



The Rock Rattler

Volume 44 Issue 7

Website www.larockclub.com

Email larockclub@gmail.com

Facebook [ArkLaTexGemMineralSociety](https://www.facebook.com/ArkLaTexGemMineralSociety)

President's Message

The heat is on. Please hydrate when you do anything outdoors. If you go rock hunting please take extra water, wear loose fit clothing and don't overdo it.

Our show is a month away and we will have the signup sheet at this month's meeting. If you are unable to attend, please email me where you would like to volunteer. We need strong participation from all of you to make this a great show.

Hope to see you all at our meeting on Tuesday.

Tony

Next Meeting

| | |
|----------------|---|
| When: | July 5, 2016 |
| Board Meeting | 6:00 pm |
| Member Meeting | 6:30 pm |
| Where: | Bossier City Library Historical Building Bossier City, La |

Program:

Minutes of Meeting

June 7, 2016

Opening: Antony Thomas
Pledge of Allegiance Antony Thomas
Prayer: Antony Thomas

Business Discussed:

- Building Update
 - Still looking for land to move our building
 - Thinking about putting culvert in
 - Saws are being repaired at this time
- Finance Committee report
 - No updates
- Treasury Report
 - Treasury report given by John Autry
- Classes
 - No updates
- Field Trips
 - Field trip to Mt. Ida/Twin Creek Crystal Mine
 - Meet at 8 am at mine or 5 am at the library
 - Rock Swap is postponed
- Other Business
 - No update
- 2016 Show
 - Cab Contest—there will be 2 types of entries, one for set cabochons and ones that are not
 - Pin design submitted by Tony will be used for 2016 show
 - Volunteer sign up will be available next meeting
 - Lyn, Del and Larry are requesting display cases
 - Will need 2 cases for cabochon contest
- Presentation given by Larry on his recent trip
- 27 members attended meeting
- Silent Auction items were won by Louis Mastroni (Wonderstone) and Andrea Swenson (Fuschite)

The Great Fire Agate Expedition of March 2016

Beginning of the trip started by searching thru books, magazines and the Internet for information about where we could go and find neat rocks along our path to Arizona. Date was set for the trip and it was hard to wait for its' arrival. I'm sure we lost sleep thinking about the upcoming trip.

Finally I met up with Don, Tony and Bill at **Haughton, LA** at 5:00am for packing of equipment. I was the last one to show up. Didn't want them to start without me, but shouldn't have worried as we were taking my truck. After packing all of our equipment it looked like we may not have room for any rocks we find from the mountain of "we might need equipment". Stopped along the way to visit the Odessa Meteor Crater. It was hard to distinguish the original look of a crater.

The new building had a nice display of meteors from all over inside. There was a temptation to go along the crater and look for Meteorites but we were burning daylight and they kept a close eye on us Louisiana boys. Don't know why?

First camp was at **Monahans Sandhills S.P.** We explored the dunes and examined various tracks and rocks wondering what some were. A Park Ranger stopped by out of nowhere and said when he sees a bunch of youngsters out like this; they are up to no good. We thought we were caught rock hunting and changed the subject and asked him to I.D. the tracks we found. Turned out to be a beetle. That night we listened to some of Dons' tall tails around the campfire then turned in except for Bill. He looked for Scorpions before coming to bed with a UV light.

Off to **Balmorhea, TX** the next morning and visited the rock shop there. Rock shop owner discussed many rocks with us and she offered some locations and furnished us a map to some local locations where we could find some Agate, Opal and fossils. Looked along the road around the lake at Balmorhea but found very little. Off the graded dirt road it was difficult to tell agate from the others rocks because of the desert varnish coating. Proceeded to one of the map locations at an abandoned oilfield pad. Found lots of agate where the pad creation pushed up rocks from below desert varnished rocks. It was difficult to get the others to return to the truck to continue our trip.

