

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

Organized 1969

JUNE 2018

Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

2018 Officers and Committees

President:	Harry Polly 828-244-6651	Editor:	Slade Harvin 252-702-7299	Show Chairman:	Dean Russell 828- 303-1448
Vice President:	Rick Glover 828-446-7633	Field Trip:	OPEN	Scholarship:	George Max 828-328-9107
Treasurer:	Terry Russell 828- 303-1563	Education:	George Max 828-328-9107	Eastern Federation Liaison:	Larry Huffman 828-612-4469
Secretary:	Dean Russell 828- 303-1448			Southeast Federation Liaison:	Larry Huffman 828-612-4469

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, \$25; Individual, \$18;

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.

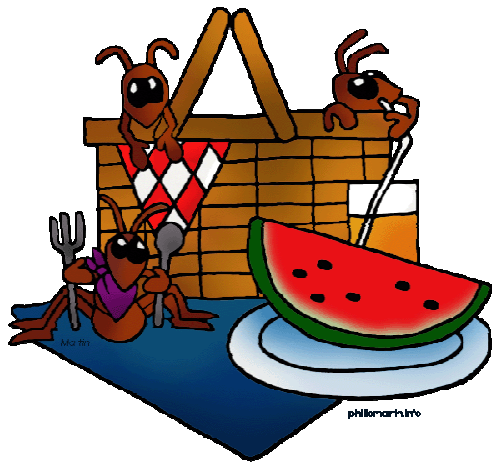


Photo: Clip Art

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CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.
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President's Message

Just a short note this month to remind everyone to come to the picnic at our house. Please remember to sign up on the food list so we do not have too much of this and not enough of that. We will gather at 6:30, half hour earlier, but stay as long as you like. I will not be able to do a whole lot, so counting on others to help. After this shoulder heals, I should be good to go again.

Be sure to sign up for the KY trip.

Blessings

Harry

2018 Labor Day Geode Trip

I have reserved 20 rooms at this golf resort. All of the rooms have two double beds. Please call them and give them your credit card information to reserve your room.

BE SURE TO TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THE CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB in order to get the special rate.

At this time 20 rooms at the resort have been reserved in a block. Everyone will need to call or email the resort for their own reservation.

ALL of the rooms will be reserved under one entity: CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB. Everyone needs to make sure that you let the resort know that you are with the CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB.

Bright Leaf Golf Resort

1742 Danville Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330
Telephone: (859) 734-5481; (800) 469-6038

Website: <http://www.brightleafgolfresort.com>

Email: info@brightleafgolfresort.com

Check In: August 31, 2018

Check Out: September 3, 2018

Rate: \$60+/Single Occupancy; \$80+/Double Occupancy

Deposit: A \$70/room deposit is required to secure the reservation. ***Deposit is due by May 2018.***

Thank you,

Harry Polly

President

ANNUAL PICNIC!

It is once again time for the club's annual picnic!

Details can be found in a separate email or flyer that will be sent to members.

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

6:30 PM

The Club will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls and paper products.

Members, please bring a covered dish and/or a desert or chips and a soda to share.

Don't forget your lawn chair.



June Field Trip

A June Field Trip is currently not scheduled.

Everyone is asked to please consider taking the Field Trip Coordinator position for the Club.

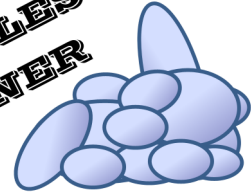
Program

The June program will be the Annual Club Picnic.

Everyone is asked to bring their appetite, lawn chair and a side dish or dessert to share. Come socialize and eat.

We look forward to seeing everyone.

THE PEBBLES' CORNER



This section of the newsletter is being started to help generate more interest and interaction with younger rockhounds and to have fun in the process.

I welcome any information a member may wish to provide to be included in the upcoming newsletters each month, especially related to items that would be of interest to our younger and aspiring rockhounds.

The weather has warmed up and it is time to get out and start collecting and most importantly to have fun.

