

Rock Chips

Vol 47 No 4

The Deming Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

April 2015

President's Message

A Big Big THANK YOU to every member and non-member who worked or supported the Roundup. I hope everyone has recovered.. From talking to dealers and attendees, everyone was happy with the show. It helped a lot that the weather co-operated with us in every way.

I forgot to mention at the meeting, I would like to thank Jim & Stacy Goldstein for donating a microwave oven to the club. I would like to remind everyone to save Pepper's receipts. We get 1% on the receipts we submit. There is a box to put them in by the membership table. At the April 25th general meeting, there will be another silent auction of items from Marianne DeMott's estate.

A bylaws committee has been selected, and we are on our way to getting them in order and hopefully it will go smoothly.

We are going to be looking for a committee to compile policies and procedures. Anyone who has policies and procedures for any committee, please submit them to an officer.

I know this seems a long way off, but there are a few things we need to be thinking about down the road. In May I would like to plan a cleanup day of the clubhouse and fairground shed. On July 4th plan on an ice cream social at the clubhouse before the fireworks. We are looking for a Co-Chair for the Roundup. In August we will be selecting (3) members for the nominations committee; one by the general membership, one by the Board of Directors and one by the President. January 25, 2016 marks the club's 50th anniversary. If anyone has any ideas of something special to do, let us know.

I would like to wish the snowbirds safe travels and we'll see you when you return.

Barb

Message From Marilyn

I want to THANK YOU ALL who helped make this a successful show. No one person can do it all, but many hands can.

Many of you just went looking and stepped right up to the plate and chipped in where needed.

We brought it off without too much trouble and had a lot of fun doing it. I for one enjoyed all of the members who came and expressed their feelings on the show. The Good Lord helped with the weather also, You will have a new chairman at the helm come June. She is Carol Duncan and she will be looking for ideas. Please help her too. I wish all our winter friends safe traveling and keep in touch. See you at the shop. Marilyn

Deming Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. Board Meeting - March 4, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Barbara Staff, President.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Staff, Linda Edwards, Ben Staff, Cindy Jordan and Marilyn Page.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ben gave a brief overview of the bank accounts. Financial reports have been given to Patterson, CPA for taxes. They do not do audits. They also said they didn't feel an outside out was necessary for the size of our organization and everything was on the computer. There was a discussion as to why money from trim saw in the shop can not be accounted for.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Linda had nothing to report. The minutes that had been posted in the monthly Bulletin were approved as read.

FIELD TRIPS: Barb reported on the field trip from 3/1/15. Discussion was had regarding the need for a Field Trip Chair. Paul Browning was mentioned as a possible candidate but Joe noted that Paul was not

interested. A search for someone to fill this position will be ongoing.

CLAIMS: We received our 5 year recreation permit from BLM. We still have to do our reports every year.

MEMBERSHIP: No report.

SUNSHINE: Nothing for February.

SHOP: After a complaint about the smell of the oil being used in the saws, there has been discussions about the oil we are using. It has been determined for now the oil is safe to use pending further investigation about a possible better oil to use.

ROUND-UP: A Round-Up meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. tomorrow March 5th.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Daylight Savings goes into effect this weekend.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: We again have the opportunity to display the beautiful work done by our members in the display case at First Savings Bank from February 15th to March 31st. Drop off materials to the office on either February 11th or 12th.

NEW BUSINESS: Cindy and Linda volunteered for the Scholarship Committee. Bylaws committee will be selected after Roundup.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Edwards, Secretary

Deming Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. General Meeting – March 28, 2015

Barbara Staff, President called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. She then led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests welcomed were Marvel Mitchell from Grand Rapids, Michigan and Louisa Valdespino from Deming.

MINUTES: Marilyn moved that the minutes be

approved as printed in the Chips. Motion seconded and approved.

Presidents Report: We have received collection of numerous items from the estate of Marianne DeMott, who was a long time member of the club. After a brief discussion, A motion was made by Elaine Angstman to sell by silent auctions for members, silent auction and live auction at Roundup, also use as door prizes, etc. Motion was seconded and approved. Upon approval we had a silent auction during the meal and after the meeting.

BREAK: The meeting was put on hold until the covered dish dinner was enjoyed by all.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Nothing.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ben gave treasurer's report then gave a recap on the Round Up so far. Not all expenses are in. Report is posted on the bulletin board.

MEMBERSHIP: We got about 30 new membership during Roundup.

FIELD TRIPS: There were about 37 people at the Big Diggins field trip. Everyone found some good stuff. The field trip to Round Mountain lead by Darryl Johnson was enjoyed by about 20 people.

CLAIMS: Joe stated the backhoe got stuck during reclamation. Will try later this month.

SUNSHINE: Get well card was sent to Chet Schilling. Thinking of you cards were sent to Elaine Smith and Grace Bent. A sympathy card was sent to Betty Merrill for the loss of her husband Robert.

