Mineral of the Month

Amber

Baltic amber inclusions - Ant - About 7 mm long. Alternate amber with fingers cropped slightly, keeping a 2:3 aspect ratio.

Anders L. Damgaard - www.amber-inclusions.dk - Baltic-amber-beetle. Original uploader was AmericanXplorer13 at en.wikipedia - This file was derived from: Baltic amber inclusions - Ant (Hymenoptera, Formicidae) 8.JPG. Transferred from en.wikipedia; transferred to Commons by User: Common Good using CommonsHelper. (Original text: Work of Baltic-amber-beetle)
PRESIDENTIALLY SPEAKING...

Rock club presidents generally write regular columns for the club newsletter. We enjoyed Carl Wells' columns for two years. If you were wondering why you haven't heard anything from me - well, I haven't had anything I particularly wanted to say.

Reflecting on my first four months, I've found that being President has been easier than I thought it would be. It keeps me busy, but there are so many things I don't have to worry about because I am surrounded by fiercely competent people. Who has to worry about our classes with Emie Stewart at the helm? From where I sit the lapidary shop seems to run by itself, but that's only because Barbara Maloney is there putting her heart into making it such a success. John Crabb handles all membership problems with aplomb and good humor. Gerald Pennington's newsletters are darn near perfect when I review them. (My only comment on last month's issue was that he had misspelled Gibbins. Gerald gently let me know that we don't use the ape spelling for our street. You'd think I would have noticed that by now.)

Lauren Smith and Jesse Baum in building management, Janet Gray with the Juniors, Stephen Bennett as our Treasurer, Anastasia Chaparro in the enormous job of Show Chair - the list goes on and on. I'm only stopping here because this would be an exeeceedingly long column if I listed all the amazing people who keep our club strong.

Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who make my job easier - and that is something I did particularly want to say!

Carrie
**Executive Committee**

**Committee Meeting:** 7:00 PM, Last Tuesday of the month

Committee members serve as unpaid volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering to fill a vacant position, please contact the President.

**Elected Officers (Voting)**

- President: Carrie Baum
- Secretary: Marlenia Cohen
- Treasurer - Finance: Stephen Bennett
- 1st Vice Pres. (Operational/Educational Classes): Emie Stewart
- 2nd Vice Pres. (Programs): Jesse Baum
- 3rd Vice Pres. (Field Trips): Billy Harris
- 4th Vice Pres. (Youth Programs): Janet Gray
- Delegate at Large (Ombudsperson): Ray Wilkes

**Appointed Positions (Voting)**

- Past President (Donations Chairperson): Carl Wells
- Bulletin (The Hound’s Tale) Editor: Gerald Pennington
- Show Chairperson: Anastasia Chaparro
- Lapidary Department Chairperson: Barbara Maloney
- Membership Chairperson: John Crabb

**Appointed Positions (Non-Voting)**

- Library Chairperson: Jacqueline Chirunga
- Building Chairpersons: Lauren Smith, Jesse Baum
- Hospitality Chairperson: Jackie Peel
- Welcome Chairpersons: Sandra Brazzale, Jan Schulte
- Constitution and By-Laws Chairperson: Karen Cessna
- Jewelry Making Chairperson: VACANT
- Long-Range Planning Chairperson: VACANT
- Parliamentary Procedure Chairperson: VACANT
- Historian Chairperson: VACANT
- Lost and Found: Ingrid Hoffens-Lantz

People interested in serving the club in these vacant positions, please contact President Carrie Baum.

**Operations Volunteers (Non-Voting)**

- Webmaster: Darcy Sety
- Sunshine: Marge Harrand
- Newsletter Mailing: Lois McCormick
- Grounds: Barbara Poplin
- Computer/Electronics Technology: Torre Quinn
- Website Software Development: Darcy Sety
- International Gem and Jewelry: Joyce Speed
- AKS Shows: Kris Galbraith

**The Hound’s Tale**

Published monthly by the Arlington Gem and Mineral Club.

**Ads and Articles**

Lapidary related ads and articles from members of AGMC are welcomed. They will be placed on a space available basis, first in first out. Include your name and contact information. Send ads and articles to the editor at our web site: http://www.agemclub.org, click on “CONTACTS” (upper right), then, on the next page click on “Hound’s Tale Editor” (bottom center). Alternatively, you can send them to GeraldinDallas@gmail.com.