Continued on our trip to El Paso and on to **Kilbourn Hole Volcanic Crater NM** just northwest of El Paso. Transversed around a containment area full of large wind turbine blades along the border of Mexico. Old rock hound maps we followed did not show the blocked and new roads. We finally found Kilbourn hole with the help of the back seat drivers and cell phone GPS maps. Tony volunteered to climb up one hundred feet to the rim to confirm our location as the east side of this massive two mile long crater rising out of the desert. Called my Friend Wolf on the phone to verify the correct location where he had previously found Peridot stones. Camped on SW corner basalt rim just south of the only other camper in the area. Enjoyed some cobbler around the campfire and watched the Border Patrol searching the border with helicopters and vehicles below us. An interrupted nights sleep was had because it turned cold. Sure glad no one harassed this group of heavily armed campers. Don said I was snoring loudly but he did not want to wake me because of the big pistol laying by my hand. The next morning we split up to locate some peridot bombs as the books call them. Tony disappeared down into the crater using what looked like where ash had poured out of the crater leaving a ramp. and the rest of us worked around the rim. Found some fine grain gray rock with peridot inside high on the ridge in our camp. We searched along the rim up toward the other camp and started to find were others had busted open the gray rock and found Peridot. Busting open some large egg shaped rocks I finally found some Peridot that poured out of the center like sugar. Thought we might have to send out a search party to find Tony. Packed up camp after lunch and waited quite some time for Tony. Blowed the horn and we finally spotted Tony returning in the bottom of the crater. He could not call us because his phone said he was in Mexico. Ya, sure ! Traveled back to **El Paso** to a Walmart and I purchased a 10 deg sleeping bag. Don't want to be cold again. In town we spotted a border patrol truck with a FLIR (forward looking infared) camera mounted in the back. That must have been what they were using last night.

Onward to Deming New Mexico and **Rock Hound State park** to the next camp and a nice hot shower. While preparing supper when some curious passer-bys walking their dog came by our camp and was talking to Bill. Walked out to them with the bowl of cut up chicken thighs and Offered them some of our alligator for supper but they declined and quickly moved off. Maybe they just didn't like the looks of us. Next morning we found a few good rocks. But like many easy access spots, good pickings were slim. Think I will pass on returning for the rocks here again. Stopped just down the road from the park at **Spanish Stirrup Rock Shop** for some good buys on rocks that we did not find. Again it was hard to round up the crew.

Traveled to **Lordsburg New Mexico** and visited another Rock Shop and we all purchased some rocks. Headed north to **Round Mountain Rock Hound Area Arizona** and our next camp. Along the dirt road I stopped

the truck and backed up to find I had ran over a Rattlesnake. Followed the signs to the area and crossed a few ten foot deep creek banks that might be hard for some vehicles to climb out of. That night we enjoyed the Coyotes howling as we ate cobbler around the campfire and swapped yarns. The weather that night cooled down to 28 deg and we all were nice and snug in our bunks. Don said he was glad the email I sent told him it was going to be cold and he used insulated overalls for pajamas. In the morning we all scattered to the four winds. Most of the time I could look up and find Don close to camp and Bill if I searched for a little bitty moving object in the distance but Tony was mostly out of sight somewhere. Found lots of white Chalcedony all over the ground. Some looked like eggs. Looked and looked for Fire Agate with visible fire, but it was hard to find when you are also keeping an eye out for Rattlesnakes amongst the basalt rock . Found some kind of animal mounds covered with rocks. Tried to walk on top to examine the rocks but the roof collapsed to the tunnels below. The lack of larger pieces of fire agate was a good indicator the location was picked over for sure. Tried to ignore the white Chalcedony all over the ground but it was hard to pass up because we don't have anything like that at home. Tony hollers and comes up with a big smile and an Arrowhead. Great find. Don fills bag after bag of rocks carefully cataloging each. Time to go and Bill says he needs time to recover his quartz crystal stashes from the hillside across the fence. We wait and wait. Looking up the hill we catch him still looking for rocks again. Finally onboard we return to Lordsburg to buy propane, ice and peaches.

The next morning we headed out for Black Mt. Rockhound area but stopped at **Rock-A-Buy rock shop** in **Duncan AZ**, and bought some more rocks. Discussed with the owner where we were going and he said don't bother with Black Mt and the local mine dumps. Suggested we to return to Round Mt. and gave us a map of where to go. We asked about the Mounds we saw at Round Mt. and he told us they were Packrat mounds that come out at night and that they sometimes are used by rattlesnakes. Bill already had a close encounter with one at a mound as one struck his hiking stick.

