

# GOLDRUSH LEDGER



**Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club**

**January 2008**

## The Prez sez ...

A message from your president. As this newsletter reaches you, our faithful editor will be long gone on the rock hound's field of dreams trip. Ron will be gone for SIX weeks going to Quartzite twice then on to Tucson. We will all be excited to see Ron's pictures from the trip as he shops for high quality slabs and various unique cutting material.

At this time, I would like to wish you all a very happy new year! This is going to be a year of new beginnings for the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club. We will hold our first board meeting in our new club house on Jan. 8th. At this meeting, your officers and directors will begin writing the guidelines and regulations for use of the club house.

I have received letters from several clubs around the country and we will use the experience of clubs that have had operations like we will have. Perhaps in late January or surely February, we can hold our first open house and begin classes. I would like for us to start thinking of how we can bring a youth outreach program on Saturdays to reality. Be it thru scouting organizations, church groups or science classes, I feel that it is very impor-

tant to the future of our club that we get an active and interesting program started for the youth of our community.

I talked to a young mother of three recently that knew that I was a rock guy. She told me that one of her children was extremely interested in the rock and mineral world. I told her of our meeting place and time and she told me that with three kids from 4 to 12 and a husband that traveled, there was just no way that she could come out on a school night. I asked her how a Saturday afternoon would work for her and you should have seen her excitement!

One of the founders of Radio Shack once wrote a book: IF YOU WANT TO CATCH A MOUSE, MAKE A NOISE LIKE A CHEESE. Well, it is my vision that we make the noise to catch those that will be our future rock hounds, wire wrappers, beadlers, glass workers and all of our related crafts. Each of our members have unique talents, strengths and gifts. I would like to be the glue, if you will, that bonds those qualities together to strengthen our club like never before.

Frankly, I am not quite sure how the actual logistics of running a club house will play out. What I do

know, is that like other functions in the past, we CANNOT expect a handful to do all the work.

Perhaps, it might work best that we have a club "club house captain" for a month. This person, would be the co-coordinator and would be physically in attendance at any functions or classes sort of like a hall monitor. They would not necessarily be the one teaching the class but would be there as the official club liaison. I welcome your input as to how we can effectively do this. I am really excited about beginning this journey for a HAPPY new year for the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club! - *Jack King*

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Pat Walker

#### Points Scholarship Chair

Linda Simon

#### Geode Chair

Jimmy Strickland

#### Show Chair open

#### Hospitality Chair

Linda Simon

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#### Refreshments Chair open

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#### WebMaster

Ron Gibbs

#### Librarian

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#### Membership

Linda Simon

#### Christmas Party Chair

Pat Walker

## Holiday Party - well attended and everyone got their fill!

50 to 60 people attended the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club Holiday Party at the Amity Presbyterian Church. A good time was had by all. There was a silent auction to finish off the few items remaining from our November auction night as we ran out of time at that meeting.

A set of several tables was filled with good food and everyone got their fill of turkey, ham, chili, potatoes, macaroni, beans and bean salads, dressing, meatballs, and a host of other goodies. One whole table was dedicated to the sweet-tooth, with cakes and pies in several varieties.

Thanks go to Pat Walker who organized the event and several volunteers who helped set up tables and decorate. Some of the faculty and the two winners of the club sponsored scholarship fund were present to accept and give thank you's. Kim Tyler, the mother of Britney Tyler, our internal club winner read a nice note from Britney.

A Life Time Achievement Award was announced for Jimmy and Becky Strickland - see below.

And thus ended the 2007 social schedule of the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club, looking forward now to many new things in 2008!

