

GOLDRUSH LEDGER

!!! Meeting Location and Date Changes !!!

We have, unexpectedly, had to relinquish our meeting room at Discovery Place for the events associated with the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit. This month's meeting has been rescheduled for

Friday, Feb. 24, at Amity Presbyterian Church.

Dates and locations for meetings during the following three months will be discussed and voted upon at the meeting Feb. 24. Amity Presbyterian is located between Albemarle Road and Independence Blvd., on the corner of Sharon Amity Rd. and Peirson Rd. Turn on Pierson Rd. and go to the back of the church to park. The Fellowship Hall is in the long wing of the church bordering the north side of the parking lot.



Our 49th Year

February 24 Meeting Program Amity Pres. Church

Ron Gibbs will show us how to take pictures of our gems/minerals & jewelry.

The mineral for this month is *barite*. Please bring your samples of *barite* to the meeting.



Next Meeting

**Friday,
February 24**

7:30 pm

**Sharon
Amity
Presbyterian
Church**



Electronic Newsletter

The Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club is now publishing its monthly newsletter, *Goldrush Ledger*, on-line on the club's website, <http://www.charlottegem.com>

If you need a hard copy of the newsletter, YOU MUST CALL Kim Tyler at 704/454-5337 and let her know. Otherwise, she will assume you will look for the Goldrush Ledger on the website.

The cost of sending a hard copy of the newsletter to club members now exceeds \$1.00 per copy. If you have a computer at home, please help your club with its limited financial resources by reading the electronic version instead of a mailed hard copy.

**2006 CGMC
Officers & Board**

President

Devin McRorie
704-641-9106

Vice President

Warren Falcone
704/855-9815

Secretary

open

Treasurer

HP Giger
704/365-1734

Directors-at-Large

Ron Gibbs
704/846-7102

open

Bulletin Editor

Kim Tyler
704/454-5337

Past President

Jimmy Strickland
704/537-6010

CLUB CHAIRPERSONS

SFMS Contact &

Stamp Chairman

Ken Anderson
803/547-5147

Points Scholarships Chair

Ken Anderson

Field Trip Chairman

Warren Falcone

Geode Chairman

Jimmy Strickland

Show Chairman

Jolene Falcone
704/855-9815

Dealer Chairman

Becky Strickland
704/537-6010

Hospitality Chairman

Barbara Veil
704/568-3930

Refreshments Chairman

open

Workshop Chairman

open

Web Master

Devin McRorie

Librarian

Pat Walker
704/523-5261

Picnic Chairman

Jolene Falcone

Christmas Party Chairman

Pat Walker

Workshop Scholarship News 2006

Names for the SFMS William Holland/Wildacres workshop scholarships were drawn at the January meeting. Congratulations to Warren Falcone, Barbara Veil, and Pat Walker. These lucky winners will be rewarded for the many hours they devoted to club activities this past year with scholarships for one week of lapidary classes. Other members who reached the necessary point levels and turned in their self-kept score sheets were given the much-sought-after CGMC coffee mug.

All members are invited to participate in these programs. Ask for your own self-kept score sheet, and save cancelled stamps. You can learn valuable skills and have a great time at these workshops. Workshop schedules and recent changes have been published in the latest *Lodestar* or on website

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/wildacres-retreat.html>

Club activities reward you in many ways!

Congratulations!

Members of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club received a total of four awards in the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies 2005 Bulletin Contest. Congratulations to James McGlynn, 1st Place—Adult Article; Larry Littau—2nd Place, Advanced Adult Article; Chelsey Tyler—2nd Place Junior Article; and Kim Tyler—2nd Place, New Editor. Each of these members received a nice plaque to celebrate their accomplishments.

Hiram A. Walker Geology Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Jason Bronirski who won the Hiram A. Walker Geology Scholarship, valued at \$1000. The scholarship was funded by club geode sales throughout the past year.

