

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

Organized 1969

JUNE 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:	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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## ANNUAL PICNIC

*GLENN HILTON*

*MEMORIAL PARK*

**6:30 PM**

**Guests & Members Welcome!!**

**Burgers, Hot Dogs, & Drinks**

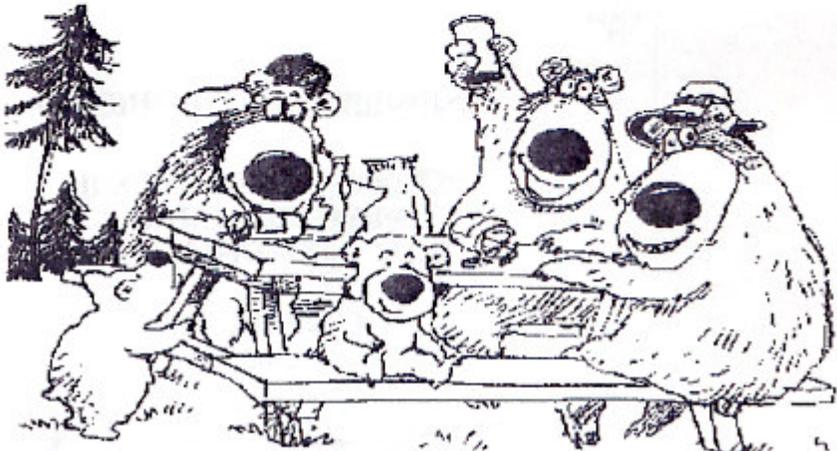
**Provided by the Club**

*Members Bring*

*Covered Dish or Extras*

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## NOTES FROM THE PREZ:

Tom Winslow, Club President

Guys and gals I'm really sorry to miss this meeting but as I mentioned before I'm off somewhere in the wilderness trying to learn how to be an auctioneer in my spare time.

June is going to be hectic for me with the auction school this week, catching up on my day job next week and then the following week is the archaeological with Dr. David Moore at the Berry Site. I think registrations are still available if anybody is interested in joining us. Spending time with Dr. David Moore at the Berry Site digging in the hot June summer sun is an experience of a lifetime you will never regret.

Hopefully in July and August things will settle down for me so that I can enjoy some rockhound outings with the club. I'm really looking forward to the Kentucky Geode Hunt this year.

Enjoy the June meeting and I will see you' all in July – if the creek don't rise.

**Tom Winslow**  
*The Catawba Trader*  
1723 Sassafras Lane  
Newton, NC 28658-9799  
(800) 589-4619 Voice  
(800) 868-0394 Fax

Please note new email address:

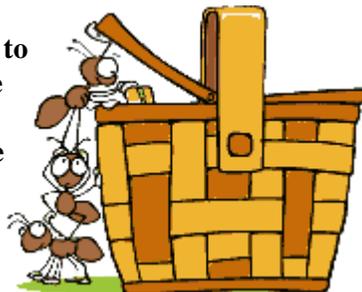
[SurfaceHunter@att.net](mailto:SurfaceHunter@att.net)

### ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC

The June meeting of the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club will be held on June 8th at Glen Hilton Park, beginning at 6:30 PM. This is our annual picnic. The meeting starts a half hour early, because we have to be out of the park by dark. The club will be furnishing all the meats, bread, utensils, ice and soft drinks. We need the salads, side dishes and desserts from all attending.

**If you are planning to attend, please e-mail me back as to how many are coming and what you will be bringing.**

Thanks,  
Harry Polly,  
Event Organizer



## CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC Minutes, May 11, 2010

Baxter Leonard, Vice President, opened the meeting at 7: PM. President Tom Winslow came later and took the gavel. The January 2010 Minutes were approved as written with two corrections: Thomas Davis has the 16 & 24 inch saws and Glenn Bolick had 86 students from *Ivory Elementary* in April. We had five guests and one new member, Terry Russell.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Zan Ritchie stated the checking account stands at \$14,910.25. He was authorized to put \$5,000 in a 6 month CD.

