

GRITTY GREETINGS

Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter
Volume 55, Issue 3, March, 2015 P.O. Box 8811, Waco, TX 76714-8811

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President's report not available at press time,

Next meeting, Monday March 2, 7:00 PM

Minutes from February meeting:

We had 2 guests, Betty Pyle and Larry Laird.
Andy McDonald was out sick so Jackie Dodson called the meeting to order.
Bill Gillum opened with a prayer.
Jackie Dodson presented the treasurers report. We had a CD come due and she took \$1000.00 from there and put it in the Checking account to cover expenses for the show in May.
Club Dues are due. Most of the money from these goes to Federation dues and insurance.
Jackie has club address books made up and on line. If you want one, please contact her.
She will not be at the next meeting.

The Minutes from January were approved as printed in the Gritty Greetings.

Jackie has been in contact with Ken Alexander about our taking over the website from him so we can update it and keep it going. John Bennett may be able to help us with that.

Barbara is bringing the refreshments for March. Andy had a sign up list so if you want to volunteer for upcoming months, contact him.

There was a break-in at the shop. 3 other units were also broken into. They cut the flange that holds the lock and were in and out quickly. The only thing they took was the brand new band saw. It had only been there a day or so, and Joe was going in to mount it to the bench when he discovered the break-in. A police report was filed, but since there were no serial numbers, they were doubtful of its recovery. If you happen to be in or near a pawn shop, or the flea market, please keep an eye peeled for a brand new **INLAND DB100** lapidary band saw. If it is located, maybe we could buy it back at a reduced cost. We pay for insurance thru the federation, but it is currently unknown if that is covered.

Show discussions:

Jackie Dodson will take care of the ad in the Waco Tribune.

John Bennett is taking care of designing and printing fliers. He will also post them all up and down I-35. We discussed getting business cards with club information and the show dates on them. John Bennett volunteered to take care of ordering those. Vistaprint on-line offers 500 business cards for about \$10.00. Linda Lowrance will take care of the ad with KWTX.

Stephanie Robert will take care of the **Wacoan** ad, and will continue to search the internet for places we can put notices about the show. I've submitted information to **Rock & Gem Magazine**- we were too late to get into publication, but they are going to put us in their on-line calendar, **American Rockhound.com** on-line magazine, **GIA Gems and Gemology**-doesn't list events but did send me some suggestions, **Bob's Rock Shop - Rock Trader** classifieds, and **Findfestival.com**.

I tried to get us listed on **Eventslister.com**, but don't know if I was successful. They have a rather tortuous on-line form.

Jackie Dodson will mail post cards to the people on our mailing list from previous shows

Andy will keep up with the Facebook page, and talk to EXTRACO about listing the show on their monthly calendar.

Jackie will be gone from mid-February to mid-March and we need someone to check the P.O. Box for vendor contracts etc. (I believe she is handling that with Andy) (**Note:** The Editor will collect the P.O. mail.)

We still need to get ads into the **American Classifieds**, **Senior News** and the **Goldmine**.

If you have ANY ideas of other advertising opportunities, let us know.

When we get the fliers, consider placing them at your barber shop, beautician's, nail salons, Doctor's and Dentist's offices, laundromats, and anywhere you see a bulletin board. Also take plenty of business cards and hand them out EVERYWHERE!

Post the show on Facebook, or whatever social media you use, tell your friends and family, and ask them to spread the word.

We also need to contact the Mayborn Museum at Baylor, and the Waco Mammoth Site.

Let's make this the best attended show yet.

Everyone seemed to be pleased with the food and snacks last year. So this year, we will be having Bush's chicken and rolls with pot luck veggies and desserts again. It has been noted that we need more bottled water than we had last year, since we ran out before the end of the show.

Remember: Show dates are Saturday May 2, 9 AM to 6 PM & Sunday May 3, 11 AM to 5 PM.

Setup is Friday May 1 from 9 AM to 9 PM Adults, \$5.00, Kids under 12, \$1. Scouts in uniform free.

