

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

SEPTEMBER 2014

## CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

### 2014 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President:	Norma Ridenhour 828-397-6355	Editor:	Velda McLean 828-572-1826	Show Chairmen:	Baxter Leonard 828-320-4028
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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.

## Rock Swap



**Members are  
encouraged to  
bring their excess  
specimens for a brief  
Swap Meet after the  
program.**

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CATAWBA VALLEY  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Norma Ridenhour, Club President

This month I would like to share a few things that I do to promote rock hounding. When I am out on errands, going on vacation or visiting friends I always carry stones with me. If I see a child I give them a stone and tell them a little bit about it. They really love the pyrite and amethyst. Another thing I do is make small (usually 8 to 10 specimens) rock collections to give as birthday and Christmas gifts- always a unique gift that brings smiles to little faces.



What ideas do you have to promote a love of rocks among the younger generation?

**Norma**

### CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC. Minutes for August 12, 2014

The August 12, 2014 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Norma Ridenhour at 7:00 PM. There were 38 members and visitors present.

A motion was made by Larry Huffman and seconded by Harry Polly to accept the July 8, 2014 minutes. Motion was passed by the Club.

**Treasurer Report:** Bank balance was reported.

**Field Trip Report:** Presnell Mine will be August 16<sup>th</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> will be the Reel Mine field trip. Labor Day weekend will be geodes in Kentucky.

**Education Committee:** None

**Show Committee:** "Somewhere in the Rainbow" will be the central exhibit for the Show. One item in the collection is an emerald found by CVGMC member Glen Bolick. The emerald has been faceted and set into a necklace. This ten million dollar collection will be shown on the east coast for the first time at the Club Show in 2015.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

1. Club membership cards have been designed by George Max. Motion was made by Harry Polly, seconded by Richard Aultman to accept the design. Motion was passed by the Club.

2. Motion was made by Harry Polly, seconded by George Max for the Club to spend up to \$900.00 for a new projector. Motion was passed by Club.

3. New name badges for the 2015 Show was discussed. Dean Russell will look into it.

4. The Sink Hole Mine was discussed. Contractor scraps are being dumped into the mine. Harry Polly will look into the possibility of having the spoil pile moved to the right side. The Club is considering paying for fuel to move the rock.

5. The Club held a discussion concerning the relocation of its cabinet of specimens currently at the Catawba Science Center. Baxter Leonard is in the process of this change and will keep the Club posted of developments. Motion was by Harry Polly, seconded by Larry Huffman to move the cabinet per Baxter Leonard's recommendation. Motion was passed by Club.

6. Nomination Committee is looking for a Club President candidate.

7. The Club is looking for members to volunteer for a committee to look into professional skirting for special exhibits brought into the Club Shows. Warren Huffman, Glen Bolick, Larry Huffman, and Baxter Leonard will look into.

**Closing of Business:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM

**Program:** "Romancing the Stone(s): The Quest for Green Bolts" A history of gem and mineral collecting in Alexander County was presented by Dr. Warren Hollar.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dean Russell, Secretary

## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Rick Glover, Program Director

The program will be in three parts on Tuesday. Larry Huffman will review his trip to PA with an Eastern Federation club, Joan Glover will show pictures from the KY geode trip, and **members are encouraged to bring their excess specimens for a brief swap meet after the program.**





## FIELD TRIP NEWS

Harry Polly

Field Trip Coordinator

The field trip to KY was very successful. We had a good attendance from our club with eleven members while thirteen showed up from the New York clubs. Everyone had a good time and collected lots of geodes, plus fossils and calcite. We have an invite from the NY club to come and dig Herkimers in the spring. Joan has pictures. I will send pictures from the NY club when I receive them.

Our next field trip will be the weekend of the 12-14th at the Reel Mine. There is another group that has reserved that weekend and we are invited to participate. We will meet at the mine site. No time or particular day is planned. Go any day at any time and dig.