## CONGRATULATIONS!

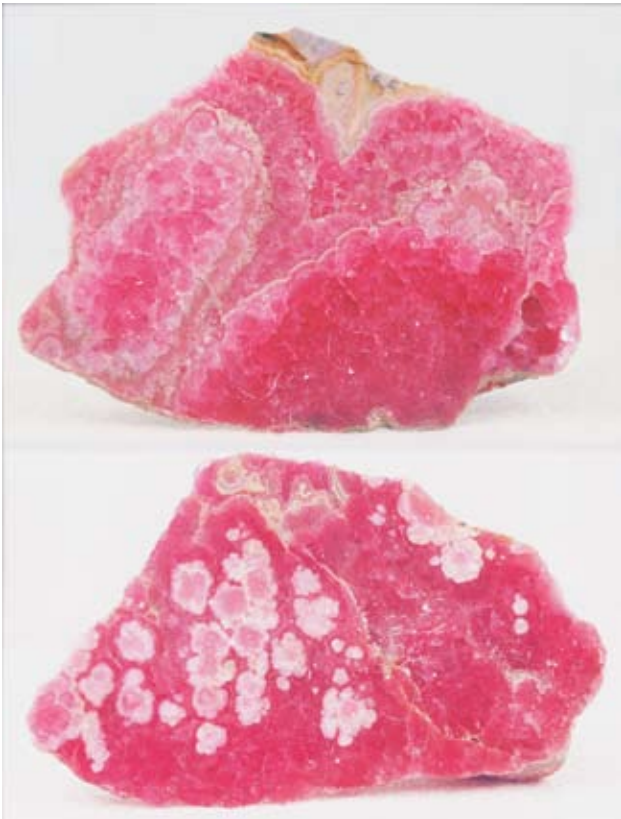


**Jimmy and Becky Strickland** awarded the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club First Lifetime Achievement Award! At the annual Christmas party, in the 50th year of our club, the officers and board of directors awarded Jimmy and Becky this special award in thanks and recognition for their many years of hard work, and dedication to our club. Our entire club owes a debt of gratitude to the Stricklands. Congratulations for receiving this much deserved milestone award.

## HEADLINERS FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY MEETINGS ...

We will kick off the new year with a presentation by Dr. Bill Logan who will be presenting “Rhodochrosite”, its locales, history, chemistry (hint:  $\text{MnCO}_3$  - manganese carbonate), color (spoiler: pink - red), and examples of its use in gemstones, and ornamental carving. Dr. Logan will present a slide show and bring some examples of this beautiful mineral. Bill Logan is the owner of Spectrum minerals in Charlotte, North Carolina. His WEB site is organized by color, and gives it a unique perspective. ( <http://www.spectrumminerals.com/> )

The February meeting will feature Kim Tyler, who disguised as the previous award winning newsletter editor, will present “Stained Glass” and everything you need to know before taking on the challenge of creation in colored glass. Kim will explain why bandaids play an essential role on every stained glass work-bench. Although your current editor will be missing this meeting as I will be on a trip, I got my example of Kim’s work at the November auction (picture below). The rest of you can learn how to do it yourself!



If you are unable to tell the difference between the pictured Rhodochrosite and the Stained Glass, then you really NEED to attend these two meetings! Some come out and support the club.

Assuming everything happens as planned, the March meeting will have Ron Gibbs (the current newsletter editor) explain his trip from Charlotte NC, to Meridian MS, to Weatherford TX, to Las Cruces NM, to Quartzsite AZ, to San Francisco CA, to Cambria CA, to Quartzsite AZ, to Los Angeles CA, to Tucson AZ, to Las Vegas NV, to Lordsburg NM, to Freeport TX, to Baton Rouge LA, to Birmingham AL, and finally back to Charlotte NC. And even more importantly, why! Hint: it has to do with his WEB site, <http://www.theimage.com> and is partially related to the new section recently added with more information on gemstones, agates, and jaspers.

**HAPPY**  **NEW**  **YEAR**

## Agates - some classification Part III

by ron gibbs ([www.theimage.com](http://www.theimage.com))

Next on our list is the sagenitic agate, sometimes just called sagenite. This describes agate that encases straight needles. The needles are often radiating in hemispheres or fan-like structures, and like plume agates they are often found at the agate bedrock boundary.

Although completely spherical single structures can be found apparently floating in the chalcedony. These spherical sagenites are sometimes referred to as PomPoms and thus the name “pom-pom” agate.

It is more difficult to understand

how nearly perfectly placed needles can form after the chalcedony has hardened or even gelled, so it may be the case that the needles formed first in the cavity and were later incorporated in to the growing agate.

Similar structures are found when growing quartz incorporates rutile crystals during the quartz crystallization. Most radiating crystals, forming sagenitic agate, can be traced back to their nucleation point on the outside wall of the agate.

