

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



July 2015
Vol. 49, Issue 7

1st Place, 2014 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2014 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Member of
SCFMS



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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.

Monthly Meeting

Our July meeting will be our annual get-together at Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson on Thursday, July 2nd. We will start at 7:00 PM that s minutes earlier than our normal start.

Our August meeting ill be at the Garland Women s Activities Building on Thursday, 6 August at 7:30 PM

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Club Officers for 2015

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

VISIT OUR AWARD WINNING WEB SITE TO VIEW THE CHIPS AND CHATTER IN COLOR. www.pogmc.org

President's Message

Ling Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Our next meeting will be our annual dinner at Spring Creek Barbeque on Thursday, July 2nd **starting at 7:00 PM**. Spring Creek Barbeque is on the Central Expressway (US-75) service road just north of Belt Line; right next door to Chase bank. Please note the half hour early start time. Hope to see you there.

Minutes of the June 2015 Meeting

The June 4th, 2015 club meeting was called to order at 8:00pm by President Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by all of us!

Sunshine report: Ling is recovering from shoulder surgery; it was the rotator cup, bone spur and tear. Butch said Patti is not doing well right now.

Minutes: We discussed the minutes of the May meeting that were printed in the Chips and Chatter. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Lee and the motion was seconded by Warner. The motion passed.

The treasurers' report: Del Grady gave the Treasurers' report. A motion to accept the Treasurers' report was made by Carolyn and the motion was seconded by Hat. The motion passed.

There wasn't any old business to discuss so we moved right into new business.

The July meeting will be held at Spring Creek Barbeque on July 2nd at 7pm. The restaurant is located on the US75 access road north of Belt Line Rd.

The Lockheed show will be coming up soon. The STEM Fair at Brookhaven College will be coming up in October and Carolyn and Del said they will be there.

On our Show and Tell table Warner brought some beautiful gems and minerals he just obtained from Pakistan.

Our presentation tonight was the finishing of the chip inlay we started on last months' meeting. Del and Don brought their sanders this evening so we could polish our turquoise chips into a pretty cabochon. Each sander had a different grade of grit, so we learned how to level out the uneven heights of the turquoise chips, and then polish it out to a pleasing finished product. We had a great time and I myself learned a lot about the polishing process.

We had our raffle and Warner donated one of his specimens to the raffle table so one of us went home with a specimen from Pakistan.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lee Elms, Secretary

Birthstone History

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Although the concept of birthstones can be traced to about 100 AD it wasn't until the 19th century that people started wearing birthstones. The tradition started in Poland and spread from there. Here is a table comparing then and now birthstones.

Month	Poland, 1700s	Tiffany, 1870	US, 2015	Month	Poland, 1700s	Tiffany, 1870	US, 2015
January	Garnet	Garnet	Garnet	July	Ruby	Ruby	Ruby
February	Amethyst	Amethyst	Amethyst	August	Sardonyx	Sardonyx	Peridot
March	Bloodstone	Bloodstone	Aquamarine, Bloodstone	September	Sardonyx	Sapphire	Sapphire
April	Diamond	Diamond	Diamond	October	Aquamarine	Opal	Opal, Tourmaline
May	Emerald	Emerald	Emerald	November	Topaz	Topaz	Topaz, Citrine
June	Agate, Chalcedony	Agate	Pearl, Moonstone, Alexandrite	December	Turquoise	Turquoise	Zircon, Turquoise, Tanzanite

Show Calendar - Upcoming Show Dates

Jul 3 5, Farmington, NM, San Juan Cnty. G&MS, Farmington Civic Center, mickie2@earthlink.net
Jul 11 12, Tulsa, OK, Tulsa R&MS, Tulsa County Fairgrounds, m)rogey@sbcglobal.net, www.ttownrockhound.org
Jul 16 18, Rocky Mountain Federation, Cody, WY
Jul 24 25, Dallas, TX, Cowtown GM&GS (CERA), Brookhaven College

