

SEDONA RED ROCKING NEWS

Sedona Gem and Mineral Club

P.O. Box 3284, Sedona, AZ 86340

www.sedonagemandmineral.org

General Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Sedona Library off of Dry Creek Road in West Sedona. The Board of Directors meets at 5:00 PM the week before the General Meeting, also at the library. Members and guests are always welcome to attend.



DECEMBER, 2011

Volume 57, Issue 9

MEMBER AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

MEMBER ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

Newsletter Editor: Patti Polk
Email: rockhound_86326@yahoo.com

Our annual Sedona Gem and Mineral Show in October was a huge success! Start planning now for next year!

DECEMBER PROGRAM

Our Annual Club Christmas Potluck Party

Our December program will be our annual Christmas party.

The Christmas Potluck Party will be on Wednesday, December 7th (Pearl Harbor Day).

Again, as always - it will be at St. Andrews church at 100 Arroyo Pinon Dr.

Set-up will be from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM with dinner between 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM.

As with the summer picnic, several club members are hoping to have something special for this Christmas party, and we will have our regular gift exchange and raffle. Please be sure to bring a side dish with you, especially if you signed up to bring one, and a wrapped gift if you plan to participate in the gift exchange.

The Christmas party is always lots of fun, so be sure to be there so you don't miss out on a great time!



Don't Miss All
The Fun!!!

Annual Club Dues Are Due!

Just a gentle reminder - our annual club membership dues are due in January, so please be sure to bring your checkbook with you to the January meeting.

Membership dues for one year are as follows:

Individual membership: \$15.00

Family membership: \$25.00

Junior (9-18 yrs old) membership: \$5.00

If you would like a club badge, please include \$6.00 (per badge) with your application.

Club membership entitles you to all the benefits of belonging to the Sedona Gem & Mineral Club, including meetings with educational programs and speakers, raffles, special classes, club functions such as the summer picnic and Christmas party, field trips, our newsletter, and our fantastic annual gem and mineral show. And also, just as importantly - the opportunity to get to know a bunch of friendly (and a little crazy) rockhounds for fun and adventure!

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



An End-of-the-Year Message from our President, Garry Kappel

Hello all Sedona Gem & Mineral Club members. As this year draws near to its end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for making my first year as President an enjoyable and challenging one.

The year began on a shaky note, but the Board of Directors and several club members stepped up to help make a successful year for the club. Susan Zepkin stepped into the Treasurer's position (on a temporary basis) and has done a wonderful job of getting our financial records entered into computer format. Marjorie Schwartz stepped up to not only do her Sunshine & Remembrance duties, but to also take on Refreshments for our general club meetings. Rita Topp took her duties as Field Trip chairperson as a challenge. She took the club to some old locations and some new locations, to everyone's delight. Other club members too numerous to list set the seed for what I've been told was the best ever summer picnic. One club member said they couldn't believe that 4 hours went by so fast!

Then, after our summer break, Susan Read stepped up to take on the task of hosting our 3rd annual September Ice Cream social. And, now we are all looking forward to what Linda, Ev, and Rita have planned for our annual Christmas party.

I hope to see all of you on Wednesday, December 7th at 5:00 PM at St. Andrews Church at 100 Arroyo Pinon Drive in West Sedona. We are expecting a wonderful turn-out, with the club buying two turkeys and two hams for the event and all of the wonderful food that you members will also bring. And - if you wish to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a Man/Woman/Neither gift of \$10 or under to the party!

At our last general meeting in November, we had our annual election of Officers and Directors. It was the first time I can remember where we had more people interested in running for a Director position than there were open slots. It was also a very close vote. The results of the election are as follows -- Officers; Garry Kappel, President; Laura Castree, 1st Vice President (Programs); Darryl Berghorn, 2nd Vice President (Field Trips); Patti Polk, 3rd Vice President (Newsletter); Gayle Macklin, Treasurer; and Susan Read, Secretary (she stepped up to fill an empty position!) Directors; Amy Koba and Greg Capatch continue on the board in their second year and newly elected members Pat McMahan and Beverly Cadwell will begin their 2-year term in January 2012.

Also at our November meeting, the 2012 Show and General Club budgets were handed out. Again, to the best of my knowledge, the budgets are another first for our club. Unfortunately there was not enough time to discuss them due to the abundance of wonderful club member displays and a marvelous program by Susan Salkin and Paul Hawkins on Alabaster carving. I know I left the meeting wanting to go back to our stone yard, find a chunk of Salmon Alabaster from Utah and begin turning it into a bowl!

