

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

Organized 1969

JULY 2014

## CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

### 2014 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

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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.



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CATAWBA VALLEY  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Norma Ridenhour, Club President

This has been another hot summer. That is why after digging to find that special gem; we can appreciate it all that much more. Protect yourself with plenty of fluids and sun screen. We enjoyed a wonderful, cool, indoor picnic at the Polly's in June. It is always a treat to see what Harry has added to his collection during the past year. Thank you for being such great hosts and thanks to Larry Huffman for the fantastic BBQ. My only regret is that I didn't have enough room to sample all those delicious desserts that were brought by members. I hope everyone had a safe and relaxing Fourth of July. I look forward to seeing you at the July meeting.

**Norma**

### CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

**Minutes for June 10, 2014**

**CVGMC minutes for June 10, 2014**

The June 10, 2014 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Norma Ridenhour at 7:45 PM. There were 36 members and visitors present.

A motion was made by Rick Glover and seconded by Llyod Hoke to accept the January, 2014 minutes. Motion was passed by the Club.

**Treasurer Report:** Bank balance was not reported.

**Field Trip Report:** The field trip will be at Probst Farm.

**Education Committee:** There was no report. However, a cub pack program is in the future.

**Old Business:** Velda McLean is now an Honorary Member per the Board of Directors.

**New Business:** A motion was made by Harry Polly, seconded by Rick Glover, to recommend Larry Huffman for the open EFMLS Board position.

**Closing of Business:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

**Program:** Annual Club Picnic. Thank you to Harry and Janice Polly for hosting. Also, thanks to Larry Huffman and PO BBQ for the awesome meal.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dean Russell, Secretary

## JULY PROGRAM

Rick Glover, Program Director

What do the Earth Sciences Museum of Norway and the European diamond market have in common? Hear George Max tell us all about it.

Come with George and Marilyn Max to Norway, a country that knows how to utilize its abundant rocks and minerals. We will visit some sights in Oslo, including Vigeland Sculpture Park and mineral specimens in the Natural History Museum. The rocky west coast is of interest as we pass the Arctic Circle.

We will also show pictures of the diamond industry in Amsterdam and see a few of the seven million tulips in spring at Keukenhof Gardens in Holland.

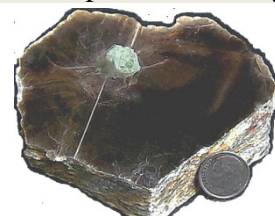


### FIELD TRIP NEWS

Harry Polly,

The month of July has opened up new avenues to field trip collecting. We have two planned this month. Field trip number one will be the weekend of July 11-13 at the Reel Amethyst Mine. We will meet each day at the mine. Cost is \$25.00 per day. Persons may go one, two, or three days as preferred. Camping is permitted at no charge. There is a Port-a-John on site. I thank Jake Canipe and Wayne Bowman for arranging this trip.

Field trip number two will be to the Sinkhole mine for apatite. We will discuss date, time, and meeting place at the meeting. This trip will be led by Larry Huffman. My thanks go to him for taking this on.



**Harry**

Apatite in muscovite

## HAVING FUN: JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

by Jim Brace-Thompson,  
Junior Activities Chair

### Encouraging Cub Reporters



I've served as a judge for juniors articles in our annual AFMS bulletin contest for a half dozen years, and the big thing I always notice is just how creative and enthusiastic our junior members can be. Reading these articles is just plain fun! Sadly, the next thing I notice is that each year, without fail, the number

of juniors' entries submitted for competition declines. For instance, four years ago we had 17 entries in all. Three years ago, it slipped to 16, then 15, and this year? With only four of the seven Regional Federations participating, we had just 10 submissions. Now, that may say something about my judging ("Don't send entries anywhere near that old man – he's a crank!") or it could say something about how we are failing to encourage our kids along. Now, granted, I can be a crank, but I think it says more about the latter than the former.

So here's a request. Via Regional Federation newsletters, local newsletters, and local society meetings, get out the word to encourage youth submissions in those newsletters. Next year, give this old man a chance to be cranky 20 times, not just 10! And in case you think I'm lecturing at you, I'm taking myself to the woodshed on this one. My own local society didn't have a single article written by a junior member in 2013 because we didn't take it upon ourselves to encourage it. From the articles I've read, it's clear that kids have had great fun during field trip adventures, while learning about fossils and mineral wonders, and while pulling together their first lapidary projects. Let's put a pen in their hands and encourage them to share that fun!

AFMS Newsletter – May-June,-July 2014

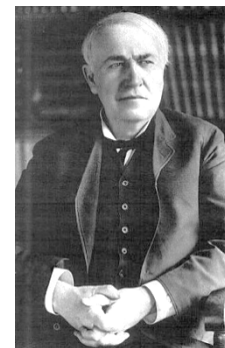
<http://www.amfed.org/index.html>

## MINI MINERS MONTHLY

### THOMAS ALVA EDISON, MINERAL COLLECTOR?

by Darryl Powell

When people hear the name "Thomas Edison" they think about the electric light bulb. Thomas Edison didn't actually invent the light bulb, but he did invent one that was long lasting, practical and inexpensive enough for people to buy and use to light their homes. Thomas Edison actually invented more devices than most people know: he had over 1,000 patents for different inventions. One of his most famous inventions was a machine that he called the phonograph. His phonograph (which literally means "sound writing") was the first machine that recorded sounds. Because the ability for a machine to record sound seemed almost magical, people called Edison "The Wizard of Menlo Park."



You may be asking, "What is 'Menlo Park?'" Menlo Park is a place in Raritan Township in the state of New Jersey where Edison set up the world's first laboratory that was devoted to studying materials and inventions that could be used in industry. Some people claim that Edison's Menlo Park laboratory was his most important "invention." In order to do hundreds of different experiments, Edison filled his laboratory with many different items. In 1887 a newspaper article said that Edison's laboratory contained "*eight thousand kinds of chemicals, every kind of screw made, every size of needle, every kind of cord or wire, hair of humans, horses, hogs, cows, rabbits goats, minx, camels...silk in every texture, cocoons, various kinds of hoofs, shark's teeth, deer horns, tortoise shell...cork, resin, varnish and oil, ostrich feathers, a peacock's tail, jet, amber, rubber, all ores and minerals...*" Yes, Thomas Edison had a very large collection of minerals at his laboratory!

A writer from Edison's day described his mineral collection this way: "*The shelves on the remainder of the upper gallery and part of those on the first gallery are filled with countless thousands of specimens of ores and minerals of every conceivable kind gathered from all parts of the world, and all tagged and numbered.*" This impressive mineral collection was put together by the famous gemologist and mineral collector George F. Kunz.

Thomas Edison may have had thousands of mineral specimens, but he was not really a mineral collector. He was not really interested in mineral forms or colors or crystallography. He didn't collect minerals from a specific locality or of a specific group. He didn't collect minerals because they are beautiful. He paid a great deal of money so he could use the minerals in his various experiments. After his death in 1931 (at the age of 84), Edison's minerals went to the Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

Mini Miner Monthly—June 2014

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Club Meeting

Tuesday  
June 10, 2014  
7:00 PM

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