

Rock Chips

Vol 47 No 9

The Deming Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

September
2015

The Deming Gem and Mineral Society Serves to Share Its Knowledge of Earth Sciences and the Lapidary Arts

President's Message

Hope everyone had a fun, safe holiday weekend. We attended the Silver City rock show on Sunday. Lots of things to see. Came home with a piece of petrified wood. Got to talk to a few people that set up our show and some people interested in doing our Craft Show.

The Fair will be here before you know it. Saturday, September 12, we will be putting up the partitions in bldg. 1 at the fairgrounds. If we have 8-10 people, it will only take a couple hours to get done. We really need people to come and help.

We are going to have a craft show in November. Carol Duncan and Ken Sholar are in charge of it. See information in bulletin.

Next General meeting is Sat., Sept, 26 at 2:00 pm. We need a couple people for refreshments. Contact me at 724-712-6353 Barb

Claims

Claim has been seeded and mulched and paperwork is in progress. Thank you to Carol and Forrest Duncan and Barb and Ben Staff for helping.

Shop

There will be another work day in the shop on Saturday, September 19. We thought we would be done on August 29, but it took longer than expected to clean out the 30" saw. We have had a few people stop by and see what's been happening. Thank you to Ken Sholar, Allen Chupa, Scott Ehlers, Elena and Joe Bost for helping. Come out and help and see what's happening. Check out the pictures on the website. I am looking for helpers in the shop. The shop is open now on Saturdays from 9-12. Hopefully we can get it open one other day during the week. The shop will be closed during the fair 10/7 – 10/11. Dave

Field trip

Sat, October 3. We will be leaving the parking lot at the clubhouse at 8:00 am. and meet Marco at the Space Port entrance. We will be looking for petrified wood and other goodies.

Country Christmas Craft Show

The show will be held on Fri., Nov. 14, 10 am.- 5 pm. and Sat., Nov.15 from 12 pm.- 5 pm. at the clubhouse, inside and outside. Setup will be Thurs. Nov. 13 from 3 pm. - 7 pm. and Fri. Nov. 14 from 7 am. - 9:30 am. There is going to be raffle and door prizes, baked goods and food. The newspaper and radio station have been contacted for ads to get vendors. Ken is working on advertising in Las Cruces. See our website theDGMS.com for more information.

We are going to need lots of help if we are to make this a success and possibly continue this event. More information to come at the September General Meeting. Carol

Roundup

First meeting for the Roundup 2016 will be Sat. Oct. 17 at 1:00 pm.

SWNM fair

The fair is Oct. 7-11 this year. Sign-up sheets for gates, booth and display cases will be out at the general meeting. There will be three cases for individual items to be judged, if we get enough people participating. The other six cases will be judged for best display. See website, July/August Rock-chips or contact Barbara Staff for information.

August Sunshine

A thinking of you card was sent to Paul Browning. A Sympathy card was sent to Marilyn Page for the loss of her sister. If you know someone who needs a little sunshine please call Barbara at 575-494-6238

Returning Member – Russ Schumacher...Welcome Back!

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DGMS General Meeting

Date: 8/22/2015

Meeting was called to order at 2:06 pm. by Barbara Staff, President, who also led the Pledge of Allegiance

There were no Guests or new members.

Motion to approve May minutes as printed in the chips made by Barbara Hamilton and seconded.

Secretary's Report - We are still in need of a Secretary.

Treasurer's Report - Ben gave the financial report as of Aug 22. Approval of the report was moved by John Edwards and seconded. Report is posted on the bulletin board.

Vice President's Report - nothing.

Committee Reports

Bulletin - Scott would like submissions to the chips by September 10.

Shop - Dave gave a report on the cleanup in the shop and it will be open Saturdays from 9-12 until further notice. He is going to need a person for the shop and the saw room. If interested get in contact with him at 928-302-8401.

Claims - Seed and Mulch on Tuesday August 25. Leave clubhouse 8 a.m. Weather permitting. Come out and help and do a little rock-hounding.

Roundup - First meeting will be Saturday, Oct. 17 at 1 p.m.

Field Trips - Marco Franco is planning a field trip on Saturday Oct. 3 to Space Port area for petrified wood. See website for photos of what to find.

