

# GOLDRUSH LEDGER



## FROM THE PREZ

*Dee Rittenhour*

### Our 50th Year

Hi Everyone,

them joining before they leave!

The next club meeting should be exciting for all of the members to hear what has come to pass. This club is going to be one of a kind! I would like to see members bring friends—it would most likely have

Please remember we have our geode-cutting booth at Matthews Alive Festival at the end of the month. We need help from the members to work it.

### August Meeting

The mineral for the month is *kunzite*. Please bring your samples of *kunzite* to the meeting on August 16.



## **Upcoming Club Picnic**

*Date to be announced*

*Please check the website and Sept. newsletter*

Jack and Kathy King have graciously offered their home for our annual club picnic. Jack loves to cook and will grill burgers, hot dogs, and chicken, and will have something for anyone who might not eat meat. Folks can just visit and enjoy the King's rocks, or see cabbing demos or, perhaps, do wire wrapping or beading. Kathy and Jack use rocks and minerals as special highlight decor throughout their home. You will notice pictures and paintings that have rock and mineral groupings nearby so that the colors complement each other. Jack has suggested that members bring some swapping material and he will try to set up an area for the trading corner. He has also offered to have members bring a hunk of rough that will fit into his 18" saw and he will slab it for them for the small fee of one slice of the material; if it is a big rock, the club would appreciate a donation of a slice for the next auction. The Kings live on Lake Norman, and, depending on the weather, folks could swim and enjoy the sandy beach. Everyone should bring lawn chairs. Jack and Kathy would like to make this a kid-friendly event, and will have a special area where youth in our club can "prospect." Everyone should plan to bring something to donate—some rough, a finished craft, a recently read book. We will then have a Dutch auction. The funds raised at the picnic will be dedicated to the clubhouse expenses, so please bring something GREAT!

*More information to come!!*

**2007 CGMC  
Officers & Board**

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Dee Rittenhour  
704/845-5627

**Vice President**

Jack King  
704/892-7608

**Secretary**

Pat Walker  
704/523-5261

**Treasurer**

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704/442-0530

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704/846-7102  
Murray Simon  
704-543-6651

**Bulletin Editor**

Kim Tyler  
704/454-5337

**Past President**

Jimmy Strickland  
704/537-6010

**CLUB CHAIRPERSONS**

**SFMS Contact &**

**Stamp Chairman**

Pat Walker

**Points Scholarships Chair**

open

**Field Trip Chairman**

open

**Geode Chairman**

Jimmy Strickland

**Show Chairman**

Jimmy Strickland

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**Hospitality Chairman**

open

**Refreshments Chairman**

open

**Workshop Chairman**

open

**Web Master**

Ron Gibbs

**Librarian**

Pat Walker

**Picnic Chairman**

open

**Christmas Party Chairman**

Pat Walker

**Upcoming Shows**

August 31—September 3, 2007, Hendersonville, NC.—Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society. Witmire Activity Building, Lily Pond Rd. Hours: August 31st—September 2nd, 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. and September 3rd, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Contact: Margaret L. Johnson (Show Chair) at 828.692.1249 or [mgt.j.ed@brinet.com](mailto:mgt.j.ed@brinet.com).

September 7—9, 2007, Winston-Salem, NC—Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club. 36th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Show and Sale, Educational Building, Dixie Classic Fairgrounds. Hours: 7th & 8th, 10:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.; 9th, 12:00 Noon—5:00 p.m. Contact: W.A. Marion, Show Chairman at [www.forsythgemclub.com](http://www.forsythgemclub.com).



**Matthews Alive  
August 31-Sept. 3**

Jimmy Strickland needs club members' help all weekend, especially on Sunday and Monday. He will pass the volunteer list around at this month's meeting. This is the only time we are cutting geodes for the university scholarships, and all help is appreciated.