Off we went back to **Round Mt.** and set up camp again. This time we drove down to look in other areas as noted on the map and found additional fire agate, snakes and horned toads. Heard some noise and a Spanish man running fence drove up the hillside and showed me some cactus with little arms for the flowerbed and some white agate for his fish tank. Visit was short. I don't speak Mexican. Took a break for lunch, and the wind picked up and blowed the tent flat against the cots and wore a hole in the tent before we could remove the cots and food boxes. The tent was not going to be usable in the wind. Discussed the situation and decided to push on up north to **Globe Arizona** for the night in a motel.

The next morning we pushed on up thru a couple of Apache Indian reservations to be near the south **Petrified Forest National Park** entrance just south of Holbrook Arizona . Checked out one of Tonys' locations down another dirt road and some small village but it didn't pan out. Collected along the road where it came out to the blacktop just south of Holbrook. Visited another one of Tonys' locations, the **Do Bell Ranch** just outside the Petrified National Park and collected large pieces of some real nice colored petrified wood logs at a very low price. Don said he was very happy with his find of that wood and we could put him on a plane with his treasure right now.

Camped the night outside Holbrook Arizona. **Homolovi State** Park and went into Holbrook for supper at a Mexican restaurant that had blue tortillas and Green Chile. Hot but mighty good with enchiladas. and visited the ruins there. Visited Winslow Arizona the next morning to look for Green Petrified Wood. We stopped at a flea market store and purchased some Orteaga's consignment jewelry items. Asked about the green wood and was told it was on private land and only a small amount was ever found. Breakfasted at the old route 66 Falcon Restaurant. We looked southwest of town and only found a small gorge. Mark that one off the list. Returned to camp and visited the Homolovi ruins there. According to the signs, the village had to move because of flooding. Looked like all that was left was the outline of apartment walls and bits of pottery shards.

Packed up and headed down the road. Along the way we stopped at the **North Petrified Forest National Park Headquarters and Café** east of Holbrook for a bathroom break and snack. Did not enter the park itself for fear they would take our petrified wood. Stopped at **Grants New Mexico** at a site to look for Garnets and Apache tears. Found a few but as usual it was picked over. Because we knew rock hunting would be poor traveling I-40 across Oklahoma and north Texas we headed on the long trip south back down to **Pecos, Tx** Stayed at another motel in Pecos after traveling all day. Wandered thru the old western town of Pecos in search of food that night at 8 o'clock. Seems we could not get served at the Pizza Hut (maybe they didn't like our looks) but found some good food at a rough looking restaurant next to an old saddle shop and train station where the locals eat. Can't think of heading home without one more rock so we backtracked the next morning back north of Balmorhea to the pad we had collected at before and collected additional agate and opal. Thought Don was going to take back the whole pad. Again Tony was out of sight. After finally gathering up Bill and Tony we headed home and thought

about the great rocks we found. Listened to additional wild yarns all the way home. Upon arriving back in Haughton equipment and rocks were unloaded and sorted out. I heard more than once, "so that's where that was" and "that's my bucket of rocks". Maybe we all caught rock-pox.

I like these guys but I don't care to take another rock hunting trip for at least another week.

Del Glasner
3/29/16

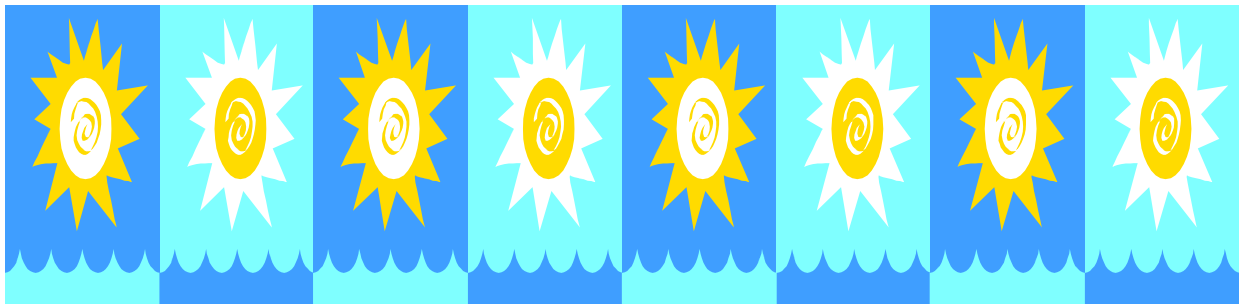
Field Trips for 2016

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.