However, back to the issue of the budgets. We will make time at the January meeting to discuss them and have the general membership vote on whether or not to accept them as operating budgets for 2012. So, remember to bring your hard copies to the January meeting or print the budget attachments from the email that was sent out in November.

I'm looking forward to serving my second term as President for

the club. We have a great board for 2012 with new members who will bring a fresh perspective and older members who will provide their past experience and stability. One objective I would like to see accomplished in 2012 is an overall goal for our club to pursue. What do we wish to do as a club? What do we wish to accomplish as a club? What do we wish to work towards as a club? Since we are a club of many members, I hope all of you will talk with one of the Officers or Directors and present your ideas.

Merry Christmas for 2011 and Happy New Year for 2012.

DECEMBER BIRTHSTONES

Happy birthday to all our December babies. Be sure to ask Santa for some new rocks!

Traditional Birthstone

Topaz is derived from the Sanskrit word "tapas," meaning fire. This is because Blue Topaz was thought to have cooling properties. Not only was it believed to cool boiling water when thrown into the pot, but to calm hot tempers as well! This gemstone was credited with healing powers, among them the ability to cure insanity, asthma, weak vision and insomnia. The Blue Topaz was even thought to have magical properties by making its wearer invisible in a threatening situation.

Blue Topaz is the hardest of the silicate minerals. While pure Topaz is colorless, minor changes of elements within the stone result in a variety of colors, including blue, pale green, red, yellow and pink. The blue hue is created when Topaz is heated, whether the heat source is natural or engineered by man. The three shades of Blue Topaz are Sky, Swiss, and London Blue. The latter is the deepest blue and is often used as a less expensive substitute for Sapphire.

Topaz is found primarily in Brazil, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Pakistan, China, and the United States.

Alternate Birthstone

An alternate birthstone for December is the Turquoise which was initially brought to Europe by way of Turkey. Turquoise was considered by ancients to be a sacred stone, protective against all evil and ill health. This beautiful gemstone is mined in Iran and the southwestern United States. A gift of Turquoise represents friendship and luck.

The Turquoise is the birthstone of December and the gem of choice for the fifth and eleventh wedding anniversaries. This valuable mineral is non-transparent, which means you can't see through it. Turquoise, which is a hydrous copper aluminum sulfate, is available in every shade between the colors of blue and green. The Native Americans ascribe spiritual power to the gem, which can be found in the American Southwest as well as in Australia, Iran, Afghanistan, and locations all over the Middle East.

Have a wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year – 2012 is just around the corner!

~Marge Schwartz

DECEMBER FIELD TRIPS

No club field trips are scheduled for December. We will start back up in January though, so check back for the field trip info in the January newsletter.

COALITION FIELD TRIP FOR DECEMBER

COALITION TRIP: BUCKSKIN MOUNTAINS - BOUSE, ARIZONA
HOSTED BY: VERDE RIVER ROCKHOUNDS OF COTTONWOOD, AZ.

DATES: SATURDAY- 12/31/2011 AND SUNDAY 01/01/2012

MEETING PLACE(S) AND TIMES:

For both days meeting time is 8:30AM: Meeting place is at Midway which is about 15 miles north of Bouse. From the intersection of Main & RT 72 in Bouse, turn east on Main, cross the RR tracks, drive .25 mile to Rayder Rd, turn left on Rayder which soon becomes Swansea Rd. and go 2.2 miles to a fork. Bear left (NE) and drive 10.5 miles to Midway, intersection of Swansea, Lincoln-Ranch and Transmission Line roads.

DIRECTIONS TO BOUSE, ARIZONA:

It is 200 miles to Bouse from Cottonwood or about 130 miles from Phoenix. If you're coming from Cottonwood allow about 4 hours driving time to the meeting place. Take Hwy 89A from Cottonwood to Prescott Valley all the way to the intersection with Hwy 89. Continue south on Hwy 89 all the way through Prescott, Kirkland Junction, Yarnell and Congress. At Congress, turn right(SW) onto SR 71 which will go under Hwy 93 in a few miles and continue on to intersect with U.S. 60 at Aguila. Go west on U.S. 60 through Gladden, Wenden, Salome & Hope. At Hope, turn right onto SR 72 and proceed about 20 miles to Bouse. From any other location consult a good map or use MapQuest.

VEHICLE REQUIRED:

Passenger cars can make it to the meeting place, but high-clearance, 4WD vehicles will be required to get to the collecting sites. Should you need to switch to another vehicle, we can usually find space somewhere for you.