**Deadline date for ads and articles is the 15th of the month.**
Since the screening of 'Jurassic Park', interest in the mineral amber has grown significantly. Unfortunately so has the quantity of fake amber coming on to the market. Some of these pieces have insect inclusions skillfully placed in the body of the matrix. The British Natural History Museum recently discovered that a bee preserved in amber thought to be one of the oldest known examples of this particular species was in fact a fake and probably no more than 150 years old. (More of this bee later). Evidence of this nature; that even the best can be fooled should alert all collectors to the possibility of being misled or simply cheated. In some cases copal, which is tree resin which has not yet fully fossilized to amber and may be anything up 3-4 million years old is described as true amber. Debate still rages in the UK about certain Kenyan deposits as to whether they should be called copal or amber and I have heard of similar arguments concerning deposits found in South America.

There are a number of simple tests which can be carried out on amber to check its authenticity. I have listed here all the basic methods I have come across. More sophisticated and complex tests are possible but they require access to laboratory equipment. These more complex tests include: Refraction Index, Precise Specific Gravity and Melting Point. When examining a specimen you should try at least 3 of the following methods detailed here. If the item in question fails any one of the tests, it could well mean the piece is not true amber.

**HARDNESS** Amber has a hardness on Mohs scale in the region of 2 - 3. Using appropriate scratch sticks it should be reasonably straightforward to test the sample under question.

**HOT NEEDLE** Heat a needle point in a flame until glowing red and then push the point into the sample for testing. With copal the needle melts the material quicker than amber and emits a light fragrant odor. Amber when tested does not melt as quickly as the copal and emits sooty fumes.

**SOLUBILITY** Copal will dissolve in acetone. This test can be done by dispensing the acetone from an eye dropper onto a clean surface of the test specimen. Place one drop on the surface of the test piece and
allow to evaporate, then place a second drop on the same area. Copal will become tacky, amber will remain unaffected by contact with acetone.

**UV LIGHT** Copal under a short-wave UV light shows hardly any color change. Amber fluoresces a pale shade of blue.

**FRICTION** Rub the specimen vigorously on a soft cloth. True amber may emit a faint resinous fragrance but copal may actually begin to soften and the surface become sticky. Amber will also become heavily charged with static electricity and will easily pick up small pieces of loose paper.

**TASTE** This test was introduced to me by an antique trader who specialized in amber beads. She explained that one of the most reliable tests she used was to taste the amber specimen after washing it in mild soapy water and then plain water. Whilst she could make no distinction between copal and amber, she could easily identify plastics and other common substitutes because of their unpleasant or chemical taste. Amber has hardly any taste at all. As a method for identification I have not seen this procedure recorded elsewhere. I can vouch for its effectiveness as a nondestructive method of differentiating between amber and certain other substances often misleadingly labeled amber.

**FLOTATION** (Specific Gravity) Mix 23gms of standard table salt with 200ml of luke warm water. Stir until completely dissolved. Amber should float in such a mixture and some copals together with various plastics sink.

**INCLUSIONS** Infrequently amber contains Flora or Fauna inclusions. Correctly identifying the trapped Insect or plant should be an excellent indicator of a piece’s authenticity. Most inclusions from ancient amber are of species which are now extinct or significantly changed.

**POLARIZED LIGHT** Place the suspect piece of amber between two sheets of polarizing glass or plastic. (Kokin Filter Systems which sell lens accessories for cameras sell such products). Rotate one of the polarizing lenses slowly through 360 degrees. In the body of the amber a display of rainbow colors should cycle through the transparent parts of the material. This is due to interference patterns being induced in the polarized light because of the internal strains and stresses within the amber itself. My general experience with this method is that genuine amber and copal always show these color changes, where as some acrylics, polymers and certain plastic do not. Amber which has been drilled and then later filled with a contemporary inclusion and resin also reveals its self via the clear disruption of the color display. Essentially; an amber piece which does not show interference patterns is unlikely to be true amber. Anyone wishing to find out more about amber in general or these test methods specifically would do well to consult one of three books currently available on amber, they are:


Now back to the bee I mentioned earlier. I am afraid that only the eighth and ninth tests would have identified this particular fake. The item consisted of a block of true amber into which had been drilled a hole large enough to receive the dead bee. Resin which had been melted was then poured back over the insect, encasing it in an apparently genuine amber prison.

