



The Rock Rattler

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President's Message

Dear Members

2015 is going to be a very exciting year. Soon we will have our very own Classroom which will include a library and a saw shop for our members to use. This year will also be one of new Fieldtrip ideas which personally, I can't wait to experience!!! Thanks to our membership growth this past year our enthusiasm is growing as well. I ask for your patience and input to help make this year one that we ALL can be proud of!

My focus for 2015 but not limited to the following:

- 1) Get our shop up and running including class schedule
- 2) Involvement in our local Schools
- 3) A successful 2015 show
- 4) Fun and safe field trips

Tony

Next Meeting

When: January 6, 2015
Time: 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Where: Bossier City Library
Historical Building
Bossier City, La
Program:
Refreshments: Jeanette White
Door Prizes: Everyone bring at least one PLEASE

For the year 2015 the following committees have been created to help our club grow

Program Committee--this committee is responsible for organizing and presenting programs at our stated meetings. Please correspond with me on your ideas. Provide one month in advance your idea of the program to the newsletter editor, so she is able to include in our newsletter.

Del Glasner
Larry Maguire
Marjorie Thomas

Show Chairman and Committee--

Show Chairman will oversee and organize our annual show
Show Committee will make themselves available to the show chairman

Show Chairman--Del Glasner

Committee Members

Don Gednetz
Nina Hustus
Sharron Thomas
Moses Chattellier
Sue Autry--kids booth
Lauren Brown--advertising

Finance Committee--this committee is responsible for reviewing the clubs finances, protecting our 501 c(3) status, work on getting charitable donations and monitoring expenditures and reporting directly to the president and board

John Autry
Tom Stringfellow
Larry Maguire
Susan Fortenberry

Shop Committee--this committee is responsible for maintaining our clubhouse and sawshop. Establish safety guidelines and procedures with the approval of the board

John Autry
Del Glasner
Mike Free
Tom Stringfellow
Leland White

Minutes of Meeting

November 4, 2014

Opening: Larry Maguire
Pledge of Allegiance Larry Maguire
Prayer: Larry Maguire

Business Discussed:

- Building Update
 - Class room is ready for move in
 - All rooms have been painted
 - Work stations have been moved in but need to be assembled
 - Ramp and deck are also complete
 - Club needs to have an agreement between the Autry's and the club on rental of the property where the building sits
 - Where is the title to both trailers
- 501 (c)3 renewal date??
- Treasury Report
 - Treasurer not at meeting
- Classes
 - At this time all classes are at a standstill until the class room is at a point that it can be used.
 - Casting class may be moved to January
- Door Prize and Refreshment for 2015 completed
- Field Trip
 - Midlothian/TXI Field Trip—November 15
 - 24 people max
 - 7 year olds and up may attend
 - Must be at gate at 8:30 am
 - Leaving library at 5 am
- December 2 is club Christmas Party at 6 pm at El Chico
- Nominations for Officers are as follows
 - President - Antony Thomas
 - V. President - Leland White
 - Secretary - Sharron Thomas
 - Treasurer - John Autry
 - Board Member - Nina Hustus
 - Board Member - Lyn Simms
 - Board Member - Teresa Crawford
- 24 members attending meeting

tips and tricks

How to finish around a finding after soldering it onto something else

This is what I call 'drudge' work!! Indeed, all finishing is 'drudge' work, especially if the soldering job was not well done in the first place, that's why this work is often given to the apprentices who have more time and less skill in the fabrication processes. There are many operations that can be included in 'finishing' and much of it depends on how well the fabrication was carried out. For example, if a bezel was not leveled and trimmed before setting the stone, it may be a wavy or uneven requiring some filing or graver work. If too much solder was used when soldering a bezel onto a back plate there will be a 'fillet' at the outside of the join. Pieces may have been soldered on too close together without prior clean up. Other examples, would be leaving sharp corners or ragged and uneven edges or components. Thus, it is important that the fabricator do his/her part in preparing the piece for final finishing such as sanding and/or light polishing between each and every step in construction.

As we normally do not have apprentices (-:, it is imperative that we do those jobs ourselves. Unfortunately, there is no one answer to how each should be done. An uneven bezel may be repaired with a file unless the stone is too soft then a graver must be used. But those operations all have their inherent dangers. Removing wavy lines from a back plate around a bezel requires strict attention to the 'coarse to fine' process in which the proper coarse paper is used first followed by finer papers. In the end one may need to revert to the age old concept of powdered pumice or the ultra-fine diamond papers available today. Finally, a very soft wheel with rouge will finish it off. But, if the problem is in a restricted area you may want to 'cover up' the problem by innovative use of patina, stamps, burnishing or other surfacing techniques. Edges may be filed or fine-tuned with craytex or 'sillypum' wheels. Excess solder can be removed by a sharpening the edge of those wheels so they can get into cramped areas.

I have included a list of Jewelry Terminology and Techniques that might help you in such activities. For further information you might want to check out the web site: <http://www.allaboutgemstones.com/production.html>

Field Trips for 2015

Anyone planning to attend a field trip must notify field trip coordinator that you will be attending.

If you are unable to attend a field trip but would like something brought back just ask. Arrangements can be made.

January 10, 2015	Shop/Work Day	
February 7, 2015	Murfreesboro, AR	Agate and Diamonds
March 7, 8, 2015	Austin Texas area	Artifacts and Rocks
April 11, 2015	Ida, Louisiana	Metal Detecting
May 9, 2015	N. Sulfur River	Marine Fossils
June 12-14, 2015	Andaloussa, Alabama	Marine Fossils

Field Trip to TXI Plant in Midlothian Texas



Class Schedule Update

The class schedule is available. If you would like a copy emailed to you, email Sharron at adslthomas@gmail.com to request a copy. At this time, the classroom needs to be completed before dates for classes can be confirmed. If you have questions about the classes, you can contact Tom Stringfellow at tomstring@aol.com.

Upcoming Show Dates

January, 2015

23-25—TYLER, TEXAS: Annual show; East Texas Gem & Mineral Society, Rose Garden Center; 420 S. Rose Park Dr.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, students and children \$1, Scouts in uniform free; dealers, jewelry, gems, minerals, fossils, decorator items, geodes, demonstrations, cabbing, faceting, wire wrapping, silent auction, kids' spinning wheel, fluorescent mineral display, hourly door prizes, grand prizes; contact Keith Harmon, 9116 US Hwy. 84 West, Rusk, TX 75785, (903) 795-3860; e-mail: keithharmon19@yahoo.com

February, 2015, March, 2015

28-1—JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI: Annual show; Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society, State Fairgrounds; Trade Mart Building; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, students \$3; gems, jewelry, minerals, fossils, beads, books, lapidary tools, free demonstrations, cutting, faceting, jewelry making, flint knapping, wire wrapping, kids' activities and educational exhibits; contact Ricky Odum, Jr., (601) 750-8765; e-mail: rickyhalf feather@icoud.com; Web site: <http://missgems.org>

March 2015

21-22—SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: Annual show; SAN ANTONIO GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, SAN ANTONIO TEXAS; 8111 MEADOW LEAF DR [CORNER OF I-410 WEST AND MARBACH; Sat. 10AM-6PM, Sun. 10AM-4PM; Admission \$5, Seniors \$3, Students \$2, Children \$1; 54TH ANNUAL FIESTA OF GEMS; contact ROBERT BOWIE, (210) 860 2830; e-mail: krbotx@gvtc.com; Web site: www.swgemandmineral.org

2015 Board Members and Board Members

Position	Name	Contact #	Email Address
President	Antony Thomas	(318) 518-0907	adslthomas@gmail.com
V. President	Leland White	(318) 751-6548	jeanette051249@att.net
Secretary	Sharron Thomas	(318) 423-2130	adslthomas@gmail.com
Treasurer	John Autry	(318) 210-9416	john.autry451@gmail.com
Board Member	Teresa Crawford	(318) 573-5093	tmt0826@hotmail.com
Board Member	Nina Hustus	(318) 219-9136	pochance@bellsouth.net
Board Member	Lyn Simms	(318) 347-8621	lynsimms@gmail.com
Field Trip Coordinator	Antony Thomas	(319) 518-0907	adslthomas@gmail.com

The Rock Rattler is a monthly publication of the Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society located in Bossier City/Shreveport, Louisiana. The society is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) and the South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SCFMS). Permission is given to reproduce this document all or in part with the proper credit given. Articles with no byline are by the editor.

The Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society is a nonprofit educational organization devoted to promoting interest in the various earth sciences, particularly the art of lapidaries and their related fields. Informational speeches presented at area schools and the presentation of awards and cash prizes at the Public School Earth Science Fair are two of the ways the society achieves its goals. Another contribution to the community is the annual show, held at the Bossier Civic Center, 620 Benton Rd, in Bossier City. This "Jewelry, Gem, & Mineral Show" functions as a fund raiser for our group and a venue for the demonstrations of gold and silver casting, jewelry making, bead stringing, faceting, cabochon making, and flint knapping (the art of flaking stone tools such as arrowheads). The monthly meetings included programs of interest to rock hounds, information from the Rock Rattler, and jewelry making classes complete the educational objectives of the club.

Arklatex Gem & Mineral Society
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