a \$350 per person. This fee covers lodging in comfortable rooms plus all of your meals. There will be an additional materials fee charge by instructors to cover the cost of whatever you use in class. This will vary depending on the class or classes you take - and you get to keep the projects you make.

Our week is divided into semesters. You either take one class for the entire week or two classes of two days each. Everyone must be enrolled in classes.

Class assignments are bases on the date your registration is received and since class size are kept small, we encourage you to register as early as possible.

EFMLS News--January 2010

<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/>

NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL

Each year, millions of eyes from all over the world are focused on the sparkling Waterford Crystal Times Square New Year's Eve Ball. At 11:59 p.m., the Ball begins its descent as millions of voices unite to count down the final seconds of the year, and celebrate the beginning of a new year full of hopes, challenges, changes and dreams.

For 2010 Waterford Crystal has designed a new sparkling



"Let There Be Courage" triangle. The crystals feature a unique interlocking ribbon pattern woven into the Celtic knot. The triangles, each about 3/8" thick and 6.8 ounces in weight are custom made and built to exacting standards to withstand the stresses of high winds, precipitation and temperature fluctuation that exist over 400 feet above Times Square. 288 are being installed alongside crystal installed in previous years. Waterford has also released a New Year's Eve iPhone app called "Clink-Clink"! **New Videos:**

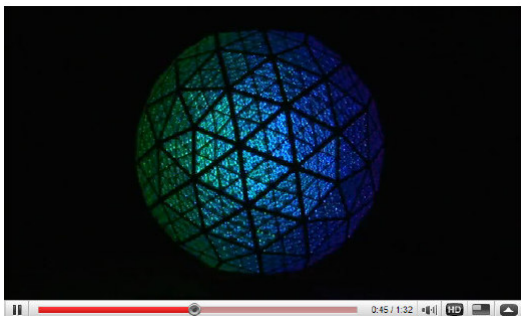
Making and Testing the New Year's Eve Ball

Installation of Waterford Crystal on Times Square Ball



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-fTK4ooUro>

CLICK THE LINK to View▲



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Md71CrGY698>

CLICK THE LINK to View▲

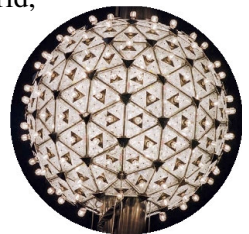
THE FIRST NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL, made of iron and wood and adorned with one hundred 25-watt light bulbs, was 5 feet in diameter and weighed 700 pounds. It was built by a young immigrant metalworker named Jacob Starr, and for most of the twentieth century the company he founded, sign maker Artkraft Strauss, was responsible for lowering the ball.

As part of the **1907-1908** festivities, waiters in the fabled "lobster palaces" and other deluxe eateries in hotels surrounding Times Square were supplied with battery-powered top hats emblazoned with the numbers "1908" fashioned of tiny light bulbs. At the stroke of midnight, they all "flipped their lids" and the year on their foreheads lit up in conjunction with the numbers "1908" on the parapet of the Times Tower lighting up to signal the arrival of the new year.

The Ball has been lowered every year since **1907**, with the exceptions of **1942 and 1943**, when the ceremony was suspended due to the wartime "dimout" of lights in New York City. Nevertheless, the crowds still gathered in Times Square in those years and greeted the New Year with a minute of silence followed by the ringing of chimes from sound trucks parked at the base of the tower - a harkening-back to the earlier celebrations at Trinity Church, where crowds would gather to "ring out the old, ring in the new."

In **1920**, a 400 pound ball made entirely of wrought iron replaced the original. In **1955**, the iron ball was replaced with an aluminum ball weighing a mere 200 pounds. This aluminum Ball remained unchanged until the **1980s**, when red light bulbs and the addition of a green stem converted the Ball into an apple for the "I Love New York" marketing campaign from **1981** until **1988**. After seven years, the traditional glowing white Ball with white light bulbs and without the green stem returned to brightly light the sky above Times Square. In **1995**, the Ball was upgraded with aluminum skin, rhinestones, strobes, and computer controls, but the aluminum ball was lowered for the last time in **1998**.

For Times Square **2000**, the millennium celebration at the Crossroads of the World, the New Year's Eve Ball was completely redesigned by Waterford Crystal. The new crystal Ball combined the latest in technology with the most traditional of materials, reminding us of our past as we gazed into the future and the beginning of a new millennium.



http://www.timessquarenyc.org/nye/nye_ball.html



SNOWFLAKES

How do snowflakes form? It all starts with a speck of dust in the atmosphere. When the conditions are right, water attaches to the surface of the dust particle. This forms a drop of water. When the drop gets heavy enough, it starts to fall through the atmosphere.

Imagine, now, that the air it falls through is cold enough to freeze the water. The first shape that forms is the 6-sided or hexagonal prism. As the crystal grows larger, it sprouts arms. Remember that snowflakes are very tiny. They can be blown up and down and around. As they blow around, they can blow through air that has different temperatures. The different temperatures create different features on each arm of the snowflake, like more plates (6-sided crystals) and more arms. By the time the snowflake hits the ground, it has been through many temperature changes and has grown from a simple crystal to a very complicated snowflake!

Snowflake Trivia . . .

Most snowflakes are lopsided! Irregular, imperfect snow crystals are most common. Perfect, symmetrical crystals, like the ones pictured on the cover of this issue of Mini Miners, are actually rare! Snow can form at any temperature below freezing (32 degrees Fahrenheit; 0 degrees Celsius).

All of our information about snowflakes comes from the *California Institute of Technology website*,

<http://www.its.caltech.edu/~atomic/snowcrystals/>

This is a wonderful website, filled with fascinating information about snowflakes. It is easy to read for children and has scientific information for adults, too. A special "Thank You" to Dr. Kenneth Libbrecht, Professor of Physics and Chairman of the Physics Department, who granted permission for us to reproduce the great snowflake pictures.

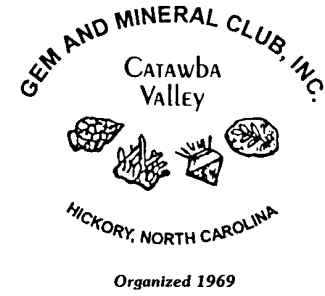
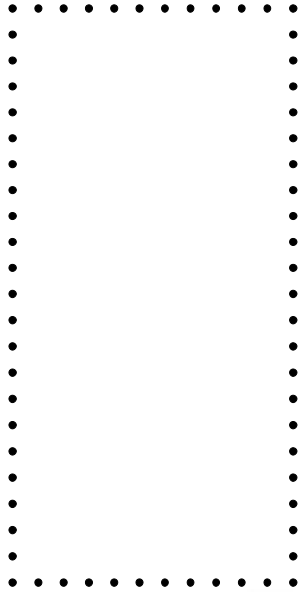
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First Class Mail



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Club Meeting

**Tuesday
January 12, 2010
7:00 PM**

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