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Affiliated: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



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1st Place, 2016 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin  
1st Place, 2015 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin

## January Birthstone: Garnet

The birthstone for January is Garnet. So how would one describe a garnet? The name comes from the Latin *granum* meaning grain or seed with reference to *mela granatum* or *pomum granatum* (pomegranate). The pomegranate seeds are a bright red and similar to some garnet crystals. So we have a nice, simple red stone, right? Actually, garnet is a group, not a single mineral. The major varieties are:

Pyrope ( $Mg_3Al_2Si_3O_{12}$ ),  
Almandine ( $Fe_3Al_2Si_3O_{12}$ ),  
Spessartine ( $Mg_3Al_2Si_3O_{12}$ ),  
Andradite ( $Ca_3Fe_2Si_3O_{12}$ ),  
Grossular ( $Ca_3Al_2Si_3O_{12}$ ),  
Uvarovite ( $Ca_3Cr_2Si_3O_{12}$ )

There are also other varieties with still different chemical formulas – Wikipedia list 14 other varieties.



color, thus there is some correlation with their name entomology.

Some garnets will exhibit asterism (star). Many of the garnets from Idaho's Emerald Creek area are known for their stars. The Idaho garnets that have stars are of the Almandine variety. The star garnet is the state gemstone for Idaho.

The Mohs hardness of the garnet group ranges from 6.5 to 7.5. This range is suitable for most all jewelry applications. In addition to use in jewelry, garnet is often used as an abrasive, particularly in sand paper (dry and wet use) and as a cutting agent in water jets. Garnet sand is also used for water filtration.

Garnets are mined at many locations throughout the world. Generally only one variety of

garnet is found in each location. In the U.S. we find pyrope, almandine, spessartine, andradite, and uvarovite garnets.

Reference:  
Idaho Gemstone Mining, <http://geology.com/>  
Gem Select, <http://www.gemselect.com/gem-info/>  
Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Picture:  
Spessartine Garnet and Mineral displayed at Perot Museum of Nature and Science by Don Shurtz

Star Garnet by Patellison42 from wikimedia, released to Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>



Garnets come in a wide spectrum of colors including red, orange, yellow, green, purple, brown, blue, black, pink, and colorless. The good news is that the majority of the stones are a reddish

## Show Calendar – Upcoming Show Dates

Jan 13 – 15, International Gem and Jewelry Show, Market Hall, <http://www.intergem.com/>

Jan 21 – 22, Fredericksburg, TX, Fredericksburg Rockhounds, Lady Bird Johnson Park, [gideonjim1@gmail.com](mailto:gideonjim1@gmail.com)

Jan 27 – 29, Tyler, TX, East Texas G&MS, Rose Garden Center, [Keithharmon19@yahoo.com](mailto:Keithharmon19@yahoo.com), etgms.com

Jan – FEB, Quartzite, AZ, numerous shows, see <http://www.desertusa.com/cities/az/quartzsite.html>

Jan 20 – 13 Feb, Tucson, AZ, numerous gem and mineral shows, see <http://www.tucsongemshows.net/coming.html>

Feb 18 – 19, Georgetown, TX, Williamson CO. G&MS, <http://www.wcgms.org/>

Feb 25 – 26, Pasadena, TX, Clear Lake G&MS, Pasadena Conv. Cntr, [temp3@mflan.com](mailto:temp3@mflan.com), [www.clgms.org](http://www.clgms.org)

Feb 25 – 26, Plainview, TX, Hi-Plains G&MS, Ollie Liner Cntr, [bobcat22@suddenlin.net](mailto:bobcat22@suddenlin.net)

Ref:

- November - December 2016 SCFMS Newsletter
- Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

## Carrot Caret, Carat, or Karat

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

All four of these words sound the same, so what is the difference? Let's start with the easy ones first.

- A carrot is a long, generally orange root vegetable that is consumed both raw and cooked.
- A caret is a punctuation mark (^) which indicates a place in a line of text where an additional word, phrase, or information is needed. Often the needed word or information is written above the line in a draft copy, thus an arrow pointing towards it is appropriate.

Now on to the ones we often used as rockhounds.