Aug 08 09, Baton Rouge, LA, Baton Rouge G&MS, BR Marriot Hotel, aroucho@entergy.com, brgemandmineral.org
Aug 14 - 15, Tahlequah, OK, Tahlequah R&MS, rockhoundsally@aol.com, tramsok.webs.com
Aug 15 16, Bossier City, LA, ARK-LA-TEX G&MS, Bossier City Civic Cntr., www.larockclub.com
Aug 22 - 23, Mountain Home, AR, Ozark Earth Science GM&FC, www.ozarkearthscience.org/news.htm
Aug 22 23, Jasper, TX, Pine Country G&MS, Events Cntr

Sep 5 7, Silver City, NM, Grant Cnty. G&MS, Western NM University, leet@stockmanfamil.net
Sep 12 13, Siloam Springs, AR, NW Arkansas G&MS, hulagrub@aol.com, www.nwarockhounds.org
Sep 25 27, Humble, TX, Houston G&MS, Humble Civic Center, show@hgms.org, www.hgms.org

Oct 3 4, Jacksonville, AR, Central Arkansas GM&GS, Jacksonville Community Center, thom61847@yahoo.com
Oct 9 11, Mount Ida, AR Montgomery Cnty. Fairgrounds, director@mtidachamber.com, www.mtidachamber.com
Oct 10 11, Temple, TX, Tri-City G&MS, Mayborn Civic Cntr., burnette@aceweb.com
Oct 23 25, Austin G&MS show, SCFMS Convention, and AFMS Convention,
Showchairman@austingemandmineral.org, www.gemcapers.com
Oct 25 26, Glen Rose, TX, Paleo Society of Austin, Somervell Expo Cntr
Oct 31 Nov 1, Oklahoma City, OK, Oklahoma M&GS, OK State Fair Park, halffull101-rockngem@yahoo.com

Nov 7 8, Amarillo, TX, Golden Spread G&MS, Amarillo Civic Cntr, finfran@midplains.coop
Nov 7 8, Midland, TX, Midland G&MS, Midland Cntr
Nov 14 15, Round Rock TX, Paleo Society of Austin, Old Settlers Park
Nov 21 22, Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Mesquite Rodeo Cntr Exhibit Hall, , bravo1bravo@sbcglobal.net,
www.dallasgemandmineral.org

Dec 4 6, El Paso, TX, El Paso M&GS, El Maida Auditorium, gemcenter@aol.com

Ref:

December 2014 January 2015 AFMS Newsletter

May / June 2015 SCFMS Newsletter

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



The Annual July Spring Creek Barbeque

Spring Creek Barbeque, Central Expressway, just north of Belt Line Road.

Directions:

From Plano area, take US 75 South and exit at Belt Line. Stay left and take the U-Turn lane. Once the U-Turn is complete look for Spring Creek BBQ on your right.

From Dallas and areas south, take US 75 North and exit at Belt Line Road. Go through the light at Belt Line, and then look for Spring Creek BBQ on your right.

Friends, Food, Talk, Door Prize - Thursday, 2 July at 7:00 (*not our normal 7:30 start*)

SEE YOU THERE

Chips and Chatter

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July 2015

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX Visit us: www.pogmc.org

“Like” us on Facebook

July's Birthstone, Ruby

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Ruby is the red colored variety of the mineral corundum. Chemically, corundum is composed of aluminum and oxygen, Al_2O_3 . Corundum is a very hard stone with a Mohs hardness of 9 (corundum is the defining mineral for Mohs hardness). If corundum is pink it is called a padparadscha, if it is red it is a ruby, and if it is any other color it is a sapphire. A ruby gains its red color by inclusion of chromium ions in the crystal matrix. When the chromium molecules are present, each is surrounded by eight molecules of Al_2O_3 . As much as 1% of a ruby may be the chromium. In general, the more chromium in the crystal matrix, the deeper the red color.



