

Rock Chips

HAPPY NEW YEAR

President's Message

Here we are starting a new year; the 50th for the Deming Gem & Mineral Society. This I feel is a milestone for a small town club. The club has had its ups and downs in the past and has survived with the willingness of the members. The club has been in turmoil for the last 3-4 years. We have had the president, treasures and co-chairs for the Roundup quit before their terms expired.

As vice-president this past year, I observed, listened and tried to learn what makes this club. I am not going to be the perfect president, but then who is. I would like to see more member involvement. The board meetings are open to any member. If you have something you feel needs addressed or you have an idea for making something better, please let an officer know in writing or verbally at least a week before the board meeting so we can investigate or provide some input. If there is a problem you feel needs addressed, please inform an officer before the general meeting, so we can decide if it needs looked into further before presenting it at the general meeting.

I don't like to sound negative, but it looks like the club is in jeopardy. I don't mean in a monetary way. We do not have a Vice-president, a Bulletin Editor or a Co-chair for Roundup. If we don't have a Vice-President, we have no President for 2016. The Chips is the life-line of the club. If we do not get a Co-chair for Roundup, we may not have a Roundup in 2016. These positions also make up part of our board.

I would like to give a recap of our club makeup. First, we are a social club with members from all

different walks of life with one thing in common-Rocks.

Second, We are a Non-profit Corporation. We have a corporate structure of a Board of Directors, which is made up of officers, directors, bulletin editor and roundup chair. Then we have committees. Our committees have a chairperson that is to oversee committee members. The committee chairs should report to the board of directors. This is a simple structure. If we don't have some structure we have total chaos. The board makes decisions based on input from these committees, members and research. The majority of issues involving the membership are presented to the membership to be voted on by the members; such as increasing the dues, major expenses of building, shop fees, claim, etc. Being a corporation means we have to meet certain obligations to Federal and State agencies. Some of the things required are now to be done online. So we are forced into using more technology.

The club at one time had six (6) claims, now we have one (1); which there are a lot of people would love to possess. This claim makes us obligated to BLM and other State and Local agencies. We need to have a governing board to make decisions regarding the running of this club. If we can't make decisions we have no club.

We own our clubhouse and lapidary shop, which very few clubs in the country do. So we have upkeep of these. We do not own the property the building is located on, it belongs to the city of Deming. If the club folds the building goes to the city. All other assets would be sold or given to charity.

I hear people saying they care about this club. I hear; we have so many people, why don't they contribute. We presently have about 250 members. Of those

about 90 are locals. That means about 160 are either snowbirds or they live out of state. Snowbirds are only here normally 3-6 months and some do help with Roundup and special committees, others just use the shop. The out of state members have been to the roundup and they feel this is a way to support the club since we do not charge entrance fee and would like to receive the newsletter. The older members who have contributed in the past also support the club by paying dues, but just can't do what they used to and want to receive the newsletter to see what the club is doing.

I hear, we have all this money. We can't survive on memberships and shop income. It takes \$20,000+ to maintain the club, clubhouse and shop. This does not include Roundup expenses. Our main source of income is the Roundup. Right now we do not have a Co-Chair for the Roundup to take over the present chair position. If we have no chair, we have no Roundup. If we have no Roundup, we start to die. Some of the money we have is to get us through for a couple years if we do not have a Roundup and some is for any major repairs we might incur. If we don't have a Roundup we may lose vendors and they may not come back again. The community suffers due to loss of income from the number of people who come to the Roundup.

I have talked to several local people and they don't know the club exists. This tells me we need to promote our club more on a local level.

I hear, we can't come to meetings, because I don't drive after dark. There is no perfect time for a meeting, but if we are to attract families and younger members meetings need to be geared to the evening or Saturday. If you can't drive after dark call another member to ride with. I am not trying to discourage older members, we need you for your experience. You are more than welcome to attend the board meetings in the afternoon. They are not all boring, believe me. Most of the time what is discussed at the board meeting is gone over at the general meeting. I have looked at several other clubs and most of them have their meetings in the evening, starting anywhere from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. One other alternative that was discussed at the board meeting was to split meetings to half the year

from October - March in the afternoon and April - September in the evening. There was also a suggestion of Saturday late afternoon. This is going to be our agenda for discussion at the January meeting. We may hold off voting until February. So, if you want to voice your opinion, come to the January meeting.

I feel there are capable people in this club to take on our vacant positions. I know a lot of members have only been in the club for a couple years, but technically so have I. I joined the club in 2008 but was not here all the time. You are not alone when you take on a position.

Some other things that need attended to are: the by-laws need some revisions and our claim needs to be evaluated for future diggings. For these we need committees. We also need a Historian, Public Relations, Parliamentarian, Social Chair and after April a Shop Foreman.

All in all I have faith with willingness and perseverance that we will survive. We are all volunteers and in this together and need to look at new ideas openly.

I know this is a long message, but I felt our members should to be informed as to our situations. I am looking forward to leading and representing our club for the year 2015.

Barbara

There will be a program on faceting at the January 22nd meeting.

