

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX



Chips and Chatter

July 2, 2009
Vol. 43 Issue 7

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Check our website www.pogmc.org
 for past months issue of the
Chips and Chatter

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, in particular 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.

Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, July 2, at 7:00 pm.
 Spring Creek Barbeque on US75 in Richardson
 (270 N Central Expressway, Richardson). See
 for directions.

Presentation

**We will be celebrating Independence Day one
 with another.**

Club Officers for 2009

President: Donnette Wagner
 1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
 Secretary: Donna Mallory
 Treasurer: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
 Editor: Anita Dresner (972) 475-5828
 E-mail: andresner@verizon.net

Secretary Notes

June meeting minutes:

1. Donnette Wagner call order to the meeting at 7:30 PM.
2. Minutes of the May meeting were not published in the *Chips and Chatter*, so they will be approved at a later date.
3. Don Shurtz gave the Treasure report. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed.
4. The SCMFS convention and show will be in Temple in October hosted by the Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society.
5. The July meeting will be @ Spring creek BBQ at I-75 just north of Main/Belt-line in Richardson starting at 7:00 PM.
6. A motion was made and seconded that last year's grand prize to be donated to AFMS endowment fund for the 2010 endowment fund raffle. The motion was passed.
7. In lieu of a presentation, each person gave a short description of a collecting site and the type of mineral, rock, or fossil that could be found. This round-robin discussion was intended to provide information about Texas geology and rocks to our meeting visitor, but everyone got some new insight into collecting. It may have been one of the best "meeting presentations" ever.
8. Joyce Murphy, a visitor at the meeting, joined POGMC as a new member. Her membership application was unanimously accepted.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

Editor's Corner

Anita Dresner, Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club



Hello Club,

I am so sorry that I have been tardy with the *Chips and Chatter* these last 2 months. I will try to be more timely and accurate over the next the next few months. My house has been a shambles for over a month and I have barely been able to locate what I need each day; much less find my computer. You see we are remodeling. I have heard that if a family can live through this procedure still intact, they will have a long and happy time as a family. Well, all I can say at this moment is; we are, for the moment, still intact. We have moved back into the house; but what a mess there is to clean up. I really think that saying about staying together has to do with the clean-up process more than the duration of the procedure. Time will tell and I hope to see you in August.

Your Editor

Show Dates

November 13-15 - Houston Gem & Mineral Society presents 56th Annual HGMS Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show Fri & Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5 Humble Civic Center 8233 Will Clayton Parkway Humble, TX 5 miles east of Bush International Airport 1 mile east of Hwy. 59

Question of the Month:- What Field Trip?

What Field Trip Would I Like to Repeat? Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks G&MC

This month I would like to relate a field trip that I took many, many years ago. Back when I was a sophomore and junior in high school I lived in Spokane, Washington. My father was interested in rocks and we took several trips to Emerald Creek near St. Maries, Idaho to look for star garnets.

Garnets come in a number of varieties including pyrope, almandine, spessartite, and grossular. They all have slightly different chemical compositions and properties. The garnets from northern Idaho are of the type almandine and chemically are $\text{Fe}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$. Many of these garnets exhibit asterism – rays of bright reflectivity on the surface of the stone. The asterism is caused by inclusions of rutile (titanium dioxide). The star garnets from Idaho are generally four pointed stars, but occasionally a six pointed star is found. The star garnets from Emerald Creek are the state gem of Idaho.