Almost all natural rubies are heat treated before being cut and polished. The heat treating of ruby will reduce any purple or blue coloring, it may dissolve inclusions, and it may help heal fractures. This initial heat treatment will normally take the stone to around 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Many lower quality rubies are also treated in the heating process. By heating the stone surrounded by chromium oxide, by the process of dispersion some of the chromium from the chromium molecules will be dispersed into the ruby. This type of treatment will only have an effect on a thin, outer portion of the ruby, so it is normally done on stones that have been previously faceted. This type of treatment is hard to detect and will cause the ruby to have a much deeper (redder) color.

One of the inclusions that are sometimes present in ruby is rutile (titanium oxide). Some of the rutile can be dissolved by heat treating. However, if there is sufficient rutile present and is properly orientated (as opposed to random orientation), the ruby may exhibit a 3 or 6 pointed star. This type of ruby is cut as a cabochon to enhance the asterism (star) feature.



Natural rubies are found in many locations, but the majority of the world's supply comes from the Mogok Valley in Myanmar. This source also produces some of the best specimens. The finest rubies from this area are colored a deep red known as pigeon's blood. Other locations where rubies are found include Thailand, Cambodia, India, Afghanistan, Australia, Namibia, Japan, Scotland, Brazil, Pakistan, and a relatively recent find in Greenland. In the United States, rubies have been found in Montana, North Carolina, and Wyoming.

In addition to treatments of natural rubies, they can also be lab grown. Sapphires were lab grown as early as 1847. By the early 1900s lab grown rubies were being produced in quantity. The early lab grown rubies were produced by the Verneuil's flame fusion process. They have also been grown by Czochralski's pulling process, the flux process, and the hydrothermal process. However, most are produced by the original flame fusion process. The first laser was developed using lab grown ruby. A lot of lab grown ruby crystals were produced for the early lasers. The laser rods produced for these lasers were later cut into thick slabs and worked into faceted stones. As a buyer you also need to be aware of simulated rubies. The primary simulated rubies are red spinel, red garnets, red tourmaline, and red colored glass. Most of the simulated rubies can be easily identified by simple tests, but lab grown ruby can be much harder to identify. One of the keys to lab grown ruby is the lack of inclusions.

Photos:

All photos from Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cut_ruby, author Humanfeather, Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Generic license
Ruby crystal, author Apringstone, released to the public domain

Ref:

American Gem Society, <http://www.americangemsociety.org/birthstones>
Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page
Corundum, University of California Berkeley, <http://nature.berkeley.edu/classes/eps2/wisc/Lect8.html>

Safety Matters

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair
From the June / July AFMS Newsletter

Dangers That Lurk in the Dark...and in the light can be present in many of our rockhound activities. Think of the avid field collector using power tools to drill holes in rocks so that they can be split using feathers and wedges - what a dust cloud is raised!

Think of the lapidary artist using her home-made machine with all its exposed drive belts and pulleys - both just waiting to grab a loose long sleeve cuff.

Think of some kids in a quarry hammering on a rock - with sharp, splintery, rock shards spraying in all directions.

All the situations just described have obvious dangers - inhaling rock dust; catching clothing, hair and fingers in equipment pinch points; sharp shards damaging eyes, etc. While those situations harbor obvious hazards, other situations may not be so obvious as hazards.

Let's think of that avid field collector once again. To arrive at his work site he may have taken a short cut and walked across a small stream. Well, take it from one who knows, wet rocks can be very, no make that

extremely, slippery. Falling and getting wet may not be all that serious, but falling and breaking a bone most certainly is.

Soldering on that silver pendant may produce a striking work of art; however, the flux and pickling fumes could be highly toxic.

Wandering around a famous quarry to collect fluorescent minerals after dark one may see incredible treasures. What one may not see are the holes of unknown depth. Even a very shallow hole may cause one to lose one's balance - especially after dark.

