



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



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July 2024
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1st Place, 2022 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2022 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Red, White, and Blue Gemstone

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Is there such a thing as a red, white, and blue gemstone? I was hard-pressed to think of one, but I looked it up on Google and found that I was just trying too hard. Sapphire was one of my first thoughts, but it turns out that a red Sapphire is a Ruby and a white Sapphire is crystal clear. Many of the crystal clear gemstones are said to be white – Sapphire and Diamonds are classic examples. So, I looked a little more and the answer became clear. There is one obvious gemstone that has red, white, and blue all in one stone. The gemstone is not a mineral, but rather a mineraloid. Think about the color flashes of Precious Opal – red and blue flashes are not uncommon, and the base color of many Precious Opals is white. There you have it – a red, white, and blue gemstone. The red, blue, gold, green, orange, and other colors are reminiscent of fireworks. Have a GREAT INDEPENDENCE DAY celebration on the 4TH OF JULY.

References:

White Sapphire, The Natural Sapphire Company,
<https://www.thenaturalsapphirecompany.com/white-sapphires/>

Picture: Precious Opal picture by James St. John, used under the [Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/) license, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>



FEDERATION PAGE

The New AFMS Website

Marty Hart, AFMS Webmaster
From the April 2024 AFMS Newsletter

The new AFMS website went live on February 17 at <https://www.amfed.org>. If you type in the website URL, be sure to include the www. There are DNS changes that may not have yet propagated and could take a couple of days. We will also be making more DNS changes in the coming days and weeks that might cause temporary interruptions while those settings are being updated.

Unfortunately, all links to pages on the old website were broken in this migration. The domain is the same, but all the pages have changed. If you try to reach a page that does not exist on the new website, you will get a 404 error. If you have any links to pages on your website, they need to be updated. Google was requested to update its links to the website, but it may take a while for all their old links to be updated. There is a page on the new site that has a cross-reference for many of the common page links from the Old Website to the New Website.

Here is that link: <https://www.amfed.org/Old-New-Xref>

Since all the (old) page links were broken, the new website has a whole new hierarchy of the web pages, which is much simpler and should make it easier to find what you are looking for.

The site also scales for screen resolution, so it works on mobile devices. When using your mobile device to access the AFMS website, if you do not see a menu on the left side of the page, click the menu button on the top left of the page. The menu button (sometimes called the hamburger icon) is the “3 horizontal line” icon on the top left of the page. Clicking this button multiple times will toggle the visibility of the menu.



The credit for creating the new site goes to Lori Carter. Our most popular page has historically been the Mohs Scale of Hardness. Be sure to check out the fantastic job she did with the new Mohs Scale of Hardness. Clicking on the “More>>” links will allow you to see more details.

Also, check out the Find a Club map of clubs. It should help visitors find a club near them and the Regional Federation associated with the club. The map only gives general locations, and visitors will need to go to the Regional Federation or club website to get detailed information.

There are more things planned for the website. If you run across something missing that was on the old website or find any other issues, be sure to email us with a detailed description of the problem at: webmaster@amfed.org

Reference: AFMS Newsletter — April 2024

Editor's Note:

I have been using the new AFMS Website extensively. I still find myself looking for a menu bar at the top of the page, but that was a feature of the old website. The article above talks about the “hamburger” icon – it is the menu button, but I sometimes have difficulty finding it. Here is a screenshot of the top left area of the new AFMS Home page showing the Menu Select (Hamburger) Icon – see it hiding next to the AFMS Logo in the yellow flashes of the crystal in the background. DCS



Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club's July Meeting

¿¿Did Someone Say Barbeque??

What: Our Annual Independence Day Dinner

When: Next Meeting: July 1, 2024, starting at 7:00 PM

**Where: Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson
270 N Central Expressway, Richardson, TX 75080**

Food, Friends, Talk, and a nice Door Prize

Directions: From the south, take US-75 north. Exit at the Belt Line -Main Street exit. Go through the stoplight at Belt Line-Main and keep to the right – it is just past the large Chase Bank Building. From the north, take US-75 south. Exit at the Belt Line – Main Street exit. Stay to the left and take the U-turn lane at the stoplight. Then stay right – it is just past the large Chase Bank Building. From the east or west, take Belt Line towards US-75. Turn north at the stoplight at Central Expressway (the service road) and keep to the right - it is just past the large Chase Bank Building. See you there at 7:00 PM on Monday, July 1st!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our June meeting was an interesting one since we covered so much. See the minutes on page 5. Thanks to our Editor, Don for covering so many of the topics we discussed.

