

# THE ROCK RATTLER

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March is a great time to get out and explore, so do it. please let myself or Del know what you would like to collect for Field trip ideas. I'm thinking about another trip to homochitto river for agate and artifacts or La grange Texas for petrified wood and chert in April. Need input. Our show will be here before you know it, so start putting aside material for our silent auction and think about where you want to work. Hope everyone is doing well and look forward to seeing each of you at the meeting. We will be meeting at the church again this month. see you there. Tony

## Minutes for 2/7/17

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Attendance 15 members

Opening Antony Thomas

Prayer Antony Thomas

Pledge not performed

Treasury Report John Autry

Classes Chainmaille class is planning to be moved to Mar25 and 26

Planning on doing a PMC and mounting class

Field Trips Planning a trip to Alpine Texas for 3 days in May

Show Committee contract for civic center has been signed and deposit has been paid

Shop Committee shop hours are sat 11a-6p and 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> thur 530p to 830p

New Business Board members approved to start a childrens group with our club. Classes and supplies will be given to child at no cost. Child would need to have an adult membership to participate. Ideas were to show children how to tumble rocks, make cabochons and teach a beading class. Children ages 5-17 are eligible.

Program Requested members to bring items for a show and tell each meeting.  
turquoise mounting

**NEXT MEETING:** New meeting location for March 7

Hope Community Church of God located at 3247 Bert Kouns

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

Refreshments by: Jenny Moore Door Prizes by

**Program: "Our Amazon Adventure" by Marjorie Thomas.**



#### Club Shop

Members: Shop is open most Saturdays. Knowledgeable shop stewards will be available to help you operate tools and machinery. Typical activities include sawing rocks in half, polishing rocks, jewelry creation and how it's done demos. Come out and see what's going on. Upcoming Classes Chainmail Mar 24 & 25



Good luck Tom on your hand Surgery

Hints:

- **HOW TO SPOT A FAKE PIECE OF AMBER** by Brian Miller When I see amber I instantly think of the movie Jurassic Park. If you have seen the movie, you've seen the techniques used in extracting amber that's been entombed for generations and finally unearthed for human eyes to see. Before and after the movie, many people took advantage by producing fakes. Since more precious amber is harder to come by these days, fakes have popped up all over the market. Humanity has a sneaky way to mimic so called "amber" and it takes a keen eye or nose to figure out if you have a true piece. There is art to figuring out the fakes. Here are some simple techniques that might save you money and heartache. Research has shown me, if amber is vigorously rubbed against fur, it will produce static and an aroma of pine. Many plastics may replicate the static but the smell of pine is always a good hint that it is genuine. Heating a pin and touching the side should produce that pine resin smell too; if you smell burnt plastic then it is obviously a fake. Another cool treatment is the water method. By mixing a large amount of salt with water in a bowl or bucket, your amber should float. If not, you may have another plastic fake. With all these useful techniques, it should be easier to spot a fake and find the true treasure. (via The Tumbler, 5/5; via The Golden Frog, 4/15)

**Vinegar**—Not Just For Salads One way to remove carbonates such as calcite from quartz and amethyst is to cover the specimen with fresh vinegar and allow to stand overnight. Repeat if necessary. Wash and then place crystals in washing type ammonia for 8.5 hours. Remove, rinse thoroughly, wipe and air dry.

For the gloss finish on tiger-eye, polish once, dry the stone, then put a drop of vinegar on it. Let stand for a few minutes, then give it a second polish.

Mother-of-pearl for inlay work can be softened by a soaking in white vinegar. It then can be easily cut

If you have sore hands from hard rock mining, soak your hands in warm vinegar water and the swelling and soreness will disappear.

Dark household vinegar will dissolve epoxy glue by soaking overnight.

Heard around the faceting table: spray vinegar on lap while polishing with water — or mix 50/50 water & vinegar in your water cup. This lowers the pH, giving a faster and better shine. (via The Tumbler, 9/14; via Roc Toc, 9/08; via Rockhound Rumblin's, 11/00; via Stone Age News, 9/00; via Rocket City Rocks & Gems, 6/99) \_\_\_\_\_

## Member Photos



Lynn's Graveyard Point Plume Agate



Larry's New Palm Root Slab



Larry's Dead Camel Rock



Lynn's Indonesian Palm Root



Lynn's Slab



Larry's Palm Slabs



Nina's Ring

Websites to look at: <http://www.rocksandminerals4u.com/>  
<http://www.arrowheads.com/index.php/artifact-events/view-events/icalrepeat.detail/2017/04/08/351/-/nacogdoches-tx-artifact-show>

Send in photos of your craftwork or comments to: [larockclub@gmail.com](mailto:larockclub@gmail.com)