

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

SEPTEMBER 2012

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

2012 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President:	Baxter Leonard 828-320-4028	Editor:	Velda McLean 828-572-1826	Show Chairmen:	George Max 828-328-9107
Vice President:	Joan Glover 828-324-0707	Field Trip:	Harry Polly 828-728-9553		Eric Fritz 828-495-7031
Treasurer:	Zan Ritchie 828-495-8456	Education:	George Max 828-328-9107	Scholarship:	George Max 828-328-9107
Secretary:	Dean Russell 828-330-0034		Bob Tallent 828-851-8434		

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.

SINK HOLE MINE VIDEO

By Joan Glover



Click the Address Below

<http://youtu.be/voiznbVGHC8>

CATAWBA VALLEY
GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.
<http://www.cvgmc.com/>
Web Master: Mike Streeter

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Velda L McLean, Editor
3484 Coy Miller Road
Lenoir, NC 28645
velda3484@charter.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Baxter Leonard, Club President

CVGMC continues to offer an assortment of learning activities to its members in various forms such as programs at monthly meetings, designated field trips to local sites, and exchange of knowledge between members. All members are encouraged to expand their knowledge base and then share that with other members either through informal discussions or by presenting a program for all members to benefit. The old rule of "see one, do one, teach one" applies to many life's activities, and our hobby is no different.

As we approach the end of another year, all members should consider how he/she may contribute to CVGMC. For those who wish to serve as an officer, let the appropriate club member know of your wish. With the auction in December, it is not too early to start setting items aside. Grab bags will be assembled in January 2013 so make plans to help. Material will be needed. We all need to continue with expanding our organization's growth.

Baxter Leonard

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Minutes for August 14, 2012

The August 14, 2012 meeting of the CVGMC in the Minges Science Building on the Lenior-Rhyne University campus was called to order by President Baxter Leonard at 7:00 PM. There were 30 members and guests present.

Minutes from the May 2012 meeting were approved by the club. Motion was made by Rick Glover and seconded by Larry Huffman.

Treasurer Report: Check book balance is \$14442.79, CD balance is \$16378.90. Treasurer will have figures for 2012 show report.

Field Trip Report: Sink Hole Mine field trip is August 18, 2012. Kentucky Geode Trip is August 31 – September 3, 2012.

Show Committee: No report.

Education Committee: No report.

Old Business: The club needs someone to co-chair the ticket sales for the 2013 show with Terry Russell now that she has taken over the duties of treasurer.

New Business:

- 1) The club recognized Zan Ritchie for his years as Club Treasurer and Glenn Bolick for his many years as the Club Education Chairman. Both men were presented plaques commemorating their years of service.
- 2) A motion was made by Harry Polly and seconded by Glenn Bolick to donate \$100 to the Catawba Science Center for the "Mural of Asteroids". Motion was approved by the club.
- 3) A motion was made by Harry Polly and seconded by Albert Keiser to donate \$500 to help sponsor "Rock Day" at the Catawba Science Center along with club members donating their time with demonstrations. Motion was approved by the club.
- 4) The club renewed on August 13, 2012 with Dynamic Tech their two domain names: CVGMC.com and CVGMC.org.

Closing of Business: The meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Program: George Max discussed the properties of glass and demonstrated glass blowing artistry.

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Russell, Secretary

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Joan Glover, Program Director

The September program will be *Collecting Emeralds in Hiddenite*, by Jeff Schlottman. He has graciously agreed to do another program next year. I thought that we would let the club decide at the September meeting.

Here are a few options for you to choose from:

- **Modern Marvels: Diamond Mines**
- **\$400 Million Emerald (National Geographic)**
- **Collisions & Impacts (Meteorites)**
- **History of Quartz Mining (Arkansas mining)**

These are "options", and each is DVD format. He has also offered to do a "speaking-only" presentation on another topic you may be interested in.

Jeff is a fellow collector and a member of the Forsyth Club in Winston-Salem. He has held offices in quite a few clubs, but now limits himself to arranging field trips and giving presentations. He also participates in our club show.

Joan Glover

FIELD TRIP NEWS

Harry Polly, Field Trip Coordinator

The September field trip will be held on September 22nd at Propst farm for sapphires. We will meet in the parking lot of Roses on Hwy 70 east in Hickory at 8:00 am. Those that know the way may meet us at the dig sit. There is a \$5.00 digging fee. You will need mattocks, shovels, scratching tools, collecting buckets, food and drinks. There are no facilities.

Harry Polly



ROCK DAY / ASTEROIDS SPECIAL EXHIBIT

Eric Fritz

Our club will sponsor and participate in a rock day during the Asteroids Special Exhibit opening the end of September thru December. All members are encouraged to help. Harry Polly and Larry Huffman will be doing cabbing. We will have thin sections of meteorites and hopefully two microscope stations. It would be nice to have an educational area set up similar to our show. I will work on a brochure to promote our club meetings. Anyone wanting to demonstrate or do a small exhibit and be available to explain would be great. Contact me with any ideas or questions.

Thanks, Eric Fritz efritz@charter.net 828-381-2825.
Details below:

December 8, 2012

Rock Day 10 am – 4 pm, Catawba Science Center

Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club will have gem cutters and a rock tumbling station at the rock day, an ultraviolet exhibit, microscopic meteorite viewing, North Carolina Minerals and fossils as well as a few meteorites on loan for that day only. They should have enough members to explain things to everyone. Anthony Love will also participate. Activities will be in North Lobby, throughout CSC. CVAC may participate.

CVGMC ANNUAL KENTUCKY GEODE TRIP

Report by Dean Russell
Pictures by Terry Russell

September 1-2, 2012

This year's trip to collect geodes in Kentucky had ten Rockhounds searching the creek beds in Brodhead and Junction City, Kentucky. Seven of the rockhounds were members of the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club and three guests from the Buffalo Geological Society.