I'd like to report on my experience at a recent gem and mineral show that Don told us about. My family treated me to the show as we went on Father's Day Sunday, June 16th. As it turned out, everyone that went enjoyed the show. It was sponsored by the Arlington AGMC but was held in a facility in Grapevine. This venue is nice but comparatively small - the size, both physical and number of participants is dwarfed by the Dallas DGMS show we attended in November. We participated fully, buying raffle tickets for the half-hourly drawings, the silent auction, as well as the grand prize drawing of a beautiful and unique (to me) citrine cathedral. It was interesting to see so many classes offered, e.g. silversmithing, by the AGMC and each one had its own display case. There were many beautiful exhibits, mainly vendors. We were pleased to see Julie and Warner there and their display was excellent. Their friend, Tom, was offering a beautiful array of fluorite specimens from the United Kingdom. I bought a bag full. We were all fascinated by several of the vendors of Ethiopian opal. Brenda found an exceptional cab which we considered buying but finally decided against due to our ignorance of this species of opal. I know that Australian opal is among the best in the world but I have no knowledge of Ethiopian opal. So, I bought a couple of inexpensive rough pieces to experiment on.

I hope everyone can make it to our next get-together when we celebrate the 4th of July holiday at Spring Creek Barbecue in Richardson. By tradition, this will be in place of a formal July meeting.

Joe Vulk

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

July 2024

- July 13-15, Tulsa, OK, Tulsa R&MS, Exchange Center at Expo Square, www.tulsarockandmineralsociety.org

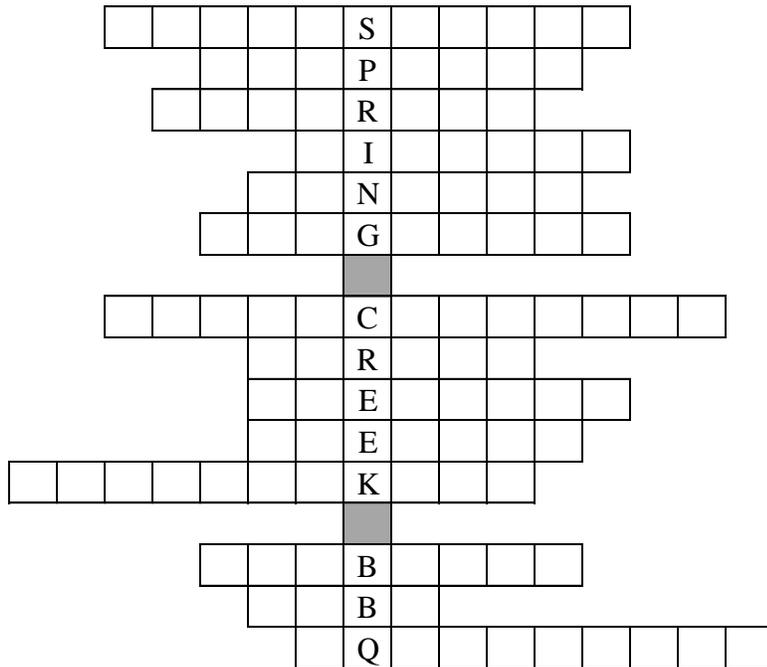
August 2024

- August 10-11, Baton Rouge G&MS, Lamar Dixon Expo Center, Gonzales, LA, brgem.min.input@gmail.com
- August 17-18, ARK-LA-TEX G&MS, Bossier City Civic Center, Bossier City, LA, larockclub@gmail.com
- September 21-22, Lubbock G&MS, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, Lubbock, TX
www.lubbockgemandmineral.org
- **November 23-24, Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Mesquite Convention Center, www.dallasgemandmineral.org. IT IS ALSO THE SCFMS CONVENTION**
 - Ref: Rock & Gem Show Dates, <https://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>
 - Ref: SCFMS Website, Local Shows, www.scfms.net/local_shows.htm

Word Fill-In Puzzle

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

This puzzle should be relatively easy. It starts with the name of the restaurant where we will be holding our next meeting, and end ends with a lot of minerals. From the word list, you will find only one word which will fill in the blanks completely to complete the puzzle. The word list, except for the restaurant name, is alphabetical, but rest assured that the puzzle will not be in alphabetical order.



