

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

FEBRUARY 2017

Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

2017 Officers and Committees

President:	Harry Polly 828-244-6651	Editor:	Slade Harvin 252-702-7299	Show Chairman:	Dean Russell 828- 303-1448
Vice President:	Joan 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				

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.



Fluorite (From Danville, Ky)
Photo: S. Harvin

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CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

<http://www.cvgmc.com>

Web Master: Mike Streeter

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February Program

The program, Stones that Speak to Him, will be presented by sculptor and club member Richard Sipe and Warren Hollar. Ninety-year old Sipe has created many sculptures in the Catawba Valley including Wisdom at his church, 200 Years on the Road and Bell Tower, Sculptures for the Waldensians in Valdese, sculpture at the Catawba County Fireman's Museum. His specialty corundum sculptures include, The Link, a 22-pound polished sapphire which held the Guinness record, The Sipe Sapphire weighing 38-pound polished sapphire, and The Chief, a ruby corundum was polished to 112 pounds. A power point will be used to describe many of Sipe's works of art. The presentation will include slides of many of his smaller sculptures in nephrite jade and samples of polished and wire-wrapped specimens. The club show in March will feature his three most well-known creations, The Link, The Sipe Sapphire, and the Chief. His work will be featured in an-upcoming feature article in Rock and Gem Magazine written by Warren Hollar.

Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

The January 10, 2017 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Harry P. at 7:00 PM. There were 27 members and 6 visitors present.

Minutes: Motion by Larry H., seconded by Rick G. to accept the minutes for the December 13, 2016 minutes. The motion was passed by the Club membership.

Treasurer Report:

- 1) Bank balance was reported.
- 2) Auction results were reported.
- 3) Membership dues and paperwork are due by the end of February.

Field Trip Report:

- 1) Grab bags at St. Andrews Lutheran Church at 9:00 AM on Saturday, January 21st.
- 2) The Club needs a new Field Trip Chairperson.

Education Committee: George M. did a presentation for a Senior Group.

Show Committee: Dean R. reported that Riviera Fine Minerals has sold his business and is being replaced by Crystal Perfection. Crystal Perfection had been a vendor in the past.

Old Business:

- 1) Building update – still looking.
- 2) The *Rock & Gem* magazine in March will have an article on Club member Richard Sipe.

New Business:

- 1) CCM has 5 or 6 work tables available. George B. is picking them up and temporarily storing them at his house. If you are interested in borrowing one, contact George.
- 2) CVGMC is now a member of the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. and still a member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc.

Closing of Business: The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM

Program: Bragging Rights Night.

Respectfully submitted, Dean Russell, Secretary

Past Field Trip News

Grab Bag Preparation

On Saturday, January 21st, we had 21 members help with packing the grab bags for the upcoming show. Thank you to everyone that came and helped.

**Happy
Valentine's Day**

President's Message

The New Year is upon us and with it brings new opportunities and responsibilities. We, as a club need to meet these challenges head on. I challenge each of you to get involved with the club by attending the meetings and getting to know the other club members. Find out their specialty of the hobby, whether it is field collecting, mineral collecting, fossil collecting, lapidary or all of the above. I also encourage each and every club member to get involved with the annual show in March. There are plenty of areas that you can assist in. Whether it be ticket sales, grab bag sales, helping in the kiddie corner, demonstrations, or just walking the floor and talking to our vendors and visitors. It will all benefit the club.

On another note, we still need someone to step up and take over field trips. It is not that hard of a job. You decide on a place to go, pick a meeting time and place and lead the group. I will help as well as Dean Russell. Please consider.

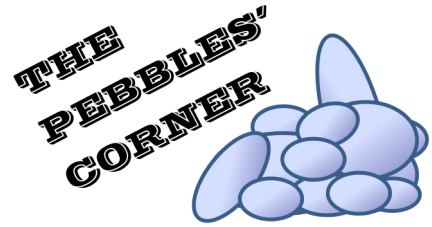
Harry

FINAL NOTICE FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES

The deadline for the membership dues is February 28, 2017. You can find membership forms on the club's website: <http://www.cvgmc.com/>. Blank forms will also be available at the February meeting.

The membership form must accompany your dues in order for your name to be included on the 2017 club roster and to receive the monthly newsletter. **Honorary members must also fill out the form each year in order to keep the club records up to date, maintain their honorary membership status and stay on the roster.** Please print clearly and legibly on the form so that your information can be updated accurately. Please make checks PAYABLE TO: CVGMC (CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC). You may also mail your dues with the membership form to: Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. c/o Terry Russell P.O. Box 2521 Hickory, NC 28603-2521.

Anyone who does not renew their membership by the end of February will be removed from future mailing lists and will not be able to participate in upcoming field trips.



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.

As indicated, this year's series will focus on each month's birthstone. I realize that several minerals may be associated with a particular month, but I am trying to select the most commonly accepted one for this series.