Please return all club library materials to Pat Walker
at the FEB. 24 meeting.

Refreshments

Thanks to Palitha Wengappuly for the refreshments after the January meeting. Refreshments for the February meeting will be provided by the Falcones.

If you would be interested in providing refreshments for the March meeting, please contact Kim Tyler at bbck4@yahoo.com.



2006 Dues

Please remember that it is past time to pay your annual dues. A signed copy of the membership application is required with your dues. You may use the application on page 7 of this newsletter, download one from the club web site, or pick one up at the meeting Feb. 24.

This newsletter will be the last one mailed to those 2005 members who have not renewed membership for 2006.

Cabochon Machines

Cabochon machines are available at the homes of Jimmy Strickland (704-537-6010) and Warren Falcone (704-855-9815).

Please call to schedule a visit to use a machine.

These machines belong to the club; you MUST be a club member to use them.

Upcoming Field Trips

Tweedy Garnet Mine

Burke County, N.C.

February 11th, 2006

Official Fieldtrip:

**Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association
The Henderson County Gem and Mineral Society
and affiliated clubs**

Hello members, I have been in contact with the owner of the Tweedy Garnet Mine in Burke County, N.C. and arranged a trip to visit the site, the Tweedy Mine is famous for its large 24 sided almandine garnets, some as big as softballs, this site has been closed off and on since the owner, Mr. Tweedy died several years ago, the current owner has agreed to allow our clubs to visit, she said that the site has not been touched in many years and may be a bit overgrown, be prepared to do some earth moving to get to the good stuff! There will be a small donation of \$5.00 per person to collect at the site. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning at the Silver Armadillo parking lot in the Westgate Shopping Center in West Asheville and caravan to Exit 105, (Hwy. 18) off of I-40 East, we will meet members coming from other directions at the Holiday Inn parking lot just off Exit 105 at 9:15 a.m. and then proceed to the site, bring digging tools, shovels, rockpick, prybars, hammers, chisels, food, drink, and something to put specimens in.

See you there!

Upcoming Field Trips (cont.)

**Fort Drum Crystal Mine
Rock Swap / Field Trip
Ft. Drum, Florida
Saturday & Sunday, March 11-12, 2006
8:00a.m. to sundown
FEE**

Items Collected: There is an abundance of well-fossilized and calcified marine shells. The sand and shell matrix rock is in the Nashua Formation (Pleistocene) and is composed of well-calcified shells. Any cavities within these fossils may contain calcite crystals. Honey colored calcite crystals up to 1" in length can be found within large fossilized clamshells. Small calcite crystals within shells are very common. Fossilized bone and teeth, although rare, can also be found at this location.

Fee: \$20.00/day/person \$8.00/day/child (15 and under)
All minors must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Swap tables will be set up, so bring your items to trade or sell.

Port-O-Lets will be provided.

Directions: Ft. Drum is on Hwy 441 approximately 15 miles south of the intersection of Hwy 60 and 441 (Yeehaw Junction). Go south of Ft. Drum General Store about 0.5 mile and turn east on 304th St. Go about 2.75 miles to the quarry entrance (north side of the road). There should be someone at the gate around 8:00 a.m. to collect money and liability waivers.

What to Bring: Pants, sturdy shoes / boots, gloves and protective eyewear are recommended. Bring tools, buckets/cloth bag, and newspaper to collect, carry and wrap fragile specimens. The collecting area can be extremely wet and muddy. Bring a change of clothing along with plenty of water and a towel.

Special Conditions: It is recommended that you wear sturdy shoes or boots and gloves. Daytime temperatures can vary as much as 40F, so layered clothing is appropriate. This is an active quarry and the sand/rock along the quarry walls can collapse without notice. Be extremely careful working next to steep walls. Some areas may be marked off, so do not go into these areas for your safety.

