



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



Affiliated: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



July 2018

Vol. 52, Issue 7

1st Place, 2017 AFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2017 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2018 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin

Jasper

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

For the last two months, we have featured varieties of quartz, including the microcrystalline variety agate. Continuing this trend, this month will feature the microcrystalline variety jasper. The most distinguishable difference between agate and jasper is that jasper is opaque (blocks light).

Jasper, as microcrystalline quartz, should have a Mohs hardness of 7, but due to the impurities in the stone that gives it color and patterns, most jasper is a little softer, ranging from 6 to 7. Jasper is generally in massive form but can also be found in botryoidal or as nodules of small pebbles. Most beaches that claim to have agate generally have more jasper than agate, but the beach does give you a head start if you plan to tumble the stones. The name Jasper comes from the Hebrew word *yashpeh* and means spotted or speckled.

Jasper does come in spotted and speckled forms, but it can also be banded, brecciated (breccia are rocks formed of fragments and cemented back together), solid, picture, or just about any other way a rock can look. The common colors for jasper are red, yellow, and brown. Less common colors are green and blue.



Some of the most highly prized jaspers are orbicular jaspers. They contain spherical inclusions of differing colors. Two sought after varieties are Poppy Jasper from Morgan Hill in Santa Clara

County, California and Ocean Jasper from northeast Madagascar. Poppy jasper typically has a red, brown, black, or yellow background with red or red and yellow spherical inclusions. Unfortunately, Poppy

Chips and Chatter

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Jasper is no longer being mined; only previously mined material is available at a premium price. Ocean Jasper comes in many differing colors; the spherical inclusions being green, white, pink orange and yellow with white, green, black, red, and grey backgrounds. Ocean Jasper is still being mined, but still commands a premium price.



In the Picture Jasper category, the favorites are Biggs and Bruneau. These could also be classified as Banded Jasper. They are named after the areas they are found in: Biggs

Junction, Oregon and Bruneau Canyon, Owyhee County, Idaho. Both are still available, but are hard to find.

One of the favorite Brecciated Jaspers would be the Australian Mookaite. It comes in a variety of colors, generally several colors



mixed in one stone. Colors include brown, yellow, orange, red, pink and white. Some of the other Australian brecciated jaspers are also popular including Black Jasper Conglomerate, Outback and Noreena Jasper,

References:

- Australian Outback Mining, <http://www.outbackmining.com/>
- The Mineral Jasper, Minneral.net, <http://www.minerals.net/gemstone/>
- Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/jasper>

Pictures from Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki>

- Ocean Jasper, photo by [Vassil](#), released to Public Domain
- Bruneau Jasper, Photo by Chris857, licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported
- Mookaite, photo by Michelle Pemberton, licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported

July 2018

Visit us: www.pogmc.org "Like" us on Facebook

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

- **Jun 30 – Jul 1, Grapevine, TX, Arlington G&MC, Grapevine Convention Center, show@agemclub.org**
- Jun 30, - Midlothian, TX, POGMC Field Trip to Martin Marietta cement quarry.
- Aug 11 - 12, Gonzales, LA, Baton Rouge G&MC, Lamar Dixon Expo Center, www.brgemandmineral.org
- Aug 18 - 19, Bossier City, LA, ARK-LA-TEX G&MS, Bossier City Civic Center, www.larockclub.com
- Sep 1 - 3, Silver City, NM, Grant Count Rolling Stones G&MS, Grant County Veterans Memorial Conf. Center, www.rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com
- Oct 5 - 7, Albuquerque, NM, Jay Penn, NM State Fairgrounds, www.albfallshow.wix.com/abq-fall-show
- Oct 12 - 13, Mount Ida, AR, Mount Ida Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 31st Annual Amateur World Championship Quartz Digging Contest, www.mountidachamber.com
- Oct 27 – 28, Oklahoma City, OK, Oklahoma City M&GS, Oklahoma State Fair Park, www.OMGS-minerals.org
- **Nov 17-18, Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Mesquite Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall, www.dallasgemandmineral.org**

Ref:

- March - April 2018 SCFMS Newsletter
- Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

A Word from the [AFMS] President

Sandy Fuller, AFMS President

From the June-July 2018 AFMS Newsletter

As I make my way east in the first of many trips this year to visit our seven federations and almost 54,500 members, I just had to take a short detour to visit Flint Ridge, OH and collect some of the colorful materials found there. I knew the young visitors to our annual show would love to add some of the flint and colorful chert to their rock boxes.

