

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

DECEMBER 2011

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

2011 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President:	Baxter Leonard 828-320-4028	Editor:	Velda McLean 828-750-4803	Show Chairmen:	George Max 828-328-9107
Vice President:	Loyd Hoke 828-256-2466	Field Trip:	Harry Polly 828-728-9553		Eric Fritz 828-495-7031
Treasurer:	Zan Ritchie 828-495-8456	Education:	Glenn Bolick	Scholarship:	George Max 828-328-9107
Secretary:	Dean Russell 828-330-0034				

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.



December Party / Auction

Set-up begins at 6:30 pm
Everyone Welcome!
Members Bring Goodies

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CATAWBA VALLEY
GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Website:

<http://www.cvgmc.com/>

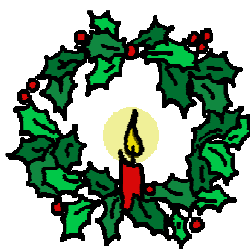
Web Master: Mike Streeter

Velda L McLean, Editor
3484 Coy Miller Road
Lenoir, NC 28645
velda@email.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Baxter Leonard, Club President

On behalf of the officers of CVGMC, I'd like to thank all members for their support of the goals and stated missions of our organization and for their participation at any level whether it was associated with the annual show, assisting with monthly meetings, helping with field trips, repair of club property, assisting with grab bags, and especially education of children.



The coming year has all the possibilities of a great year as we face new & old challenges. It is essential that everyone be an active participant and assist CVGMC as much as possible in any area of their choosing. I'd like to thank Loyd Hoke for his able assistance as Vice President this year and look forward to Joan Glover's help in that role for 2012.

May December 2011 be a wonderful month for each of you and your families, and wishing all prosperity and good health.

Baxter Leonard

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Minutes, November 8, 2011

The November 8, 2011 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Baxter Leonard at 7:00 PM. There were 21 members and guests present. The minutes of the October 2011 meeting were read and the minutes were then approved by the Club.

Treasurer Report: Checkbook balance: October 2011 - \$11278.22 and November 2011 - \$10997.34.

Field Trip Report: Harry Polly reported: The October field trip was at the Probst Mine, though not a productive trip. He was still trying to set up a date at the Jackson Crossroads Amethyst Mine in Tignall, Georgia for the November trip.

Show Committee: George Max reported he still hasn't received a contract from the Hickory Metro Convention Center. He and Larry Huffman, using Larry's truck, picked up three of the Club's cases that were on loan in Asheville. Also, there were seven dealers yet to commit to the show. One dealer is not returning, but several new dealers have expressed interest in filling the open slot(s). George also wanted to remind Club members to think about material for the Grab Bags.

Education Committee: None

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1) Eric Fritz reminded everyone that the Annual Club Auction at the December Club meeting will start at 6:30 PM.

2) Zan Ritchie discussed field quality fluorescent lamps being available for around \$100 at UVtools.com.

3) Eric Fritz was contacted by the Catawba Science Center (CSC) for the Club to help in making their Robotic Dinosaur Exhibit better. Eric volunteered to lend assistance where he could. Eric made the motion, seconded by Glenn Bolick, for the Club to loan the CSC several of the Club's cases for the exhibit. This was approved by the Club.

Elections: The Nominating Committee presented the ballot of officers for the 2012 Club year.

President – Baxter Leonard

Vice Pres. – Joan Glover

Treasurer – Zan Ritchie

Secretary – Dean Russell

Newsletter Editor – Velda McLean

Members at Large – Albert Kiser and Betty Hollar

2012 Show Chairman - Baxter Leonard

A motion was made by Larry Huffman, seconded by Rick Glover, to accept the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee. It was approved by the Club.

Announcements: Megan Russell requested the Club members collect baby food jars for her to use as a project for the children at the 2012 Club show. Please contact Megan at 828-330-0034 if you have any for her or bring them to a Club meeting.

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

Program: Baxter Leonard did a trivia quiz for Club members with the corresponding minerals as prizes.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Russell, Secretary

FIELD TRIP NEWS

Harry Polly, Field Trip Coordinator

No field trip is planned for
December.

Harry Polly

DECEMBER PARTY / AUCTION



Our *Annual Auction* is at the December meeting. Please note start time is **6:30 sharp**. This gives us time to get all the auction material set up, have a short, very short, business meeting and get started with the auction by 7:00 pm. If you bring items to sell, come as early as possible.