To help allow good collecting and to also help with the fun part, here are some fun/important things to do with a young rockhound:

- Make it fun;
- Discuss safety, not just what to not do, but things to look out for and why different safety items are important;
- Try find fun items. Ex. A rock that looks like something, the most colorful rocks, etc. Depending upon the age of the young rockhound, a fun colorful rock may be their best find;
- Try to be encouraging;
- Let them help;
- Ask them what they like and try to plan accordingly;
- Bring snacks;
- Have fun!

Happy Collecting!!!!!!



Photos: Clip Art

Until next time.....

Slade

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC. - MINUTES

The May 8, 2018 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Harry P. at 7:00 PM.

Introduction of New Members and Guest: Guests: Tim & Tonya Daniels.

Minutes: Motion by Rick G., seconded by Philip M. to accept the minutes for the April 10, 2018 meeting. The motion was passed by the Club membership.

Treasurer Report:

- 1) Bank balance was reported.
- 2) Still paying invoices from the 2018 Show.

Education Committee: George M. to do program at Statesville Library.

Show Committee:

- 1) None

Field Trip Report:

- 1) Kentucky trip – book your rooms now.
- 2) The Club needs a new Field Trip Chairperson.
- 3) The Club needs a “Field Trip” to Harry P’s. house to clean material for Grab Bags.

Old Business: Larry H. reported that:

- 1) Newsletter Editor, Slade H. received 2nd Place for the Tar Heel Rockhound at the EFMLS 2018 Convention.
- 2) Lauren H. received 1st Place in the Children’s Drawn Features category at the EFMLS 2018 Convention.
- 3) Evie H. received 1st Place in the Children’s Written Features category at the EFMLS 2018 Convention for “Daddy’s Rocks”.
- 4) Evie H. received 1st Place in the Children’s Written Features category at the AFMS 2018 Convention for “Daddy’s Rocks”.

New Business:

- 1) Baxter L. reported, through a letter, the Club had two exhibit cases on loan to the Catawba Science Center (CSC) that needs to be returned to the Club because of a change in the CSC exhibits. Dean R. said he would check into removing the cases and minerals.
- 2) A motion by Phillip M., seconded by Slade H. to have the Club host the 2020 EFMLS Convention in conjunction with CVGMC’s 50th Annual Show. There was discussion among the Club membership. The motion was passed by the Club membership.
- 3) A motion by George B., seconded by Rick G., for CVGMC to submit a bid to host the SFMLS and the AFMS 2020 Conventions in conjunction with CVGMC’s 50th Annual Show. There was discussion among the Club membership. The motion was passed by the Club membership.
- 4) Future Amendment proposals for the CVGMC Constitution and By-Laws will be sent to the Club membership to be voted on at the July 10, 2018 meeting.

Announcements:

- 1) George B. reported that at the North Carolina Knights of Columbus Convention, the Club’s Mini Mine was used and was greatly liked. The Knights of Columbus thanked CVGMC for loaning it to them.
- 2) George M. reported that he is working on cleaning the interiors of the Club’s display cases.

Door Prizes: Several were given out.

Closing of Business: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM

Program: Club member Slade H. presented from his November 2017 trip to Arkansas – “Arkansas Quartz Field Trip Overview.”

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Russell, Secretary

What Do French Fries and Mining Have In Common – Part II By: Cheryl Neary

And so the story continues –

Did you determine what potatoes and mining have in common? If you know Brad Glover and you know for whom he works, you may have figured the answer to the question.

For the rest of you – the answer is Simplot. What is Simplot you may ask yourself? J.R. Simplot Company, with a slogan “Bringing Earth’s Resources to Life” is an agri-business corporation. I just found this corporation to be intriguing from the story of how it started to where it is today.