SHOP: Joe reported that a trim saw blade given by a vendor during the Round Up lasted less than an hour. He also noted that he has some trainees for sawyer, and shop leaders for the summer season.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Joe Morone moved that we nominate 4 members for a bylaws committee. Motion was seconded. The following members were nominated and accepted by acclamation:

Marilyn Page, Ed Edwards, Donna Johnson, Carolyn Abby.

One application for the scholarship has been received and it was forwarded to the committee to review and present at the Board meeting on Wednesday, Apr. 1.

NEW BUSINESS: Elaine Angstman will do an earring class on Saturday, April 11, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Cost will be \$5 for 2 pair of earrings. Each additional pair is \$1 each.

Ken suggested that we give a lifetime membership to Paul Browning because of all he does for the club. This idea was tabled until after the bylaws are revised.

Joe awarded the Kingsley North gift certificates from the Round Up. He took photos and will be sending them to Kingsley North.

Drawings: Carol Lyman won the door prize drawing and selected a rock specimen. Joe Bost won the name tag drawing and \$10 in the 50/50 drawing.

We need a couple of people for refreshments next month. Sign up at the membership table.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.. Silent Auction closed at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Edwards, Secretary.

Deming Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. Board Meeting - April 1, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Barbara Staff, President.

PRESENT: Barb Staff, Ken Sholar, Linda Edwards, Ben Staff, Cindy Jordan, Marilyn Page
Other members present were Joe Morone, Joe Piuma, Barbara Voss and Ed Edwards.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Linda had nothing to report. The minutes that had been posted in the monthly Bulletin were approved as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ben gave an overview of the current finances. He also asked for approval to donate to the American Cancer Society's Celebration of Life

walk. Since we needed to have it in before the next general meeting, and we have donated to the cause in the past the board approved to make a donation. Ben also asked for approval to pay several bills. The request was moved for approval by Marilyn, seconded by Linda and approved for payment.

FIELD TRIPS: A field trip is planned to Radium Springs area April 18th.

CLAIMS: Backhoe got stuck trying to do reclamation. Will try later this month.

MEMBERSHIP: Monika is leaving on Monday for the summer. Linda will take over her duties in her absence and will be making up a new member's packet of information to be given to each new members. Discussion was had regarding Lifetime Memberships. Ken again brought up Paul Browning and Rich Little as possible recipients of a life membership. Joe brought up the efforts of Joe Piuma who installed lights in the yard last year for no payment get his dues paid for a year. Mr. Piuma was present and stated that he did not want it, that he had done the electrical work as volunteer work to the club. Linda brought up cons of the life membership, stating that singling out a member for good deeds could cause hurt feelings of other members who have also done a great deal for the club. The issue of life memberships will be brought before the general membership.

SHOP: Joe discussed shop procedures. Linda will work with Joe to get the shop procedures typed up and available for everyone. They will be included as part of the new member packet. Shop hours will change in May to the summer hours which will be posted. In Joe's absence, Marilyn will serve as Shop Foreman. Ed Edwards, Rick and his wife, Ernie and Leon will be Sawyers.

ROUND-UP: Marilyn mentioned that Ernie will not be working in the capacities that he has in the past. We will have a plaque made for placement on the saw he rebuilt to thank him for all of his hard work.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: . Linda mentioned that she had read over the only scholarship application was had received. It did not relate to geology. Cindy

also agreed that the application was only for agriculture studies and thus not appropriate for our scholarship. Club t-shirts were discussed. This will be brought up to the general membership regarding their ideas. We also need to find some people to teach classes.

NEW BUSINESS: Cindy suggested that in the future we do not have covered dish dinners on the same day as meetings. The board agreed. We need tables to be fixed for Round Up. It was felt that 4 smaller tables would be easier to handle than the current two. Ben stated that he will work on this project.

There were concerns regarding the partitions at the fairgrounds. They are too heavy. Question was raised regarding whether the Fair Board would finance some new partitions. When Ed goes to the next Fair Board meeting he will approach this subject. There was a consensus of opinion that we need to establish written policies and procedures for the club. It was the feeling of the board that we need to hear the voices from membership to include everybody in the club's activities and decisions.

We discussed ways to recognize members for their hard work.

Ken wanted everybody to know that thanks need to be given to Joe for all of his help with procedures regarding cutting stone at slowest speeds.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Edwards,
Secretary, 2015.

Do YOU SUFFER FROM

F.T.D.D?

FIELD TRIP DEFICIENCY DISORDER

Join us on our next field trip to the Radium Springs Area! April 18th, Leaving the Clubhouse at 8:30 A.M.

Have a day out with fellow Rock-Hounds and maybe find some wonderful **rhyolite** to play with!

Shop Hours

Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Wednesday 12 - 3 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 12 - 3 p.m.

Saturday - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Calendar of Events

April 11.....Earring Class - Saturday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

April 18.....Field Trip to Radium Springs Area Leave clubhouse 8:30 a.m.(see website for pictures of examples of what you can find)

April 25.....General Meeting 2 p.m. Silent Auction During Meeting.