The Club agreed to increase our yearly donation to the *Colburn Museum* in Asheville to \$1000.

**Membership:** An updated member list is requested.

**Show Committee Report:** Baxter Leonard will be Show Committee Chairman for 2011.

**Education Committee Report:** Glenn Bolick reported no activity since the last meeting.

**Field Trip Report:** Club members went to Jackson Cross, Georgia for amethysts Saturday May 15, 2010.

The club will go to the Presnell Mine for kyanite. Meet at 8:AM in Rose's parking lot in Morganton, NC. Just hand tools are needed -- no hardhats or steel toed boots.

Saturday, June 12, 2010 is Ray Mine fieldtrip in Burnsville.

Labor Day weekend is Danville, Kentucky fieldtrip for geodes.

Memorial Day weekend is the *Aurora Fossil Festival* just north of New Bern. Eric Fritz will be going. If you would like more information contact Eric at [efritz@charter.net](mailto:efritz@charter.net).

Lori Adams will be having a Rock Swap on Saturday, May 15, 2010 in Denton, NC which is 45 minutes southwest of Greensboro.

**May Program:** The business meeting was adjourned and Baxter Leonard conducted the *Team Question and Answer Game*. Eric Fritz's team won.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Moran, Club Secretary

## FIELD TRIP NEWS

Harry Polly, Field Trip Chairman

The June field trip for the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club will be held June 12th. We will be going to the Ray Mine in Burnsville.

As many of you know, this is an old mica mine that was mined commercially up through the 1920's. Mica was their main product that was mined. The associated minerals were left lying or buried around the dumps. Minerals such as golden beryl, green beryl, apatite, columbite, thulite, auamarine, microline feldspar, plagioclase feldspar, schorl tourmaline, garnet and kyanite along with others can be found. We will meet at 8:00 am in the parking lot of "The BBQ Man". For anyone not familiar with this site, it is the large HOT PINK Quonset hut on Hwy 321 North about a mile north of Caldwell Community College. It sits on a hill and is very visible. Those that know the way to the mine may prefer to meet at the site. We will be at the mine site around 10:00 am. You will need digging tools, shovel, small mattock, trowels, pry bars, buckets, lunch and drink. A screen is sometimes helpful. Do not forget raingear. There are no facilities. There is a walk in of about 1/4 mile UPHILL. It is a fairly strenuous walk in.



**Beryl in Granite Pegmatite  
Ray Mica Mine  
Yancey Co., NC**

## CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL EXHIBIT AT AURORA FOSSIL FESTIVAL



Our thanks go to Richard, Shelda and Laura Autman for taking and setting up our traveling Calcite Exhibit for the Aurora Fossil Festival. The club has exhibited and had a presence at many of the festivals in the past.

Glenn and Kathleen Bolick did the exhibit for many years and the Autman's agreed to help this year. The exhibit looked very nice and the club thanks them for participating. Thanks again. *Eric Fritz*

## GRAB BAG MATERIAL DONATED TO OUR CLUB

We would also like to thank one of our dealers, Brian Steffanic with Universal Rock Shop, for helping us with door prize material. Brian provided the club with an extensive collection of shells from the Estate of Emily Adams of South Carolina. The shells had been lovingly collected and cared for by Mrs. Adams over many years. Brian wanted the material to be used by someone who would appreciate them as Emily had. Brian contacted me to see if they would be suitable for our club Grab Bags. I picked them up and will make mini collections in individual bags for the small ones and the larger ones can be used as they are.



The ones too large for grab bags can be donated to the Catawba Science Center and made available to children who have never been to the shore or collected a shell. George Max found this need as well as a need for give away minerals by the Science Center.