The company was founded in 1929 by John Richard Simplot, who would become a wealthy American entrepreneur and businessman and basically a rags to riches story. It was at the age of 14, due to differences with his father, that he decided to quit the eighth grade and move from his family’s home to a small farming community of Delco, also in Idaho. With the \$20.00 he received from his mom, he rented a room in a hotel where teachers also resided. The teachers were paid in interest-bearing scrip, which the young Simplot purchased from them at fifty cents on a dollar, raising enough capital to use as collateral to buy 600 hogs at \$1.00 each. He fed the hogs a mixture of wild horse meat and potatoes. As nature would have it, there was a shortage in pork the following winter and JR sold his hogs for over \$7,000.00, which was the first of his many profitable enterprises. This capital gain allowed him to rent 160 acres from a local farmer to produce potatoes. The farmer and Simplot purchased a new electric potato sorter. The young Simplot wanted to rent the machine to other farmers, while his partner argued against it. One day they argued about the issue, and the farmer who had a few drinks said he would flip to the see who would possess ownership of the sorting machine. Guess who won?

This device hastens the process of sorting and soon found many in the nearby communities wanting to utilize the machine. With the profit from the sale of the hogs and the sorting machine, JR settled to become a potato farmer. His sorting and then processing of potatoes resulted in building the largest potato-dehydrating plant in the world. His plant was responsible for supplying much of the dried potatoes and onions consumed by the US troops in WWII. By WWII, his company had become the largest shipper of fresh potatoes. His chemist, Ray L. Dunlap invented the frozen French fry and by the early 1970s, JR Simplot was the primary supplier of French fries to most fast food chains, including McDonald’s which happened to be one of JRs favorite places to eat French fries!

So what does the French fries have in common with mining? JR Simplot have the foresight to sustain his product. In order to grow the potato, fertilizers had to be utilized. As an agricultural business, it just makes sense to produce your own fertilizer.

In 1944, the Don Plant located in Pocatello, Idaho, was the first fertilizer production facility built by JR Simplot Company. The phosphate ore is mined at Simplot’s Smokey Canyon Mine, which is located in the highlands of the Caribou National Forest, approximately 20 miles from Afton, Wyoming.

(Continued on Page 6)

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Later, Simplot would also mine phosphate near Vernal, Utah. The mine was open by others in 1960 and purchased by Chevron Resources Company in 1981. In 1984, construction of the slurry pipeline and the fertilizer plant near Rock Springs, Wyoming. In a joint venture with Farmland Industries, Simplot purchased the mine, pipeline and fertilizer in 1992. In 2003, Simplot solely owned the operation – Simplot Phosphates, LLC.

The phosphate ore is mined 12 miles north of Vernal, Utah. The ore is crushed, washed, grounded (milled) and concentrated. The ore is mixed with water to form a slurry, which is transported approximately 100 miles through the pressurized pipeline to the manufacturing plant near Rock Springs. At the manufacturing plant sulfur, plus air and water is added – producing sulfuric acid which when added to the slurry mix creates a phosphate rock. From the phosphate rock, phosphoric acid is produced, which produces a super phosphoric acid or if ammonia is added – the final product – MAP- a dry, granulated fertilizer. Simplot Phosphates, LLC uses three (3) major raw ingredients as described above: phosphate ore; sulfur, which is by-product from the Wyoming oil fields; and ammonia, which is produced from natural gas.

Simplot Agribusiness also includes a silica mine near Overton, Nevada. The silica deposit was discovered in 1928 and mined by the Nunn Company until purchased by Simplot in 1955. The mine is located at the north end of Lake Mead, approximately 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas. It is renowned for its clean white color and chemical purity of 99.5% silica. Silica is made of silicon dioxide- the most significant component of the earth's crust. Silicon is a semi-metallic or metalloid. A metalloid is an element whose properties are intermediate between those of metals and solid non- metals, and are electrical semiconductors. Other examples of commonly recognized metalloids are arsenic, boron, germanium, antimony and tellurium. Metalloids usually have the physical appearance of metals but behave more like non-metals. They are shiny, brittle solids with relatively good electrical conductivity. Chemically, they behave as a weak nonmetal. Metalloids can form alloys with metals.

Back to the Overton Nevada mine – the deposit was once an ancient sea beach, where centuries of wave action washed the sand of the iron oxides producing the brilliant white sand. The silica sand is used in glass manufacturing and grout. The silica mine presently consists of an open pit; a mill; slurry and reclaim water pipelines. The mining operation consists of blasting the soft sandstone and then removing the material either for processing or as waste.