I welcome any information a member may wish to provide to be included in the upcoming newsletters each month corresponding to the particular month's birthstone.

February's Birthstone is Amethyst.

Amethyst is a variety of quartz with a violet color. The color is due gamma radiation and small traces of iron in the crystal structure. Prolonged exposure to sunlight will result in fading the color slowly.

Some Known NC Locations: (www.mindat.org)

- Reel Mine, Lincoln Co. (Closed)
- Hiddenite, Alexander Co.

Colors: Colors can range from almost clear to dark purple.

Common Uses: Jewelry

Hardness: Mohs scale: 7.0



Amethyst cluster from the Reel Mine, Lincoln Co.

Until next time.....

Slade

JANUARY PHOTOS



Bragging Rock Contest Winners

- Best Crafted: Phyllis Bridgeman
- Best Purchased: Betty Hollar
- Best Collected: Slade Harvin



FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP

February Field Trip

Diamond Hill Mine – February 18, 2017

We are going to the Diamond Hill Mine near Antreville, SC. On Saturday, Feb. 18th. We will meet at the Rose's parking lot on Highway 70 in Hickory near Rt. 321 at 7:30 AM. It will be an approximately 2 hour and 50 minute drive to the site.

Diamond Hill Mine has milky quartz, smoky quartz and sometimes amethyst. Rick G. found a Citrine there last year. (So close to victory on the bragging rights.)

Check out their website for more information and videos. www.diamondhillmine.com

The cost is \$20.00 per person, Seniors 65+ will be \$10.00. I will try to contact them to see if there is a group price for us, but we must all arrive at the same time. (Their mailbox was full when I last called)

We will be able to dig until dark.

What you will need for digging:

- 1) Gloves, a thin, yet durable pair. A great type are thin garden type with rubber or poly palms.
- 2) Tools you might use; A long screwdriver is a must... shovel, rake, rock hammer, sledge hammer, pick.
- 3) Boxes, bucket or flats to carry and store your finds until you get home.
- 4) Newspaper or similar for stuffing/packing in case of some better finds so they don't get damaged.
- 5) Drinks, food, snacks. Extra clothes for the ride home. You will get dirty.
- 6) Sunscreen, hat, first aid kit.

There is an outhouse on site. No water. There is a mini mart gas station about 5 minutes away.

Hope to see you there.

Any questions, call me.

Dean Russell

828 303-1448

Acting Field Trip Coordinator

2017 CVGMC SHOW UPDATE

Gem Show Ticket Volunteers

The Gem & Mineral Show is just around the corner and one of the areas where we need volunteers is for ticket sales. I am soliciting volunteers NOW to help sell tickets at the front tables. The ideal number of people per shift is three, but if we can have four per shift it gives us more flexibility. Each shift is 3 hours long. I would like to have the work schedule finalized by the March meeting so I have time to communicate the process to everyone. PLEASE consider volunteering – it's a great way for new members to get involved and get to know other club members. I will have a signup sheet at the February meeting.

2017 CVGMC SHOW UPDATE

The 2017 CVGMC Show will be March 24-26, 2017 at the Hickory Metro Convention Center (HMCC). To keep this year's show as a successful as in the past, we need Club members to volunteer to help in several areas.

Wednesday, March 22nd at 3:00 PM, we will need at least 8 members to meet at the HMCC to help set up the Club portion of the show after everything is delivered. Setting up display cases, putting table skirts on, putting out the minerals and displays for the Children's "Hands On" Corner and setting up the Mini Mine. (And anything else that I have forgotten.)

Friday, March 24th – Sunday, March 26th **"The Show"** We will need help with tickets, the Children's "Hands On" Corner, Mini Mine, and the Grab Bags/Geodes. On Friday, the school groups are coming in the morning and we will need extra help at the Grab Bags, the Children's Table and the Mini Mine.

Sunday, March 26th - After the end of the show, 5:00 PM, we will need at least 10 people to help break down the Club's part of the show for the movers to take back to the trailer. We will need help undoing everything we set up on Wednesday. The quicker we get the show broken down, the quicker the movers can get the assets back to the trailer.

On Saturday, March 25th, after the close of that day's show, the Club is having a Banquet/Thank you dinner for the vendors. The cost is \$20.00 per person. The menu will be Chicken, BBQ Pork, sides, and Strawberry Shortcake. John Sinclair, Meteorite USA vendor and who is currently curator of meteorites and minerals at Pisgah Research Institute in Rosman, NC will be the speaker at the dinner. Please RSVP and pay by the March 14th Club meeting. Remit payment to the treasurer, Terry Russell.

If you can't come to the meeting but are willing to help, contact the following people:

Set-up and/or take-down: e-mail George Max maxmama@gmail.com

Ticket sales: e-mail Terry Russell tmkrussell5@aol.com

Children's Corner: e-mail Joan Glover joancsg@embarqmail.com

Educational Programs: e-mail Warren Hollar whollar@charter.net

Any question: e-mail Dean Russell cvgmcsecretary@aol.com

Everyone's help is needed and appreciated, so let's all work together to make this the best show ever! Thank you.

