

GOLDRUSH LEDGER



Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

April 2008

The Prez Sez ...

Happy Springtime to you all! I have much to tell you about the happenings of The Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club during March. On Saturday, March 29th we had our first junior rockhound program held at our new clubhouse.

We had a full house with eight bright and enthusiastic kids in attendance. Mary Fisher was assisted by her son, Michael, and they did a FANTASTIC job of presenting a program on fluorescent minerals. The kids loved it as did the adults.

I have to tell you that this was one of those defining moments in my life. To see those kids soak up the information like little sponges did my heart much good. Mary heard one youngster say that that was the BEST class that he had ever attended!

Due to the demand and having to cut off the number who could attend, Mary has agreed to run two programs a month. This month, in order for families to go to Graves Mountain, Mary has moved the two classes to the 19th. As a result of this first class, two new families joined our club!

A week before, Kathy and I took a new member to Woodleaf quarry

on a joint field trip of the Dixie Mineral Council. The mine employee told me that this was the largest group they had ever had. I would guess there were about 30 vehicles from GA, TN, SC, VA and NC. We got good exercise climbing on boulders, plenty of sunshine and fresh air and brought home some new yard rocks.

I want to personally thank Jimmy Strickland who crawled around the floor of the clubhouse putting the baseboard down and to Ken Anderson who spent several days working in the clubhouse. Tom tells me that he will hang the outside light soon and we will be open for business.

Jimmy Strickland and I picked up two worktables donated by a former member. We have some borrowed folding chairs but need more. If you or your company has any folding or stackable chairs that you are not using we sure could use some. Perhaps you would consider going to one of the big box stores or Habitat, purchasing a few chairs and making a tax deductible donation. We have had many generous donations from our members so far.

Murray and I retrieved our missing Genie from Rockwell, NC and it is in need of repair. Trusty

Ken Anderson, master machinist, will likely once again come to our rescue. This will give us two used Genies, one new Genie and one new Pixie for our lapidary classes.

And one last note of a March happening which did not work out well. Our club took a booth at the CPCC Arts Fest, this past Saturday, March 29th. This was an outside event which we understood was

Table of Contents

- 1-2.) Prez Sez ...
- 3.) Charlotte Jr. Rockhound
- 3.) Reed Gold mine request
- 4-5.) Jaspers explained
- 6.) Youth Scholarship Program
- 6.) Nice Ice at Auction
- 7.) Graves Mtn. Field trip
- 7.) Updated Stamp Program
- 8.) Photos from Jr. Rockhound
- 8.) April Meeting Topic
- 8.) April 19th Field Trip
- 8.) Govt. Unbelievable!



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to be heavily promoted and advertised. Kim, Pat, Jimmy, Becky and Ron showed up to show our posters, hand out brochures and perhaps sell some of their crafts. Well, the first bummer was the weather. Cold, rainy and windy. And next, our members and about nine other vendors were very unhappy with the almost non-existent traffic.

Jimmy and Kim said that nothing was sold and only a couple of club brochures were handed out. Cold wet weather and obviously a lack of proper promotion wasted our folks' time and they were miserable on top of that. Like most of life, there are no guarantees of success on anything and those volunteers did their best on behalf of our club and I thank them for their efforts standing out there in the cold.

Don't forget our Graves Mtn. field trip at the end of the month, April 25th, 26th and 27th.. Folks, this is one of the PREMIER collecting sites in the country. A blind hog can find an acorn here. There are specimens in museums all over the world with stuff from Graves Mountain, Ga. If you would like to actually see the site and some of the things that can be found there, go to HYPERLINK "<http://www.rockhounds.com>" www.rockhounds.com and scroll down to the table of contents. Keep looking and soon you will see an article titled: Rockhounding Graves Mountain.

The nearest town is Lincolnton, Ga. I just looked on-line and there are three local motels there. It is not a bad drive at all from Augusta, Ga. Being next to the interstate highway, there should be lots of

national chains for choices to stay. It is a little over 3 hours to the area from Charlotte. There will be a rock swap and food on the site. From where you park, it is quite a hike up the hill to the pits. You may want to get a wheeled garden cart to carry your digging tools, water and snacks, or one member tells me that they use a five gallon bucket and a hand truck. There are age restrictions for youth. No one younger than 12. Sorry little folks. We will find you some digging sites.

To close, I must tell you one more bit of rock item news. I received an e-mail from another rock club across the country. The club wants to send us one flat rate US postal box filled rocks and minerals native to their area in exchange for a same sized box of materials native to our east coast area. If you have a "local to the Carolinas" rock or mineral that you would like to contribute, please bring it to the next meeting and I will package the collection and send it on its way.