There were a few very serious diggers going at the hard rock with sledge hammers and pry bars while some of us were content to just check out the small “leavings” left by others. In a brief chat with a young woman, she said “I just love pretty rocks.”

In our quest for pretty rocks and not so pretty ones, many of us will be visiting collecting sites across the nation, and even across the world. At each site we visit we are ambassadors for all the casual and serious collectors. It is up to us to model responsible collecting and care for the areas we visit. Our AFMS Code of Ethics provides a great foundation for our behavior in the field.

But our behavior in the small towns near collecting areas also reflects on all of us. When my large club visited a small town for the weekend, local merchants asked us to spread our business across the various “mom and pop” restaurants and break into smaller groups when traipsing across town. Because our group took these suggestions to heart, we are welcomed each year at a favorite collecting locale.



In some areas, clubs are doing trash clean up a roadside and collecting sites, especially in public areas, to help take care of collecting areas. Still others are getting involved in local planning initiatives to keep collecting sites open. Their actions benefit all of us.

On the other hand, there are always a few who brag about flouting the law and property boundaries to collect in off limits areas. It is their behavior that hurts all collectors and leads to the closing of collecting locales. As club members we need to be vigilant in identifying those who flaunt our ethics and take appropriate actions to limit the damage.

Visit an Area Club

- [Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm
- [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](#), 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244
- [Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, 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, Garland,

Safety Matters: The Price of Safety

By Ellery Brown, AFMS Safety Chair,
From the June-July 2018 AFMS Newsletter



The price of safety is rarely discussed. Having read many manuals of OSHA safety, MSHA safety, corporate safety, Federation safety, work-shop safety and club safety, rarely is there ever a mention of why. Why be safe? And, at what cost? One might think the answers are obvious - Safety, but if so, why are not more people striving toward being safe?

Curious as to the why and what of safety, I have asked many folks those questions about safety. Their answers include:

- It costs too much.
- It takes too much time.
- It is too distracting.
- My own safety ideas are better.
- No one was watching so I didn't need to.
- And my own personal favorite: I'm a lucky kind of guy.

Well, let us evaluate those answers. Yes, I will freely admit that if one suffers a minor laceration and applies a 15-cent adhesive bandage (injury), compared with the cost of an eight dollar pair of gloves (prevention) it appears that the prevention could be more expensive than the cost of the injury. But what about a 900-dollar emergency room visit to remove a foreign body from the eye (injury) compared with the cost of three-dollar goggles (prevention). In that case, prevention is far cheaper

Taking too much time? Too much time (three seconds) to lower and secure the hood of a slab saw? Too much time to buckle ones automobile seat belt (two seconds)? Too much time to put on and adjust safety goggles (four seconds)? Too much time to walk over and turn on the ventilation fan for soldering torch fume exhaust hood (nine seconds)? Really? Too much time?

Distraction does indeed occur with some safety gear. Gloves might not fit well. Goggles may indeed restrict some vision. Hearing protection sometimes muffles quiet voices. I would, however, submit that undamaged hands, injury free eyes and slightly

muffled voices may be preferred, in most cases, over a slight amount of inconvenience.

While one's own safety ideas may, at time, be advantageous in certain unique circumstances, tool, equipment, and hobby supply instructions have been wee thought by experts in the area. Please give considerable weight to the collected wisdom of manufactures, suppliers and various safety organizations' offerings.

"No one was watching so I didn't need to." Do I really need to talk about this one? To the individual who offered this response – if you are reading this please remember it is not just about you. You no doubt have brothers or sisters, husband or wife or significant other, parents, neighbors, friends, or a four footed friend who cares about you. If you don't want to be safe for yourself, please consider being a bit altruistic and be safe for the special people in your life.

I'm a luck kind of guy. Hmmm, are there any mathematics majors out there? Answer me this if you will – after performing a heads or tails coin toss game 10 times in a row and obtaining heads each time, what are the odds that, on the 11th time it will be heads? The odds are even again, still 50/50. Each toss of a coin, each strike of a chisel by a hammer, each lighting of a torch is a new game. In each instance of a possible unsafe act, please consider doing the right thing and be safe.