*Come join in the fun!*

**Stamp Program**

Our club is a participating member in the SFMS cancelled-stamp program. Our members are asked to save stamps from their mail by cutting around the stamp, leaving 1/4" so as not to damage the edges of the stamp. The stamps can be soaked off of envelopes, and our club will receive twice as many credits for stamps delivered in this condition than it will for those still stuck on the paper. Please check the SFMS website at

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/stamp-program.html>

for specific information and instructions for the stamp program. Members are also asked to collect the "PB Meter" (Pitney Bowes) imprinted on the envelope. Members may turn in their collections to Pat Walker at regular meetings, being sure to include a piece of paper with their names. At the SFMS annual meeting, clubs contributing stamps will be included in a drawing. If a club's name is drawn, it in turn will have a drawing from the names of contributing members for a workshop scholarship. Last year four workshop scholarships were awarded!

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**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee**  
**An Official Field Trip of The Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society**  
**Montgomery, AL (Host)**  
**An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club**  
**10:00 CST, Saturday, September 15, 2007**  
**Douglas Property, Dothan Alabama**  
**FEE COLLECTING SITE - \$0.25 per lb.**

**Collecting:** We will be collecting intercostal plains flint and chert. This material ranges in size from small chips to massive boulders. There is a wide variety of colors; brown, creams, yellows, red, and purples. Some of the smaller pieces are solid and jasper-like and will cab or tumble nicely. The larger boulders contain vugs with a drusy quartz covering sea shells. Some also have a thin layer of a purple chalcedony that may be cabbed if cut and polished with care.

**Fee:** There will be a 25 cent per lb fee for the material collected.

**Special Conditions:** The site is on the Douglas property (fish ponds and farm land) near Dothan, Alabama. The area covers several acres and there are no facilities.

**Bring:** Sledge hammers, rock hammers, and chisels will be needed to breakdown the larger pieces. A garden rake will be useful to search the hillside for the smaller pieces. Five gallon buckets are also a good idea. It will be hot., so bring plenty of fluids, sunscreen, hats and food or snack items.

**Directions and Where to Meet:** We will meet at the KMart (Big K) parking lot at the intersection of Ross Clark Circle (US 84) and Hwy 431 North (also called Headland Hwy or Reeves St.) in Dothan AL.. We will leave at 10:00 CST for the 10-minute drive to the site.

**When:** 10:00 CST, Saturday, September 15, 2007

**Contact:**

David Sherrod, MGMS Field Trip Chair  
cell 334-201-4460  
email dsher355@bellsouth.net

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"Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this or any DMC program field trips!"

**Cabochon Machine**

A cabochon machine is available at the home of Jimmy Strickland (704/537-6010), and he can teach you how to use it.

*Please call to plan a visit.*

The machine belongs to the club;  
you **MUST** be a club member to use it.

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## **FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA YOUTH POSTER CONTEST 2007**

David Rich contacted me recently with a very neat idea! His club, the Summit Lapidary Club from the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies, is sponsoring a poster contest, which they're opening up to any and all kids who belong to the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America (FRA) program nationwide, regardless of which regional federation they're in. In addition, they welcome entries from any school teachers who would like to do this as a class project. So if you're utilizing the FRA program within your club, I encourage you to work with your kids to design posters and send them to David. Here are the details:

**Theme:** "Gemstones of the World"

Prepare a poster illustrating one or more gemstones or minerals that interest you, from anywhere in the world.

**Eligibility:** 1st through 12th grade. Each grade will have a winner. Ribbons awarded for 1st through 4th place, with the 1st place winner also receiving a prize.

**Contest Rules:**

- All entries must be presented on paper 12 inches by 18 inches.
- Include name, address, age and school grade of participant on back of entry.
- Artwork can be in pen, ink, crayons, magic marker, paint or any other artists' medium.
- No three-dimensional posters accepted.
- The title may be on the front or the back.
- List names of the gems and/or minerals and why you chose them.
- All entries become the property of the Summit Lapidary Club.

**Scale of Points:**

- Originality & Art Work—30 points
- Design—25 points
- Title—25 points
- Listing of Gems and/or Minerals & Reason Chosen—20 points.

**Deadlines & Contacts:**

- Entries must be postmarked by October 1, 2007.
- Send to:  
David Rich  
1166 Broadview Road  
Tallmadge, Ohio 44278
- Winners will be displayed and prizes and ribbons awarded at the Fall Gemboree on October 27, 2008 at 10:00 A.M.
- If you have any questions, please call the contest chairman, David Rich at 330.630.9625, or email at DRICH@lapidaryclubofohio.org.