I am bringing a slab of Unakite from Roan mountain. We can add the specimens that we receive to our display in the clubhouse. I will give you a hint where our box will come from - it is a fossil bearing area!

I do have one more request. Mary Fisher should not have to haul her dark box and lights up and down the stairs. I would love have a volunteer to build a plywood dark box and the club can get some black lights. If you have specimens that fluoresce that you will loan or donate, that would be great too.

Kids, Join the Fun!

Charlotte Junior Rockhounds!

Saturday, April 19

Due to the popularity of the class, we will have TWO MEETINGS:

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM

CGAM Clubhouse

At the Camera World on Commonwealth Ave.

Show & Tell

Bring a favorite Gem or Mineral
to show the group!

Topic for April:

Gems and Minerals of North Carolina

(Minerals that you can find in N.C., and where to find them)

This month's activity is a

Gem Hunt!

Each Meeting is limited to 8 students.

Parents are encouraged to attend with students.

In order for materials to be ready, you **must** sign up ahead of time:

If you have questions or want to sign up,

contact Mary Fisher at [HYPERLINK "mailto:mefisher@att.net"](mailto:mefisher@att.net) mefisher@att.net, 704-786-6621.

* **Note:** We normally meet on the LAST Saturday of the month, but several junior members were interested in going to the Graves Mountain Field Trip on April 24, so we are moving this month's meeting so you can participate in both activities!

If you had been there to see those kids' faces when the lights went out and the rocks started to glow, you would be as excited as I am to have a permanent black light display in the corner of the room.

I have another surprise about a very old collection that we have been

promised that I will hopefully tell you about next month.

Our next meeting is April 17th, 7 p.m. at Discovery Place. I hope to see you there! Be sure to bring your parking tickets inside to be stamped for free parking.

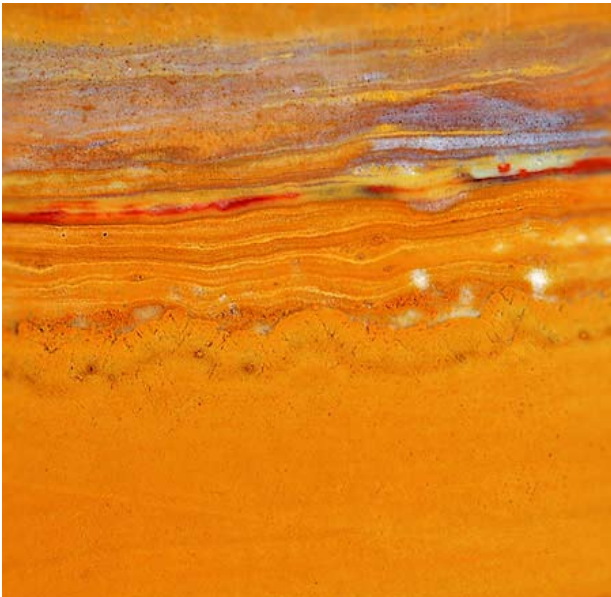
JACK KING, President

Reed Gold Mine

9621 Reed Mine Rd.
Stanfield, NC 28163

Our club will be manning a booth at the Carolina Heritage Festival. on April 29-30. Volunteers are needed.

Contact: Jimmy Srickland
More info at next meeting!



Sec 2 - Jasper Classification - Part I ***by ron gibbs***

I wrote four serialized articles on the formation and types of agates, and I will continue here with Jaspers and how they differ from agates. Agates are created in void spaces in silica rich lava flows. They most probably form from aqueous solutions which fill the spaces, and then through various precipitation processes create the variety of designs found within.

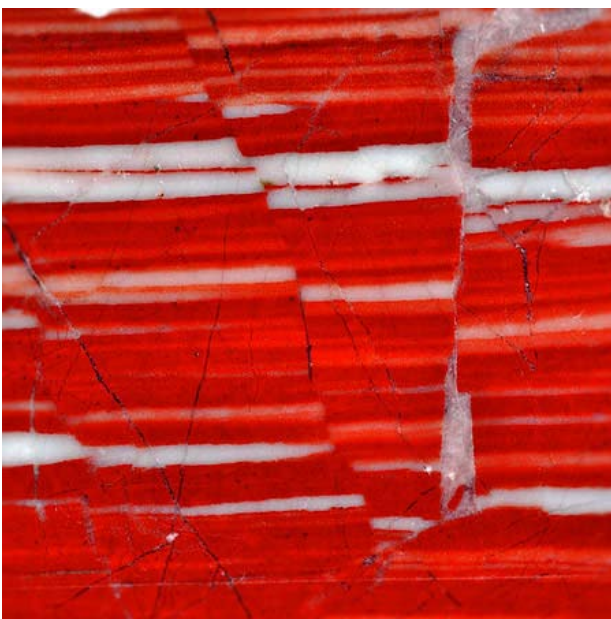
One train of thought classifies agates as the transparent to translucent variety of cryptocrystalline quartz, and jasper as the “opaque” cryptocrystalline quartz. I don’t buy this definition at all.