The mine is located in the Basin and Range Province. The topography on the region is characterized by generally north-south trending basins and ranges. In the area of the mine, steep slopes, incised washes, mesa, ridges and isolated spires of sandstone exist. The sandstone formation is of the Upper Cretaceous consisting of poorly cemented white to gray sandstone several hundred feet thick which grades upward into red sandstone – Aztec Sandstone of the Jurassic age.

So, now when you eat those French fries – perhaps you will remember what they have in common with mining!

The price of safety is rarely discussed. Having read many manuals of OSHA safety, MSHA safety, corporate safety, Federation safety, workshop safety and club safety, rarely is there ever a mention of why. Why be safe? And, at what cost? One might think the answers are obvious Safety but if so, why are not more people striving toward being safe?

Curious as to the why and what of safety, I have asked many folks those questions about safety. Their answers include: - It costs too much. - It takes too much time. - It is too distracting. - My own safety ideas are better. - No one was watching so I didn't need to. And my own personal favorite -- I'm a lucky kind of guy.

Well, let us evaluate those answers. Yes, I will freely admit that if one suffers a minor laceration and applies a 15 cent adhesive bandage (injury) compared with the cost of an eight dollar pair of gloves (prevention) it appears that the prevention could be more expensive than the cost of the injury. But what about a 900 dollar emergency room visit to remove a foreign body from the eye (injury) compared with the cost a pair of three dollar goggles (prevention). In that case prevention is far cheaper.

Taking too much time? Too much time (three seconds) to lower and secure the hood of slab saw Too much time to buckle ones automobile seat belt (two seconds)? Too much time to put on and adjust eye safety goggles (four seconds)? Too much time to walk over and turn on the ventilation fan for the soldering torch fume exhaust hood (nine seconds)? Really? Too much time?

Distraction does indeed occur with some safety gear. Gloves might not fit well. Goggles may indeed restrict some vision. Hearing protection sometimes muffles quiet voices. I would however submit that undamaged hands, injury free eyes and slightly muffled voices may be preferred, in most cases, over a slight amount of inconvenience.

While one's own safety ideas may, at times, be advantageous in certain unique circumstances, tool, equipment, and hobby supply instructions have been well thought by experts in the area.

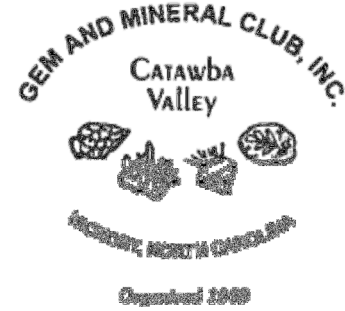
Please give considerable weight to the collected wisdom of manufactures, suppliers and various safety organizations' offerings.

"No one was watching so I didn't need to." Do I really need to talk about this one? To the individual who offered this response - if you are reading this please remember it is not just about you. You no doubt have brothers or sisters, husband or wife or significant other, parents, neighbors, friends, or a four footed friend who cares about you. If you don't want to be safe for yourself, please consider being a bit altruistic and be safe for the special people in your life. I'm a lucky kind of guy. Hmmm, are there any mathematics majors out there? Answer me this if you will - after performing a heads or tails coin toss game 10 times in a row and obtaining heads each time - what are the odds that, on the 11th time, it will be heads? The odds are again, still 50 / 50. Each toss of a coin, each strike of a chisel by a hammer, each lighting of a torch is a new game. In each instance of a possible unsafe act please consider doing the right thing and be safe.

Safety is more than any rule book, sometimes it even defies "common sense" (shouldn't that 11th toss of the coin also come up heads?). Safety is an attitude, an attention to detail, and a certain modicum of creativity. Your safety matters, no why's or what's about it.

First Class Mail

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Official Publication of
Catawba Valley
Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Volume 47 Number 6

Club Meeting

Tuesday
June 12, 2018
7:00 PM **6:30 PM**
Harry's House
St Aloysius Catholic Church
921 2nd St NE
—Hickory, NC