April 25Presentation on stabilizing turquoise by Jessie from Black Hat Trading.

<http://www.thedgms.com/>

New Galleries on the web!

Please! Any suggestions send them along to the editor or to Barbara via the E-mail links here or at the next meeting!

THE DEMING GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. BOX 1459, DEMING, N.M. 88031-459

FOUNDED - JANUARY 1965

DUES ARE DUE & PAYABLE ON DECEMBER 1st EACH YEAR

Membership Dues: \$15.00 per person for Adult Members

Junior Memberships: \$2.00 per person (up to 18 years of age) or \$25.00 per family

All meetings are held at the Deming Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. building

4200 Raymond Reed Blvd., Deming, NM -- Clubhouse phone: 575-546-2554

BOARD MEETING ---1ST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH 2:00P.M.

GENERAL MEETING ---4TH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH 2:P.M.

OFFICERS

President	Barbara Staff	724-712-6353
Vice President	Ken Sholer	575-639-1135
Secretary	Linda Edwards	804-695-4884
Treasurer	Benjamin Staff.....	724-256-2674
Bulletin Editor	Scott Ehlers	575-544-2826
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		
Pro-Tem.....	Cindy Jordan	575-694-3598

CHAIRPERSONS

Field Trips Chair.....	Dennis Holmes.....	575-3137329
Shop	Joe Morone.....	937-206-2111
Claims	Paul Browning	575-644-6540
Custodian	Cindy Jordan	575-694-3598
Librarian	Sylvia Golden	505-717-7157
Membership.....	Monika Anderson	575-544-4655
Webmaster.....	Scott Ehlers.....	575-544-2826
Sunshine	Barbara Hamilton	575-544-8643
Photographer	All Club Members	
Refreshments	All Club members	
Reporters	All Club Members	
Historian		
Parliamentarian		
Social Chairperson .		
Publicity	Carol Duncan	

ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP THE OFFICIAL SHOW OF THE SOCIETY

Held every year on the second weekend (Thursday through Sunday) in March at the SW New Mexico Fairgrounds.

“ROCK CHIPS” is the official bulletin of the Society

Email: thedgms@gmail.com

OFFICIAL WEB SITE www.thedgms.com

Letters to the Editor
Any suggestions, ideas, criticisms?
Contact the DGMS Newsletter Editor
Scott Ehlers
at

DGMS-NEWS-EDITOR@Hughes.net

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.

Fire Agate (chalcedony)

No reports from the club, but last field trip was to Round Mountain, Az. in the search of Fire Agate so in this issue it is only fitting that we explore this beautiful gemstone in depth.

Fire agate, a variety of chalcedony, is a semi-precious natural gemstone found only in certain areas of the world. For us that means northern Mexico and Southwestern U.S. The best coming from Arizona.



Approximately 24-36 million years ago these areas were subjected to massive volcanic activity during the Tertiary Period. The fire agates were formed during this period of volcanic activity when hot water, saturated with silica and iron oxide, repeatedly filled cracks and bubbles in the surrounding rock, much like a pearl is formed. A multitude of shapes and colors are caused by mineral impurities in the silica created by the Schiller effect like found in mother-of-pearl. It is these impurities which make the fire agate distinctive. Fire agates have beautiful iridescent rainbow colors, similar to opal, with a measurement of hardness on the Mohs scale of between 6.5 and 7 which prevent issues of fading, cracking and scratching.

A little about cutting and finishing. When you look at your collection, we can call the white to clear layer as the top. The dark or embedded with local stone as the bottom. Now if you did not know this, it is the chalcedony or white that you have to remove to

discover the fire “assuming of course” you were not one of the very lucky ones that found a fire agate with all the fire showing! Why? Remember how it was formed? Like a pearl, layer by layer and we have to reverse the process to discover and uncover the fire! Personally, I think some of the most beautiful stones are carved in the Baroque fashion, following the fire along the layers, but it takes extreme patience and skill. In my opinion, don't try to force it into any particular shape - if you are uncomfortable with anything but symmetrical shapes or intend to cut only calibrated sizes for standard mountings, you will find working with and finishing fire agate a very frustrating job. It doesn't adapt easily to this style of cutting unless you don't mind wasting a lot of color and being satisfied with whatever color happens to be left, if any, after you make a predetermined shape out of one. Sometimes this style of cutting is unavoidable, but if you let the area of best bright color define the edges of the finished stone, you will end up with a much more pleasing and a much more valuable stone. Often, stones that showed only minimal color and brightness in the gold layers are capable of being turned into extremely brilliant multicolored gems, by having the patience to stick with the grinding.

There is no feeling more exciting than to start seeing a beautiful new bright color coming out from it's millions of years of hiding, just waiting for you to unveil it for the first but not last time since the day it stopped being formed. ~Scott Ehlers