Another commonly ignored and often under appreciated hazard is not keeping one's fingers in view. Reaching over an edge to grab a hand hold? One's out of sight fingers could find not a hand hold, but instead, a very unwelcoming critter hiding there out of sight. And not being able to see one's fingers as one holds a rock on that slab saw is just asking for pinch point trouble.

Putting your fingers in a hole to pull out the treasures therein? Again, take it from one who knows from

experience, there could be something besides treasures in that hole, pocket, vug, cavity or crack. There could well be something that bites stings, etc. inside.

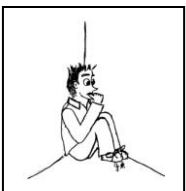
Working at that club show or workshop? A simple tester found at most hardware or electrical supply stores can be used to check those outlets, extension cords and power strips. While circuits can either work or not work, there are additional issues such as poor, faulty or missing grounds, reversed polarities and non-functioning GFCIs that are not so noticeable with just a glance.

Always keep in mind the potential of hidden dangers lurking in our rockhound hobby. Keep in mind that it is not just the dark of night that harbors hidden hazards, although night is when the monsters come out isn't it

Please be safe with what you do and keep in mind the potential hidden dangers, as well as the not so hidden dangers lurking just around the corner.

Your safety matters!

Austin Gem and Mineral Society / AMFS & SCFMS Show and Conventions



This year the AFMS and SCFMS shows and conventions will be held in conjunction with the Austin, TX Gem and Mineral Society Show - Gem Capers.2015. The show starts Friday, 23 October and runs through Sunday, 25 October. Friday and Saturday the show will be from 9:00 AM to 6:00 pm and on Sunday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. In addition to the AFMS and SCFMS conventions, there will be meetings of the ALAA (American Land Access Association) and S.C.R.I.B.E (Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors). The AFMS Convention and Delegates meeting is on Thursday at 9:00 AM followed by the AFMS Scholarship Foundation Meeting. The Judges & Clerks Meeting will be at 10:00 AM on Friday. The S.C.R.I.B.E meeting will

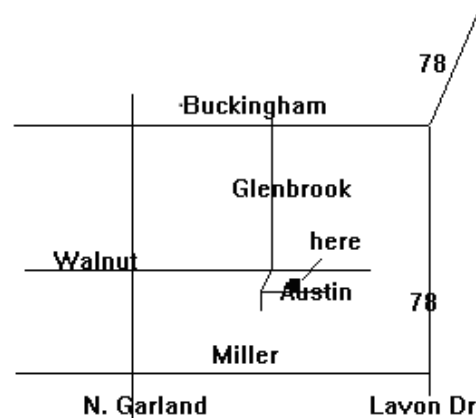
also be on Friday starting at 11:00 AM. Saturday morning starting at 8:00 AM is the SCFMS / AMFS Editors Breakfast. The SCFMS Convention and Delegates meeting is Saturday at 1:00 PM followed by the ALAA meeting. Sunday at a time to be determined will be a Field Trip to Emerald Ridge. Even if you don't need to attend the convention or meeting it will still be a great show and since it is so close, you should plan to attend. One word of caution - Hotel and Motel rooms and RV spaces are at a premium due to the Formula One race. You should reserve now and probably look for a place within comfortable driving distance of Austin. Don

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas



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

Membership
Single Adult: \$16.00,
Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50
(Plus badge fee for new members)



CHIPS AND CHATTER

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

To:

Our July meeting will be our annual get-together at Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson on Thursday, July 2nd. We will start at 7:00 PM that's minutes earlier than our normal start
Our August meeting will be at the Garland Women's Activities Building on Thursday August at PM

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 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Corp. Emp. Rec. Association (CERA) 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth
Dallas Bead Society, The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX meets 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am
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, 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244
Ft. Worth Gem & Mineral Club, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Ave, Ft Worth,
Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., 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 Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin,