

THE ROCK RATTLER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

THE ARK-LA-TEX GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

VOLUME: 45

NO. 05

Minutes for 4/4/17

- Antony Thomas opened meeting with Prayer Pledge
- John Autry gave financial info.
- Del Glasner gave update on show. 15 dealers have confirmed.
- Tony has requested a design for a pin for this years show. Entries need to be turned in to the meeting in June.
- Lauren has volunteered to design a layout for our mail out cards.
- Shop needs work done. Floor in the entry needs work. Insulation needs to be installed in saw shop. Need to purchase a heating and cooling a/c. At least 1400 btu. Requested a work day sometime in the near future.
- Field Trip to West Texas the last weekend in May is still being organized. All interested should contact Del for information.
- Field trip to Sweet Surrender mine will be 4/8/17. Meeting at library at 5 am if you want to carpool. Cost is \$20 per person
- Larry Maguire will be having a rock sale at his home on April 29. It will open at 9 am. His address is 6841 E. Magnolia, Ida, LA 71044
- Program was photographing your items
- 32 members present at meeting

NEXT MEETING: May 2 nd !!

Historical Center

Location:

2206 Beckett Street (318) 746-7717

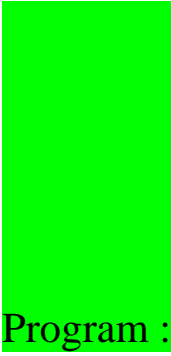
Bossier City , LA 71111

See map: [Google Maps](#)

Gathering 5:30pm Board meeting 6:00pm Meeting starts 6:30pm

Refreshments by: Sue Autry

Door Prizes by : Items needed



Program : GEOCACHING
By Titus Haynes

Upcoming Classes :

CHASING & REPOUSSE' – May 27 & 28 Fee \$125



INTRODUCTION TO METAL CLAYS – July 15 & 16 Fee \$165



Class fees must be paid at least 14 Days before classes.

For information call 903-839-6744 and make checks payable to:

Tom Stringfellow

168 address 16856 Cardinal Lane

Troup, Tx 75789

Shows

May 6-7 Arlington, TX

May 6-7 Lubbock, TX

May 27-28 FT. Worth, TX

Aug 12-13 San Antonio, TX

BOSSIER CITY, LA – The Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society will host their 43rd Annual Gem and Mineral Show, Aug. 19-20, at Bossier Civic Center in Bossier City. Hours of operation are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 19 and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 20. Admission is \$4 daily. Admission is free for children under 6 years of age. Parking is free at Bossier Civic Center and refreshments will be available for purchase.

Vendors at the show will be selling custom and unique jewelry, gems and minerals including amethysts, emeralds, jade, pearls, fossils and more. Educational programs will include: exhibits by society members; demonstrations on how to convert a rough mineral into a piece of wearable or displayable jewelry or art; making cabochons from rough slabs; a step-by-step guide to the process of faceting; how-to instruction on the use of equipment; presentations on “knapping,” the ancient art of arrow-head making, and more. There will be a kids’ scavenger hunt on Saturday with prizes for the first 60 participants. Door prizes will be awarded hourly throughout the event.

For more information, visit the Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society website at www.larockclub.com or call Del Glasner, show chairman, at (318) 517-7372.

November 10-12 Humble, TX South Central Federation of Mineral Society's Annual Show hosted by The Houston Gem and Mineral Society

Hints:

Opal Storage

The best way to keep opal jewelry from cracking and crazing is to wear it! Opal picks up moisture from body necessary to keep it in good condition. If you need to store opal, it should not be cushioned in something like dry absorbent cotton. Rather, place it in an airtight jar with a couple of wet cotton balls in it. Do not store opal in a bank vault; pressurization in the vault will tend to separate the layers in triplets. In air travel, take the opal with you; do not let it go in the baggage hold. If the prongs are too tight in a setting, the opal will eventually crack.

American River Currents via Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Bulletin 10/1995

Enhanced Gemstones

People have been enhancing gemstones since they first picked up a colorful shiny rock and rubbed it clean. However, the proliferation of enhancement methods and the tendency of sales people to be less than forthcoming about the true nature of a gemstone has caused the buying public to become leery. The GIA has made it a priority to teach their students to identify enhanced gemstones. Here are a few of their pointers on the subject of Topaz.

PINK - while pink occurs naturally, it can also be produced by thermal enhancement. Brownish yellow to orange "Imperial topaz" when heated, will turn pink. This thermal treatment causes a change in the stone's short wave fluorescence. A natural stone will fluoresce very weakly or moderate chalky yellow-green. A treated stone will fluoresce much stronger.

GREEN - green topaz is very rare in nature and therefore enhancement should be suspected. Some "Ocean Green Topaz" is being sold alongside the more common irradiated blue topaz. The original topaz material is believed to have come from Sri Lanka.

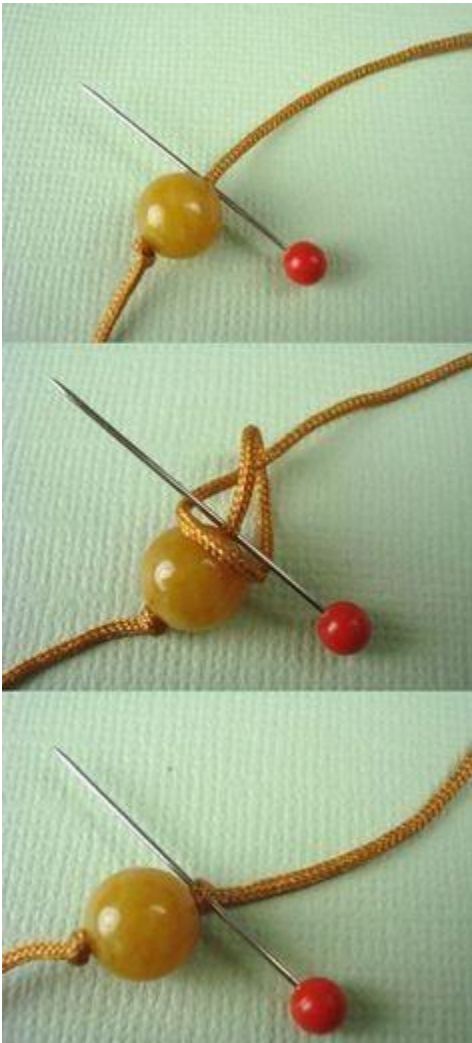
Like the blue, these stones ranging from yellow green to blue green are also potentially radioactive. The color is unstable and is reported to fade back to pale blue after less than 12 hours of exposure. GIA points out that the greatest challenge faced by the jewelry trade in the 1990's was the detection and disclosure of gem treatments, and this will true in the 21st century as well. Be aware of the marketplace.

Via Golden Spike News 12/01

Cutting Small Round Cabochons

If you have many small round cabochons to cut, the following gadget will help. Into a sheet of aluminum drill a series of holes from 1/8 to 1/2 inches in diameter. Now dop a small square of cutting material to a small dop stick. Hold the stick between your thumb and index finger of one hand Use the dop stick to hold the stone at the proper angle to the grinder and turn the stone. Apply pressure to the cabochon with the index finger of your other hand. When nearly round, fit the stone in a hole in the aluminum plate and turn it back and forth. This will mark the high spots on the stone which may then be ground off. Do this several times and you will have a perfectly round stone. This plate will also help you to cut stones to a uniform size.

James W Anderson



So that's how they get knots right up next to a bead...using a needle! So simple, but never thought of it before.

INFO :

West Texas Field Trip

I have one vehicle booked up with 4 people going on a six day west Texas field trip. Would like to have another vehicle and additional people to go on this trip.

Below is the preliminary itinerary we came up with at the last planning session. So far I have Reserved tent camping sites at Balmorhea Tx and Brantley Lake NM (near Carlsbad) because this is the Memorial Day weekend.

Estimated cost of trip is \$360 each person (includes ranch fee, cave fee, split 4 way camping fee, split 4 way gas fee and eat out cheap \$10 per meal) I am sure there are motels available at additional cost.

Preliminary Itinerary as of 3/24/17

Thursday May 25 6:00am leave classroom for 677 mile 11 hour trip to Camp at Balmorhea Texas State Park 5 pm (*sure is a long way across Texas*)
(Reservations made 3/24/17 online \$14.00 fee pd)

Friday May 26 Search for Blue agate along Lake Balmorhea dirt road, Oilfield pad for Agate and common opal dug by pad creation, possibly if time permits look for Moon stones. Travel 102 miles to Alpine, Tx and camp at campsite (not reserved yet), Make contact with Teri our ranch guide.

Sat May 26 8:00am Meet up with Teri at Antelope Lodge 2310 W. Highway 90 /

<http://www.antelopelodge.com>

<http://www.terismithrockhunts.com>

for trip to Singleton Ranch (50 mi from Alpine, 25 mi south of Marfa on hwy 169) to hunt agates \$50.00 ea fee. Return to Alpine campsite.

Photos of others finds:

<http://www.rockhoundingusa.com/gallery/marfa/index.html>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/97769244@N00/sets/72157594503307829/>

Sun May 27 Leave out for Carlsbad, NM 192 miles via Marfa, Texas checking road cuts along the way for agate. Camp at Brantley Lake NM state park (Reservations made)

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/spd/brantleylakestatepark.html>

Visit Carlsbad cavern to see Bats leave at sundown.

https://www.nps.gov/cave/planyourvisit/bat_flight_program.htm

Camp

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/spd/brantleylakestatepark.html>

Mon May 28 (Memorial Day) Tour of Carlsbad Cavern. Open at 8:30am – 2:00pm
Entrance fee \$10.00 (self guided) plus tour guide \$8 - \$20 (Elevator avail)

Travel to Abilene, Tx State Park 6 hrs, 322 miles

<http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/abilene>

Tuesday May 29 Return to Shreveport 7 hrs 390 miles

Members wanting to make the trip as of 4/19/17 are:

Del Glasner

John Autry

Tony Thomas

Bill Eads

Alan Pesnell

William Pesnell

Let me know if you are interested in making this trip.
Del Glasner 318-517-7372 or email larockclub@gmail.com

Member Photos

Lynn Simms Photos from Tucson Show



Cut from rough and polished by Lynn



Marra Mamba from the Australian Outback tent



Visit with FB friends

Websites to look at:

Spanish Treasure

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/shipwreckhunter/the-loss-of-the-1554-fleet-off-texas-coast-/1035047836510730>

Rock Types

<http://www.rocksandminerals4u.com/minerals.html>

Send in photos of your craftwork or comments via email: larockclub@gmail.com

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/ArkLaTexGemMineralSociety/>

Website - <http://larockclub.com/>