Field Trips of the Dallas Paleontological Society & others
(You may need to be a member in order to participate in these field trips.)

June 6th, Gore, Oklahoma
Bad weather has plagued the last two scheduled fieldtrips to Gore so we will try, once more, in hopes the sun will shine on this year’s endeavor. The quarry is Pennsylvanian Age, Morrowan Stage. This is the very earliest Pennsylvanian.
What will you find? Blastoids (the real attraction at this quarry) also occasional crinoids, Paleozoic shark teeth, brachiopods, corals and other invertebrates. Pollym@airmail.net 903-916-0083. Check the hotline 817-355-4693 ahead of any event for any last minute changes.

July 11th Sherman Creeks - Shark Tooth Fieldtrip
A Cretaceous shark tooth trip. Fieldtrip leader Roger Farish. rfarish@verizon.net Check the hotline 817-355-4693 ahead of any event for any last minute changes.

July 31 – August 7, DGMS Colorado Trip
The Dallas Gem & Mineral Society is hosting this trip to South Fork, Creede, Del Norte, Silverton, Salida, and other local field trip sites in Colorado. Website with information: http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org/2015-colorado-field-trip/
Please email Gerald Pennington if you are planning to attend. GeraldinDallas@gmail.com

August 15th Oliver Creek
This is a very family friendly fieldtrip offering assorted echinoids and ammonites....
Leader Roger Farish. rfarish@verizon.net
Check the hotline 817-355-4693 ahead of any event for any last minute changes.

Local Area Club Meetings

Dallas Gem & Mineral Society, 10205 Plano Rd, off of Plano Rd, Dallas, TX, meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm
Dallas Paleontological Society, EMGI (Bldg. H, Brookhaven College, 3939 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch, TX 75244), 2nd Wednesday each month at 7:30 pm
Farmers Branch Senior Center, Rock & Mineral Club, 14055 Dennis Lane, Farmers Branch, TX 75234, meets the first Thursday of each month from 10am - noon. NO FEES FOR THIS CLUB!
Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft Worth, TX, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm
Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club, 3300 Bryant Irvin Road, Fort Worth, TX 76109, meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm (Note: These meetings may be relocated or delayed due to construction at club site)
Oak Cliff Gem & Mineral Society, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Kiest Blvd., Dallas, TX, 75233, 4th Tuesday each month at 7 – 9:30pm
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, Garland Women’s Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland, TX meets the 1st Thursday each month at 7:30 pm
May 2, 2015, Turritella Hunt, McGregor, Texas
Photos courtesy of Donald Whitney

Billy shows off his polished Texas Turritella

Pam’s big find

Rock Hunters at work

The road cut

Polished Texas Turritella
2015 Arlington Jewelry, Gem & Mineral Show

Arlington Gem and Mineral Club's (AGMC) 58th Annual 2015 "Jewelry, Gem, and Mineral Show" on Saturday, June 13th, 10am-6pm, and Sunday, June 14th, 10am-5pm at the Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 South Main Street, Grapevine, TX 76051. Adults-$6; seniors & children under 12-$3; all military with ID and scouts in uniform-free admission. Raffles...door prizes...silent auction...children's activities...vendor/artists...jewelry making classes...memberships

Our Show Chairperson, Anastasia Chaparro, has found another way to promote our annual show through Pinterest. Please take a look at this Pinterest Board and invite your friends to look at the board as well. It shows our vendors, the address of the show and admissions. There is also a coupon for $1.00 off. https://www.pinterest.com/mysticalnotes/2015-arlington-jewelry-gem-mineral-show/

Bench Tips, By Brad Smith

SMALL PARTS CONTAINERS

I'm always on the lookout for small containers to use for holding all those little parts and tools we deal with in making jewelry, especially since I'm always traveling to classes and workshops. My latest find are some plastic vials about 15 mm in diameter and 75 mm long. Best part is they are free. The vials are used in the doctor's office to draw blood samples. They cannot be used after their expiration date, and are thrown out. On my last doctor visit, I asked the nurse if they had any expired vials. She replied "How many do you want?" and tried to give me 400 of them. (We settled on 200). The ones I have are called "Vacutainers", but there are probably many other names. They are clear plastic with a rubber stopper and a paper label all ready to write on. I find them really handy for small parts like jump rings, prong settings, small drills, nuts & bolts, faceted stones, and precious metal filings.