The *Christmas party* will be going on during the auction. Please bring your favorite finger food a drink and/or desserts to share with everyone. Barbeque and all the fixings are being generously donated by Larry Huffman and Post Office BBQ.

All members are welcome to bring anything hobby related to be auctioned off. Please have your specimens **clearly labeled**. We do not want to waste a lot of time trying to figure out what it is. Members will retain 75% of the sale and 25% will go to the club unless the Member specifies all proceeds go to the club. You may set a minimum bid of at least 20.00 and as high as you like. There will be no minimum bids below the \$20.00 threshold. Make sure you mark any minimum prices on the label. ***Guests are welcome but may not bring auction material.*** Guests may bid and purchase as much as they like.



RULES FOR THE AUCTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Anything rock related can be auctioned. This includes tools, specimens, cut stones, cutting rough, display boxes or cabinets. Items for sell will be offered in increments of \$1.00, until the item reaches \$20.00. At that time, the increments will increase to \$5.00. At the \$50.00 level, the increments will increase to \$10.00. At the \$100.00 level, the increment will increase to \$25.00. This insures us of not getting bogged down with small increases and speeds up the auction process. The club will keep 25% of the proceeds of the sale price; the owner will keep 75%, unless the article is deemed a donation to the club, in which case all proceeds will go to the club.

Eric Fritz

EarthVision

339 Brook Hollow Lane

Taylorsville, NC 28681

828-381-2825

efritz@charter.net

DUES ARE DUE JANUARY 2012 DON'T GET DROPPED



Members will be receiving the *Membership Information Forms* with the December newsletter. You may also find a copy on the club's website:

<http://www.cvgmc.com/>

Treasurer Zan Ritchie will be purging the membership list the first of the year. **The Membership Form must accompany your dues in order for your name to show up on the 2012 Club Roster.**

Honorary members also need to fill out the form in order to keep records up to date and maintain your Honorary Membership.

CHILDREN'S PROJECT 2012 CLUB SHOW

Megan Russell requested the Club members collect baby food jars for her to use as a project for the children at the 2012 Club show. Please contact Megan at 828-330-0034 if you have any for her or bring them to a Club meeting.



*Blessings to You During the
Holiday Seasons!!!*



KNOW YOUR MEMBERS

By Loyd Hoke, Jr.

THE FIRST ON A CONTINUING COLUMN

Robert N. (Red) Reitzel



How many people do you know that has found a 1493 caret emerald that can be seen today in the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.?

A Catawba County resident and longtime member of CVGMC, Red Reitzel can claim that distinction. Mr. Reitzel, 86 years old on December 5th can remember those weeks in the summer of 1971 when finding rocks with his two friends, Johnny Williams and Jack Harwell, took on a whole new meaning. He and his two friends, also from Newton, N.C., were on their way to The American Gem Mine (now The North American Emerald Mine) in Hiddenite, N.C. to find a few rocks that might be valuable. For some reason, they decided to stop at the Adams Mine to try their luck.

The Adams Mine wasn't as far from Highway 16 as The American Gem Mine, and they would have more time to dig. These week-end diggers had the opportunity to search for emeralds in a "prospect-for-fee" mine in 1971, an opportunity that few of us will ever have.

Mr. Reitzel and his friends were determined rock-hounds and had fashioned equipment to find and not destroy valuable rocks. A metal probe was driven into the ground to find a quartz vein (a klink meant quartz). Then they had a drill-auger to take samples of what might be in the quartz vein—rutile and mica could mean pay-dirt.

Then the real digging, with hand tools, began; and that week-end Reitzel, Williams, and Harwell found three emeralds: a 900 caret twin emerald, a 450 caret emerald, and a 433 caret cluster emerald.

When the next Saturday rolled around, they didn't even think about The American Gem Mine; but headed straight to The Adams Mine to find a "big one". All three men had regular jobs and could only dig on week-ends. That week-end they

found it—The Reitzel/Williams/Harwell Twin Emerald. This 1453 caret emerald was the largest emerald crystal that had ever been found in North America at that time (1971). Today, The Reitzel/Williams/Harwell Twin Emerald ranks as the 3rd largest emerald found in North Carolina.

"If we had those four emeralds today, we would be rich; but at that time, we had three partners as owners. We couldn't split them up, so we sold them without knowing how valuable they would become," Mr. Reitzel admits.