Where to Stay: Okeechobee is the nearest town! I now know that it is very difficult to negotiate rates of stay due to fishing tournaments that often occur. Below is a list of motels in Okeechobee; however, January, February, and March are peak times for south Florida motels. There are also many inexpensive motels in the Kissimmee area and on I-95 south of Melbourne down to Ft. Pierce. Check ahead, some businesses are still closed due to hurricanes.

Okeechobee Motels	Phone Number
Budget Inn	863-763-3185
Holiday Inn Exp.	863-357-3529
Flamingo Motel	863-763-4894
Travelers Inn	863-763-3146
Economy Inn	863-763-1148
Scottish Inn	863-763-3293

For more information contact: Eddie Rucks
fortdrumcrystallmine@yahoo.com
863-634-4579

Mineral of the Month



barite



Chemistry: BaSO₄, Barium Sulfate

Uses: As a specimen and for extracting barium

Color: Colorless or white, also blue, green, yellow and red shades.

Hardness: 6.5-7

Specific gravity: 4.5 Very heavy for a translucent mineral

Crystals: It crystallizes in the orthorhombic habit. The crystals are commonly tabular. They may also be prismatic giving a diamond-shaped outline. It sometimes form fibrous or lamellar masses.

Accompanied by: Calcite, quartz, fluorite, zinc, silver, iron and nickel

Fracture: Uneven

Luster: Vitreous

Cleavage: Basal, perfect: prismatic, very good.

Streak: White

Similar to: Celestite

Barite is known by the flat tabular crystals.

Barite is a common mineral and makes very attractive specimens. It often is an accessory mineral to other minerals and can make a nice backdrop to brightly colored crystals. At times bladed or tabular crystals of Barite form a concentric pattern of increasingly larger crystals outward. The name comes from the Greek word *barytes* that means 'heavy.'

Soft, silver-white, metallic element, symbol Ba, atomic number 56, relative atomic mass 137.33. It is one of the **alkaline-earth metals**, found in nature as *barium carbonate* and *barium sulphate*.

As the sulphate it is used in medicine: taken as a suspension (a 'barium meal'), its movement along the gut is followed using X-rays. The barium sulphate, which is opaque to X-rays, shows the shape of the gut, revealing any abnormalities of the alimentary canal.

Barium is also used in alloys, pigments, and safety matches and, with strontium, forms the emissive surface in cathode-ray tubes. It was first discovered in barytes or heavy spar. Because **Barite** is so common, it can be confused for other minerals. **Celestite** (SrSO₄) has the same structure as barite and forms very similar crystals. The two are indistinguishable by ordinary methods, but a flame test can distinguish them. By scrapping the dust of the crystals into a gas flame the color of the flame will confirm the identity of the crystal. If the flame is a pale green it is barite, but if the flame is red it is celestite. The flame test works because the elements barium (Ba) and strontium (Sr) react in the flame and produce those colors.

The chief ore and most common mineral of barium is barite, barium sulfate. It forms vitreous, white or tinted, tabular or prismatic crystals (orthorhombic system) and crystal aggregates ("desert roses"), as well as coarsely laminated or granular masses, stalactites, and nodules.

Barite mud is used in drilling oil wells to help control oil and gas pressure and prevent drill-hole cave-ins. Barite is the chief component of the white pigment lithopone. Also called heavy spar, it is widespread in metal ore veins, in limestones and in clays formed from weathered limestones, in sandstones, and in extensive beds as a lake or marine deposit.

Barite is a relatively common mineral in the Kalahari Manganese field. It is usually colorless, but can be colorized with light brown cores. Associated minerals include pyrite, hematite, rhodochrosite and several other species. Crystals up to 16 cm have been reported from Wessels mine.

Barite at Tsumeb

BaSO₄ Forms yellow and amber to brown and dark brown crystals mostly in the areas between a depth of 100 and 300 m. Crystals to 5 cm have been found but the mineral is nevertheless uncommon. Associations commonly include smithsonite or galena.

