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1st Place, 2022 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2022 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

IT'S STILL HOT

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

I normally try to write a brief article about the hot summer months in May or June, but this year I have missed that target. However, there is still August to contend with. The National Weather Service advises that, in the DFW area, August is the hottest month of the year, with July a close second. I looked at the July data and, on average, it has been HOT. Until we get to the end of August, we will have to accept that it will be warmer by a small amount than July. Although the weather gets better in September, we can still have a few days that will be hot, even by Texas August standards.

June 21st was the date of the summer solstice – the longest day of the year. Have you ever wondered why June, is not the hottest month? It is the inertia of the atmosphere. It takes a while to warm things up. However, we didn't have to wait too long this year for it to get hot – July 7, 8, and 9 all had 100-degree daytime highs.

Everyone who will be working outside needs to be on the lookout for heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Be careful, as it is not just the heat – the humidity plays a big part too. Sweating is the body's natural way of trying to cool off – the evaporation of the sweat helps cool the body. However, if it is hot and the humidity is high, sweat will not evaporate to help cool you. The National Weather Service has developed a measurement that combines the effects of temperature and humidity called the Heat Index. It combines the effects of heat and humidity into an effective heat value. Rather than using temperature alone, you should use the Heat Index.

HEAT INDEX LOOKUP

	80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110
40	80	81	83	85	88	91	94	97	101	105	109	114	119	124	130	136
45	80	82	84	87	89	93	96	100	104	109	114	119	124	130	137	
50	81	83	85	88	91	95	99	103	108	113	118	124	131	137		
55	81	84	86	89	93	97	101	106	112	117	124	130	137			
60	82	84	88	91	95	100	105	110	116	123	129	137				
65	82	85	89	93	98	103	108	114	121	128	136					
70	83	86	90	95	100	105	112	119	126	134						
75	84	88	92	97	103	109	116	124	132							
80	84	89	94	100	106	113	121	129								
85	85	90	96	102	110	117	126	135								
90	86	91	98	105	113	122	131									
95	86	93	100	108	117	127										
100	87	95	103	112	121	132										

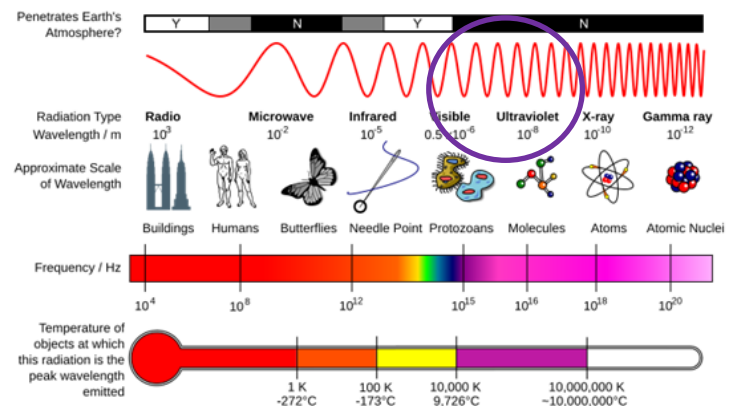
Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure and/or Strenuous Activity
 Caution Extreme Caution Danger Extreme Danger

Symptoms for heat exhaustion include dizziness, nausea, headaches, thirst, and increased sweating. If you notice any of the symptoms, you need to cool off. Shade helps; cooling off with cool wet towels also helps. Sitting in front of a fan or, even better, in the cool air from an air conditioner also helps. Hydration with water or sports drinks is a great idea. The symptoms for heat stroke (also called sun stroke), where the body temperature can exceed 105 degrees, are basically the same, except for the excessive sweating – the body starts shutting down and no longer tries to sweat. Depending on the severity, you may also experience unconsciousness. Treatment is basically the same, but with extreme steps. A cool shower or cool towels (especially on the head, chest, and groin) are called for. Trying to give an unconscious person a drink of water is not a great idea – an IV would be much safer. If you suspect a person (including yourself) is having a heat stroke, a call to 911 is in order.