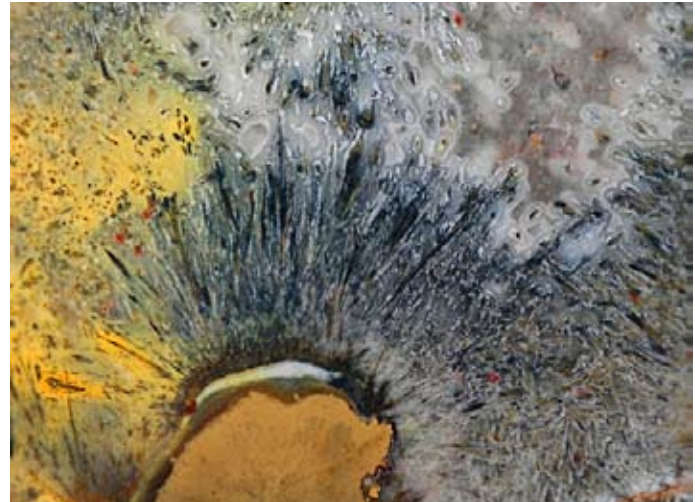
In the case of these needles it seems most likely that they grew in the cavity without any barrier, and formed in a natural manner.

For reasons I don't fully understand, most sagenites reach market without much locale information. Most plume agates and even dendritic agates are named for their location or given creative names with known locations. At best most sagenites seem to have only a country designation.

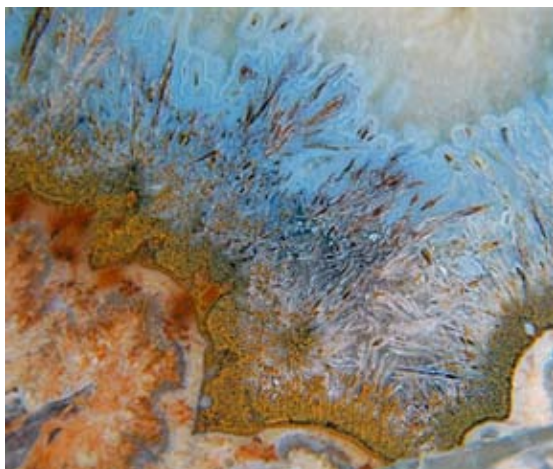
Another “named agate type” is the tubular agate. Tube agate forms when flow channels are captured in the structure of the growing silica. They often appear as nearly perfect



*Sagenite (Mexico)*



*Sagenite (unknown)*



*Sagenite (unknown)*



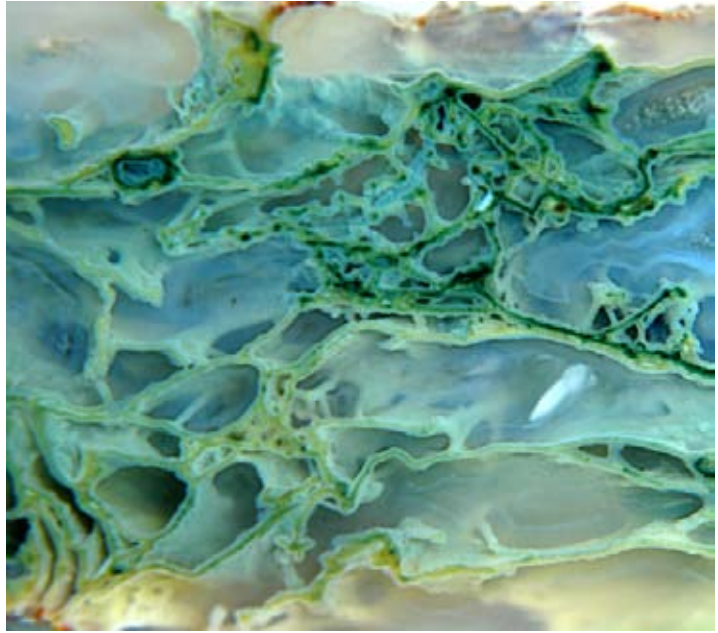
*Sagenite (Mexico)*

circles, or as elongated structures that seem to flow throughout the interior of the agate. The structures can often be seen as long tubes running throughout the interior. Secondary mineralization forms around the tubes and captures what might have been an invisible feature of the agate. When sliced, they appear as colored circles, or closed structures with colored edges.