**Harry**

## OBSERVATIONS

by Emma Fajcz  
Junior Rockhound

### *A Brief Collection of Poems with a Mineral and Geology Theme*

#### Mesolite

Spicules  
Grouped together  
Peppered with dark crystals  
Arrowheads arranged at angles  
Weighty

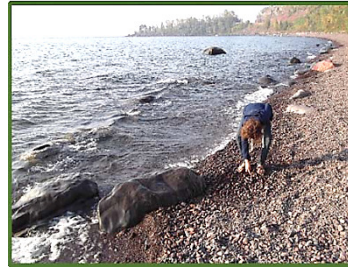


## Goodies in Gravel

Searching  
Rows for agate  
Glancing through gray gravel  
Just finding some glass and pebbles  
Futile

## Scavenging the Shore

Investigating  
Comparing and contrasting  
Stones that catch my eye



## Erosion

Once towering cliffs  
Chipped into boulders—  
weathered  
To the size of sand



## The Grand Canyon from the Air

Viewing,  
Admiring  
Broad, colorful, rugged  
Cliffs stretching onward for miles  
Quiet

## Runaway Discovery

Tumbled in a stream—  
I snatch the stone up before  
It can roll away



*Mini Miner Monthly*  
August, 2014



## HAVING FUN: JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Programs Chair

### Reflecting on the 10th Anniversary of our Badge Program & Thanking Our “Super Users”

After a year or two of constructing activities, working out logistics, a lot of research and writing, and winning approval and funding from the AFMS, I initiated our AFMS/FRA Badge Program in 2004 with the release of the first Badge Manual and a set of 9 badges kids could earn. (Up until then, all we had was a Membership Patch to give to kids in affiliated societies, along with occasional ideas and encouragement for their leaders.) Every four years, I've updated the Badge Manual and gradually added new activities and badges such that we now offer a Membership Patch, 20 Activity Badges, a Rockhound Badge for kids earning at least 6 Activity Badges, and a Rock Star Pin for kids earning the full set of badges.



This year marks the 10th anniversary of that official start date, so how are we doing? 135 clubs and societies across the U.S. have signed up for the program at one time or another. In some instances, it's just been to get their pebble pups affiliated with an AFMS/FRA Membership Patch. In other cases, it's been to help the children of a single active family. Most often, we'll see a spike in activity in the first year, a tapering off the second year, and perhaps no further communication after that. I'm not saying that's bad—that's just the natural flow of things, especially when working with kids. The problem with kids is, they grow up! Thus we see constant ups and downs with junior memberships.

However, a few select “Super Users” of our Badge Program have managed to counter the trend, and from what I've observed, it all comes down to a single champion for the kids—someone who has made a long-term commitment, shows energy and enthusiasm, and keeps those fires burning, attracting new kids even as other kids grow older and move on. This month, I wish to honor those “Super Users” by singling out societies that, over the years, have awarded over 200 FRA activity badges each to their pebble pups and juniors: Bakersfield Mineral Mites (CA), Mother Lode Mineral Society (CA), Woodland Hills Rock Chippers (CA), Colorado Springs Mineral Society (CO), Flatirons Mineral Club (CO), Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society's Coquina Kids (FL), Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club (NM), Mineral Minds (NY), Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club (NC), Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club (PA), Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society (TX), Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club (WA), Rocky Trails Junior Club (WA), and Whidbey Island Future Rockhounds (WA).

Other clubs (for instance, Roseville Rock Rollers [CA], Summit Lapidary Club [OH], or the “MOCKS” of the Gem, Lapidary, & Mineral Society of Montgomery County Maryland) haven't reached the 200-badge level but still run active, vibrant kids' programs. So while these clubs and others are not yet “Super Users,” they're still super in my book!

These societies have used the program in a variety of ways—as part of normal club activities with meeting and activity times set aside for the kids, as part of a school program

affiliated with a local club, as an independent juniors-only club, as an annual “summer camp” program—but again, it all comes down to that central dedicated leader. It's to those great folks that this month's column is dedicated: Thank you each for inspiring kids and keeping it fun!

