

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

SEPTEMBER 2019

Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

2019 Officers and Committees

President: Slade Harvin
252-702-7299
Vice President: Rick Glover
828-446-7633
Treasurer: Terry Russell
828-303-1563
Secretary: Dean Russell
828-303-1448

Editor: Slade Harvin
252-702-7299
Field Trip: George Brown
828-292-7407
Education: George Max
828-328-9107

Show Chairman: Dean Russell
828-303-1448
Scholarship: George Max
828-328-9107
Eastern Federation: Larry Huffman
828-612-4469
Liaison: Larry Huffman
828-612-4469
Southeast Federation: Larry Huffman
828-612-4469
Liaison: Larry Huffman
828-612-4469

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, \$25; Individual, \$18;

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: Clip Art

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CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

<http://www.cvgmc.com>

Web Master: Mike Streater

A. Slade Harvin, Editor
4971 Old River Drive
Hickory, NC 28602

sharvin@thewootencompany.com

President's Message

Fall is starting to look like it is on its way.

For those that did not go to Kentucky for the field trip, I hope you will consider going next year.

With the cooler weather approaching it is time to begin gearing up for digging.

Actually it is always a good time to be gearing up for digging or rock and mineral related items.

At least now it is beginning to get cooler.

Enjoy the time and make sure that you have fun.

We hope to see everyone at the September meeting.

Slade

Safety Matters – A Numbers Game By: Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Perhaps you may have heard about the questions of vaccinations and having sufficient coverage to insure the safety of the “herd” effect. Being safe is sometimes a matter of numbers. What is the likelihood of a particular tree being struck by lightning? Or, the likelihood of a mailbox being taken out by a car careering out of control on slippery roads? Or, the likelihood of toast landing on the floor—butter side up? What are the odds? What are the numbers?

With much of the rockhound safety an important number is the number one. One person is usually the one working in the basement lapidary workshop. One person is usually the one working with the hazardous rock cleaning chemistries out in the garage. One person is sometimes the one going on the field trip to the new site.

How does the one protect him- or herself? Well, have you ever heard of the instance where the person pattering upstairs has a sudden thought, “Hmmm, sure is quiet down in our basement shop. It sounds a little too quiet. I think I’ll wander down and see how things are going for her.” In this case the number is two. There is another person involved with the safety of the other. What if there wasn’t the other? Well, there is always reliance on being familiar with all workshop safety parameters, have a cell phone for emergency communications, have a med kit nearby, know and respect one’s limits and abilities, and so on. Still, having the number 2 is a great backup.

With chemistries one can, with remarkable ease, encounter a situation of breathing too many fumes. One way to be safe would be to understand that pilots, surgeons, astronauts, and rockhounds use checklists. Why would a thoroughly trained professional use a checklist? Because they are a thoroughly trained professional. Please give serious consideration to having and using checklists when working around hazardous chemistry.

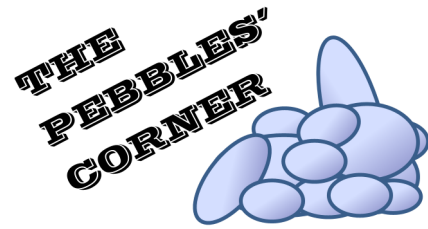
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One person can be safe on a field trip if one is prepared. But even with the best preparation it is wise to have a number two. The number two in this case will be a person who has information about the one's destination, route (especially when there are several ways to enter the collecting site), anticipated time of return, cell phone number, and any other information that might be useful in an emergency, such as meds.

A herd is not necessary in most rockhound activities, although, the one should make doubly sure to do everything possible to be safe. It is often not merely a matter of numbers to be safe. It's a matter of guidelines, understanding, patience, practice, common sense, thoughtfulness, care, attention, preparedness. Is that all? Well, almost. There is one more. There is also a need to respect your abilities and limits.

By all the numbers, your safety matters.



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.

I welcome any information a member may wish to provide to be included in the upcoming newsletters each month, especially related to items that would be of interest to our younger and aspiring rockhounds.

The weather is starting to get cooler! This month may be a good time to get outside with someone for some fun rock related activities.

It is time to enjoy the weather that is getting nicer.

Try to plan a trip to go collecting, hiking, do some photography, maybe even sort or clean some rocks from previous trips (not that anyone would have any).

Try to invite someone with you to go such as a younger kid or someone new to the hobby.

This is a good time to help teach them about the hobby and have a fun day. It is even a good safety practice to not go alone.