SILVER FABRICATION CLASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, January 13 9:00 a.m.- 12 noon

Thursday, January 15 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Shop Hours

Monday 9 - 12

Wednesday 12 - 3

Friday 9-12

Saturday 9-12

**The Deming Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
General Meeting - December 18, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by President, Shirley Krasinski at 6:00 p.m. by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes were approved as written in the November Chips.

Treasurer's report: no report.

Sunshine: No card were sent out in December so far.

Claims: Paperwork is good for the next 5 years. Inspection will still be every year.

Roundup: Pickup your raffle tickets from Barb Hamilton. Next meeting January 8th.

Membership: Monika noted we have no new members. We are now collecting dues for 2015.

Shop: Joe announced the shop has gotten new saw blades and aprons for sawyers at Roundup. Also noted shop is running well. A silversmithing class started January 6th.

President Shirley Krasinski noted this is the last meeting for her presidency. She will now assume the Past President position on the board. She also noted we need a Vice-President, Bulletin Editor and Co-Chair for Roundup.

Trina from Red Roof Rock Shop announced the shop is in full operation now and they are going to offer wire wrap classes and members will receive \$10 off the charge of class.

Daryl Johnson moved to close the nominations for 2015 officers. Motion approved by a majority. Election of 2015 Officers results as follows:

President - Barbara Staff

Vice President - open

Secretary - Linda Edwards

Treasurer - Benjamin Staff

2015 Roundup Chair - Marilyn Page

Bulletin Editor - open

1 yr director - Art Krasinski

2 yr director - Carlos Chavez

After election, officers were installed.

50/50 winnings were \$12.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Edwards, Secretary

THE DEMING GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC

P.O. BOX 1459, DEMING, NM 88031-459

FOUNDED - JANUARY 1965

DUES ARE DUE & PAYABLE ON DECEMBER 1st EACH YEAR

Membership Dues: \$15.00 per Adult, \$2.00 per child under 18yrs or \$25.00 per family

ROCK CHIPS is the official bulletin of the Society

email address: thedgms@gmail.com

Official website: www.thedgms.com

2015 Officers

President.....Barbara Staff.....724-712-6353
Vice-President....
Secretary.....Linda Edwards.....804-695-4884
Treasurer.....Benjamin Staff.....724-256-2674
Bulletin Editor.....
Roundup Chair.....Marilyn Page.....575-544-9019
1 Yr. Director.....Art Krasinski.....575-494-5971
2 Yr Director.....Carlos Chevez.....931-205-0909
Past President.....Shirley Krasinski.....575-544-1315
Pro Tem.....

CHAIRPERSONS

Field Trip Chair.....Dennis Holmes.....575-313-7329
Shop.....Joe Morone.....937-206-2111
Claims.....Paul Browning.....575-644-6540
Membership.....Monika Anderson.....575-694-3550
Sunshine.....Barbara Hamilton.....575-544-8643
Custodian.....Cindy Jordan.....575-694-3598
Photographer.....All Club Members
Webmistress.....Pamm Reynolds.....715-808-2780
Refreshments.....All Club Members
Parliamentarian.....
Public Relations....
Librarian.....Sylvia Golden
Historian.....
Social Chair.....

THE OFFICIAL SHOW OF THE SOCIETY

Held every year on the
second weekend
in March
at the SWNM Fairground

ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP 2015 MARCH 12-15

Official Club Function
A Gem & Mineral Exhibition
at the SWNM Fair

Membership Meeting

6:00 p.m. - 4th Thursday of each month
January 22nd - program on faceting

Board Meeting

2:00 p.m. - 1st Wednesday of each month

Next Roundup Meetings

Thursday January 8th 2:00 p.m.
Thursday February 5th 2:00 p.m.

All meetings are held at The Deming Gem &
Mineral Society, Inc. building
4200 Raymond Reed Blvd., Deming, NM
clubhouse phone: 575-546-2554
Visitors are invited and welcome

THE DEMING GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. An incorporated, non-profit organization shall be dedicated to the knowledge advancement and enjoyment of the earth sciences and associated subjects. The Society's primary purpose is the dissemination and furtherance of knowledge of mineralogy, gem cutting and geology, and to stimulate interest in the development of these studies. It is composed of individuals who have chosen gems and the aforementioned studies as a major interest in their lives.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

January:

Tuesday, January 13th.....Silver Fabrication.....9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Thursday, January 15th.....Silver Fabrication.....9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Saturday, January 17th.....Outside Work day.....10 a.m.
Thursday, January 22nd.....General Meeting - Faceting.....6 p.m.

February:

Wednesday, February 4th.....Board Meeting.....2 p.m.
Thursday, February 5th.....Roundup Meeting.....2 p.m.
Thursday, February 12th.....Roundup meeting.....2 p.m.
Thursday, February 19th..... Roundup meeting.....2 p.m.
Saturday, February 21st.....Ticket Sales, Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Peppers.....9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Saturday, February 21st..... Pot Luck.....2 p.m.
Thursday, February 26th.....General Meeting.....6 p.m.
Saturday, February 28th.....Ticket Sales-Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Peppers.....9 a.m.-2 p.m.

March:

Wednesday, March 4th.....Board Meeting.....2 p.m.
Saturday, March 6th & 7th.....Ticket Sales-Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Peppers.....9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Monday, March 9th.....Roundup Setup
March 12th- 15th.....Rockhound Roundup