| | | |
|--------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| July 9 | Paragould AR | Crowley Ridge State Park |
| Aug 6 | Claria Quarry, OK | Trilobites, brachiopods, coral |
| Sep 10 | Little Stave Cr, AL | Middle Eocene, Gosport sand, fossils |
| Oct 8 | Mufreesboro, AR | Crater of Diamonds State Park |
| Nov | Open | |
| Dec | Open | |

2016 Class Schedule

- 2016/2017 class schedule is in the process of being completed. If you have any suggestions on a class, please contact Tom Stringfellow at TomString@aol.com phone: 903-839-6744).
- If interested in classes to learn techniques such as filigree, enameling with resins, etching, faceting, knapping, shell carving or beading, contact Tom Stringfello
- Shop Location 581 Rex Beard Road, Haughton, LA
- You must be a paid member of the Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society



Upcoming Show Dates

July

2-3—GRAPEVINE, TEXAS: Annual show; Arlington Gem and Mineral Club, Grapevine Convention Center; 1209 S. Main St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$6, Seniors \$3, Students/Children \$3; 49th Annual Show, "Jewelry, Stones, Sticks and Bones". Spend your Holiday weekend with us during the day before setting out in the evening to view the fireworks in a gem of a city, Grapevine! Vendors, classes, food, fellowship. Tons of rough stones, rocks, slabs, rare minerals, fossils, beads, metaphysical stones, arrowheads, carvings, sculptures, skulls, antlers, bones, petrified wood, glass fusion, enameled jewelry, CRYSTALS, himalayan salt lamps, rock/mineral home decor, steampunk designs and butterflies will be available, as well as mining at a mobile mine. ; contact Dr. Nadira Charaniya, Arlington, TX, (469)-751-2944; e-mail: show@agemclub.org; Web site: www.agemclub.org

23-24—MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS: Annual show; Ozark Earth Science Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Club, Baxter County Fairgrounds in the Educational building; 1507 Fairgrounds Drive; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; Adults \$2, Active military with ID free, Scouts in uniform free, 12 & under free; Great Gem, mineral, fossil, and jewelry dealers. Educational displays and programs, kids games, geode cracking, State of AR. Geologist speaker, free hourly door prizes, grand prize raffle drawing, and demonstrations. Concession will be on site and provided by the Clarkridge Fire Dept.; contact Madelyn Anderson, (870)-421-4340

30-31—FARMERS BRANCH, TEXAS: Annual show; Cowtown Gem, Mineral, Glass, Jewelry & Art Show, Brookhaven College Geotechnology Institute, Building H; 3939 Valley View Lane; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; contact Steve Shearin, 860 Stafford Station Dr. , Saginaw, TX 76131, (817)-777-1997; e-mail: steve.l.shearin@lmco.com; Web site: <http://cera-fw.org/gem-mineral-glass/>

August

13-14—GONZALES, LOUISIANA: Annual show; Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society, Lamar-Dixon Expo Center Trademart Building; 9039 S Saint Landry Ave; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, Children \$3; Demonstrations: Cabbing, Faceting, Wire wrapping, and more. Door Prizes all day. Silent auctions going on both days. Scouts and educational groups are welcome. Vendors will be selling rock specimens, fossils, minerals, tools & jewelry. \$5 Adults • \$3 Children 12 & under Children 4 and under free \$1 off for Scouts in uniform Military personnel free with military ID; contact Wanda Gawarecki, 5191 Hwy 19, Ethel, LA 70730, (225)-603-3870; e-mail: mercymom3@gmail.com; Web site: www.brgemandmineral.org

27-28—JASPER, TEXAS: Annual show; Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society, The Event Center; 6258 Highway 190 West; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10 -5; Adults/Seniors \$3.00, Students/Children free; Lapidary demonstrations, exhibits, door prizes, silent auction, grand prize raffle and spinning wheel featured. Vendors from across the country will offer rough rock, lapidary equipment and finished jewelry for sale.; contact Jonetta Nash, 737 FM 254 South, Jasper, TX 75951, (409)-384 3974; e-mail: jonetta.nash@yahoo.com; Web site: www.pinecountry-gms.org