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

Upcoming Shows

February 18-20, 2005, Vero Beach, FL—The Treasure Coast Rock & Gem Society. Gem and Jewelry Show, Vero Beach Community Center, 14th Avenue and 23rd Street, Downtown Vero Beach. Hours: 18th, 12 Noon-5:00 p.m.; 19th, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; 20th, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Contact: Pedro Araoz, 608 Arcacia Road, Vero Beach, FL 32963 or 772/231-0005.

February 26-27, 2005, Jackson, MS—Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society. 46th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show, A&I Buildings, State Fairgrounds at High Street. Hours: 26th, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; 27th, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Contact Ashley Redden, 601/925-8272 or asredden@netzero.com.

March 10-12, 2006, August, GA—Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society (Aiken, SC) and Augusta Gem and Mineral Society (Augusta, GA). 18th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad St., Augusta, GA. Hours: 10th and 11th, 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.; 12th, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Websites: www.homestead.com/aikengems and www.homestead.com/augustagems.

March 17-19, 2006, Rome, GA—Rome Georgia Mineral Society. The Valley and Ridge Gem and Mineral Show. New locality: Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, Kingston Road (GA Hwy 293). Hours: 17th & 19th, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; 20th, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Contact: Jose Santamaria, 706/233-9828

SFMS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Saturday March 25, 2006

Location: Franklin, North Carolina

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 25, 2006

Hotel and Meeting Room

Hampton Inn

244 Cunningham Road, Franklin, North Carolina

For participants to receive the special group rate of \$59 + tax, you must reserve under the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Telephone: 828.369.0600; Fax: 828-369-0700; e-mail: FKNNC_Hampton@hilton.com

website: <http://www.franklin-chamber.com/hamptoninn/>

Stamp Program

Our club is a participating member of the SFMS Cancelled Stamp program. Our members are asked to save stamps from their mailings by cutting around the stamp, leaving 1/4" so as not to damage the edges of the stamp. Stamps that are of particular interest to collectors include: commemorative, foreign, stamps with plate numbers (small markings on the bottom margins), old stamps, and uncanceled stamps. Foreign stamps should be left on the envelope if possible. Also, most recently, the postal markings from PB machines that show meter numbers have become collectible.

Members should cut the entire upper right portion of the envelope (in a rectangle) which includes the markings, being sure to include any logos that are sometime used. Often the post office also cancels these markings, this makes it quite collectible as it is a USPS mistake. Members should turn their stamps in during meetings, being sure to include their name for proper credit. One point on the self-kept score sheet is allowed per donation.

Our club is credited with these donations based on weight as received by the SFMS chairman. A drawing is held during the annual SFMS meeting to award workshop scholarships. A club's chances are improved based on the volume of these donations. A certificate valid for workshop tuition is given to winning clubs. If the Charlotte club is awarded a scholarship from this drawing, the club will conduct a drawing from the names of donors as recorded by our stamp chairman. When possible, this drawing will be held during our Christmas party. If our members wish to take time to soak collected stamps from the envelopes (off paper), the SFMS chairman gives extra credit, which further enhances our club's chances in these drawings. Instructions for this process are shown on the website

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/stampprogram.html>

Mail to: CGMC
PO Box 10233
Charlotte, NC 28212

**Charlotte Gem & Mineral
Club
2006 Membership Application**

New Membership (_____)
Renewal (_____)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email Address: _____ Check # _____ Cash (_____)

Membership Type: Individual \$15.00 (_____) Family \$20.00 (_____)

Family Members and Ages (please include birthday months):

Interests:

I/we agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics. Failure to do so will result in cancellation of Membership.

Signature _____ Date _____

Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas..
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my Surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified Wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

Revised July 7, 1999 at the AFMS Annual Meeting

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

Next Meeting
Friday, February 24
7:30 pm
Sharon Amity
Presbyterian Church

February
2005



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>