

GOLDRUSH LEDGER



FROM THE PREZ

Dee Rittenhour

To All Club Members,

We are trying to build the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club with new members and a new facility (read about this on page 3 of the newsletter). In whole, we are almost starting new. To me this is exciting!

As I've said before, every paid member has a unique

view for the club, and new ideas come from these new members as well as our "old" members.

Read your ByLaws and do not forget what this club is formed for and do not stray from the reasons it was founded.

Thank You, Dee

Our 50th Year

July Meeting

The mineral for the month is *halite*. Please bring your samples of *halite* to the meeting on July 19.



Hope to see everyone at the club meeting on
Thursday, July 19, 7:30 p.m.
at Discovery Place!

Special Gem and Mineral Club Meeting was held Sunday, June 24

We had a special club meeting last month on Sunday, June 24. Instead of having our regular Thursday evening meeting at Discovery Place, Danny Jones graciously offered his home as our meeting location for the June gathering. The afternoon began with a tour of his wonderful specimen collection, rock talk, and suggestions for club activities, followed by a covered-dish dinner. Everyone had a wonderful afternoon.

Thanks to Danny for his wonderful hospitality!

**2007 CGMC
Officers & Board**

President

Dee Rittenhour
704/845-5627

Vice President

open

Secretary

Pat Walker
704/523-5261

Treasurer

Gale Blevins
704/442-0530

Directors-at-Large

Ron Gibbs
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

Dealer Chairman

Becky Strickland
704/537-6010

Hospitality Chairman

open

Refreshments Chairman

open

Workshop Chairman

open

Web Master

Ron Gibbs

Librarian

Pat Walker

Picnic Chairman

open

Christmas Party Chairman

Pat Walker

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.

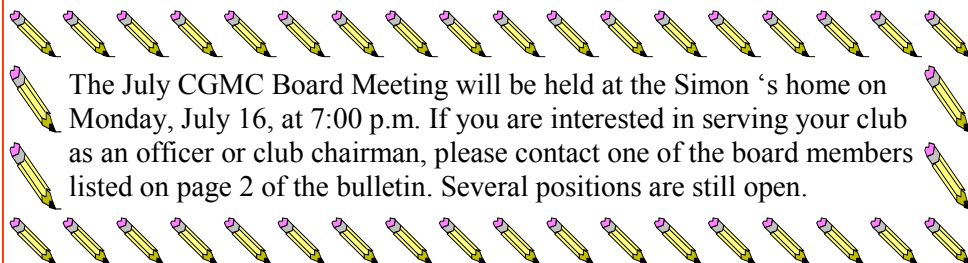
The machine belongs to the club;
you MUST be a club member to use it.

Upcoming Shows

July 25-28, 2007, Franklin, NC—Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC. Community Facilities Building, Hwy. 441S (Georgia Rd.). Hours: 25th—28th, 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. Contacts: Fred Plesner (Show Chair) at 888.348.4224 or Franklin Chamber of Commerce at 828.524.3161 or www.franklin-chamber.com.

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.

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.

The July CGMC Board Meeting will be held at the Simon 's home on Monday, July 16, at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in serving your club as an officer or club chairman, please contact one of the board members listed on page 2 of the bulletin. Several positions are still open.

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!

CGMC Clubhouse?

To the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club:

Above Camera World is a small office that was previously used for a custom black-and-white dark-room. Since film has virtually gone away, the lab is gone. The floor is stained from years of spills and the room needs a good spiffing up with painting and cleaning and likely replacement of the linoleum. It has a bathroom and has a separate secure entrance.

Since Kathy and I personally own this building, we are willing to donate the use of this space to the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club for the purpose of a dedicated clubhouse for the purpose of lapidary demonstrations and classes, as well as other related craft demonstrations and classes and meetings with small groups such as scouting groups, etc. The advantage to a centrally located facility like this in an area with lots of good restaurants is tremendous. To me, this could become the new Noda for our arts, crafts and science.

There is room to have tables to hold lapidary machines as well as tables to do other related work. This offer includes normal heat, lights, water and AC, but if the utility bill runs up a lot, we will need to have some discussion as to compensation for the additional expense to Camera World. In addition, the club would need to provide liability insurance that would satisfy our current insurance carrier. In addition, I am going to become a Diamond Pacific dealer and am already a dealer for Barranca Diamond blades and I would offer on-going supplies such as wheels and blades at my cost. The clubhouse would be available for use during the normal work hours of 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Friday, and of 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays, and by schedule for special classes and demonstrations in the evenings and weekends.

"Certified" users could use the space any time by appointment. I visited a club in Reno which requires that, before anyone is allowed to touch a lapidary machine, they attend a 3-hour certification course. The last person or group using the facility would be responsible for leaving the machines clean to the standards that are needed as well as leaving the room free of trash and the heat cut down or AC turned off. Ron could give photography demonstrations and classes and our other talented members could give instruction in their areas of expertise. As the club is a non-profit, attendees could pay a materials or class fee similar to what is done at William Holland to offset the cost of supplies and replacement wheels and parts.