I encourage every club with juniors who have been taking part in the AFMS/FRA program to jump in and send in entries from their pebble pups and junior members. It sounds like David and the good folks of the Summit Lapidary Club have come up with a great way for kids to express their interest in their favorite gems and minerals while—as always—having fun!

Jim Brace-Thompson  
AFMS Junior Activities Chair

July/August 2007 *Lodestar*

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## **FATHER OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN CARETAKER PASSES AWAY**

Clarence E. Norman, Sr.  
September 14, 1929 - May 26, 2007

Mr. Norman, Sr., a lifelong resident of Lincoln County, owned and operated Norman Wrecking Co. for over 55 years, and more recently with his son, Clarence E. Norman, Jr., who is the caretaker for Graves Mountain.

Norman Wrecking Company, 3333 CE Norman Rd,  
Lincolnton, GA 30817-3110, 706.359.3862.

via Jim Flora, SFMS Webmaster and Field Trip Committee Chair  
July/August 2007 *Lodestar*



# Mineral of the Month

## kunzite



Chemistry:  $\text{LiAlSi}_2\text{O}_6$ , lithium aluminum silicate

Uses: mined for the lithium content

Color: pink to colorless

Hardness: 6.5-7

Specific gravity: 3.2

Crystals: Monoclinic. Bladed - Aggregates of thin lath-like crystals (e.g. kyanite). Prismatic - Crystals shaped like slender prisms (e.g. tourmaline)

Accompanied by: schorl

Fracture: It cleaves in two directions and thus the fracture might be splintery. Splintery - Thin, elongated fractures produced by intersecting good cleavages or partings.

Luster: vitreous like glass

Cleavage: cleaves in two directions

Streak: white

Similar to: hiddenite

This is the pink gem variety of spodumene.

Kunzite is strongly pleochroic, meaning there is a color intensity variation when a crystal is viewed from the top or bottom then from other directions.

Kunzite is named after the American gem expert, G. F. Kunz (1856-1932).

The top and bottom of the crystal reveal the deepest colors and knowledgeable gem cutters take advantage of its effects.

Due to kunzite's cleavage, splintery fracture and strong pleochroism, it is considered a real gem-cutters' challenge. However, its lovely pink color makes kunzite an attractive and desirable gemstone

Kunzite do not fluoresce and it is not radioactive.

*Used by permission, Gerdus Brönn website, [www.mineralgallery.co.za](http://www.mineralgallery.co.za)*

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**Refreshments ?????**

If you would be interested in providing refreshments for this month's meeting, please contact the Bulletin Editor. Expenses up to \$30 will be reimbursed by the club, with receipt. Please consider helping the club with this job. Our social time is much more fun with something to munch on!

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Kim Tyler, Bulletin Editor  
5437 Somerset Lane  
Harrisburg, NC 28075  
Email: bbck4@yahoo.com

**Next Meeting**  
**Thursday, August 16**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Discovery Place**

**August**  
**2007**



## **GOLDRUSH LEDGER**

### **First Class Mail**

«First Name» «Last Name»  
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«City», «State» «PostalCode»

The Goldrush Ledger is published monthly in Charlotte, North Carolina. Articles may be reproduced provided proper credit is given to the author and to this publication. Deadline for publication is the first Thursday of each month. Material may be submitted at club or executive board meetings, or mailed directly to the Editor, and will be in the next issue if still timely. All articles must be signed and, where applicable, references must be provided. The Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club is a member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, an affiliate member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and an affiliate of the Arts & Science Council of Charlotte, North Carolina. Annual dues of \$20.00 (family) and \$15.00 (individual) are payable in December for the following year. The purpose of this Club is to foster interest in, and promote knowledge of, minerals, gems, fossils, and all earth sciences. We also disseminate information and instruction in the lapidary arts and the utilization of precious metals in our crafts. These purposes are accomplished through regular meetings (usually the third Thursday of each month at 7:30pm, at Discovery Place, 301 N. Tryon Street, Charlotte) with informative programs, study groups, workshops and field trips. Visitors are most welcome to our club meetings. For more information, write our club at: P.O. Box 10233, Charlotte, NC 28212-5667.

**WEB SITE: <http://www.charlottegem.com>**