As most of you know, the club makes grab bags to sell for a nominal charge at the annual show. The purpose is not as much as a fundraiser but to spark interest in nature to the youth of today. I still have fond memories as a youth getting those bags at our show. I am 50 years old now and the effect is still strong. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the family of Emily Adams for sharing her passion with the club. We will put the material to good use. *Eric Fritz*

## DEALER CHAIRMEN NEEDED

As many of you know, I am resigning as Dealer Chairman. We need a new person to take this most important position over ASAP. I will continue to help and get good dealers to participate. The position needs some computer ability. I have all the forms and letters. Each year, the dates and feature exhibits are all that need to be changed. It is set up in MS Word and Excel and mail merge fills in all the blanks. It is time for the contracts to go out and we need to fill this spot now. Contact me or George Max if you have an interest.

Thank You, *Eric Fritz* 828-381-2825

# MINI MINERS MONTHLY

Vol. 4 No. 5 May 2010

## A FIESTA OF MINERALS MINERALS FROM MEXICO

Mexico has produced some of the world's most beautiful minerals, some of the world's most colorful minerals, some of the world's largest crystals, and some of the world's rarest minerals. Here are some of those wonderful minerals.



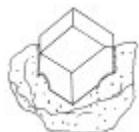
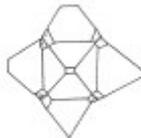
**Adamite** is one of the many pretty minerals from the famous Ojuela Mine, Mapimi, Durango, Mexico. Its crystals grow together into balls like these. Adamite from Ojuela is usually greenish-yellow to apple green. Very rarely it is found with a light purple color. Adamite was named after a French mineralogist, Gilbert J. Adam (1795-1881) who supplied the first specimens of this mineral for study.



As you know by now, **amethyst** is the purple variety of quartz. All quartz crystals have six sides. The specimen to the left is from Tepustete, Alamos, Sonora, Mexico. It is light purple. To the right is a very different amethyst specimen. This specimen is from Amatitlan, Guerrero, Mexico. These crystals also have six sides. Notice that they are much longer. They are also dark purple. These crystals from Guerrero are very attractive and very popular with collectors.



**Cumengite** is a rare mineral which was first discovered in Baja California by a man named Edouard Cumenge in the 1890's (over 100 years ago!). Cumengite can be found as single crystals (left). Often six single crystals grow together to form a crystal group that looks like a star. When this happens, collectors call it a "sixling" (right). Real Cumengite crystals are very small, usually less than a centimeter in size. Cumengite is dark blue.



**Grossular Garnet** - Within the garnet family of minerals are a number of varieties that have slightly different chemical formulas. Because of the different chemicals in the crystal, garnets can be green, red, orange, brown, and even pink. Grossular garnet, like the one pictured above, is red. The grossular garnets discovered at Sierra de las Cruces, Mexico, are bright red and are very pretty sitting on the white to light tan matrix..



**Pyrargyrite** is a mineral which contains silver. It can be an important ore of silver. Its color can be deep red to almost black. This is why it has been called "dark ruby silver ore." When exposed to light, a dark, dull coating forms on the surface of pyrargyrite specimens. This specimen is from Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico.



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P.O. Box 143, Manchester, New York 14504

*Darryl Powell*



**Gypsum** ("Sand Selenite") Mexico has many occurrences of the mineral gypsum. Gypsum that crystallizes is often called "selenite." This specimen of gypsum grew in sand and some sand grains were trapped in the crystal as it developed. Some collectors call it "sand selenite." This specimen is light tan and was found at Villa Ahumada, Chihuahua, Mexico.

**Topaz** is a beautiful gemstone. When crystals grow together in a group they are called a "crystal cluster." This crystal cluster of topaz is reddish-brown. The bubbly mineral growing on the topaz is a type of colorless opal called hyalite opal.



**Pyrrhotite** contains the elements iron and sulfur. These are the same elements found in the mineral pyrite. Pyrrhotite crystals have six sides. Interestingly, Pyrrhotite is slightly magnetic. It is a dark, bronze color. These Pyrrhotite crystals were found in the Santa Eulalia District, Chihuahua, Mexico.