Membership, & Librarian - nothing

Sunshine - Marilyn Page's sister passed away. Paul Browning's father was involved in a hit and run accident.

President's Report - Cleanup day for grounds and shop on Saturday August 29 starting at 8:30 a.m. Ken is bringing dessert. Due to the fair, the board meeting scheduled for October 7 will be September 30 at 3:30 p.m. The rep from SCORE that spoke to the board and bylaws committee last week suggested we have a mission statement. We would like members input on a Mission Statement for the club so we have something to focus on. It should be 1-2 sentences and less than 20 words. You can submit it to a board member or email it to thedgms@gmail.com. Silent auction will end 20 minutes after adjournment.

Unfinished Business - The money from our scholarship fund is being given to the Marshall Memorial Library. Motion made by Carol Duncan and seconded.

New Business - The nomination committee consist of, Barbara Hamilton, Ken Sholar and Carol Duncan, Chair.

It has been suggested we purchase six 6 ft folding tables instead of building them for the display cases at Roundup. Scott Ehlers presented information on plastic and laminated tables. It was decided to table the decision until September meeting. We will be putting up partitions in bldg. 1 at the fairgrounds on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 8:30 a.m. Will need 8-10 people.

Ed Edwards volunteered to chair the fair gates this year. Sign-up sheets will be put out at next meeting. We need a chair for our booth at the fair. There will be a sign-up sheet for the display cases and times for attending the booth at the next meeting. Contact Barbara Staff for information.

We are planning a craft show for Saturday and Sunday, November 14 and 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact Ken Sholar or Carol Duncan for information. They will be needing volunteers.

Drawings:

50/50 - was won by Carol Duncan. Name badge was won by Elena Bost and the Door prize was won by John Edwards.

Thanks to Carol Duncan for providing the double chocolate cake. Need volunteers to sign up for refreshments for September meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by John Edwards and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Submitted from recorded minutes by Barbara Staff

DGMS Board Meeting

9/2/2015

Board members present were: Barbara Staff, Ken Sholar, Benjamin Staff, Scott Ehlers, Marilyn Page, Carol Duncan, Cindy Jordan, and John Edwards.

Other members: Carolyn Abbey, Ed Edwards and Russ Schumacher.

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Meeting called to order at 3:25 p.m. by Barbara Staff, President.

Correction made to minutes: where stated that Joe and Maurice said the rocks belong to them. Should have said : Joe said the rocks belong to him and Maurice.
Motion made by Carol to approve Minutes as corrected, seconded by Scott.

Secretary's Report - Letter to Charles Stanley for donation of rocks was read.

Treasurer's Report - Ben gave financial report for the month and report from the accountant on review of the books. Motion made by Ken to approve monthly bills, seconded by John.

Vice President's Report - Rock pile in the back is finished.

President's Report - Ask for approval to buy 2 cases of copy paper.

The statement made in the chips was not made in good judgement and Barbara made a statement of apology.

Committee Reports

Bulletin - Scott ask for submission to chips or web by Sept. 9.

Claims - Claim got seeded and paperwork is in progress.

Field Trips - The field trip on Oct. 3 to the Space Port area. We will leave the clubhouse parking lot at 8:00 am. and meet Marco at the Space Port entrance.

Membership, Sunshine - nothing.

Country Christmas - Carol and Ken gave progress report on the Craft Show in November. Flyers and application have been sent out. Carol has already received application back for spaces. Approval for money for advertising was ask for.

Roundup - Carol sent fliers to the Albuquerque Club for their show in October. First meeting will be Saturday Oct 17 at 1 pm.

Shop - nothing.

Bylaws - There was some discussion on bylaws.

Unfinished Business - Shop policies were reviewed and discussed and submitted for approval. There was much discussion on issues that have been on going and determined that there was not enough legitimate evidence and due to lack of policies, the issues have been dropped.

New Business - Submitted Mission Statements were reviewed, discussed and submitted for approval.

Actions Approved

Motion was made by Cindy and seconded by Ken to purchase 2 cases of copy paper from Office Depot.

Motion was made by Ken, and seconded by Ben for funds for advertising being done now for the Country Christmas Craft Show in November.