The edging material is often an iron precipitate and can be yellow to yellow - orange in color. The white edging is once again a form of hydrated silica (opal). They sometimes form with concentric circles giving them a lacy appearance.

The distinction between some tubular agate and some moss agate is not well defined.

We'll finish the agates in the next installment showing a variety of others not thus far covered.



*Horse Canyon Tube Agate (Calif)*



*Bull Canyon Tube Agate (Az)*



*Keegan Ranch Tube Agate (Oregon)*



*Ochoco Tube Agate (Oregon)*

# Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club (First Field Trip 2008) - Jack King

Mario has lined up a field trip for Saturday, January 26th to Porter near Albemarle. This is a collecting site for limonite crystals, pseudomorph after pyrite. Small crystals can usually be found on the top of the ground but the bigger ones and clusters will require some digging. This is a kid friendly site and they can easily pick up the smaller specimens.

I have seen some beautiful cabinet sized crystal clusters come out of the ground there. This is a relatively easy accessed site and not a far walk from the parking area to the collecting area. The property owner requires a \$5.00 per person fee to collect.

Diggers should bring water, snacks, perhaps a thermos of hot coffee or chocolate and the normal rock digging tools, i.e. rock hammers, picks and shovels to dig in the hard clay. On a past dig that I went to, several serious collectors pulled rolling garden type carts to carry their supplies and equipment as well as newspaper to wrap their prized finds. Others carried back packs. Picks or fox hole type shovels tend to work best from my past experience.

This is a rural farm area. This will be our first club field trip in quite a long time and I hope that our members join us in a day of fun and fellowship in rocks. If you have not been on a field trip before, come explore and share the excitement of pulling these unusual crystals out of the ground with us! In local

lore, limonite crystals were called "Indian Money". Whether it was actually used as trading material, I do not know but it sounds reasonable.

The physical address for the Limonite dig is 12785 Highway 52 S. Albemarle, NC. We will meet at the property owner's house at nine in the morning, Jan. 26th.

From the intersection of Independence Blvd and Albemarle rd. ( Hwy.27) is approximately 36 miles to Hwy.52 in Albemarle. Right before you get to Hwy 52, there is a BP and Citgo gas station on the right. Turn right on Hwy 52 S and go 8.5 miles and the owner's house is on the left on a hill about 100 yds. off the road.

The house is brick with a big white barn beside it. From there we will caravan to the digging site. Please be on time, but we will check back at 9:30 in case there are stragglers.

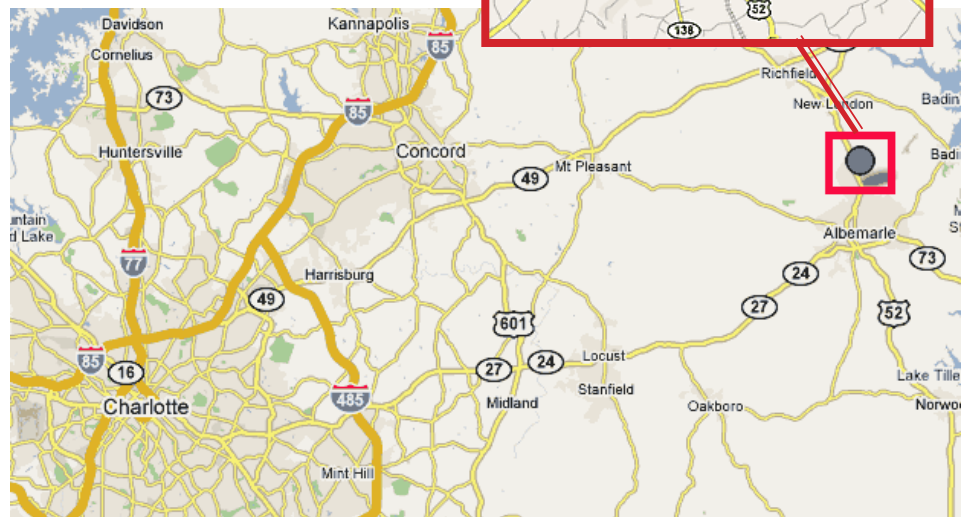
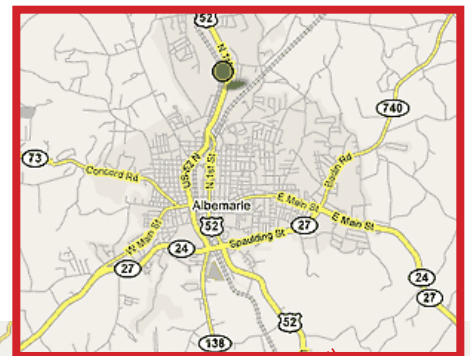
Any questions will be answered at our January meeting.