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TRY A TOOTHPICK

The round, stronger toothpicks have a multitude of uses on the jewelry bench. I use them for mixing epoxy resin, for applying paste solder, and with Zam for polishing in tight spots. Toothpicks are also handy for holding the stone while stone setting. Just break off the sharp tip, mold a little beeswax over it, and press it onto the table of your stone.

Scenes from InterGem, April 2015

Janet, Randy, Katiri, Vicky

Kris & Delbert

John & Jesse

Sue Dale Miller

Lois & Stephanie

Grant & Janet
Lapidary Lab Schedule, June 2015
By Barbara Maloney

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>6/6/2015</td>
<td>1st Sat</td>
<td>Ray</td>
<td>8am-12pm</td>
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<td>6/9/2015</td>
<td>2nd Tues</td>
<td>Stephen</td>
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<td>6/11/2015</td>
<td>2nd Thurs</td>
<td>Randall</td>
<td>7pm-9pm</td>
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<td>6/16/2015</td>
<td>3rd Tues</td>
<td>Jesse</td>
<td>7pm-10pm (FREE evening)</td>
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<td>3rd Thurs</td>
<td>Jeremy</td>
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<td>6/20/2015</td>
<td>3rd Sat</td>
<td>Richard</td>
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<td>6/27/2015</td>
<td>4th Sat</td>
<td>Barbara</td>
<td>9am-12pm</td>
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Area Gem & Mineral Shows

Jun 13-14, 2015, Grapevine, Texas, Arlington Gem & Mineral Club, Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main Street.
Jun 25-26, 2015, Farmers Branch, Texas, Cowtown Gem, Mineral & Glass Society, Brookhaven College, 3939 Valley View Lane.

June 2015 Class News
By Emie Stewart, 1st VP (Classes)

Thank you for your interest in AGMC and its classes. All official class information and schedules can be found here and in the Class Schedule published monthly by Emie Stewart. Information received after the deadline will be announced at the monthly club meeting. Below are some of the new classes coming up, plus important general information about the classes and how to sign up.

Special Announcement: Competition and Displays for the Club Show:
As part of its annual gem and mineral show, AGMC is sponsoring competitions in the following media: silversmithing; wirewrapping; cabbing; fused glass; copper creations; chain making; and faceting. Each medium has one or more categories for entry, as defined in its rules. Each category has specific rules that the entries must comply with in order to be judged. This is an excellent way to get feedback on your work, and I encourage you to enter. Rules can be found on the club’s website at www.agemclub.org. Entries should be turned in to Rene Crouch on Friday during show setup.

Back by popular demand, AGMC is once again offering a special competition for its silversmithing instructors. This competition will be judged by Jurgen Maerz (who is also judging the general silversmithing competition). Silversmithing instructors may enter any piece that they have made, in any metal, using any fabrication techniques. The piece must be primarily fabricated. No casting, PMC, or wire wrapping is allowed in this category. Entries will be evaluated at a high professional standard intended to help the instructors continue to improve their skills so they can
Entries will receive confidential written critique from Jurgen, but there will be no scoring or ribbons awarded. This is another excellent opportunity to receive feedback from a classically-trained master jeweler with over 50 years of experience. All silversmithing instructors are encouraged to enter. Entries for this competition ONLY should be turned in to Emie Stewart either during show set up on Friday or before. All other entries should be turned in to Rene Crouch.

Everyone is encouraged to show off their work or collections by creating a display case for the show. The club has numerous lighted display cases that you can check out from Jesse Baum. You will need to provide your own lock, and all display items including backdrops and props. Cases need to be set up on Friday during the show set up hours, and taken down after the show closes on Sunday. Displays can be something you have made, works in progress, educational, and/or collections that are related to AGMC and its purpose. Individuals or groups can go in together to make a display case.

**New Classes:**
Katiri Peters will be teaching a wax working class on Wednesday, June 3, from 1 – 4, followed by a casting lab on Thursday night, June 4, from 7 – 10, and a pour on Saturday, June 6, from 9 – noon. Please check the signup sheets if you are interested.

On June 20 and 27, Katiri will also teach two separate one-day classes on intermediate wire wrapping from 1 – 4 pm. Please check the signup sheets if you are interested.

Jurgen Maerz will return on July 18 and 19 to teach a workshop on fabricating a basket setting for a pear-shaped stone, and then setting the stone. Signups will be at the June meeting. This class is limited to those who have completed the silversmithing program or who are currently enrolled in advanced silversmithing. The **non-refundable** instructor fee of $150 is due at signup.