GENERAL ITINERARY:

Ellen and I will be staying in our travel trailer at Midway. We will be parked in a big, flat camping area at Midway (you can't miss it). You are welcome to join us for camping out there Friday & Saturday nights. Both days we will meet at Midway and collect at several sites near Midway as well as sites SW of Bouse along the Plomosa Rd. After Sunday Ellen and I will move down to Quartzsite where we will spend a couple of days at the various shows. It's a little early at some venues, but there should be a lot to look at (and buy). So you can plan on a one or 2-day outing, but if you plan for Saturday or Sunday only, you will have to get up really early to meet us at 8:30AM.

NOTE: * NEW YEAR'S EVE ***:**

For Saturday evening, bring some bubbly to celebrate if you like, but please do not bring any fireworks. The authorities may take a dim view of such activity what with all the drought and fire restrictions in effect. Let's have a Potluck- everyone bring an item, picnic-style to share with others. It can be a drink, an entrée, a vegetable or dessert. Enough to serve 4-5 people. We will have a group campfire to gather around, but don't be surprised if we don't make it all the way to midnight to celebrate!

MOTELS IN THE AREA:

1. Bouse, Arizona. Ocotilla Lodge: 928-851-2219 36.75/ night.
2. Salome, Arizona. Sheffler Motel: 928-859-3001.

WHAT TO COLLECT(WE'RE FINALLY GETTING TO THE GOOD PART):

The Buckskin Mountains and surrounding area are honeycombed with old mines and prospect holes, mostly from people looking for gold and silver over the last 150 years. Most of the mines follow fairly rich copper deposits but there wasn't much money in the copper itself. A list of the minerals we will collect include chrysocolla, malachite, jarosite, gypsum, hematite, barite, augite and epidote.

WHAT TO BRING:

Gloves, eye protection, rock hammer, sledges, chisels and digging tools (for the energetic treasure hunters), water, lunch and appropriate clothing. Daytime temperatures should be around 80° and nighttime around 50°.

TRIP LEADER:

JIM VAN WERT: 928-649-1938 or 928-202-2177(cell). Email: jerockshop@gmail.com

Rocks, Crystals and Minerals: Collection? Clutter? or Just Plain Hoarding?

By Ann Capatch

True confession, I have crystals in my medicine cabinet. These are remnants of a crystal collection that got out of control. I never realized how fast this could happen until Greg and I got together. Access to a wholesaler, buying out a few collections including one from 45 years of rock hounding- and being very lucky with club raffles boosted our combined collection exponentially. Our display shelves were three-to-four deep with specimens, our living room floor was half covered with minerals, and thousands of 'rocks to be processed' had to be moved not once, but two times, when they installed the sewage pipe. Both Greg and I lean towards having different tastes in rock collecting. He likes the raw stuff and really nice specimens, one of each. I lean towards any kind of quartz - preferably the big fat points, and have a soft spot for slightly dinged pieces that need a home. Things got to a point where we couldn't see the 'trees for the forest' to reverse a famous old saying.

Being a Feng Shui professional (one of my many hats) I just couldn't take the volume and the amount piled in the living room- as it was blocking the flow of energy and crowding the view. We mutually decided to have "THE BIG CLEAR OUT". Taking some time to reflect on what we wanted from this collection, we brainstormed some solutions to this growing problem.

What constitutes a collection is relative to the collector. To some people you may have too many rocks and to others not enough. (Ok... we're all rock hounds and there's never too many.....) But if your rocks, minerals or crystals are tripping up your flow, or perhaps causing a bit of marital tension, you need to decide if you have a collection or clutter or are just plain hoarding them.

So what is a 'collection'? A collection is a group of ten or more similar items. In this hobby it is rocks, gems, crystals, and/or minerals. These items are loved and admired. They are on display to be enjoyed and shown off. Ours are on wooden shelves. When people ask me what I do with my crystals, my reply is 'I dust them!'- said with a foolish grin on my face, and eliciting a knowing smile from many women. We have seen them in china cabinets, curio cabinets, under a glass topped table, and in a room full of lit up display cases – all labeled. Who needs a dining room anyway? These are collections.