Jaspers are derived first from sedimentary processes followed by a “gluing” process. Sediment from a lake, ocean, or river bed is first compacted into a mass (it may be nearly solid or layered) and then the void areas between the grains are cemented together with a silica solution similar to the one that filled the agate voids.

Many times jaspers contain a record of wind or water action. Layering shows us seasonal changes, flat boundaries show us calm water, waves or repetitive patterns can indicate wave of wind blown layering caused by some kind of turbulence.

The layers of sediment are often different colors or they may be stained by minerals in the silica solution. In the first photo you can clearly see sedimentary layers with what was probably a wave pattern near the top. There are also a multitude of grain sizes in the sediment. The very best jasper are likely created from siltstone or mudstone which has very fine grain and is tightly compacted. I would guess most of the true porcelain jaspers originated from this type of material.



The second photo shows a mix of two colors with some void spaces along the sediment joints. These were filled in during the gluing process and you can see the precipitated agate center in one of them. This may have been caused by two separate silica infusions.

The last photo on this page shows clearly defined sediment layers that were later displaced by ground movement. A second silica injection healed some of the vertical cracks. Multiple fluid injections are very common in tectonically active regions.

The next jaspers were formed in a strong tectonic area and were broken one or more times during their formation. The solid sediment structures appear to be broken or fractured and then refilled with silica. These jaspers have the general name of “brecciated jasper”. The top photo is known as Stone Canyon Jasper and comes from central California. It is typically a mustard yellow colored sediment (but also may contain red, orange and even green materials) with very nice white silica filling the cracks.



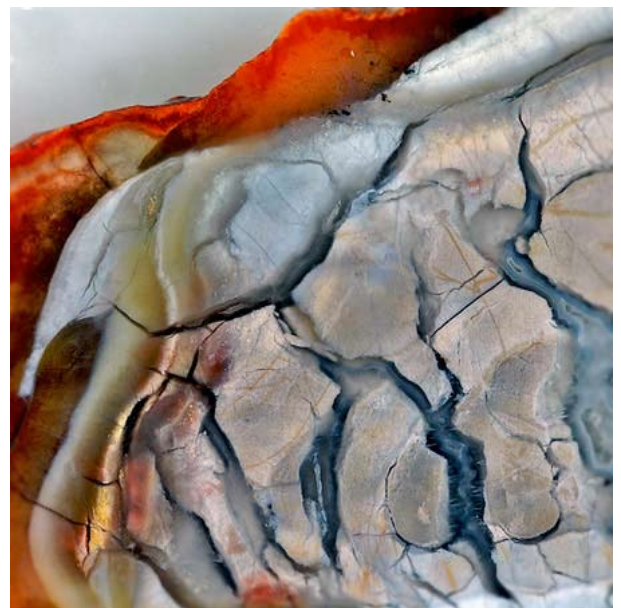
The second photo on this page comes from Brazil and is Amazon Jasper that has been brecciated. This material is usually found in rounded nodules that have been carried far from their original source via river flow.



The bottom right photo is Chapenite, from Lavic Siding in the Mojave desert of California. It is usually found in nodules with brecciated centers, and comes from another well known earth quake zone.

The bottom left photo show very heavy brecciation but comes from an unknown locality. There are many small agate structures in the cemented area with typical agate fortifications.

Next month, in Jasper-Part 2, I will continue with discussing jasper, and cover some of the orbicular jaspers.



2008 Youth Scholarship Program

by Jack King - Presidnet

Below you will read about a scholarship opportunity for ONE youth member of our club. If you have a young person in your family who would like to apply for a one week class at either Wildacres or William Holland School, please read the requirements and send me their essay as soon as possible.

I will review the applications and make my recommendations to the parties who will decide who gets the scholarship. One young lady from Franklin has won this for five straight years, because SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO APPLIED.

I would be very excited if a member of The Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club was this year's recipient. Please read the instructions, write the essay and send it to me: tackyjackie@bellsouth.net. This is an excellent opportunity with great odds that this year, one of our young members will be honored in this manner.