Motion was made by John and seconded by Ken to accept Shop policies.

Motion was made by Carol and seconded by Marilyn to accept *“The Deming Gem & Mineral Society serves to share its knowledge of earth sciences and the lapidary arts.”* as our mission statement.

Motion to adjourn made by Marilyn and seconded by Cindy. Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Submitted from recorded minutes by Barbara Staff

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday, September 129:00 am.

Put up partitions in bldg. 1 at fairgrounds

Saturday, September 19 starting8:00 am.

Shop work day

Saturday, September 262:00 pm.

General Meeting

Wednesday, September 303:30 pm.

Board Meeting

Saturday, October 38:00 am.

Field Trip to Space Port area

Monday, October 5.....8:30 am.

Set up display cases for fair booth

Wednesday, October 7 9:00 am. Set

up booth for fair

Wednesday, October 7 – Saturday October 10

Fair Gates and booth

Saturday, October 17 1:00 p.m.

First Roundup Meeting

Saturday, October 24 2:00 p.m.

General Meeting

Field Trip For Petrified Wood (short version)

On Saturday Oct. 3 we will be heading over to the Spaceport area in the search for petrified wood and other “goodies”. The Spaceport access is off I-25, exit32 to Upham, N.M.

If you Google Map this area, you will notice that the road to the Spaceport closely follows *El Camino Real*, full name *El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro*, or *Royal Road of the Interior Lands*. If you look even more closely you will also notice the area we will be searching also goes by the name, *Jornada del Muerto*, that has many different translations but *Journey of the Dead*, tends to sum them all up rather well. The Jornada was the most dreaded part of the Spanish trail. This 1,800-mile road, stretching from Mexico City to Santa Fe, was one of the three great trails in the American West. Although less well-known than the Santa Fe and Oregon trails, it is, in the opinion of many historians, the most important of the three. El Camino Real was the first European trail in what would become the United States. For many years it was also the longest road in America, carrying the first permanent European settlers into this country, 22 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. The first breeding stock of horses, cattle and sheep were brought into the West along this route. The wheel, written language, iron metal, the saddle, the gun, Christianity and European culture first permanently entered our country via this trail. The Jornada del Muerto is almost unchanged since 1598.

The best description I found would be,

“The roughest and deadliest part of the Camino Real, from Mexico City to Santa Fe, was the stretch between Las Cruces and Socorro called Jornada del Muerto or Journey of the Dead. A broad, flat valley with no water, grazing or firewood, it offered no amenities to travelers for 90 miles.”

Caravans left the comparative ease of the Rio Grande River north of what is now Las Cruces, and prepared for a brutal, three day march with little rest and no water. Just south of Point of Rocks was a campsite known as *Los Charcos del Perillo*, or Pools of the Little Dog. The Spanish Conquistador Onate arrived here on May 23, 1598, tired and discouraged, not having found any water during the long march. As the Spanish explorers prepared for a water-less evening, a little dog came back into camp with muddy paws. They retraced the dogs' steps and found a series of shallow pools left by rains, and thus gave this campsite its name. It became a *paraje*, or camping place, where caravans watered, preparing for the harsh trip ahead.

Why did the travelers leave the river and journey into

the arid wasteland? For 100 miles, the river was too difficult to follow, especially for livestock and wooden carts. Huge canyons led from eastern and western mountains, creating gigantic ridges to climb and descend, one after another. The river often changed its course and left quicksand in its wake. What had been a safe passage on an earlier trip might lead to quicksand or be completely washed away. Despite hardships, travelers made much better time on the flat, dry valley.

In 1680, the desert route earned the name of *Jornada del Muerto*. That year, the Pueblo Indians revolted against Spanish rule, killing many foreigners and driving the rest out. Survivors gathered at *Fra Cristobal paraje*, the campsite at the northern end of the desert. More than two thousand colonists and loyal natives attempted the route to El Paso. Almost six hundred of the weak, ill or exhausted refugees died on the journey.

It wasn't until the 1880s, that the railroad laid a track through the area. One of the biggest railroad towns was Engle, built right in the middle of the Jornada. Livestock and people now traveled in hours over the *Jornada del Muerto*. Scott Ehlers

Advice from Editor, “*Bring plenty of water!*”