The best way to beat heat exhaustion or heat stroke is to stay indoors in air-conditioned spaces. If you have to be outside, do work in moderation and take frequent breaks. A field trip to collect on a mountainside or even a flat field should be avoided, but if you must, plan to start collecting in the cooler morning hours and stop when it starts to get hot. Better yet, take a field trip to an indoor area like a museum or possibly even a cave. Outdoor field trips should be a spring or fall activity. There are cooler days in the summer that may allow outdoor activity, but even if the atmospheric conditions allow cooler temperatures, it may still result in a high Heat Index. Look at the chart on the first page for a temperature of 86 degrees and 80 percent humidity – the Heat Index is 105. You know how hot it is on a 105-degree day, but you can experience the same effective heat when your thermometer is reading only 86 degrees! You may contend that we don't get 80 percent humidity in Dallas, but on days when the thunderstorms are all around you or when a tropical storm is moving through the area, 80 percent humidity readings are common.

Cooler days are more frequent in the spring and fall, when outdoor activity is possible.

However, even on cool days, the sun can still get you. Have you ever gotten a sunburn on a cloudy day? I have, and it is just as bad as a sunny-day sunburn. Compared to visible light, the Ultraviolet (UV) rays responsible for sunburn have different absorption characteristics as they pass through the atmosphere. Clouds will at least dim the amount of light reaching the ground, but they let 80% to 100% of the UV waves through. Sunblock should be applied before you start outside work or hobby activities. Not only can the UV rays cause sunburn, but they can damage the skin. If you are experiencing skin cancers that your dermatologist is periodically removing, they are more attributable to the UV exposure you received as a youth. A good tan may help prevent sunburns, but it does not stop the UV from attacking the skin. If you are going to be outside, use sunblock.



Bench Tips for August

By Brad Smith, received by email with permission to reproduce

LAYOUT TOOLS

Dimensions on some features of a design can be fluid while others must be accurate for the design to work. When precision on a piece is important, good layout techniques are essential.

These are the tools that I rely upon to get holes in the right place, to achieve correct angles, and to cut pieces the correct length.



I like crisp, sharp lines to follow, so I often coat surfaces with a dark marker and scribe my layout lines onto the metal. A square makes quick work of checking right angles or marking where to cut, and the thin centerpunch helps me mark a place to drill holes exactly where I want them.

Finally, a good set of dividers is probably my favorite layout tool. They let me quickly mark a strip for cutting, swing an arc, and divide a line or curve into as many equal segments as I need. I keep at least one set of dividers in every toolbox.

SHINING UP YOUR CHAINS

After a usual polish, the best way to give your silver chains a great shine is to tumble them with steel shot.

In my classes, we used a mixture of different shapes of stainless steel shot in a rotary tumbler along with a half cup of water and a drop of soap. 30-45 minutes gives a great shine.

**See More of my Smart Solutions
for Jewelry Making at**

<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Check with show contact to verify show status

August 8-9, Baton Rouge, LA, Baton Rouge G&MS, Lamar Dixon Expo Center, <http://www.brgemandmineral.org/>
August 15-16, Bossier City, LA, ArkLaTex G&MS, Bossier Civic Center, <https://larockclub.com/show>

October 2-4, Westwego (New Orleans), LA, G&MS of Louisiana, Alario Center, <https://www.gmsofla.org/>
October 2-4, Albuquerque, NM, Jay Penn Albuquerque Show, NM Expo State Fairgrounds,
October 2-4, Austin, TX, Austin INTERGEM, Palmer Events Center, <https://www.intergem.com/all-upcoming-shows>
October 9-11, Grapevine, TX, Dallas INTERGEM, Gaylord Texan Resort, <https://www.intergem.com/all-upcoming-shows>
October 16-18, Houston, TX, Houston INTERGEM, Reliant Center, <https://www.intergem.com/all-upcoming-shows>

SCFMS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sigrid Stewart, from the July-August SCFMS Newsletter



Sigrid Stewart,
SCFMS President

Well, it's July, and we are all hiding from the sun. It is 100 degrees today, and most people are only outside if they can jump into pools! It is not a great season for rock hunts; you might say that it is kind of a shoulder season for clubs and shows, although both Ark-La-Tex and Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society have their shows in August. Most of us are waiting for fall, when the weather has a chance to cool off.