Clutter takes up space you need, and is underfoot. It's in your way, piled in such a way here and there that it makes no sense, is too many items for the space available, and blocks enjoyment of your collection. It is not used, loved, admired or worked with. Clutter takes up garage space, basement storage, is often found in moldy/mildewing flats of collapsing cardboard- or collecting cobwebs in some abandoned corner. It has been around for years- because, hey, you're bound to get to it someday. 'Someday' I'll buy a cabinet and display this stuff, it'll be worth lots 'someday', I'll work with it 'someday', I just need some saws (have you been saying this for 10 years now?). Rock clutter is heavy clutter- and as you age it just gets heavier and harder to deal with. If it is sentimental – it is heavy sentiment of the good ol days....

Hoarding is a more serious issue. Rocks are amassed for many reasons: to build a protective wall around yourself, holding onto them because you are afraid they won't go to a good home, representing monetary value or expertise- or just greed. These are deeper psychological issues, but worth considering if you feel things have gotten out of hand.

So if the rocks are taking over your place it's probably time to do a little 'prioritizing'. Before you start attacking the piles and starting throwing them around (no glass houses please), the most important thing to do is to take a deep breath, sit down and ask yourself 'what do I want from the experience of having a rock/crystal/mineral collection?'

Greg and I discussed this and came up with the following: to have a variety of nice specimens to show people, an aesthetically pleasing environment, energetic support and a bunch of little friends all around us

that we don't have to walk, feed or water.

Once you've decided what you want from your collection it's important to evaluate how much space you have that can be allotted to this hobby. You can only fit 10 feet of crystals into 10 feet of space. You can only move what you can lift. How many rocks can you display? This is your amount. This number goes up with smaller pieces and down with the larger ones. As far as I'm concerned, have as many as what makes you happy- and that you can display nicely (just don't call me on dusting day). So be it 10, 20, 100 or 1,000- this is your collection.

So as you begin thinning out ask yourself the following questions for each piece:

Do I use it? Does it/will it have a purpose in the near future? Will I be displaying it? Will I use it as a healing tool?

Do I love it? Does it make me happy??

Is this my best specimen? Do I want to show it off to others?

Does it support what I want from this type of collection?

For those that want to work with rough specimens: Do I have a place to cut and polish it? Do I have the saws, the space, or plans to work on them somewhere? Do I have a plan?

So now that you're clear on what stays or goes, what is the next step?

The rocks you are keeping for processing can be organized into small to medium plastic bins, and placed on sturdy shelving. We opted for metal racks on wheels and found them at Sam's Club. I'm not a fan of cardboard, as it gets softer and mustier with age. Label your bins with the date and give yourself a time limit, for example one or two years. If you haven't processed them in this time, will you ever? Unlikely. Unless you are close to having the time (retirement) it is best to set 'em free for others to work with and enjoy. Rough specimens can also be stored in rock gardens, lining walls and gardens. Shade is better for amethyst and rose quartz, as the sun will lighten these minerals over time.

Surplus specimens can be turned into a medicine wheel or contribute to some other yard art.

You can gift the extras to a friend or customer, add to a child's rock collection, sell 'em, swap 'em, donate them to clubs or classes- or simply return them to earth for someone else to find.

If you are stuck on sentiment but don't have the space, take some pictures of your minerals and frame them with the rock hounding buddy you found them with and place it on the wall or in an album. If your collection is quite extensive and you just don't have the space to do it justice, you could store half of it and switch out every 6 months. It will be like having a fresh new collection twice a year.

Managing inflow is very important. Please go enjoy rock hounding, but process what you bring home. Buy that special piece that calls your name. The key is the one-in, one-out rule. For every piece that comes in one should go out- at least then you'll be at a manageable level. So dust off your collections, oil up those saws, get those unused pieces out into circulation – you'll be happy with the added space to attract new pieces, inspire creative projects, and you will thank me should you ever have to move.

Another confession: in my weaker moments 'one piece out' usually finds itself out in the meditation crystal garden. And as for the crystals in the medicine cabinet, they are always there to greet me when I go to floss my teeth!



CLASSIFIED SECTION

This is a brand new section for club members to share information about items or services that they would like to buy, trade, or sell. If you would like to submit information to be included in the classified section, please email Patti P. with your complete announcement at:rockhound_86326@yahoo.com before the end of the month to be included in the next month's newsletter.

Wire Wrapping Classes

Learn to make wire wrapped jewelry. A 3 hour class is \$40.00 (non members) or \$25.00 for Sedona Gem and Mineral club members. Limit of 4 students per class.

You can see my work at www.akobaart.com. My work is also for sale. If you would like to purchase jewelry or sign up for a class, contact Amy at paintrocks@hotmail.com, or call 928-451-6339.

