

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

NOVEMBER 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:	George Brown 828-292-7407	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: The Chief by Richard V. Sipe, Sr.

INSIDE

President's Message	2
Richard Vance Sipe, Sr.	2
Program	3
Field Trip	3
The Pebbles' Corner	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Sipe Awarded Guinness	4
2018 Auction	5

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

<http://www.cvgmc.com>

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President's Message

This year is fast coming to a close. We have several things coming up in the club.

November is our month to elect new officers. December is our annual auction. I will not go into detail about this, because Terry always does.

Starting off the New Year, we will have grab bag to make up for the show, which is just around the corner in March, and always requires a lot of volunteers.

George Brown has accepted the position of field trip chair, and has several trips in the works.

In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy the holidays.

Harry

Richard Vance Sipe, Sr.

Richard Vance Sipe Sr. passed away peacefully at, 91, Friday Oct. 12, 2018, at Catawba Regional Hospice. He served in the United States Army at the end of World War II. He met Grace Finegan from Pittsburgh at a Luther League convention and they began their 65-year marriage in 1948.

Richard worked as a brick and stone mason and was an owner of R&H Sipe Construction with his brother Harvey. He was a lifelong member of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Conover, where he served in numerous capacities. He was instrumental in planning and building the sanctuary and fellowship hall at the church. He was a leading force in establishing and building Camp Lutherock in Newland.

Mr. Sipe served his community in numerous ways over his lifetime. He was instrumental in establishing the St. Timothy Voluntary Fire Department and served on the Board of Directors for many years. Richard initiated the idea of building the Catawba County Firefighters Museum and donated his labor and materials to build it. Mr. Sipe was awarded The Old North State Award for his contributions to his community.

He was an avid rock hound for most of his life and loved to transform a rough rock into a creation of exquisite beauty. He was awarded the Guinness World Record for three of his carved corundum.

He is survived by his sons, Ronald E. Sipe and wife, Claire, and Richard V. Sipe Jr. and his wife, Constance; his daughters Valerie Sipe Britt, Wanda Sipe Workman and husband, Ray Sr., and Crystal Sipe Hefner;

Mr. Sipe requested that memorials be sent to the following, Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, 4420 County Home Rd., Conover, NC 28613; or Camp Lutherock Founders Challenge, NovusWay Ministries, 28 Spruce Dr., Arden, NC, 28704; or The Corner Table, P.O. Box 1051, Newton, NC 28658; or Catawba County Firefighters Museum, CCFA, c/o Kenneth Huffman, 1531 Beal Rd., Lincolnton, NC 28092

2019 Membership

Dues

2019 Membership dues will NOT be collected during the December meeting due to the auction activity. A 2019 membership form will be included in the December newsletter.

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.

I hope that everyone has been able to get out some to look for rocks or do something related to rockhounding.

The weather is getting cooler and it is a good time to take a younger rockhound/prospective rockhound out with you.

Even if you just a walk or sitting on a porch, enjoy taking some time to talk about past, present or future trips. Generate interest of kids in the hobby.

With the leaves starting to fall, this also makes for a good opportunity to enjoy creation and all the beautiful leaves. For younger kids, offer them the challenge to find some "pretty or neat" rocks. The leaves on the ground also make it like a treasure hunt.

Enjoy listening to what the kids may say and the questions they may ask. Ask them questions and tell them stories also. Bring a snack. Candy is also readily available around this time of year.

Be thankful for this time.

The key is safety and being able to enjoy each trip.

Be safe so another trip can be enjoyed!

And have fun!

Until next time.....

Slade

Happy



Thanksgiving

November Field Trip

The November Field Trip will be discussed at the meeting.

A possible new dig site is being looked into.

Thank you George for accepting the Field Trip Coordinator position for the Club.

Program

The topic for the November program will be presented by Zan R. and titled, "Volcanoes I Have Known. "

We look forward to seeing everyone.

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC. - MINUTES

The October 9, 2018 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Harry P. at 7:00 PM.

Introduction of New Members and Guest: Richard Sipe, Jr., Ron Sipe

Minutes: Motion by Rick G., seconded by Norma R. to accept the minutes for the September 11, 2018 meeting. The motion was passed by the Club membership.

Treasurer Report: Bank balance was not reported.

Education Committee: No report.

Show Committee:

- 1) Advertisements need to be sent into locations for show. Dean R. to contact Warren H.

Field Trip Report:

- 1) George B. is planning a trip for October 20th to Probst Farm.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Announcements:

- 1) The Club discussed the status of the tumbler, tumbler in the process of being fixed.

Closing of Business: The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM

Program: Club member Warren H. gave a presentation on "Travels in Snowy Alberta" and Ammonites of Southern Alberta .