On Saturday, July 25, from 1 – 4, Bob Boyd will be teaching a workshop on turquoise. It will be lecture and discussion, rather than any actual cutting. Bob will cover what turquoise is and where it can be found, turquoise quality and variety, types of treatments (and fakes), what to look for when buying turquoise, pricing, and different mines and the characteristics of turquoise from those mines. Signups will be at the June meeting.

**AGMC Facebook Page:** The club’s Facebook page has over 450 fans, many of whom are not even members! Visit the page regularly to see what’s new, and “Like” it and “Share” it with your Facebook friends. This is free advertising for the club and its annual show.

**PROGRAMS**
By Jesse Baum, 2nd V.P.

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 2015</td>
<td>Ice Cream Social</td>
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<td>July 2015</td>
<td>Speaker from the Perot Museum</td>
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<td>August 2015</td>
<td>Septarian Nodule Presentation</td>
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<td>September 2015</td>
<td>Sri Lankan Gem Mine Presentation</td>
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<td>October 2015</td>
<td>Club Auction</td>
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<td>November 2015</td>
<td>MANDATORY Safety Meeting</td>
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<td>December 2015</td>
<td>Voting Day</td>
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<td>January 2016</td>
<td>To Be Decided</td>
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AGMC June 2015 Class Schedule
By Emie Stewart, 1st VP (Classes)

SPECIAL WORKSHOPS:
Wax Working: Build-up Method
Wednesday, June 3, 1-4 PM  Instructor: Katiri Peters

Casting Lab
Thursday, June 4, 7-10 PM: Investing  Instructor: Katiri Peters
Saturday, June 6, 9-noon: Pour  Instructor: Katiri Peters

Wirewrapping: Intermediate Spiral Bracelet
Saturday, June 20, 1-4 PM  Instructor: Katiri Peters

Wirewrapping: Intermediate Straight Wire Bracelet
Saturday, June 27, 1-4 PM  Instructor: Katiri Peters

ONGOING CLASSES:
Cab Class
1st Saturday, 1-4 PM  Instructor: Ray Wilkes
2nd Tuesday, 7-10 PM  Instructor: Stephen Bennett
4th Tuesday, 9-noon  Instructor: Carl Wells
4th Wednesday, 9-noon  Instructor: Andre Meyer
4th Saturday, 1-4 PM  Instructor: Barbara Maloney

Beginning Fused Glass
Sundays, 1-5 PM  Instructor: Janet Gray

Glass Fusing Labs
2nd & 3rd Tuesdays, 7-10 PM  Instructor: Karen Cessna

Enameling Labs
2nd Saturdays, 1-5 PM: Due to the club show, June’s lab will be on June 6.
Instructors: Sue Poarch and Barbara Maloney

Faceting—cancelled for summer

Silversmithing
Beginning Silversmithing
Mondays, 7-10 PM  Instructors: Jayne Colburn/Diane Neal/John Alexander
Intermediate Silversmithing
Wednesdays, 7-10 PM  Instructor: Rotating; Class Assistant: Sue Bedell
Advanced Silversmithing
Fridays, 7-10 PM
Instructors: Emie Stewart/Marlena Cohen/John Crabb
Advanced Special Projects in Silversmithing for Alumni
Thursdays, 1-4 PM  Instructor: Emie Stewart
AGMC Tentative July 2015 Class Schedule

SPECIAL WORKSHOPS:
Fabricating a Basket Setting for a Pear-shaped Stone
Sat. & Sun., July 18-19, all day  Instructor: Jurgen Maerz

Working with Turquoise
Saturday, July 25, 1-4 PM  Instructor: Bob Boyd

ONGOING CLASSES:
Cab Class:
1st Saturday, 1-4 PM  Instructor: Ray Wilkes
2nd Tuesday, 7-10 PM  Instructor: Stephen Bennett
4th Tuesday, 9-noon  Instructor: Carl Wells
4th Wednesday, 9-noon  Instructor: Andre Meyer
4th Saturday, 1-4 PM  Instructor: Barbara Maloney

Faceting-cancelled for summer

Beginning Glass Fusing
Sundays, 1-5 PM  Instructor: Janet Gray

Glass Fusing Lab
2nd & 3rd Tuesdays, 7-10 PM  Instructor: Karen Cessna

Enameling Labs
2nd Saturdays, 1-5 PM  Instructors: Sue Poarch and Barbara Maloney

Silversmithing
Beginning Silversmithing
Mondays, 7-10 PM  Instructors: Jayne Colburn/Diane Neal/John Alexander

Intermediate Silversmithing
Wednesdays, 7-10 PM  Instructors: Rotating; Class Assistants: Sue Bedell

Advanced Silversmithing
Fridays, 7-10 PM  Instructor: Emie Stewart/Marlenia Cohen/John Crabb

Advanced Special Projects in Silversmithing for Alumni
Thursdays, 1-4 PM  Instructor: Emie Stewart

NEW DATE!!  FREE PARKING!!
58th Annual ARLINGTON GEM AND MINERAL CLUB
JEWELRY, GEMS, AND MINERALS GALORE
GRAPEVINE CONVENTION CENTER
1209 SOUTH MAIN
GRAPEVINE, TEXAS
10 AM TO 6 PM - SATURDAY JUNE 13 AND
10 AM TO 5 PM - SUNDAY JUNE 14

www.agemclub.com  *Grand Prize Drawing  *Hourly Door Prizes
*Hourly Silent Auctions  *Gem Identification
*Kids Activities  *Demonstrations
*Class Information  *Special Admissions
*Free Parking with this card  $1.00 off regular admission with this card
Thanks to the efforts of Harold Hoskison and myself, we now have a new carriage motor for saw two. I’m also exploring getting a new old stock motor for saw three from A1 Motors. If everyone keeps sending out good thoughts and prayers for the saw and cabbing room, we might have ALL the saws and other equipment fully functional soon!!

I would like to add a note about the enamellers, we don’t have a regular forum, so I’ll include it in my letter to you. Thanks to Linden Blackmon, Sue Poarch, and Helen Vaught for contributing pieces for our enamel showcase. Hopefully we will have a nice display of several different techniques to pique the interest of all that view it. Also a huge thank you to Sue Poarch for her demonstration and mini-class on hot raking fired enamels. It was a blast! I am still hoping to get Joyce and Delbert Speed to teach a class in torch fired enamel beads. It is also a lot of fun! I know that Sue and I haven't been able to offer a beginners class in a long time. If you want to enamel, please try to come to one of our workshops and we will do our best to get you started. Hopefully this summer we can offer a beginners class at least once.

One other topic I would like to bring up is the silent auction. We have had only two meetings and already have 354 pieces bagged and tagged for the show. My deepest thanks to Meghann Hanson, Sue Poarch, Rene Crouch, and Jesse Baum for all their help. We have had some interesting and funny finds while doing this very necessary job. Just take a look at the pictures of Rene having a stone cold “sandwich”! The other picture might be the “butt” of a lot of jokes!
JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS NEWS
By Janet Gray, 4th VP (Youth Programs)

Juniors, Grant, Gabriel, Michael, Andrew, Vivian, and Seth, served hot dogs, Brats, chips, sodas, coffee, cupcakes, and cookies, at the Parking lot sale for the Club on May 9th. Great fun was had by all. The little red carts made many trips up and down the parking lot to deliver orders to members. Gabriel’s Mother, Cheryl, and Janet’s Husband assisted and took the money, while Janet Gray did the cooking.

Grant Brake, AGMC Junior, demonstrating Bead Knotting at the Shows.

Grant is playing with one of his purchases from the kids at Martin Baptist Church.

Grant Brake, AGMC Junior, displaying Jewelry he has made at the Show
Debbie Savage takes 1st Place in Las Vegas Competition

Lois and son, Tommy, McCormick attended the Glass Craft & Bead Expo in Las Vegas this year and are happy to report that another club member, Debbie Savage, was there also. Debbie had a unique glass dress entered in the competition: Wearable Black Iridized Bustier, skirt and derby hat.

Multi patterned and textured black iridized glass pieces by the hundreds make up the black bustier. These are fused together then slumped on a handmade mold. The straps, which cross at the back of the neck and clasp near the waist, are iridized on black glass rectangles with contrasting colors of iridized diamond shaped pieces in the middle. This creates a provocative backless garment. The skirt is 33 fleur-de-lis, 11 each of 3 different sizes. These are cast glass pieces that were iridized in a second firing. The fleur-de-lis are joined with gold tone metal bars with black iridized diamond shapes matching the straps on the bustier. Gold tone chain ties the pieces together. The outfit is topped off with a black derby hat with black and gold tone goggles and iridized black fleur-de-lis. This outfit is fully functional. You can actually wear it and sit down in it.

At the Glass Craft and Bead Expo in Las Vegas the contest divisions were professional, amateur and student. The contest categories were stained glass, mosaics, fused and kiln cast glass, cold working, and jewelry and beads.

My piece named "Haute Glass" won 1st Place and also the People’s Choice Award for professional fused and kiln cast glass.
DRILL PRESS: A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted part which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

WIRE WHEEL: Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, "What the...?!"

ELECTRIC HAND DRILL: Normally used for spinning pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age.

SKILL SAW: A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

PLIERS: Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

BELT SANDER: An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

HACKSAW: One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

VISE-GRIPS: Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

WELDING GLOVES: Heavy-duty leather gloves used to prolong the conduction of intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

OXYACETYLENE TORCH: Used almost entirely for lighting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub you want the bearing race out of.

TABLE SAW: A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK: Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new brake shoes, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.

EIGHT-FOOT LONG YELLOW PINE 2X4: Used for levering an automobile upward off of a trapped hydraulic jack handle.

E-Z OUT BOLT AND STUD EXTRACTOR: A tool ten times harder than any known drill bit that snaps neatly off in bolt holes, thereby ending any possible future use.

BAND SAW: A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to cut good aluminum sheet into smaller pieces that fit more easily into the trash can after you cut on the inside of the line instead of on the outside edge.

TWO-TON ENGINE HOIST: A tool for testing the maximum tensile strength of everything you forgot to disconnect.

CRAFTSMAN 1/2 x 24-INCH SCREWDRIVER: A very large pry bar that inexplicably has an accurately machined screwdriver tip on the end opposite the handle.

AVIATION METAL SNIPS: See hacksaw.

PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER: Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids and for opening old-style paper and tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.
STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER: A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws.

PRY BAR: A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50-cent part.

HOSE CUTTER: A tool used to make hoses too short.

HAMMER: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit.

MECHANIC’S KNIFE: Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on contents such as seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines, refund checks, and rubber or plastic parts. Especially useful for slicing work clothes, but only while wearing them.

BENCH SANDER: Electric tool used to turn major refinishing projects into sawdust. Secondary uses are removing ridges from knuckles and all traces of grooves on fingers.

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ARLINGTON GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Date: May 5, 2015, General Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: President Carrie Baum called the meeting to order at 7:30.

Secretary’s report - Marlenia Cohen - Minutes from last month were posted on the bulletin board, and are included in the Hound’s Tale.

Treasure’s Report: Steve Bennett – We are solvent. Royalties from our oil and gas lease were received.

Classes - Emie Stewart –

- Lapidary class signup sheets are in the hallway next to the restrooms. Other classes are on bulletin boards at the front of the meeting room. Look for attachments behind the signup sheets.
- Stephen Bennett will be teaching Polishing Amber, May 21 from 7-10 PM.
- Janet Gray will be teaching Beginning Fused Glass, starting Sunday the 31st. The class runs for 13 weeks.
- Due to the show next month, the Enameling Lab will move to June 6, 1-3 PM.
- Katiri Peters will be teaching Wax Build Up and Casting, Wednesday June 3, Thursday June 4 investing, and Saturday June 6 casting.
- Two new wire wrapping classes, Intermediate Saturday June 20, and Straight Beaded Bracelet Saturday June 27.
- In July Bob Boyd will be teaching.
- July 18-19 Jurgen Maerz will return.
- Other upcoming classes: Jack Spinks – Ethiopian Opal, Jesse Baum – Tiger Eye, Frank Krystinik – Australian Opal, and Sam Howeth – Gold Recovery.
- Our Facebook page has 433 fans. Like us, and forward articles, to help advertise our show. If you have content for the club page, please send it to Emie Stewart.
- The next Advanced Silversmithing class will start in October.
Programs – Jesse Baum – Tonight we are discussing show related needs. Next month will be our second annual Ice Cream Social. In July, we will have someone from the Perot Museum.

Juniors – Janet Gray – Handouts are available with information for the Swap Meet and the show. We have a long list of how to help juniors at the show. Some examples include: mining in a swimming pool; rocks with holes in them; the spinning wheel needs balancing; donations for junior auction; helium balloons; supervise the painting contest.

For new members, the hot dogs at the Swap Meet are not free. A sack lunch will cost $5.

Janet Gray and Barbara Maloney are teaching youth classes at TCCD. Donations of glass scrap, or rocks, would be appreciated.

Field Trips – Billy Harris – The Arkansas trip has been moved to August. There will also be a trip to Colorado, August 1-6. A trip to Jasper, Texas is also in August.

Donations – Carl Wells – Two jars of Penny Brite from Carrie Baum. Also, Jesse Baum donated opals for the silent auction. We still do not have our non-profit status resolved.

Lapidary – Barbara Maloney – Harold Hoskison helped with saw number 2.
- Saw number 3 is not being used due to overheating.
- On saws 9 and 10, the carriage feed is being tightened too much. Just lift up, don’t screw it down.
- The 14,000 diamonds were coming off, all brands. You may wish to use the Nova wheel.
- Remember to use the full surface of the wheels.
- If you see someone using the equipment incorrectly, tell the supervisor.

Delegate at Large – Ray Wilkes – We do not have a hospitality person working tonight, so please take home anything you brought.

Building Committee – Jesse Baum and Lauren Smith –
- Getting roof estimates. Will meet with insurance claims adjuster.
- Have been caulking the gaps in the walls.
- We now have five people on the building committee.
- Megan Hansen, Shaye Crouch, Jesse Baum and Barbara Maloney worked on a major garage cleanup.

Membership – John Crabb – We have 309 members.

Sunshine Report – Marge Harrand – Three sympathy cards were sent to: Tony Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Sorenson, and Mrs. Gerald Gideon.

Stevan Alcala’s display will be at the presented at our show.

Swap Meet – Jack Spinks - There is a 60% chance of rain. Those with pop up tents will make the best sales, because everyone will run under your tent if it rains. You must bring your own tables. We can park in the mosque parking lot.

Parking – The gates in the mosque parking lot open automatically when a car approaches to leave.

Volunteer Opportunities – Volunteers are needed to assist with the juniors during the show.

Old Business – The Executive Committee approved changes to the constitution. Carrie Baum read
through the changes during the meeting, and said that the full constitution and all changes would be emailed to the membership. We will vote on the changes at the next meeting. If anyone has issues with any of the changes, please contact Carrie as soon as possible.

**New Business** – Kris Galbraith – Demonstrators are needed for the AKS show in two weeks, May 15-17, at the Grapevine Convention Center. We will not be assisting with set up, just demonstrations.

Break

**Drawings/Raffle:**
- **Name Badge/Sign In:**
  - Deena Norfleet won a bag of beads.
  - Andiana Cruz won some moonstone chip beads.
  - Michael Napkori won some polished rocks.
- **Raffle:**
  - Frances Johnson won a glass cab.
  - Stephen Bennett won a slab of rainforest jasper.
  - Lauren Smith won some peacock ore.
  - Deena Norfleet won a Navajo arrow head.
  - Nadira Charaniya won an obsidian slab.
  - Lauren Smith won a jewelry box.
  - Stacy Hachtel won a half nodule of mystery rock.

**Show Report** – Anastasia Chaparro –
- The brochure will be emailed in a few weeks.
- We need to get the classes finalized for the fliers and Facebook. We will offer preregistration. If any teachers need signs made, or any other printing, that info is due by Friday.
- Items entered in the competition are due the morning of the show. Instructions are in the folder.
- Display boxes for exhibits can be checked out from Jesse Baum. There are three different sizes. You may wish to check out a box as you work on your display, to make sure your display will fit. The American Federation has information on exhibits on their website.
- There will be eight classes offered at the show: four on Saturday and four on Sunday.
- The Executive Committee approved giving Arlie bucks to teachers for their classes at the show.
- If instructors wish to set up a display in their classes, see Jesse Baum.
- The silent auction has 354 items bagged and tagged. We need volunteers to help bag and tag about 600+ more items.
- The silent auction needs a volunteer to help cover Noon to 1:30 PM, while Barbara Maloney and Sue Poarch teach an enameling class.
- The artist’s room has eight people signed up. If anyone is interested in demonstrating or selling their work, see Diane Neal.

The Meeting Adjourned at approximately 9:20 pm.

Submitted by:

Marlenia Cohen
Secretary AGMC