- Try to find a unique shaped rock
- Find a cloud that looks like a rock
- Look for a neat pattern in a rock
- Arrange/make patterns or shapes with rocks for someone to find after you
- Enjoy the fresh air and be thankful to be alive

Hint: There are lots of things to be done that you can tie to rocks and minerals.

Make sure you have fun. Rock on!

Be safe so another trip can be enjoyed!

And have fun!

Until next time.....

Slade

Field Trip

The September field trip will be discussed at the meeting. This will be a trip associated with the Dixie Mineral Council.

Program

The program for the September meeting will be about the Labor Day Trip. This will be an overview of the past trip to Kentucky facilitated by Slade.

We look forward to seeing everyone.

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC. - MINUTES

The August 13, 2019 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Slade H. at 7:00 PM.

Introduction of New Members and Guest: Guests – Nicole Dunham, John Arney.

Minutes: Motion by Phillip M., seconded by Terry R. to accept the minutes for the July 9, 2019 meeting. The motion was passed by the Club membership.

Treasurer Report: Bank balance was reported.

Education Committee: None.

Show Committee: Contracts to be sent out to vendors shortly.

Field Trip Report:

- 1) Kentucky trip
- 2) No Dixie Mineral Club (DMC) trip in August, but one in September.
- 3) EFMLS is looking into starting a collecting club like DMC.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- 1) Forsyth Club (Winston-Salem) is holding their auction on August 24, 2019.

Announcements: August 29, 2019, the Bolick family is having an estate sale from 6-8 PM for CVGMC members.

Closing of Business: The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM

Program: "Pot-Luck Digging"

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Russell, Secretary

The examples we set for the kids around us are profound. Whether it's our own kids, the neighbors kids, the playground kids, the kids in the grocery store, or the kids on our field trips, kids are watching what we adults do.

Have you every taken note of the oft-repeated safety message recited by airline flight attendants just prior to take off? There is a section in their message about loss of cabin pressure and the resulting need to take the now-dangling-infront-of us oxygen masks, pull them out to straighten (un-kink) them and, place the masks on our faces. After we are wearing the masks, we are then directed to place them on the kids traveling with us. There is a reason why we are told to place them on our faces first before placing them on the kids faces. When a kid sees the mask on us first, they will understand that it is safe and right thing for them to do as well. Like it or not, for better or worse, we set the examples kids learn to adopt.

Just as with aircraft safety, field trip safety is important and if adults set a good example, it can make an impression on kids. Kids will mimic, adopt, accept, follow and learn from the examples we set. Safety issues are no exception to that essential nature of kids.

Kids, for the most part, want to grow up, be adults, and do the things adults do. If we, as responsible adults, set good examples that pathway to adulthood will be that much safer for the child. On the next rock collecting adventure, think about putting your proper footwear on first, wearing your safety goggles first, placing gloves on your hands first. On our upcoming rock collecting outings please mind where you toss your leaverite, mind how you use your collecting tools, pay attention to how we interact with our fellow rockhounds -- the kids are watching.

Now, even if the kids are hundreds of feet away from where we are working kids will do what they do best. The curious nature of kids and the little sponges in their heads will absorb the sights of our actions, the words we speak, and take note of our behavior. Even without your being aware, kids are watching us -- that is their nature.

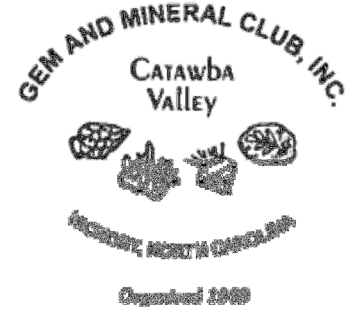
What if the kids around us are far away from our location, too far away to see the details of whether or not we are wearing safety glasses? Should the adults in such an instance let their guard drop and dismiss wearing goggles, or gloves, or using proper tool technique? Well, adults are just grown up kids and we need to protect ourselves too!

Also, please consider this -- by our setting a good example, the parents of the kids around us will have a much easier time teaching kids the right things to do because everyone around the kids will be doing the right things -- what a great relief for a parent of young children! It's no fun for a parent to have to keep saying to their child, "No, don't do what they are doing." or "No, that guy over there is not following the safety rules for the trip."

Be safe, act safe, set a safe example, and see the smiles. Be safe 'cause your safety matters.

First Class Mail

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Slade Harvin, Editor
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Hickory, North Carolina 28603-2521
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Club Meeting

Tuesday

September 10, 2019

7:00 PM

St Aloysius Catholic Church

921 2nd St NE

Hickory, NC