

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

JANUARY 2017

Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

2017 Officers and Committees

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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.



Photo: S. Harvin
 Calcite and Strontianite

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CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

<http://www.gvgmc.com>

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December Program

Joan Glover, Program Director

This month's program will be the club's Annual Bragging Rock Contest. Bring your rocks to enter them in the following categories: Best Self Collected, Best Purchased, and Best Crafted. Join us for this fun filled evening to enjoy talking rocks and even a chance to brag a little. Members are allowed to make one entry per each category, consisting of one specimen per category. We look forward to seeing everyone there.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!



Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. Minutes for December 13, 2016

The December 13, 2016 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President George Brown at 6:30 PM.

Minutes: Motion by Larry H., seconded by Warren H., to accept the minutes for the November 8, 2016 meeting. The motion was passed by the Club membership.

Closing of Business: The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM

Program: The Annual Christmas Party and Club Auction.

Respectfully submitted, Dean Russell, Secretary

Field Trip News

Grab Bag Preparation

On Saturday, January 16th, at 9:00 AM, the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club will pack grab bags for the upcoming Gem and Mineral Show. Grab bags are a popular item at our Gem Show, and we invite and encourage your participation in this project.

We will be at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church at 629 Eighth St, NE at the edge of Lenoir-Rhyne University. From I-40, drive north up LR Blvd and go under the railroad underpass and turn left at the first stoplight and straight at the next stoplight and then take the first left into the parking lot behind the church educational building. We will work in Fellowship Hall on the bottom floor.

We need a variety of different minerals which are clean and of appropriate size (no larger than a baseball.) Even if you do not have material to donate, we welcome your help. It's a great way to enjoy the activity with other club members while preparing bags that help school children and others learn about gems and minerals. So, if you would like the opportunity to clear out a few rocks and have fun making surprise bags, we look forward to seeing you on Saturday the 14th! Thanks so much.

George

President's Message

May this New Year bring each of us good health and prosperity. May each of us find our unique gem. As we enter this New Year, we have a lot of opportunities to participate in, and I encourage everyone to get involved. First of all will be the Grab Bag Makeup. George Max is heading this up. We will need lots of material to give a good variety. Coming up in March will be our annual show. It is promising to be one of the best, but we cannot do it without your help. Volunteers are needed in all sections. There will be sign-up sheets available at the meetings. Please consider helping if only for a couple of hours per day. Count your many blessings, see what God has done in your life, and give thanks.

Harry

Field Trip Coordinator

A trip coordinator is still needed. Harry and Dean would be glad to assist.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Secretary Terry Russell will be accepting membership renewals at the January 2017 meeting. You will need to submit the membership form you received with your December 2016 newsletter with your dues. You may also find a copy on the club's website: <http://www.cvgmc.com/>.

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 and to maintain your honorary membership status.** 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.

PLEASE NOTE: the roster will be updated in February and members who do not renew their membership in 2017 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.

January's Birthstone is the **Garnet**.

Garnets are a silicate based mineral that come in several species that include pyrope, almandine, spessartine, grossular, uvarite and andradite. The almandine species is the hardest species.

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

- Little Pine Garnet Mine, Madison Co.
- Poovey Garnet Mine, Burke Co.
- Pat's Garnet Mine, Avery Co.

Colors: Colors can include red, orange, yellow, green, purple, brown, black, pink, and colorless, with reddish shades being the most common.

Common Uses: Jewelry and abrasives

Hardness: Mohs scale: 6.5 to 7.5



Until next time.....

Slade

GOING, GOING, GONE – 2016 AUCTION PHOTOS



FIELD TRIP TO THE WILLIAM PINCH MINERAL COLLECTION

Field Trip to the William Pinch Mineral Collection

By Larry Huffman

On Saturday October 22 the Rochester Lapidary Society of Rochester, NY hosted a tour of the William Pinch mineral collection. We were greeted by our gracious host, Bill Pinch, and ushered into his beautiful library with his many thousands of books and periodicals on all aspects of the mineral/lapidary world. Before going to view his mineral collection, Bill told of his history of working for the Ward Mineral Co. of New York and how, as a buyer for them, that he was one of the first into the USSR to export their minerals. He also shared about his many trips to Africa especially to Namibia, specifically to the Tsumeb Mine. In addition, Bill was also one of the first to export from China.

Bill has many publications to his credit, and has given his name to the The Pinch Medal for the Advancement of Mineralogy. The Award is given every other year and is awarded in Tucson at the annual show. He was one of the founders of the RLS and a life member. The oxyhalide mineral, [Pinchite](#), was named in his honor. Bill has in his worldwide collecting identified many new species.

We were then taken to the "Vault" below the library where Bill's second life-time collection is kept. His first collection was sold in 1997 to the Royal Ontario Museum of Toronto, Canada, and may be viewed there. What made that collection particularly unique is that every specimen in it was either the best ever found for the species or nearly the best. He also had a remarkably large number of type specimens. Subsequent to selling that collection, he started over and now has another collection of similar quality, but many of the rare species in the earlier collection are no longer available. Words cannot describe this amazing collection. The most complete collection of the Tsumeb mine, Namibia area minerals is only one small part of the collection. The three highlights of the tour were seeing the Pinchite specimen (the only one he did not sell to the Royal Ontario Museum) and seeing his fabulous specimen of Andyrobertsite, whose picture has graced the cover of the Mineralogical Record and is valued at over \$500,000.00. The third highlight was his display case after case of minerals from China.

Every serious mineral collector should have on their "bucket" list, if given the opportunity, to view either one of Bill's two world famous mineral collections and meet William Pinch in person to glean a bit of this infinite knowledge of the Mineral world.

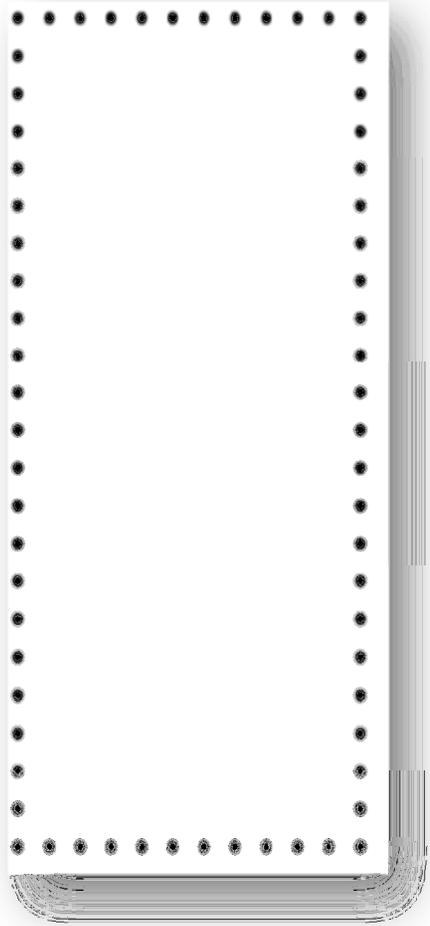


Photos Taken by: Larry Huffman

Photos (Left to Right): Andyrobertsite, William Pinch Library, William Pinch with Pinchite



First Class Mail



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Club Meeting

**Tuesday
January 10, 2017
7:00 PM**

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

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