**Smithsonite** can form crystals, but they are very rare. Usually, smithsonite is found in smooth, rounded masses like this specimen from the Santa Anita mine, Choix, Sinaloa, Mexico. This mineral form is called "botryoidal" which means "grapelike" because it looks like a bunch of small grapes. Smithsonite can be found in many beautiful colors including pink, purple, green, and yellow. Color this specimen pink with some light purple near the bottom of the specimen.

**Wulfenite on Mimete** - The wulfenite crystals of Mexico are world-famous. The San Francisco mine has produced some of the most beautiful wulfenite specimens found anywhere in the world. The crystals are very light yellow, and usually are so thin that you can see right through them! They sit on top of rounded masses of the mineral mimete, which is orange-yellow in color.



**Silver on Galena** - Silver is a beautiful and valuable mineral. Silver can be easily formed into jewelry. When Spanish explorers came to Mexico, they eagerly searched for silver and gold. The specimen pictured here is from Taxco, Guerrero, Mexico. It is actually a bundle of silver wires that grew together into this thick clump. It is sitting on galena. Galena is the heavy ore of lead.

**Apatite** has been found in many countries around the world. The way light bounces off of a mineral is called its "luster." Apatite has a glassy luster. It can be dark green, brown, and blue, to name a few of its colors. These apatite crystal pictured here is from the Cerro de Mercada mine, Durango, Mexico. They are a light, greenish yellow and are perfectly clear. They are very popular specimens with collectors.