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Rev. Daryl Powell, EFMLS Jr. Program Chair

Reliable, safe, after school child care is a constant need for many (if not most) families today. Religious and civic organizations have identified this need and have responded with after school programs and have found great success in connecting with their communities. This need presents an opportunity for our mineral societies and clubs to also connect with the community – and in the process, grow the participation in our organizations.



To be successful, “out of the box” thinking is necessary. Friday nights from 7 to 9 won't work. Tuesday or Thursday (or any other school day) from 3 or 3:30 to 5 is the necessary time slot. Very few clubs have a building or room in town. But, you could very well develop an arrangement with a local church or civic organization (like the VFW or American Legion) or the local school. As partners you can provide this service to the community. Our clubs can provide the programming and the partner organization can provide the space.

For many years I worked at a church that had an after school program. With good communication and partnership with the school district, arrangements were made to have the children dropped off at the church. In time, there were so many children, the school had a special bus for the kids and they dropped off a busload every Thursday afternoon. Imagine a bus load of kids dropped off to you at the local Parish center to enjoy an afternoon of mineral fun?! Imagine the adults who might very well also begin to attend your evening meetings and field trips?! Imagine inspiring dozens of children in science and earth science topics every single week?!

Our mineral clubs and societies have been traditionally adult-oriented groups and family-oriented groups that gather together during a “family time” once a month. We compete with literally hundreds of new opportunities for children and families. Successful organizations, like successful businesses, are the ones that adapt to changing times and seek opportunities to provide goods and services for specific needs.

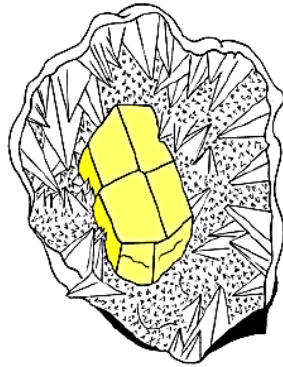
Please consider developing an afternoon mineral club in your community. You, in partnership with your community's other organizations and the school district can provide meaningful, safe, and fun experiences for your neighborhood kids.

Thank you, as always, for your dedication and commitment....both to our hobby and our children.

**AFMS Newsletter – September, 2014**

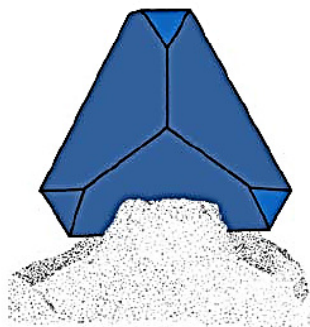
[http://www.amfed.org/news/n2014\\_09.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2014_09.pdf)

## MYSTERY MINERAL: WHO AM I?



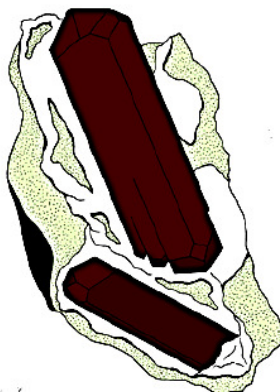
I am lemon yellow and have a resinous luster.  
 I am often found in salt domes. I am also found at the vents of volcanoes.  
 If you touch me with your warm hand, my surface will crack. You might even be able to hear the crackling!  
 A match will set me on fire. When I burn, I smell like rotten eggs.  
 I am an element.  
 Who am I?

## MYSTERY MINERAL: WHO AM I?



I am extremely rare.  
 I was discovered in San Benito County, California.  
 I have also been found in Japan and Arkansas.  
 I am blue and when clear, can be cut as a gemstone.  
 I am found in the rock serpentinite.  
 I am the official State Gem of California.  
 Who am I?

## MYSTERY MINERAL: WHO AM I?



I am often found with the mineral you see above.  
 I am found in San Benito County, California.  
 I have also been found in Mont Saint-Hilaire, Quebec and in the Kola Peninsula of Russia.  
 I am very dark red - nearly black.  
 I am found in the rock serpentinite.  
 I was named after Neptune, the god of the sea.  
 Who am I?

© Darryl Powell

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First Class Mail

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Organized 1969

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**Club Meeting**

**Tuesday  
September 9, 2014  
7:00 PM**

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