Six pointed star garnet

We were told to make sure we went in a four-wheel drive vehicle with lots of ground clearance. So, we loaded up the back seat of our Volkswagen bug with shovels, screens, chisels, and hammers and off we went. After passing St. Maries we took a dirt side road to the south. It was probably dirt most of the year; but, I remember a lot of mud and puddles. It was obvious why four wheel drive vehicles were recommended – the road had huge ruts, often filled with water. Some of these ruts were 18 inches or more in depth. So my father ran with his left wheels between the ruts and the right wheels on the side of the road – we straddled the ruts and off we went. Once in a while we would have to stop and put a big rock or log into a crossing rut so we could get through, but get through we did! A couple of miles down the road was an old CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) camp where we parked. We then hiked up the creek about a half a mile, found a hole that had been previously worked, and had at it. We would dig down to the bedrock (about 3 to 10 feet depending on the area – you can see why we picked a previously worked hole) and fill up a bucket or $\frac{1}{4}$ inch screen with the rocks, clay and soil just on top of the bedrock. Then, we would screen the contents in the waters of Emerald Creek. We would break up the soil and clay and then start examining the cleaned up rocks. The star garnets were a dark purple color, almost black as they were washed. Many were small, but a fair number of them were bigger than half an inch. The largest we ever found was just over 2 inches; but, we found some pieces that were broken off even larger garnets. After about 6 hours we would start to wrap things up. We took this field trip several times and always found at least a quart worth of garnets, and sometimes even half a bucket's worth.

To determine which garnets had stars, we would tumble the entire trips worth. After they were tumbled and polished, we could examine them for stars and for the proper orientation. Well over half the stones had rays that crossed forming a star. A few, with the right orientation, had six point stars. If we found a six-point star, it was cut into a cabochon – hopefully preserving the orientation of the six pointed star. This field trip was a lot of work, but well worth it. It is my understanding that you can still look for star garnets in the area, but the forest service does all the digging and you just take your fill from the pile they provide. They also provide large basins for washing (screening) the garnets – this way they keep the mud from the washing process confined to the basin and not contaminating the stream. I understand they even provide the screens and shovels. It all sounds a bit commercial; but, I think it would be worth a try. Yes; this is another field trip that I would like to repeat

Ref:

Garnet, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garnet>

Star Garnet, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_garnets

Star of Idaho, http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Star_of_idaho.JPG

HAPPY JULY 4th AMERICA!

Directions to July POGM meeting

Anita Dresner, Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Our July 2, 2009, meeting will be 7:00 pm at the Spring Creek Barbeque on US75 in Richardson (270 N Central Expressway, Richardson). From the south exit at Belt Line / Main Street, go through the light at Main Street and it will be on the right. From the north take the Belt Line / Main Street exit, stay to the far left and take the "U-turn" at Main Street and it will be on the right. Don

July Birthstone: Ruby

Anita Dresner, Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club



There is no better way to demonstrate your love than by giving a ruby in celebration of a July birthday. Rubies arouse the senses, stir the imagination, and are said to guarantee health, wisdom, wealth and success in love. Ruby is a variety of the gems species *corundum*. It is harder than any natural gemstone except diamond, which means a ruby is durable enough for everyday wear. Fine-quality ruby is extremely rare, and the color of the gem is most important to its value. The most prized color is a medium or medium dark vivid red or slightly purplish red. If the gem is too light or has too much purple or orange, it will be called a fancy-color sapphire

<http://www.americangemsociety.org/birthstones.htm#july>

Sunshine Report

We want to express to Lee and Richards dad, our sentiments for the loss of Richard. May their memories be many and great in their time of mourning.

Area Clubs

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, Garland Women's Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland, meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm

Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth, meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm

Dallas Paleontological Society, Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park, meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm

Dallas Gem & Mineral Society, Ridgewood Rec. Center, 6818 Fisher Road, Dallas, meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm

Dallas Bead Society, Walnut Hill Rec Center, NW corner Walnut Hill & Midway, Dallas, meets 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm

Oak Cliff Gem & Mineral Society, Renaissance Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Road, Dallas, TX, meets the 4th Tuesday each month at 7 pm

Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



To:

July 2, 2009 7:00 PM, Spring Creek Barbecue, Richardson, TX

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB OF DALLAS MEETINGS

First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM
Garland Women's Activities Building
713 Austin, Garland, TX
(Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook)

MEMBERSHIP

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

5th Place AFMS 2007 small bulletins
1st place SCFMS 2006 small bulletins
9th place AFMS 2006 small bulletins
3rd place SCMS 2005 small bulletins
3rd place, AFMS 2005 small bulletins
1st place SCFMS 2004 small bulletins
HM AFMS 2004 small bulletins
2nd place SCFMS 2003 small bulletins

Member of

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

Affiliated with

American Federation of Mineral Societies