Leonard. McLure and Ann Koebberling

Everyone arrived at various times on Friday, August 31st and stayed at the Country Hearth Inn in Danville, KY.

We met at 9:00 AM on Saturday morning, led by Ann Koebberling, to travel to the McLure Farm in Brodhead.



Laura Aultman and Shelda Aultman

Like last year, there was very little water in the creek. The group spent several hours breaking and collecting geodes. In my opinion, Richard Aultman came



Dave and Susan Russell

away with the nicest specimen of the whole weekend on one of his treks downstream.

SINK HOLE MINE

Dean Russell

Mitchell County, NC
August 18, 2012

About 15 Club members and guests went to the Sink Hole Mine in Mitchell County, N. The Sinkhole Mine pegmatite is a light colored rock with



unusually high quality alkali potash feldspar, milky to gray quartz, very high quality Muscovite Mica, and abundant very fine (but small) garnet crystals. Other minerals commonly found are

Thulite and less often, Apatite (a fleshy color to green). The feldspar is often translucent and sometimes transparent (gem feldspar). The feldspar



often fluoresces a light pink to occasionally a neon green color. The Apatite fluoresces orange.

This being my first trip to the Sink Hole Mine, I kept just about everything in sight. Harry Polly, being the veteran

he is, kept a few but nice pieces. I had a little trouble breaking the rock at first, but **Harry suggested I try using a hammer.**

What a difference!



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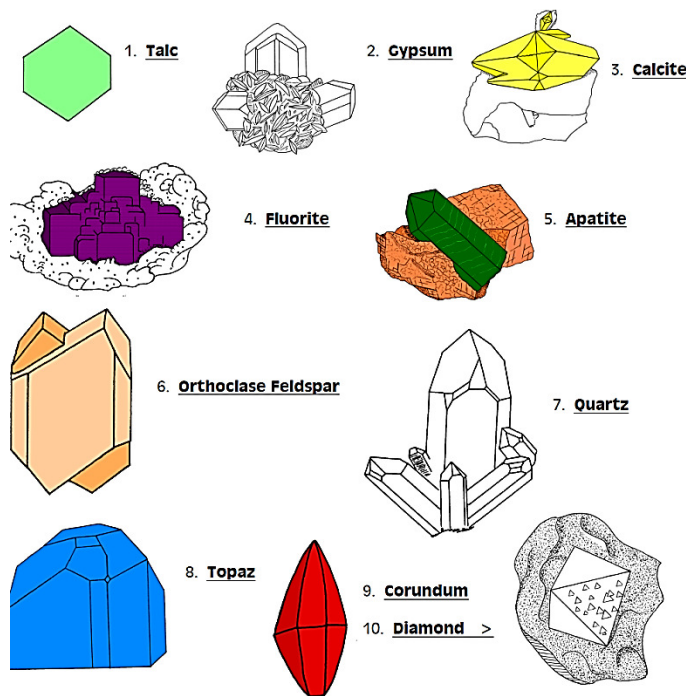
A Monthly Publication for Young Mineral Collectors

August 2012

Hardness

The hardness of a mineral is a way of describing how easy or difficult it is to scratch the mineral. It is used, in combination with the other physical properties, to help identify a mineral specimen. In mineral books, hardness is shown using the letter "H." An example of this is "Talc, H1".

Mineralogists realized that a way to measure the hardness of minerals was needed. In 1824, a mineralogist from Austria named Friederich Mohs chose 10 common minerals and arranged them in order from softest to hardest. This is called the *Mohs Scale of Hardness* and today is used by mineralogists all over the world. The scale of hardness is as follows:



Determining Hardness with Common Items

If you do not have a hardness test kit available, hardness can be estimated using common items that are easy to find in the home.

A finger nail = approximately 2.5

A Copper coin = approximately 3.5

A Piece of Glass or a Knife = approximately 5.5

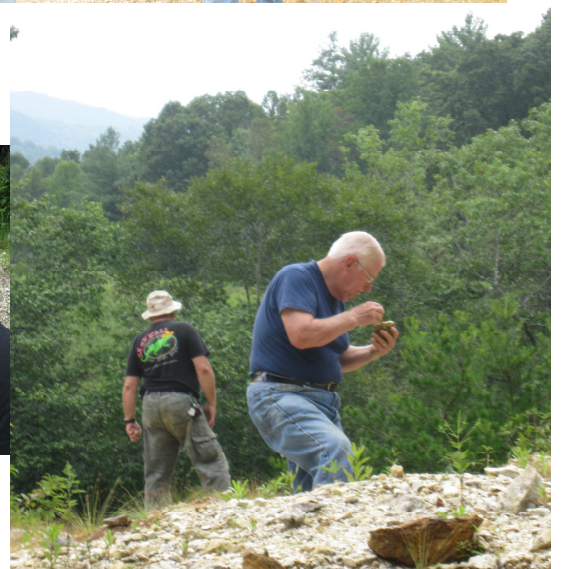
Tool Steel (like a metal file) = approximately 6.5

In other words, if your fingernail scratches an unknown mineral specimen, then its hardness is less than 2.5. If an unknown specimen scratches a piece of glass, its hardness is greater than 5.5, and so on.

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SINK HOLE FIELD TRIP PHOTOS
By Joan Glover



First Class Mail

Tar Heel Rockhound
Velda McLean, Editor
Post Office Box 2521
Hickory, North Carolina 28603-2521
<http://www.evcmc.com/>



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Club Meeting

Tuesday
September 12, 2012
7:00 PM

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