September

7-8—MOUNT IDA, ARKANSAS: Annual Amateur World Championship Quartz Crystal Digging Contest; Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Fairgrounds Rd; Fri. 9-4, Sat. 9-4; Admission \$75/\$100; Annual Amateur Quartz Crystal Digging Contest. Keep all you find, meet other miners; maybe even win a prize!; contact Sherrie Ellison, Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, Mount Ida, AR 71957, (870)-867-2723; e-mail: director@mountidachamber.com; Web site: www.mountidachamer.com

7-9—MOUNT IDA, ARKANSAS: Annual show; Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Fairgrounds Rd; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; Annual Quartz, Quiltz and Craftz Festival. Inside and outside dealers. Held in conjunction with the Annual Amateur World Championship Quartz Crystal Digging Contest. ; contact Sherrie Ellison, Mount Ida Chamber of Commerce, Hwy 270 West, Mount Ida, AR 71957, (870)-867-2723; e-mail: director@mtidachamber.com; Web site: www.mtidachamber.com

October

21-23—AUSTIN, TEXAS: Annual show; Austin Gem and Mineral Society, Palmer Events Center; 900 Barton Springs Rd; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$8, Seniors \$7, Children ages 13-18 \$2 / 12 and under free; Gem & mineral show vendors of jewelry, beads, gemstones, minerals, crystals, fossils & spheres. Exhibits like the touch table of rocks and fossils and member collections. Demos in faceting, cabbing, fossil cleaning, and polymer clay. Fri "Youth Education Day" w/field trips. For \$1 each Gem Mine, Wheel of Fortune, Jewelry Making, or Illumination Station. Hourly door prizes Sat and Sun. Grand Prize Sun Fluorite specimen from Bingham, NM.; contact Chip Burnette, 6719 Burnet Ln, Austin, TX 78757, (512)-458-9546; e-mail: showchairman@austingemandmineral.org; Web site: www.gemcapers.com

November

19-20—MESQUITE, TEXAS: Annual show; Dallas Gem & Mineral Society, Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall; 1800 Rodeo Drive, (I-635 & Military Parkway); Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$8, Seniors \$8, Students \$8, Children \$3; 59th Annual Dallas Gem & Mineral Show. There will be be fluorescent displays, silent auctions, door prizes and much more.; contact Diana Case, PO Box 742033, Dallas, TX 75374, (214)-349-2022; Web site: dallasgemandmineral.org

*Thank you Nina for bringing refreshments
at our last meeting.*

Also thank you, Larry, for sharing your finds with us.

Thank you Tom for bringing your chocolate velvet coffee and hot tea.

If anyone is interested in bringing door prizes or refreshments on any of the open times, please let Sharron know.

| | Refreshments | Door Prizes |
|-----|------------------|-----------------|
| Jul | Terry Mastroni | Marjorie Thomas |
| Aug | Sharron Thomas | Antony Thomas |
| Sep | Gwynne Lowe | Don Gednetz |
| Oct | Marjorie Thomas | Nina Hustus |
| Nov | open | open |
| Dec | Christmas dinner | Auction |

2016 Board Members

| Position | Name | Contact # | Email Address |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|--|
| President | Antony Thomas | (318) 518-0907 | adslthomas@gmail.com |
| V. President | Tom Stringfellow | (903) 839-6744 | tomstring@aol.com |
| Secretary | Sharron Thomas | (318) 423-2130 | adslthomas@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | John Autry | (318) 210-9416 | john.autry451@gmail.com |
| Board Member | Marjorie Thomas | (318) 927-5283 | Marjoriethomas1125@gmail.com |
| Board Member | Nina Hustus | (318) 219-9136 | pochance@bellsouth.net |
| Board Member | Michael Clark | (318) 671-8552 | Mclark9317@comcast.net |
| Field Trip Coordinator | Del Glasner | (318) 517-7372 | Dglasner2001@yahoo.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

PO Box 6633

Bossier City, LA 71171-6633