If it is agreed by the board that this is a venture that you would like to consider, please tell me of your intent. You will have the opportunity to inspect the facility, determine your insurance cost if not covered by your present insurance and if you feel for any reason not to proceed, that will be fine with me and the club will be under no obligation at all. I would like to have the decision of the board by the end of July as I have two prospective tenants willing to pay me for this space. Personally, the thought of going upstairs to cut on an opal would be a great stress reliever on many days. I agree that there are many logistics for you to consider. Some members may not ever see the need to use such a facility. Others may find it of such an added value that they would pay an enhanced dues schedule in order to be able to use the facility. Please feel free to circulate my offer for all board members to see as I do not have all of the addresses. I am sure that there are many possible issues and concerns that you may have, but likely these can be addressed and resolved to get us the greatest club gathering place in the southeast.

Best, Jack King



Mineral of the Month

halite

Chemistry: NaCl

Uses: Salt (food seasoning), primary ore for both sodium and chlorine, to melt snow and ice for road safety, salt licks for cattle, medicinal purposes

Color: Clear, dark blue, light blue, pink, white

Hardness: 2.5

Specific gravity: 2.1+

Crystals: Cubes and in massive sedimentary beds, but also granular, fibrous and compact

Accompanied by: Borate, Shalides, Sulfates

Fracture: Brittle

Luster: Vitreous (Glassy) to opaque

Cleavage: Cubical perfect

Streak: White

The word *halite* or sodium chloride comes from the Greek word "halos," meaning salt and "lithos" meaning rock.

It is called an evaporite because it is formed by the evaporation of saline water in partially enclosed basins. An evaporite means that it forms when water evaporates and leaves behind dissolved solids. All halite comes from the sea.

Halite (also known as rock salt) is easily recognizable thanks to habits, the cleavage and taste.

Halite is extremely common. It is found in solid masses, where in ancient times bedrocks all over the world, where large extinct salt lakes and seas had evaporated millions of years ago, leaving thick deposits of salt behind.

Well crystallized specimens of halite cubes are very impressive and quite popular.

Halite is a soft mineral that flows easily under pressure. At depths of as little as 3 kilometers, it begins to rise through the rocks above it in cylindrical plugs called salt domes. These are of interest to oil prospectors because petroleum collects around them.

Used by permission, Gerdus Brönn website, www.mineralgallery.co.za



Refreshments

Refreshments for the July meeting will be provided by Wilfredis Nativi.

Refreshments in upcoming months will be provided by the following members:

Aug., Bill Parrish; Sept., the Caceres; Oct., the Rittenhour's.

Thanks for volunteering to help us enjoy our meetings and social time!

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of The Middle Tennessee
Gem & Mineral Society (Host)
An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club
Saturday, July 14, 2007
Columbia Mines, Marion, Kentucky
FEE SITE

Where: The Columbia Mines of Marion, Kentucky but meet at the Clement Mineral Museum

When: Saturday, July 14, 2007

Time: Day dig 9:00 a.m. CDT and night digs 8:15 p.m. CDT

Collecting: Fluorite, smithsonite, sphalerite, cerussite, galena, hemimorphite, hydrozincite, quartz, and pyromorphite. Calcite is by far the most common mineral found, and all other minerals require some digging in the dump to locate.

Fee: The day time digs will cost \$20 and is limited to 30 persons. The night time digs will be \$30 and is limited to 20 persons. The fee entitles you to one five gallon bucket of specimens additional buckets may be purchased.

Admission to the Ben Clement Fluorite Museum is \$5. You will be required to sign a waiver for this hunt. You may download the reservation, waiver and information at the following link:

<http://www.marionkentucky.us/clementmineralmuseum/index.htm>

All reservations for the digs will be handled through the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum at www.MarionKentucky.us. Or call 270-965-4263, or write Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum, 205 North Walker Street, Marion, Kentucky 42064. Information on campgrounds, lodging, and bed and breakfasts can also be obtained from Clement Mineral Museum.

While the primary purpose of this trip is to accommodate SFMS members, the secondary purpose is to help the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum fund its efforts in maintaining a world class fluorite collection and making it available to the public.

What to Bring: Other than standard collecting equipment, bring plenty of water, snacks, camera, and you will need a portable ultraviolet light. Daytime collectors will need a way to check fluorescence too! Black light boxes or whatever suits you. Nighttime collectors will need a standard flashlight to travel to and from their cars. The time of the month was chosen because it is the dark of the moon! Short wave and broad spectrum ultraviolet lights are best. Most collectors will share their lights, but do not count on it, after all someone will need to bring a light.

Mine History: The mines where the dig is to be conducted are located on the Commodore fault system and date back to 1901. Mine shafts on the property have produced fluorite, smithsonite and sphalerite. Other minerals that have been found in the mine dumps include; cerussite, galena, hemimorphite, hydrozincite, quartz, and pyromorphite. Calcite is by far the most common mineral found, and all other minerals require some digging in the dump to locate.

The most common fluorescent mineral is calcite which glows a soft to bright pearly white. There are other colors other than white, but they are fewer in number. Of particular note are specimens of sandstone which glow a coral pink to a bright red in either short wave or broad spectrum ultraviolet light. There are also specimens which glow various shades of pale yellow and bright blue. Please note: that included in the spoil are fragments of mortar and concrete which will also fluoresce. The concrete and mortar was made from rock from the mine.

MTGMS Contacts:

Marty Hart webmaster@gemizo.com

Phil Herren pwherren@comcast.net

"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!"

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

Next Meeting
Thursday, July 19
Discovery Place

July
2007



GOLDRUSH LEDGER

First Class Mail

«First Name» «Last Name»
«Address»
«Address 1»
«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>