

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

Volume 59, Issue 10, October 2018

P.O. Box 8811, Waco, TX 76714-8811

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Contacts

President	Andy McDonald 254-366-3846 babydocmac@aol.com	Treasurer	Jackie Dodson jackiedodson66@gmail.com
Vice-President	Roy Cooper coopersfarmstore@yahoo.com	Secretary	Stephanie Robert stephanie.robert1@aol.com
Newsletter Staff	James Redding Jimredding48@outlook.com	Website	www.wacogemandmineral.org
		Webmaster	Joel Purl wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com

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September Meeting Minutes

W.G.M.C. September Meeting Minutes

The Waco Gem and Mineral Club, gathered for its monthly meeting on September 13, 2018.

Roy Cooper presided as Vice President, present were Jackie Dodson, Treasurer; James Redding, board member; Alison Redding, 2019 Show Chair; Scott Halverson, Charlotte Halverson, Wendel and Yolande Gustafson, Shirley Kyte, and one new member who re joined the club.

Minutes from August meeting were accepted as printed in the Gritty Greetings.

The Treasurer made her financial report and it was excepted by all present.

Insurance will be paid in September.

Old business was closed and new Business opened:

Jackie requests that the person or persons that have the Cabochon trays that the club paid \$500.00 for, please return them to the clubhouse or to her.

Jackie will contact some of the members or previous members to see if they have the trays of Cabochons.

It was brought to the table and discussed as to whether we should change our membership date from January 1 to October 1. The decision was made that the change would cause more confusion than it was worth and no change is needed at this time. The decision was not to go forward with this change and to leave our membership date as January 1 of each year.

Brought to the table was the fact that the locks on the WGMC club and shop have been changed and that the Keys are in the hands of the Treasurer. Jackie will procure a lockbox with combination to attach to the front door and will place the key inside. The combination will be issued to those members that can show they can properly use and clean up after the equipment.

Roy Reported that he had spoken with the officials at the Mammoth site and that the Club is in good standing with them. They will try to have personnel available to man an exhibit Booth for the 2019 show!

It was reported that the visit and conversation did help relations between the Mammoth Site and WGMC!

Roy reported that he is also scheduling to meet with the Maborn museum to solicit their participation!

Jackie reported a lecture at the Mayborn Museum on September 13, 2018 at 2:00PM on the exhibit of the Titanic that will be there between June 2 2017 and Jan 6 2019. If you missed the lecture the exhibit should be very interesting

Finalizing plans for the first Museum Field trip to the Perot Museum, we will meet at 09:00 am September 22 2018 at the club house.

Roy reported that the Family and Estate of a former member, a Mr. Roberts, donated about 300 lbs of rough material to the club and Roy is going through it cleaning and separating it and has volunteered to store it if the club agrees. It will stay separate from his collection. A lot of this material will be good material for silent auction. Some nice Pet Wood etc. Roy suggests putting the best of this rough in the silent auction!

We discussed a field trip to Natures treasures near Austin, Jim Redding and Roy Cooper will take a trip to evaluate this venture and report back at the next meeting. Wendell says it is definitely a worthwhile trip.

Shirley and Stephanie are working on getting Bag sample and Prices for the welcome bag for a sale item at the 2019 show. They are also looking at Vests for the Club. Jim suggested getting Material and Patterns and have members who have an affinity for sewing make the vests if they don't mind. Shirley will check on patterns for vests.

Jim Redding asked for a club work day for repair and maintenance of the clubhouse. Roy and Jim will get together and make a list of things that need to be done and prioritize as to what needs to be done first or the most and to gather materials if possible. We can look at a day or weekend for work at our next meeting.

Shirley Kyte offered to man a booth at HOT Rodeo, if it gets approved for the club to have a Booth at the Rodeo!

The meeting was adjourned to a Video presentation by Roy on how some of the world's major Volcanos have changed the surface of the world.

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Upcoming Shows and Events

Our next meeting is at 10:00 am on Saturday, October 6th
at The Waco Gem and Mineral Club
187 South McLennan Drive in Elm Mott, Texas



The 59th Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show will be held on Saturday May 4, 2019 and Sunday May 5, 2019. Our event last year was met with a huge response and we expect an even bigger turnout this year!

Booth spaces are on a first come, first serve basis and we are expected to sell out quickly as we will only have a limited number of vendor spaces. Please take this opportunity to secure your booth space now.

If you have any questions, please contact Alison Redding at (254) 707-1341 or email: wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com. Visit our website for more information and to download your application. www.wacogemandmineral.org

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October Birthstone: Opal or Tourmaline

The name “opal” originates from the Greek word *opallios*, which meant “to see a change in color.” The Roman scholar Pliny used the word *opalus* when he wrote about this gem’s kaleidoscopic “play” of colors that could simulate shades of any stone.