Word List

- SPRING CREEK BBQ
- AMETHYST
- AMETRINE
- AQUAMARINE
- DIAMOND
- EMERALD
- GARNET
- KUNZITE
- MORGANITE
- RHODOCHROSITE
- RUBY
- SAPPHIRE
- SHATTUCKITE
- SMITHSONITE
- STIBNITE

Visit an area Club

- [Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#): 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX
- [Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club](#): 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, CERA 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. ort Worth
- [Dallas Bead Society](#): 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](#): 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 7:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane,
- [Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#): 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth
- [Oak Cliff Gem & Min Society](#): 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,
- [Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#): 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 PM, Knights of Columbus Council 6402 Hall, 3722 Cavalier Dr., Garland,
- [Wild West Bead Society](#): 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Wild Beads, 1124 S. Bowen Road, Arlington, TX

OFFICERS FOR 2023 – 2024

President: Joe Vulk
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady
2nd VP, Field Trips: Julie Wilson
Secretary: Amy Vulk
Treasurer: Ling Shurtz
Editor: Don Shurtz
Contact us by e-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com or
L.SHURTZ@gmail.com

Minutes of the June 4 Meeting

POGMC President Joe Vulk called the club meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

Snack time: Until late-comers arrive. Thanks to Cheryl, Carol, and Hatt for providing the snacks.

Pledge of Allegiance: All stood and recited the pledge.

Quorum: We had a quorum.

Visitors: There were no visitors.

Minutes:

Minutes of the April meeting were published in the May Chips and Chatter. Hatt made a motion to accept the Minutes as published. Warner seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of members present.

Treasurers Report:

Ling presented the Treasurer's Report. Warner made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Brenda seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of members present.

Old Business:

- Admission to the Arboretum following our display there. It was decided to not pursue this issue.
- Storage of the club's collection. Don provided a detailed and colorful account of maintaining the collection which is stored at his residence. Members present unanimously approved reimbursing Don for the cost of new shelves \$70.02. In discussing the purchase of more/newer flats, it was decided to table this issue until the least expensive solution is

determined. Don said that a recent donation from Susan and Dean Powell needs cleaning and rewrapping. Methods for accomplishing the cleanup were discussed.

- SCFMS president, Don reported that there is currently not a lot of SCFMS activity. He did repeat that he is seeking someone to fill the position of SCFMS Secretary.

New Business:

- July meeting - Spring Creek Barbecue on Central Expressway at 7:00 pm.
- Don's attendance at the AFMS convention in California. Don summarized the meeting – primarily approval of reports that had been distributed
- Don explained domain registration and hosting of our pogmc.org website. It was decided that Don purchase the website for three years for approximately \$150 which will save money in the long run.
- Joe asked if everyone was receiving the Chips and Chatter newsletter. Everyone present responded yes.

Presentation: Carolyn showed a video of Mountain and Geological Formations around the world from the video “Pole to Pole” from the BBC’s Planet Earth series.

Raffle: Don provided the raffle of items from the club collection. As their name was drawn, each member had a choice of items on the table.

Joe adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be on July 1st. It will be our annual Independence Day celebration at Spring Creek BBQ in Richardson. We will meet at 7:00 and enter the serving lines shortly thereafter. To close the meeting, we will draw a name for a nice door prize.

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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of DALLAS



Meetings

First Monday of each month, KofC Hall, 3722 Cavalier Dr., Garland, TX. Please check website, www.pogmc.org, for updates.

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 Monday, July 1st. This will be our annual Independence Day celebration
We will meet at the Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson (see page 3) starting at 7:00 PM.
Come and enjoy the food, friends, and talk. We will have a nice door prize**

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Chips and Chatter

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

See the Chips and Chatter online for color!

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