For Sale

Foredom variable speed dual spindle polisher with home made hood \$60.

Call Garry or Linda at 634-4698.

PMC Classes

If you would like to learn the art of using Precious Metal Clay, Patti P. is offering individual classes at her home covering all the techniques necessary to complete a Fine Silver or Copper patinaed pendant ready for hanging on your favorite chain. Classes are two 1 1/2 hour sessions, and materials are included. Email Patti for details at rockhound_86326@yahoo.com.

Lapidary Equipment For Sale

Raytech saws (vintage 1990's): 4" Jem Saw, two 6" saws (one autofeed), and an 18" saw (autofeed). Raytech Arbor with 2 grinding wheel stations, can put polisher on end, extra new belts included. Highland Park Flat Lap, non-vibratory. Also have a 55 gallon drum of saw oil, a 7" tile saw that comes with 2 diamond wheels, and a 2" wood trim saw. Most saws include new blades with purchase. Custom-made saw table; steel top angled to center drain hole with wooden legs and shelf underneath, and a workshop chair. Lastly, a heavy duty antique drill press - could be rehabbed, or use for display. Will sell individually, or as a lot. Call Greg Capatch at 554-4615 to inquire.



Did You Know?

That the club has a member's corner at every meeting? What is a member's corner, you ask? It is an area where members can bring different items to display, give away, or sell - rocks, jewelry, magazines, whatever. And, if you bring something to sell that doesn't sell, and you don't want to haul it home, you can always donate it to the club to be used as a raffle prize or as a prize for the kid's table at our annual rock show. We can also use small rocks, beads, & jewelry making supplies for the kid's table too.

NEW CLUB MERCHANDISE INFO

The Sedona Gem & Mineral Club now has hats and embroidered patches for sale. Hats are \$12.00 and Patches are \$4.00. Support your club and show your enthusiasm for our hobby!

Also, if you are a club member and would like to purchase a membership badge, the cost for a badge is \$5.00.



Membership Application

(please print)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State ___ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Renewal or New
Membership Desired (Check One)

Individual \$15.00 _____

Family \$25.00 _____

Junior (9-18) \$ 5.00 _____

If a family membership, please list the names of family members below:

Would you like to receive your Newsletter by:
(Circle Yes or No)

Post Office (printed B/W) Yes or No

Email (in color) Yes or No

You may mail this application
with your dues to:

Sedona Gem & Mineral Club

P.O. Box 3284

Sedona, AZ 86340

Cut this section from the newsletter and mail to the above address, or you are welcome to come and join at one of our regular meetings.

Questions?

Call Garry Kappel: (928) 634-4698

www.sedonagemandmineral.org

Sedona Gem and Mineral Club December Newsletter, 2011



6-8 MESA, ARIZONA: 40th annual show; Flag Mineral Foundation; Mesa Community College; US 60 at Dobson, southwest parking lot.
Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; Peralta Stone maps exhibit, fluorescent display, free children's activities, free samples for children and teachers, more than 100 dealers, crystals, minerals, fossils, club and museum booths.
Contact Dr. Ray Grant (480) 892-0779.
Email: Presmyk@cox.net; Web site: www.AZMinFun.com

6-15 QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA: Annual show; Tyson Wells Enterprises Inc.; Tyson Wells Show Grounds; 100 W. Kuehn St.; Fri. 9-5 daily; free admission; rocks, gems, minerals, jewelry, silver and gold smithing, faceting, precious metals, lapidary tools, equipment, supplies.
Contact Kym Scott (928) 927-6364.
Email: tysonwells@tds.net; Web site: www.tysonwells.com

20-22 GLOBE, ARIZONA: Annual show; Gila County Gem & Mineral Society; Gila County Fair Grounds; 3 mi. north of Globe on US 60-70; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; \$3 per adult or \$5 per couple, students and children free; live demonstrations, gold panning, fossil program, silent auction, door prizes, displays, minerals, jewelry; contact John O'Brian (408) 421-2657;
Email: rocksbynature@hotmail.com
Web site: http://gilagem.com/

JANUARY 2012

1-31 QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA: Wholesale and retail show. Desert Gardens RV Park; 1055 Kuehn St.; I-10 Exit 17.
Sun. 9-6 daily; free admission; crystals, minerals, rough, polished, jewelry, lapidary equipment.
Contact Sharon or Sandy at (928) 927-6361.
Email: dggemshow@ureach.com.
Web site: www.desertgardensrvpark.net

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