Safety is more than any rule book, sometimes it even defies "common sense" (shouldn't that 11th toss of the coin also come up heads?). Safety is an attitude, on attention to detail, and a certain modicum of creativity.

Your safety matters, no why's or what's about it.

Birthstone for July – Ruby

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas
Reprinted from the July 2013 Chips and Chatter

The July birthstone is Ruby. Ruby is of the same family of minerals as corundum and sapphire. The entire corundum family has the same chemical composition, Aluminum Oxide (Al₂O₃) and has a Mohs hardness of 9. What differentiates ruby from the rest of the corundum family is its distinctive red color. The red color is caused by the presence of chromium (Cr) replacing some of the Aluminum atoms within the crystal lattice structure. In the trade circles, a ruby with the bright red color (pigeon blood red) will be worth more than a stone with greater clarity but not as bright red coloration.

The traditional source of rubies was the Mogok Valley in Myanmar (formally Burma). However the ruby production from that area has dramatically decreased. In the 1990s the Mong Hsu area of Myanmar began supplying most of the world's ruby. Rubies have also been mined in Thailand, Cambodia, India Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tanzania, Madagascar, Vietnam, Nepal, and Tajikistan. A few rubies have been found in the United States from Montana, North and South Carolina, and Wyoming. Most recently rubies have been found in Greenland. Whether the mining of rubies in Greenland becomes economically feasible has yet to be determined.

Even with natural rubies, there is a lot of international intrigue. The international community agrees that the coloration of a ruby must come from chromium. However, the saturation of the red color is a source of disagreement. A lightly saturated stone may appear as pink, so the question is whether it is a pink sapphire or a pink ruby. This is a relatively recent (late 20th century) source of contention. The degree of saturation is basically subjective. With no clear cut definition, the International Colored Gemstone Associate (ICA) has adopted standards that classify pink corundum stones a ruby. However, this standard has not been universally accepted, and in particular, it is not accepted by most jewelers in the United States. So if you buy you “ruby” from an overseas sight, stand by as it may not be classified as a ruby in the US.

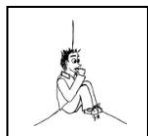
As with most valuable gemstones, one needs to be mindful of synthetic or lab grown rubies. The first synthetic rubies were produced in 1837, but lab grown rubies of gem quality were not produced until the late 1800s. The first gem quality rubies were produced by the flame fusion technique. The first lasers ever built were ruby lasers using a large rod of lab grown ruby; the first ruby laser was built in 1960. Many years later, as advanced techniques were established for building lasers, many of the ruby laser rods became surplus to the laser industry, but were a boon to the synthetic gemstone market.

Ref:

- American Gem Society, <http://www.americangemsociety.org/july-birthstones>
- How Products are Made, <http://www.madehow.com/Volume-4/Synthetic-Ruby.html>
- Mindat.org, Ruby, <http://www.mindat.org/min-3473.html>
- Ruby, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruby>
- Ruby Lasers, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruby_laser
- True North Mining, <http://www.truenorthgems.com/>

Pictures:

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Editor's Corner, Soapbox

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

I try to stay away from the soapbox, but it keeps calling me again and again. A couple of years ago we had club members write an article for the Chips and Chatter about their birthstone. Those articles did very well in the SCFMS and AFMS Editor and Author awards. Since then, the only person to contribute an article, other than the editor, has been Cheryl. She won first place in last year's SCFMS Editor and Author contest! I am sure there are a lot of interesting stories and articles out there in our club member's head, so what does it take to get them on paper? Doesn't anyone want to contribute to the Chips and Chatter and share with the rest of our members? If I had the answer, I could do a lot more editing (that is what an Editor is supposed to do). Do we want the Chips and Chatter to continue as a viable newsletter? Should we have monthly editions or should we decrease the frequency? What should we do?

HELP!

President's Message

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

Our July meeting will start early at 7:30 PM and will be a BBQ potluck dinner with the club providing the BBQ. Everyone should bring a dish to share. We will hold a short business meeting and then do a Huge Show-and-Tell for the program – everyone brings something rock, mineral, gemstone, etc. related! After the program we will have our raffle. There will only be one item for the raffle, but it will be good – I am sure everyone will want to win it. The item to be raffled will be announced at the meeting.