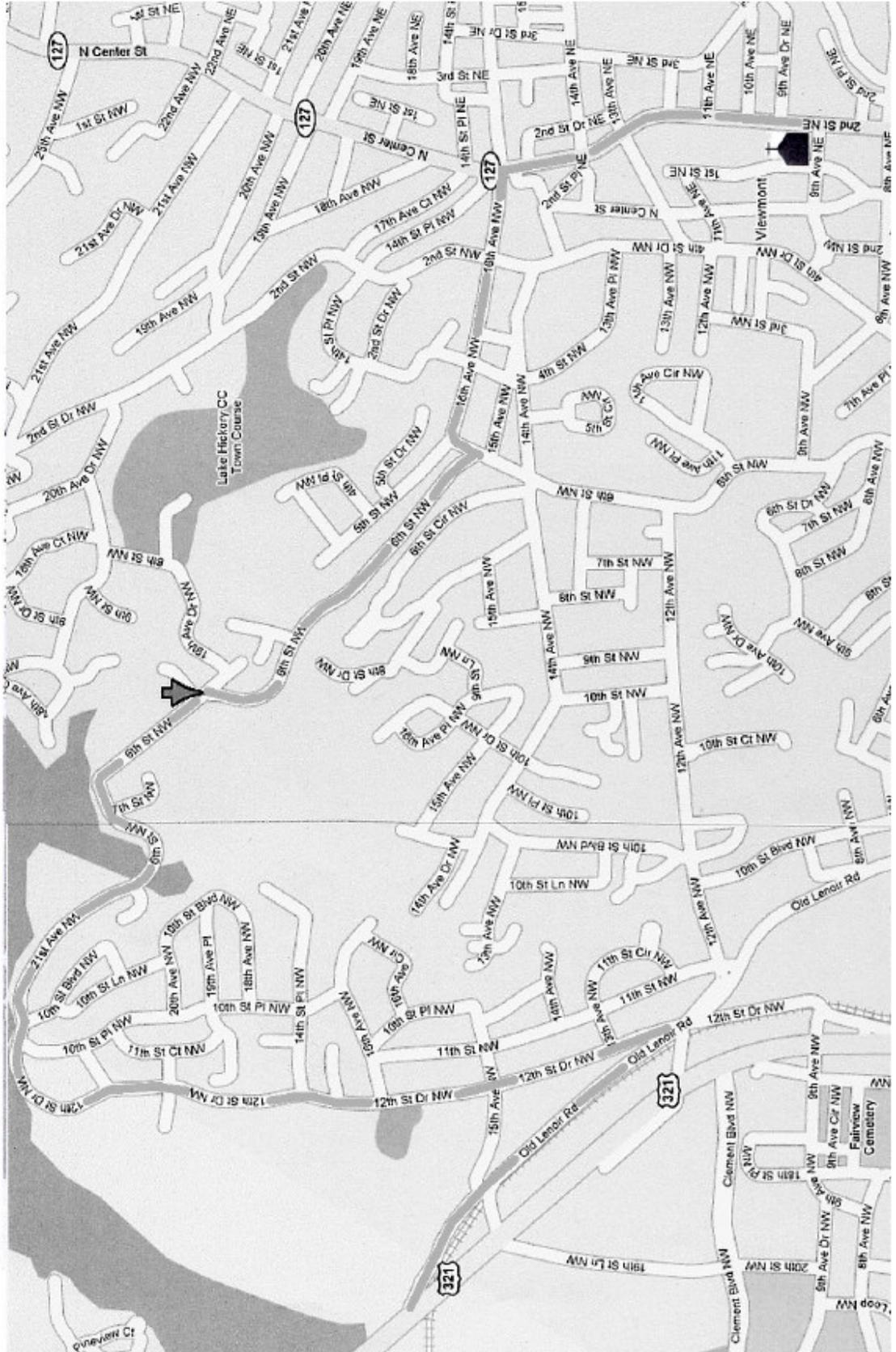


**Fluorite** is a common mineral found all over the world. It occurs in a number of different colors including colorless, green, yellow, blue, purple and pink. Occasionally a single specimen can have more than one color! These fluorite cubes are white with purple on the edges of the crystals. Fluorite is an important ingredient in the making of steel from iron ore.

# PICNIC MAP

**From Hwy 321**  
Turn between *Arby's* and the *Nissan* onto the *Old Lenoir Rd* (cross railroad tracks).  
Turn LEFT onto *12<sup>th</sup> St Dr NW*.  
Follow curvy road and cross bridge.  
Turn RIGHT at *Glenn Hilton Park* sign.  
You will see club members under one of the shelters.

**From the Club Site**  
From the church travel *127 North*.  
Turn LEFT at the light (Copperbeans Coffee is on left before turn) onto *16<sup>th</sup> Ave NW*.  
Look for the sharp curve at the flashing light and turn right onto *6<sup>th</sup> St NW*.  
Travel on toward the river and turn LEFT at the *Glenn Hilton Park* Sign.  
You will see club members under one of the shelters.

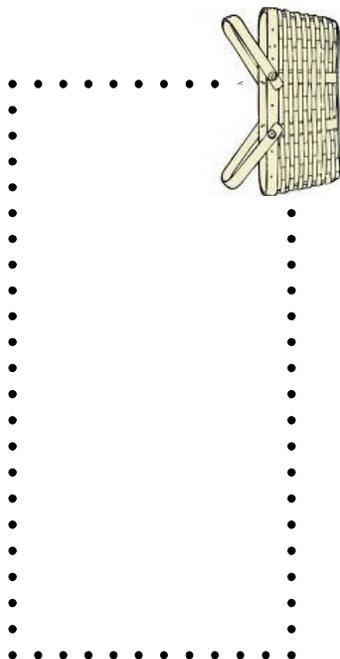


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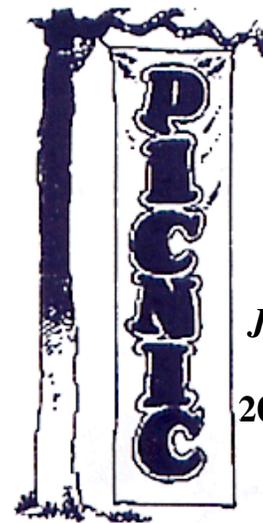


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Volume 39 Number 6



Club Meeting

Tuesday  
June 8, 2010  
**6:30 PM**

*Glenn C Hilton,  
Jr. Memorial Park*

2000 6<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Hickory, NC