Stephanie Robert.

Notes:

For future planning, the AFMS national show is October 23-24, 2015 in Austin.

If anyone would be willing to step into an open position, please let us know. We also need someone to arrange programs for the meetings.

We need information from newer members about your birthdates. We list the birthdays and anniversaries in each issue, but have missed a few members.

Waco Gem & Mineral Club nametags are available at Print Mart, 202 Deb (behind Allen Samuels Chevrolet). Cost with a pin back is \$8.00 (with tax \$8.66), and with a magnet back is \$11.00 (\$11.91).

Jackie Dodson (address on page 1) is now accepting dues for 2015 at the meeting or by mail. **Dues are \$12.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a couple.**

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Upcoming Shows and Events

March 07-08 Big Spring, TX Big Spring Prospectors Club Howard Co. Fair Barn

March 07-08 Pasadena, TX Clear Lake G&MS Pasadena Conv. Ctr.

March 07-08 Robstown, TX Gulf coast G&MS Regional Fairgrounds

March 14-15 Live Oak, TX (San Antonio) Southwest G&MS Live Oak Civic Ctr. 8101 Pat Booker RD

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Teri Smith sent this information for West Texas rockhunts for the last two weeks in April.

Finally! I'm ready to provide details for the rockhunts coming up in April. I apologize to all who have emailed and called asking for these details, but I needed to take some time and explore the **South Larremore Ranch** before I could tell you what is to be found there, and before the Larremores could set a price for the rockhunts. I was out at the **South Larremore Ranch** last Saturday, Thursday and today, and I found quite a variety of agates and other goodies. I'll include details about the **South Larremore Ranch** at the end of this email.

The schedule is:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tuesday, April 14, 2015: | Ritchie Ranch |
| Wednesday, April 15, 2015: | Walker Ranch |
| Thursday, April 16, 2015: | Walker Ranch |
| Friday, April 17, 2015: | Walker Ranch |
| Saturday, April 18, 2015: | Walker Ranch |
| Sunday, April 19, 2015: | Walker Ranch |
| Monday, April 20, 2015: | Walker Ranch |
| Tuesday, April 21, 2015: | South Larremore Ranch |
| Wednesday, April 22, 2015: | East Needle Peak |
| Thursday, April 23, 2015: | Singleton Ranch |
| Friday, April 24, 2015: | Singleton Ranch |
| Saturday, April 25, 2015: | Singleton Ranch |
| Sunday, April 26, 2015: | Singleton Ranch |
| Monday, April 27, 2015: | South Larremore Ranch |

The prices for the ranches vary as shown below:

The Ritchie Ranch is \$10 per person entrance fee, and \$1 per lb. for the agate and quartz crystals you take with you. I've found a new agate piece at the top of the hill where my "big rock" came from, and I have no idea how big it is. If you want it, you just have to dig it out and pay for it! Payment can be by cash or check.

The Walker Ranch is again offering a spectacular deal on their rockhunts:

if you pay in full by March 15, you get a free day. This is on top of the free day you get already when you pay for two days at full price. The first two days are at \$75 per day, the next two at \$37.50 per day. So the fee schedule is:

| | |
|--------|--|
| 1 day | \$75 |
| 2 days | \$150 (\$75 if you pay by March 15th) |
| 3 days | \$150 |
| 4 days | \$187.50 (\$150 if you pay by March 15th) |
| 5 days | \$225.00 (\$187.50 if you pay by March 15) |
| 6 days | \$262.50 (\$225 if you pay by March 15) |

In order to get on the list for this trip, you need to send a deposit of at least half of the fee. Of course, if you send the whole fee by March 15, you get an extra day of rockhunting for free! We need 20 paid attendees for this trip to happen. The check should be made out to Bryan Crumpton, and you can send it to me at:

Teri Smith, 509 N. 8th Street, Alpine, TX 79830

South Larremore Ranch is about 45 miles south of Alpine on Highway 118. It's 2,500 acres that was once part of Rex Ivey's ranch, which is now subdivided and called East Rim Ranch. The ranch is flat, and consists of alluvial deposits containing many types of quartz stones. I have wandered around on this ranch for three days, and have found agate, including moss agates, fortification agates, and plume agates; petrified wood, some of which is completely agatized in beautiful colors; jasper in all colors of red from orange to purple, along with yellow, orange, and green; and flint and/or chert in nodules of different colors. There are also some shell fossils, and some interesting things I call "Terlingua Nodules" that appear to be at least partly agatized on the outside, and often are filled with calciferous mud on the inside. The cost for this ranch will be \$40 per person.

East Needle Peak is \$40 per person per day. On my last trip down there, a couple of months ago, I found a 16 lb. chunk of green moss with pompoms in it, and a 5 lb. chunk of clear petrified wood with yellow and orange inclusions. The only reason I could identify it as wood is because the exterior of the piece showed the rings and bark of the original wood.

The Singleton Ranch is \$50 per person per day, cash only. More details can be found on my website.

All of my field trips require that you join the **Rollin' Rock Club**. The fee for that is \$10 single or \$16 dual membership for the calendar year 2015.

To summarize: I need at least half your fee for the **Walker Ranch** hunts to secure your place. And I will need 20 participants to ensure that the hunts occur (we've never had a problem with getting 20 people!) If you want to get an extra "free" day, send your entire fee to me by March 15.

You don't need to send me a deposit on the other ranches. Simply send me an e-mail telling me which days/ranches you wish to hunt on, and I'll put you on the list.

All hunts begin at the Antelope Lodge, 2310 W. Highway 90, Alpine. Specifics about each hunt's starting time will be sent in an email in about a week or so.

Regards, Teri

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

March (Aquamarine, Bloodstone and Jonquil)

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Joyce Taggart | 1 |
| Neil Wiese | 1 |
| Ruby Lois Jones | 1 |
| Bill Christmas | 9 |
| Jackie Dodson | 16 |
| Ken Alexander | 21 |
| Steve Betros | 24 |
| Joe Linkous | 24 |
| Linda Hill | 31 |

Aquamarine

The name *aquamarine* is derived from the Latin word *aqua*, meaning water, and *marina*, meaning *the sea*. This gemstone was believed to protect sailors, as well as to guarantee a safe voyage. The serene color of aquamarine is said to cool the temper, allowing the wearer to remain calm and levelheaded. Its pale, cool color beautifully complements spring and summer wardrobes. Aquamarine is most often light in tone and ranges from greenish blue to blue-green; the color usually is more intense in larger stones. This gemstone is mined mainly in Brazil, but also is found in Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan, and Mozambique.



Bloodstone

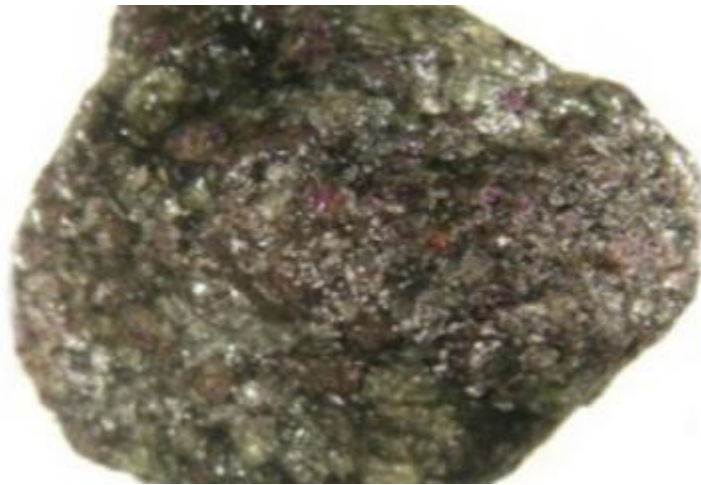
The second birthstone for March is *bloodstone*, a dark-green jasper flecked with vivid red spots of iron oxide. This ancient stone was used by the Babylonians to make seals and amulets and was believed to have healing powers – especially for blood disorders. It is sometimes called the *martyr's stone* as legend tells that it was created when drops of Christ's blood stained some jasper at the foot of the cross. Generally found embedded in rocks or in riverbeds as pebbles, primary sources for this stone are India, Brazil, and Australia.