- A carat is a measure of weight. It is equal to 200 milligrams. Wouldn't you just know it is defined in terms of the metric system? If we want to think of it in terms of pounds and ounces, we can see that 5 carats would be 1000 milligrams or 1 gram, and 30 grams is approximately 1 ounce (actually it is 28.3495231 grams), so it would take about 150 carats to equate to 1 ounce. More accurately, 1 ounce equates to 141.748 carats, but 150 carats is just 5 % high! Carat is often abbreviated as "ct" or "cts".
- A karat is a common measurement for the fineness of gold where 24 karats represents pure, or 100% gold. As other metals are alloyed with gold, the karat drops. Silver and copper are the most common metals that are alloyed with gold, but nickel, zinc, aluminum, and tin show up in some gold types. 22 karat gold is about 91.7 % pure gold, 18 karat gold is 75% pure gold, 16 karat gold is about 66.7% pure gold, 14 karat gold is about 58.5% pure gold, and 10 karat gold is about 41.7% pure gold. The karat value of a type of gold is referred to in the singular tense, thus one would say 18 karat gold, not 18 karats gold. Karat is often abbreviated as "kt".

Question of the Month: Why do we not use karat to define silver content in silver alloys?

### Visit an Area Club

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm

[Cowtown G, M, & Glass Club](#), meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Corp. Emp. Rec. Association (CERA) 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth

[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX

[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)

[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244

[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth

[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,

[Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,

## Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas 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.

### President's Message

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

Our Christmas Dinner (December Meeting) was a great success. We had good food and plenty of time to talk to each other. We had three door prizes which were won by Cheryl, Warner, and Carolyn. I hope each of you can attend the January meeting. We will continue viewing a very interesting video from the November meeting – the minutes of the November meeting in the December Chips and Chatter for a review of the first part of the video. In January we will again be participating in the International Gem and Jewelry Show at Market Hall. The show will be from Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. If you want a space at the club booth you will need to help with the show set up on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Club Officers for 2017

President: Ling Shurtz  
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Field Trips: Open  
Secretary: Lee Elms  
Treasurer: Del Grady  
Editor: Don Shurtz  
E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com,  
l.shurtz@gmail.com

### Minutes of the December 2016 Meeting

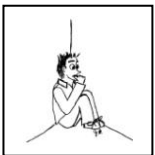
The December meeting was dinner at Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson. No business was conducted at the dinner. Door prizes were won by Cheryl (Kit for inlay (setting and several rocks – we will be doing the inlay activity again in a not too distant meeting), Warner (Gem Data book by John Sinkankas), and Carolyn (sack of slabs).

### Meetings

The January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at the Garland Women's Activities Building (GWAB) starting at 7:30 PM. We will continue the video (new topics) about minerals that we started in November.

### VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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### The Editor's Corner – What Can You Do for the Club

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

In the December Chips and Chatter I discussed several activities sponsored by our club and/or the SCFMS and the AFMS. We did not have a business meeting in December, so the January meeting would be a good time to discuss these positions and see if anyone can help out. The open positions included the Club Rockhound of the Year, the All-American Club Yearbook program, and the club's own librarian or Show-and-Tell coordinator. If you are interested, just let one of the officers know.

The Club Rockhound of the year would be a committee to select an award recipient. The person selected is honored by a short article in the AFMS Newsletter.

The All-American Club Yearbook program would be a great activity for someone who likes doing scrapbooks. Once per year the yearbook is reviewed by the AFMS and awarded if it meets certain criteria – criteria which are known in advance. This could be a project for an individual or a committee and now would be a great time to start by getting photographs of our activities.

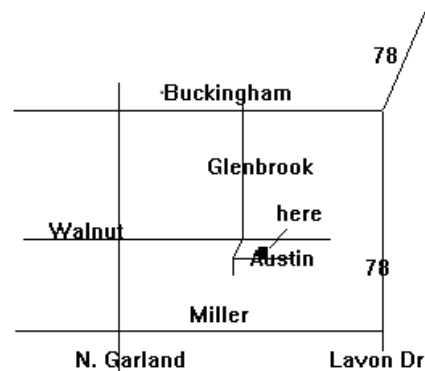
Our club also has a collection of books and videos. We need a Librarian to re-generate the loaning library activity. It would also be nice if we could start converting our VHS tapes to DVD format.

One more possible position, not mentioned last month, would be a Show-and-Tell Table coordinator. The coordinator would select a rock and / or mineral for the table theme and encourage all to bring is specimens for all the rest of us to see and appreciate. Lately we have been doing only birthstones for our Show-and-Tell, but there are a lot more interesting topics that could be used

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas



<p>Meetings                  First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM                  Garland Women’s Activities Building                  713 Austin St., Garland, TX                  (Northeast corner of Austin &amp; Glenbrook)</p>
<p>Membership                  Single Adult: \$16.50,                  Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50                  (Plus badge fee for new members)</p>



The January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at the Garland Women’s Activities Building starting at 7:30 PM. We will continue the video on minerals that we started watching in November.  
 The February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be at the Garland Women’s Activities Building

**CHIPS AND CHATTER**

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club  
 PO Box 831934  
 Richardson, TX 75083-1934

To:

**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

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Sorry, none this month

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