Youth scholarships?

Yes! Each year the Federation generously offers scholarships to deserving junior (ages 12-18) club members of a Federation club. These scholarships are for the SFMS workshops at Wildacres or William Holland.

However, few juniors apply for these scholarships. So we are asking each of the Federation clubs to encourage their junior members to apply for one of these scholarships.

Emphasize that the requirements are not difficult to meet!

Requirements for Junior Scholarships for SFMS Workshops:

- President of the sponsoring adult club submits the junior's name with an explanation of the club's qualifications considered in recommending this youth.

- Youth submits a short essay explaining his or her interest in the hobby and reason for wanting to attend a workshop. (In the letter, the youth should state why they should be considered and include a list of lapidary hobbies and achievements.)

- After attending the workshop of choice, the scholarship recipient is encouraged to write a Lodestar article about the experience.

- Responsible adult must accompany the youth to the workshop.

- Permission must be obtained from the workshop director and the class teacher. Usually, this is not a problem.

- Deadline for applying for the scholarship is April 30, 2008. Recommendations should be sent to:

Bonita L. Harris
(tele:251.865.9157)
SFMS Youth Resources
12520 Jeff Hamilton Road
Mobile, AL 36695

Note** Deadline for applying for the scholarship is April 30, 2008.

Nice Ice at Auction

submitted by Danny Jones

Sotheby's Hong Kong recently announced the display of an extremely rare 72 carat pear shaped white diamond. Weighing in at an astonishing 72.22 carats, this is the largest flawless D-color pear shaped diamond to appear in auction in Asia. The diamond is estimated to be worth \$9.5 - 12.5 million. The diamond has been graded by the Gemological Institute of America and is particularly revered for its excellent polish and symmetry.



This immaculate diamond was cut from an original rough diamond weighing in at 188 carats. It will be offered at the spring sale on April 10th. This diamond is sure to spark interest and intense bidding from "avid collectors." Sotheby's is known for auctioning diamonds and gemstones of extreme rarity and value including a 6.04 ct. Fancy vivid blue diamond ring which sold for an impressive \$7.9 million and a 10.04 carat fancy vivid pink diamond which sold for \$6.2 million.

Danny suggested that the Club, which has many "avid collectors," might want to buy this diamond for our display cabinet, but the board decided we needed something with a little more "flash"!

April Field Trip News

GRAVES MOUNTAIN, GA. “ROCK SWAPS AND DIGS”

Dates:/Times: 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., Friday, April 25, 2008
8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., Saturday, April 26, 2008
8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., Sunday, April 27, 2008

Your society is invited to field collect minerals at Georgia’s premiere mineral location!

All participants must stop at the welcome table in the hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf cart-type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6:00 P.M. each day.

Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain. Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks: Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be setup for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events.

Don’t forget to bring some extra money to buy the special “Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig” T-shirt!
THESE DIGS ARE OPEN TO ALL. Mark your calendar and tell all your members about these great events!

Contact Information: Clarence Norman Jr. - 706.359.3862 (his business) or 706.359.2381 (his home)
(See March Newsletter for CODE OF CONDUCT at Graves Mtn.)

Updated 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. It is no longer desirable to soak the stamps off of the paper, just cut or tear the envelope without damaging the stamps. 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!

March - Jr. Rockhound Meeting a big success!

Our new (almost completed) Club house saw it's inaugural meeting by hosting the Jr. Rockhound group on Saturday, March 29th. The meeting was well attended. Special thanks to Mary Fisher. (Read the Prez Sez ... page 1 for a more full description.)

Here are some photos from the meeting:



April Meeting

Thursday April 17th

Kim Tyler will give a presentation on stained glass. Kim will describe the various stages in stained glass creation from layout, cutting to assembly. She will show how she can include rock slabs in the final product.

Chunky Gal Mountain Field Trip

April 19, 2008:

Chunky Gal Mountain, Corundum Knob, Clay County, NC; hosted by the Northeast Georgia Mineral Society.

Mineral collecting: ruby, sapphire, spinel, talc, serpentine, brucite, tremolite, actinolite, smaragdite, pyroxene, fuchsite and dunite (rock).

Contact Information:

Richard Walters

r fw912@yahoo.com

770-532-8874

Unbelievable Govt. Move! by the editor ...

In a totally unexpected move the U.S. government announced today that it would convert its entire stock of gold bullion back into nuggets and restock the streams and rivers of North America.

This would create a new national Gold Rush for all hobbyist to enjoy! Rock & Gem Clubs were naturally very excited. Sales of gold pans are soaring!

April Fools