*pyrite crystals*



*limonite after pyrite*



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# The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

## The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.

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DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee  
An Official Field Trip of The Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society (Jacksonville, FL)(HOST)  
An Official Field Trip of the (Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club)

9:00 am Saturday, January 19, 2008  
Vulcan Brooksville Quarry  
Hernando County, Florida

**WHERE:** Vulcan Quarry, 8 miles north of Brooksville, FL

**WHEN:** Saturday, January 19, 2008

**TIME:** Meet at staging area on map with signed waivers at 8:45am

**ATTACHED WAIVERS:** Parental-Guardian release form and Adult release form

**COLLECTING:** Marine fossils, chert, calcite.

Alan Pagels writes, "There are many things to be found here at the mine including calcite crystals, flint rock (chert), fossils and wildlife. The marine fossils found here are mostly echinoids including spiny sea urchins, sea biscuits, sand dollars, etc. We also find dugong (manatee) ribs and vertebrae and on occasion sharks teeth. Some of our material has been dated to over 30 million years old. I have been told that we are in the Suwanee formation and that it's possible that our northern border is the furthest extent southward of the Ocala formation. We have many forms of wildlife including bald eagles, osprey, hawks, coyotes, fox, raccoons, bobcats, alligators and diamondback rattlesnakes."

**BRING:** Map, picks, shovels, hammers, chisels, buckets, scratching tools, water, newspaper and gloves.

Drink and lunch provisions. Hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen may be helpful. Please bring signed waivers for children and adults coming to the mine. A short safety session will occur before entering the mine.

DMC CONTACT: Mickey Cecil 904-725-6198 helpcecilhelp@juno.com



As you Newsletter Editor will be gone for the remainder of January and the first half of February there will be no February newsletter or major updates to the WEB site. Danny Jones found some interesting top 10 lists that are all about rock hounding, and I did not get proper permission to print them all here so I will give you the link to the WEBSITE called "*The Vugster*" which has a good deal of interesting and fun reading material concerning rock collecting and other facets of the lapidary world. go to :

<http://home.comcast.net/~paugilmo/>

He (Paul Gilmore) has some great insights in how to make newsletter articles "less forgettable". Here is one of his sage lists:

### *Top Ten List of Signs that it's Probably Time to Wrap Up a Field Trip and Head Home:*

10. Collecting partner is speaking in strange tongues.
9. Blizzard.
8. Have forgotten your children's names.
7. Have broken more than two fingers on one hand, or five from both.
6. Can no longer elude search-and-rescue helicopters.
5. Heart attack.
4. Somebody mentions the word "beer".
3. Getting married in less than three hours.
2. Partner's legs, protruding from large pocket, are no longer moving.
1. Debate on which of the Seven Dwarves was the best miner is leading to blows.



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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 \$25.00 (family) and \$20.00 (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 7:00pm, 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. [http:// www.charlottegem.com](http://www.charlottegem.com)

**Upcoming Shows: (none submitted to us thus far.)**

**Try these sites for the first shows of 2008:**

**Lapidary Journal / Jewelry Artist: <http://www.lapidaryjournal.com/cal2.cfm#01/08>**

**Rock & Gem: <http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp#JANUARY%202008>**

**HAPPY**  **NEW**  **YEAR**

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**PO Box 10233**  
**Charlotte, NC 28212-5667**