Opal’s characteristic “play-of-color” was explained in the 1960s, when scientists discovered that it’s composed of microscopic silica spheres that diffract light to display various colors of the rainbow. These flashy gems are called “precious opals;” those without play-of-color are “common opals.”

Dozens of opal varieties exist, but only a few (like Fire Opal and Boulder Opal) are universally recognized. Opals are often referred to by their background “body color” —black or white.

Opal’s classic country of origin is Australia. Seasonal rains soaked the parched outback, carrying silica deposits underground into cracks between layers of rock. When the water evaporated, these deposits formed opal. Sometimes, silica seeped into spaces around wood, seashells and skeletons, resulting in opalized fossils.

Since opal was discovered in Australia around 1850, the country has produced 95 percent of the world’s supply. Opal is also mined in Mexico, Brazil, Honduras, Ethiopia, the Czech Republic and parts of the U.S., including Nevada and Idaho.

The water content of opal can range from three to 21 percent – usually between 6 and 10 in gem-quality material. This, combined with hardness of only 5.5 to 6 on the Mohs scale, makes opal a delicate gem that can crack or “craze” under extreme temperature, dehydration or direct light.

Wearing opal is well worth the extra care, though. For centuries, people have associated this gem with good luck. Though some recent superstitions claim that opals can be bad luck to anyone not born in October, this birthstone remains a popular choice.



Supreme Jewelry

The name "tourmaline" comes from the Sinhalese words tura mali, which mean "stone of mixed colors." As its name implies, tourmaline stands apart from other gems with its broad spectrum of colors in every shade of the rainbow.

Tourmaline is not one mineral, but a fairly complex group of minerals with different chemical compositions and physical properties. Certain trace elements produce distinct colors, and many resulting varieties have their own names:

- **Schorl or black tourmaline** is rich in iron, which causes dark shades from deep brown to bluish-black. This variety makes up 95 percent of all tourmaline, though most of it isn't gem-quality. Schorl, in particular, is said to have protective powers against harmful radiation, toxins and anxiety.
- **Dravite or brown tourmaline** is rich in magnesium, which causes colors ranging from brown to yellow. It's named for the Drave District of Carinthia (now Slovenia) where it's found.
- **Elbaite** offers the widest range of gem-quality tourmaline colors, due to lithium traces combined with other coloring elements:
 - **Rubellite or red tourmaline** is caused by manganese; but if the color becomes less vibrant under different light sources, it may be called pink tourmaline. Indicolite or blue tourmaline can appear purplish blue or bluish green, depending on the amount of iron and titanium.
 - **Verdelite or green tourmaline** can resemble emerald, but if its color is caused by chrome and vanadium, it's called a chrome tourmaline.
 - **Paraíba tourmaline** is a vividly colored purplish or greenish blue variety found in Paraíba, Brazil. It's the most recently discovered, and because of its desirably intense colors, it's one of the most valuable.
 - **Achroite or colorless tourmaline** is rare.
 - **Parti-colored tourmaline** displays more than one color, due to chemical fluctuations during crystallization. A common color combination is green and pink. These are often cut in slices to reveal a red center surrounded by a green rim, earning the name "watermelon tourmaline."

Tourmaline is mined in Brazil, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Mozambique, Madagascar, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the U.S.—mainly Maine and California.

Tourmaline is desirable because of its sheer range of color options. Combined with a good hardness of 7 to 7.5 on the Mohs scale, tourmaline makes very wearable jewelry.

One of this gem's most impressive traits is its ability to become electrically charged through heat (pyroelectricity) and through pressure (piezoelectricity). When charged, tourmaline can act as a magnet by oscillating, and by attracting or repelling particles of dust.

Ancient magicians used black tourmaline as a talisman to protect against negative energy and evil forces. Today, many still believe that it can shield against radiation, pollutants, toxins and negative thoughts.

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

Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Club dues are \$12.00 for an individual membership or \$20.00 for a family membership.

Lapidary Workshop fee is \$2.00 per hour. Slab Saw fee is an additional \$2.00 per hour. Class fees are always dependent upon class and instructor.

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The Waco Gem and Mineral Club is a member of the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies; and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month (except July and September) at 10:00 a.m. at the Waco Gem and Mineral Club Clubhouse, 187 South McLennan Drive in Elm Mott, Texas. The lapidary workshop is located in the clubhouse.

Our website is www.wacogemandmineral.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WacoGemAndMineralClub>

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Club Purpose

- 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.



October Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
						WGMC Meeting 10:00 am
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			