Various collectors and dealers have owned these four emeralds over the years. Hugh Morton, of Grandfather Mountain fame, was the owner of the 900 caret Twin Emerald at one time. Some of the emeralds were sold to museums and others were donated to museums for a tax write-off; but all four can be found in museums today:

The Reitzel/Williams/Harwell Twin Emerald (1493 carets) in The National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian, Washington, D.C.

The Reitzel/Williams/Harwell Twin Emerald (900 carets) in The Houston Museum of Natural Sciences, Houston, TX

The Reitzel/Williams/Harwell Emerald (450 carets) in The N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, N.C.

The Reitzel/Williams/Harwell Cluster Emerald (433 carets) in The North American Museum of Natural History, New York City, N.Y.

Mr. Reitzel has found buckets and buckets of gems and minerals over the years, but he is still trying to get some of the "experts" to identify a large rock he found when he was 10 years old. Experts have thought it is Morganite, Kunzite, Tektite, etc.; but no one is sure. His age hasn't stopped him from digging; and he still digs the hard way, with hand pick and shovel.

Mr. Red Reitzel will tell you (if you ask for advice), to look for a quartz-mica vein and follow it. When a quartz-mica vein suddenly get wider, you have found a pocket. That pocket could contain anything: limonite (bog ore), tourmaline, quartz, emeralds. When you have cleaned out the pocket, don't waste your time digging any deeper. There are no pockets under pockets. Accept what your Maker has left for you and move on.

Loyd Hoke, Jr. 11-20-2011

MINERAL OF THE MONTH

Inclusions: Minerals Trapped In Mineral

Usually we focus on one special mineral each month in this part of Mini Miners Monthly. This month we're doing something different. We are going to introduce you to something mineralogists call inclusions. Think of it this way: an "inclusion" is when one mineral is trapped (that is, included) inside another mineral.



The specimen to the left is clear, colorless calcite with malachite inclusions.

There is another kind of inclusion that is formed at the same time that the mineral or crystal is being formed. This is usually seen in quartz crystals. Quartz crystals can form when super-heated fluids cool. Sometimes, some of that fluid (usually water) can get trapped inside the quartz crystal when it hardens. The result is a small pocket or bubble inside of the crystal that contains the water. If you ever find a quartz crystal like this, tip it back and forth and watch the water move back and forth inside the bubble. In this case, the water is the inclusion...it is included in the quartz crystal. Mineralogists give this the special name of enhydro which means containing or including water. The specimen pictured to the left is an amethyst crystal from Mexico. The one on the right is a "Herkimer Diamond" from New York State.



Inclusions tell a story, the story of which minerals formed first. Look at the specimen here to the left. It is a drawing of a beautiful specimen from Brazil. The large crystal is perfectly clear quartz (also called rock crystal). The mineral that you can see inside of the quartz is golden rutile, in the form of long needles. Look again. You can see that the rutile crystals begin outside of the quartz crystal and look like they are poked into the quartz! How can this happen? Well, you can't push rutile into a quartz crystal. Find a quartz crystal and try to push a nail into it. Can you do it? Of course not. So, let's use our scientific minds and try to imagine how this specimen came to be.

We know rutile can't be pushed into the quartz. What if the rutile formed first?! If this happened, can you think which mineral formed second? That's right, the quartz formed after the rutile. It grew around the rutile crystals that formed first. As the quartz crystal developed, it wrapped itself around the rutile. Fortunately for us, the quartz is perfectly clear so we can see the rutile on the inside. The rutile is now included in the quartz.

To the right is a beautiful Brazilianite crystal sitting on muscovite mica crystals. The muscovite is included in the Brazilianite. Which mineral formed first? That's right, the muscovite. Now you're starting to understand.



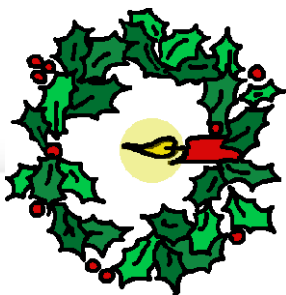
The orange quartz is the inclusion and is included in the clear quartz crystal.

Pictured to the right (below) is a calcite phantom crystal. It is light yellow. The phantom calcite was coated with a thin layer of darker calcite material. Then the larger crystal grew over it.

Darryl Powell, Publisher



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
December 13, 2011**

6:30 PM
Auction / Christmas Party

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