- See more at: <http://www.americangemsociety.org/>

STRANGE ROCK FROM RUSSIA CONTAINS 30,000 DIAMONDS!

by Becky Oskin, Senior Writer, Live Science December 16, 2014 02:44pm ET



This rock from Russia's Udachnaya mine contains 30,000 diamonds. Credit: Larry Taylor SAN FRANCISCO — Here's the perfect Christmas gift for the person who has everything: A red and green rock, ornament-sized, stuffed with 30,000 teeny-tiny diamonds. The sparkly chunk was pulled from Russia's huge Udachnaya diamond mine and donated to science (the diamonds' tiny size means they're worthless as gems). It was a lucky break for researchers, because the diamond rich rock is a rare find in many ways, scientists reported Monday (Dec. 15) at the American Geophysical Union's annual meeting. "The exciting thing for me is there are 30,000 itty-bitty, perfect octahedrons, and not one big diamond," said Larry Taylor, a geologist at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, who presented the findings. "It's like they formed instantaneously." The concentration of diamonds in the rock is millions of times greater than that in typical diamond ore, which averages 1 to 6 carats per ton, Taylor said. A carat is a unit of weight (not size), and is roughly equal to one-fifth of a gram, or 0.007 ounces. The astonishing amount of diamonds, and the rock's unusual Christmas coloring, will provide important clues to Earth's geologic history as well as the origin of these. The Rock Collector, 2/15, via Stoney Statements 2/15.

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon.com (<http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>)

WINDING JUMP RINGS

Whenever you need a few jump rings the same size, it's easy to grab a round rod and wind as many as you need. But when you need a lot of them, some form of winder saves a lot of time. A variable speed screw gun makes quick work of winding the coils. Screw guns are quite inexpensive at discount stores and are remarkably handy for odd jobs in the shop and around the house.

To wind a coil, just bend a right angle on the end of the wire about a half inch long and insert this into the screw gun chuck. Then wind slowly, keeping a tight coil. I like to rest the end of the mandrel on the edge of the table or bench pin. Finally, one note of caution. If you are winding an entire length of wire, be careful as you get near the end of the wire. If the end passes under your thumb, it can cause a nasty scratch or cut.



TOUCHING UP A BEZEL

Pumice wheels are good for touching up a bezel after you've set the stone. The hardness is about 6 on the Moh's scale, less hard than quartz, so it shouldn't scratch any of your agates or jaspers. However, I'd avoid or be real careful of using pumice near the softer stones like turquoise, amber, howlite, etc. If you're unsure about the hardness of your wheels, test them on a piece of glass. Glass is about 5 ½ on the Mohs scale, softer than quartz. So if the wheel doesn't harm glass, it's safe for use on the quartzes and harder stones.

My preference is the one inch diameter ones such as those shown at riogrande.com/Product/AdvantEdge-Pumice-Wheels-Medium/332722?pos=2

The Waco Gem and Mineral Club is a member of the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies; American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month (except July and September) at 7:00 p.m. at the Carleen Bright Arboretum, 9001 Bosque Blvd. in Woodway. The workshop is located at 225 Robinson Highway in Waco. Our website is www.wacogemandmineral.org. FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/WacoGemAndMineralClub>

Purpose of the Club—

- To bring about a close association of those persons interested in earth science and lapidary arts
- To increase and disseminate knowledge about rocks, minerals, fossils, Indian artifacts and other geological materials
- To encourage lapidary art and the collection and exhibition of rocks, minerals, fossils and artifacts
- To conduct field trips, meetings, lectures, displays and an annual show for the edification of the public
- To cooperate with educational and scientific institutions and other groups in increasing knowledge and popular interest.



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