Dean Russell,
2017 CVGMC Show Chairperson

Presenters Needed for Gem and Mineral Show

Additional presenters and persons to supervise areas are needed during the educational program during the club show in March. If you know club members or individuals in the area who may be willing to provide displays, do brief programs related to gems or minerals, or staff areas on Friday, March 24, from about 9:00-1:00, please let Warren Hollar know at whollar@me.com or (828)446-5400. I would especially welcome hearing from members who joined the CVGMC from the eastern Catawba area.

2017 CVGMC SHOW UPDATE (CONT.)

Advertising the Show

We have recently added a show overview to the club webpage. We encourage you to copy this information and share with those who might be interested. We also have information through several national magazines, 3 state-level magazines, local newspapers, and NC tourist offices. One point of emphasis this year is invitations to senior citizen groups. If you have a seniors group in your church or know of a senior citizens' church group that may want to attend, they can get free admission with a letter from their minister. In previous years, we have had a few bus groups that went out to eat at places like the cafeteria and then came to the show in the early afternoon on Friday or on Saturday morning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August Field Trip to Kentucky

From Harry

I have made reservations at the Days Inn, Harrodsburg, KY for our August field trip. I have blocked off twenty rooms. The rate is \$68.00 per night. YOU MUST TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THE "CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB" IN ORDER TO GET THE ROOM AND RATE.

Days Inn, 1680 Danville Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330

Phone: 859-734-9431

Check in - August 18th

Check out - August 22nd

Room rate - \$68.00, two double beds, or one queen bed, non-smoking

Confirmation #091617585

This is one week earlier than our normal Labor Day dig, but it coincides with the eclipse that takes place on Monday night, August 21st. This area is supposed to be one of the prime viewing spots.

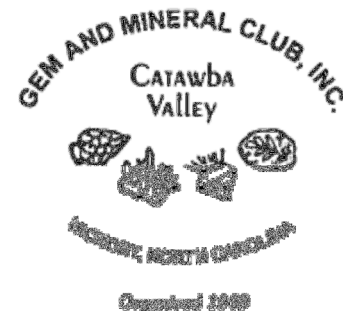
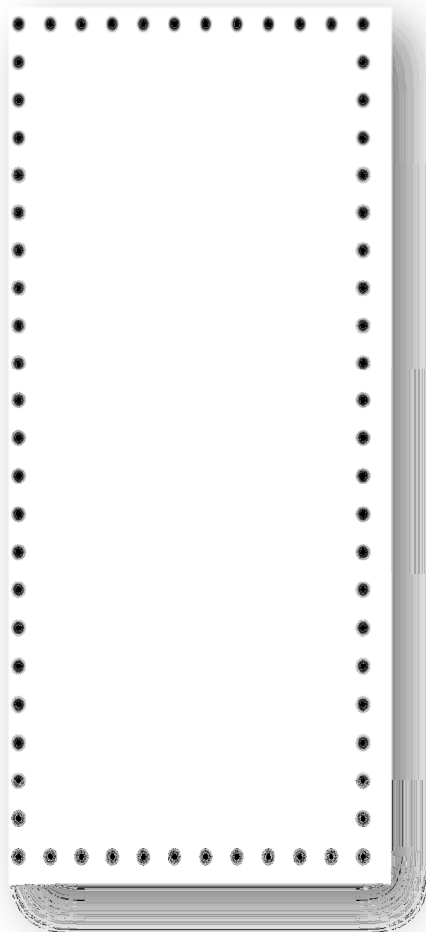
Tentative plans are to go to the Caldwell Stone Quarry, in Danville, KY on Saturday morning, the HWY 150 road cut on Saturday afternoon, to the McLure farm on Sunday, and the Phillips farm on Monday. It should be a very productive weekend.

The Caldwell Stone Quarry produced some killer fluorite and calcite last year. This quarry has been closed to rock clubs for several years, but we were able to get in last year with the help of our friend James Johnson from MO. (THANKS, JAMES)

You will need to bring crack hammers, chisels, safety glasses, steel toe shoes, and hard hats in order to get into the quarry. A long handle four prong rake (tator digger) is good to pull out geodes from the creek and creek bank. Bring collecting buckets and tubs to put your prizes in, as well as something to wrap them in. Duct tape or electrical tape is good to wrap around the geodes. Bring your food and drinks for each day as there is no place close to get anything. All of the geode collecting will be in the creek beds, so come prepared to wade in the creeks. I prefer wool socks and tennis shoes, as the creek beds are sometimes slippery, and the wool socks will keep your feet warm, wet or dry.

First Class Mail

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Slade Harvin, Editor
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<http://www.cvgmc.com/>



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Club Meeting

**Tuesday
February 14, 2017
7:00 PM**

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