Club Officers for 2018

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

Meeting Minutes

The June 7 2018 club meeting was **called to order** at 7:30 pm by Ling Shurtz

The Pledge to the flag was led by Ling.

Quorum: We have a quorum. The Club's Constitution and By-Laws defines a quorum at a regularly scheduled meeting to be those in attendance at the meeting.

Sunshine Report: No items to report

Visitors: No visitors, but our new members Steven Henries and Chris Hanks attended their first meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the March, April and May meetings as printed in the June Chips and Chatter were discussed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Warner and seconded by Hat. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Del Grady gave the Treasurer's Report. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Carolyn and seconded by Warner. The motion passed

Old Business: No old business

New Business:

- We discussed plans for the July meeting. The consensus was to hold the meeting at the Garland Activities Building (normal location) and have a BBQ and potluck dinner. The club will provide the BBQ. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM
- Shows
 - Jun 30 – Jul 1, Grapevine, TX, Arlington G&MC, Grapevine Convention Center, show@agemclub.org

- Jun 30, - Midlothian, TX, POGMC Field Trip to Martin Marietta cement quarry.
- Nov 17-18, Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Mesquite Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall, www.dallasgemandmineral.org
- New Business from the floor – SCFMS and AFMS Editor and Author Contest Awards
 - Adult Articles: SCFMS First place & AFMS Second place for “No Fooling, It's Iron Pyrite” by Cheryl Ogletree.
 - Adult Articles: Third place for “Rhodochrosite” by Don Shurtz.
 - Features: SCFMS Eighth place for “Editor's Corner – Be a Volunteer” by Don Shurtz.
 - Mini-Bulletins: SCFMS First place for the “Chips and Chatter”, Don Shurtz editor.

Break

Presentation: Dr. Mark Carter presented a slide show and talk about Agate Expo 2016 held in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. The Agate Expo was a cross between a Symposium with many talks about agates and a rock show many display cases of agates and with all the vendors featuring agates. The Expo started on a Thursday with a full day of guest speakers plus lunch and dinner. Friday and Saturday was the show with guest speakers throughout the day. Mark presentation included pictures from the show and pictures of the scenery and historical sites near the show location. Mark closed with a slide detailing the next Agate Expo – “Natures Treasures presents an International Exposition of Agates”, Austin Texas on from June 5 – 9, 2019. Details will be posted at ntrocks.com.

Raffle: We had the raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

MEETING

Our July 5, 2018 meeting will start at 7:00. We will have a potluck BBQ dinner. The club will provide the BBQ, everyone should bring a dish to share. Everyone should also bring an item for rock, mineral, gem, fossil or related item for a Huge Show-and-Tell program. We will have a single prize raffle at the next meeting, but the winning prize will be very nice - I am sure anyone would want to win it.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

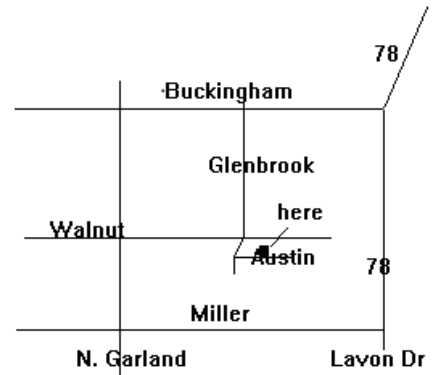
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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas



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: \$16.50,
 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 Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization

CHIPS AND CHATTER

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

To:

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Next Meeting: July 5 starting at 7:00 (early start) for a BBQ Potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share, and bring a rock related item for a Huge Show and Tell

Features

Jasper 1
 Birthstone for July – Ruby 4
 Editor’s Corner, Soapbox 4

Notices

Club/Meeting Info 1, 5, 6
 Shows and Activities 2
 Visit an Area Club 2

Monthly Columns

Club Information 1, 5, 6
 President’s Message 5
 Minutes 5

Federation Information

A Word from the [AFMS] President 2
 Safety Matters: The Price of Safety 3

Chips and Chatter

Page 6

July 2018

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

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