But... this is a great season to plan and prepare. It is time to start thinking about fall shows, particularly the SCFMS Convention on November 14th, which will be co-hosted by the Annual Houston Gem and Mineral Society Show, which runs November 13th-15th at the Humble Civic Center in Humble, Texas. For those who attend, please don't worry too much about traffic. I have reserved hotel rooms one mile away from the show. If you can get there, you'll be fine. We can even arrange for a shuttle.

There is still a long way to go to revitalize the SCFMS. We need volunteers for some of our committees. Those committees feed information and work into AFMS committees, so without strong local federations, we may not have a strong national federation.

The problems are many, including an aging population of rockhounds, but I am seeing a resurgence of younger people who are interested in getting their hands on real rocks and doing something with them. Don't give up! We can't let young people think that quartz is only found in Minecraft!

VISIT AN AREA CLUB

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX
[Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club](#), meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, CERA 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth
[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX
[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)
[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), meets the 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane,
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,
[Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Monday of each month at 6:00 pm, Knights of Columbus Hall, 3722 Cavalier Dr., Garland
[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Wild Beads, 1124 S. Bowen Road, Arlington, TX

OFFICERS FOR 2025 – 2026

President:	Joe Vulk
1st VP, Programs:	Amy Vulk
2nd VP, Field Trips:	Julie Wilson
Secretary:	Johnny Rhodes
Treasurer	Ling Shurtz
Editor	Don Shurtz

Contact us by email: don.shurtz@gmail.com

Minutes of Recent Meetings

July Meeting

Our July meeting was our annual BBQ Dinner at Spring Creek BBQ in Richardson. No club business was conducted; no minutes were required.

June Meeting

Call to Order: President Joe Vulk called the June 1, 2026, POGMC meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance: We recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Quorum: A quorum was present.

Visitors: None.

Minutes: There were no minutes from the May meeting since it was our annual Cinco de Mayo celebration; no business was conducted at the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Although the Treasurer's Report had been prepared, Ling was unable to locate the copies (Note: after the meeting, the reports were

located in her note case, but were upside down on the bottom of the stack.) The Treasurer's Report will be updated for the next business meeting.

Old Business: There was no old business

New Business:

The July meeting is our traditional Spring Creek BBQ meeting. Due to travel plans for key individuals taking them out of town for the scheduled Monday, July 6, 2026, it was decided to hold the dinner on July 1, 2026, at the Richardson Spring Creek BBQ location. We planned to meet at 6:30 PM and join the serving lines at 6:45. Without a motion, everyone agreed to the plan.

We also discussed the start time of our meetings. The scheduled start time is 6:00, but Don made a motion to move the start time to 6:30. After much discussion, we decided to leave the start time at 6:00. We will use the next 30 minutes for chatting, snacks, and waiting for stragglers. We will plan to start the business meeting at 6:30 PM. Don withdrew his motion.

Our Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Monday, August 3, 2026, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3722 Cavalier Drive, Garland, TX. We will start at 6:00 PM. The business meeting will start at 6:30, and the presentation will start at 7:00

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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of DALLAS



Meetings

We meet the first Monday of each month at 6:00 PM. We meet at the Knights of Columbus Council 6401 Hall, 3722 Cavalier Drive, Garland, TX 75402

Membership

Single Adult: \$16.50,
Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50
(Plus badge fee for new members)

PURPOSE

The Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas is organized for charitable and educational purposes to promote interest in the various earth sciences, particularly those hobbies dealing with the art of cutting and polishing gemstones, the science of gems, minerals, and metal crafts, as well as their related fields. Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas is a not-for-profit organization

CHIPS AND CHATTER

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club
c/o 4004 Dublin Rd.
Allen, TX 75002-6526

To

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Our next meeting will be on Monday, August 3rd, starting at 6:00. We will meet at the Knights of Columbus, Council 6402 Hall, 3722 Cavalier Drive, Garland, TX 75042. Our presentation will be a surprise.