Respectfully Submitted,
Slade Harvin

Sipe Awarded Guinness Record for "The Chief" *By Warren H.*

The Guinness Record for the Largest Carved Ruby Corundum was awarded Richard Sipe days before his death. The quest for the Guinness Record began in August of 2017 and was approved while Mr. Sipe was in Hospice care. The ruby, "The Chief" is 50.79 Kilograms or slightly less than 112 pounds. Mr. Sipe worked for three years sculpting and polishing the stone using diamond blades on an angle grinder and diamond grit to polish it to a shine.

The quest included several steps of verification of the chemical and physical make-up of the stone by the Gemological Institute of America, verified attestations by three persons who witnessed him sculpting the stone, videos of measurements, submission of newspaper and magazine articles, and information about the display of the sculpture at the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Show.

Richard was still cognizant when the record was presented to him in Hospice. A significant group of his family and friends were present when the award was made. As always, Richard expressed appreciation to his maker for allowing the award. One of his friends said after his death that Richard was beautifying the stones on the Pearly Gates of Heaven.

A PowerPoint showing his carvings is posted on the club webpage.

2018 December Auction Instructions

It's that time of year for our annual auction.

Anyone interested in participating in the auction (selling AND/OR buying) needs to have a number assigned to them (1, 2, 3, 4 etc.). Terry will have a list of numbers and stickers at the November meeting; you can sign up for a number and get stickers to label your specimens at that time. If you are not able to attend the November meeting and would like to participate please call and leave a message at her work number (828-584-5360) by November 26th. Please indicate the number of stickers needed. She will then mail the stickers and a number to you. If you don't get a number and stickers before the December meeting they will be available, the evening of the auction so please come early. Terry will be at the church by 5:45pm for anyone who hasn't signed up to participate and needs a number and/or stickers.

All specimens must be clearly identified with a sticker which should be coded with your assigned number because this is what will be referenced during the auction process. Please label your specimens as follows (using this example): if your assigned number is 2 and you plan to sell 5 items then the stickers should be labeled as 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d and 2e. **It is VERY important to label ALL specimens so the correct information is recorded.** This same number will also be your bidding number. Terry will have bidder cards at the meeting with the numbers on them for people to hold up when they win a bid. This process should keep things moving and will make it easier to record the sellers and buyers.

Items will be auctioned off in order to make it fair for everyone. It will go as follows: 1a, 2a, 3a...etc., then start over at 1b, 2b, 3b...etc. so label your items in the order that you want to sell them, with your best item being the first one. We will sell as many items as possible in the time that we have (ends at 8:45 PM). There is no limit to the number of items a Club Member can bring.

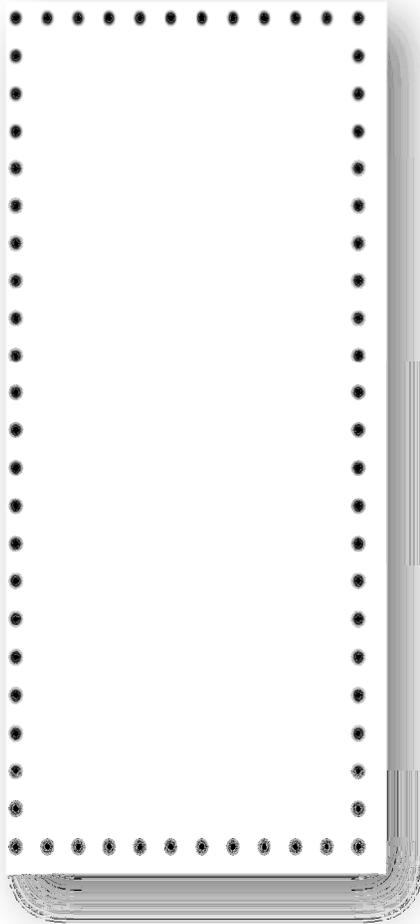
Anything rock related can be auctioned; this includes tools, cut stones, display boxes/cabinets, rough stones, jewelry, etc. Members will retain 90% of the sale price and 10% will go to the club unless the member specifies all proceeds go to the club.

Please come early to preview the items and make notes (including the number on the sticker) of the ones you are interested in bidding on so that you'll be ready when the item comes up for bidding. To keep things moving the items will not be walked around during the auction.

Items will go up in price by \$1.00 increments per bid until it reaches \$25.00, then bidding will go up by \$5.00 increments per bid until it reaches \$50.00. Once it reaches \$50.00, bids will go up by \$10.00 increments per bid. Once the bid reaches \$100.00, bids will go up by \$20.00 increments per bid. Bidding increments can change at the discretion or lack of memory of the auctioneer. If you have an item you want started at a minimum bid, please note it on the label ahead of time.

First Class Mail

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Club Meeting

Tuesday

November 13, 2018

7:00 PM

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