

THE ROCK RATTLER

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Diamond- Birthstone of the month



Presidents Notes - by Del Glasner

- I was sorry to hear the news of Jeanette White's passing. Sweet lady.
- Great news for a grateful Nina Hustus ! Pet scan all clear, no indication of any active cancer was found!
- Thanks go out to Lyn and Malcolm for keeping our shop open and helping our new members enjoy our hobby
- Don't you love to find a rock that cries out "pick me", take it home and knock off the outer bark and find out what's inside.
- Before now all we had to worry about was catching "Rock Pox" from licking rocks, but now with the Virus making it's rounds we need to be careful not to catch it and spread to others.

Birthstone for April - Diamond

In space

Main article: Extraterrestrial diamonds

Although diamonds on **Earth** are rare, they are very common in space. In **meteorites**, about three percent of the carbon is in the form of **nanodiamonds**, having diameters of a few nanometers. Sufficiently small diamonds can form in the cold of space because their lower **surface energy** makes them more stable than graphite. The isotopic signatures of some nanodiamonds indicate they were formed outside the Solar System in stars.^[67]

High pressure experiments predict that large quantities of diamonds condense from **methane** into a "diamond rain" on the ice giant planets **Uranus** and **Neptune**.^{[68][69][70]} Some extrasolar planets may be almost entirely composed of diamond.^[71]

Diamonds may exist in carbon-rich stars, particularly **white dwarfs**. One theory for the origin of **carbonado**, the toughest form of diamond, is that it originated in a white dwarf or **supernova**.^{[72][73]} Diamonds formed in stars may have been the first minerals.^[74]

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diamond>



WHERE IS DIAMOND FOUND?

The birthstone for April is now mined around the world. By the early 2000s, South Africa had been joined by other African nations as major producers of rough diamonds. These include the Democratic Republic of the Congo (previously known as Zaire) and Botswana. The former Soviet Union opened its first major mine in 1960, and Russia is now one of the top producers by both volume and value. Diamond mining expanded dramatically with the opening of the Argyle mine in Australia in 1983 and the discovery of several **diamond deposits in northern Canada** in

the 1990s.

Diamond mining in Russia's eastern Siberia reads like an adventure novel. The setting: tundra, frigid temperatures and short days. The props: jet engines and explosives used to heat and soften the ice covering the kimberlite pipes – vertical, carrot shaped masses of igneous rock that can be a primary source for diamonds. The storyline: In 2013, Alrosa, Russia's main diamond mining company, estimated that there were 970 million carats still waiting to be found in the frozen tundra.

Diamonds in Botswana lie in the typically hot, semi-arid eastern region of the country. These prolific mines have brought a boom to the economy, creating a growing middle class. The country is also a diamond hub, where approximately 40 percent of the world's supply of rough diamonds are sorted and valued.

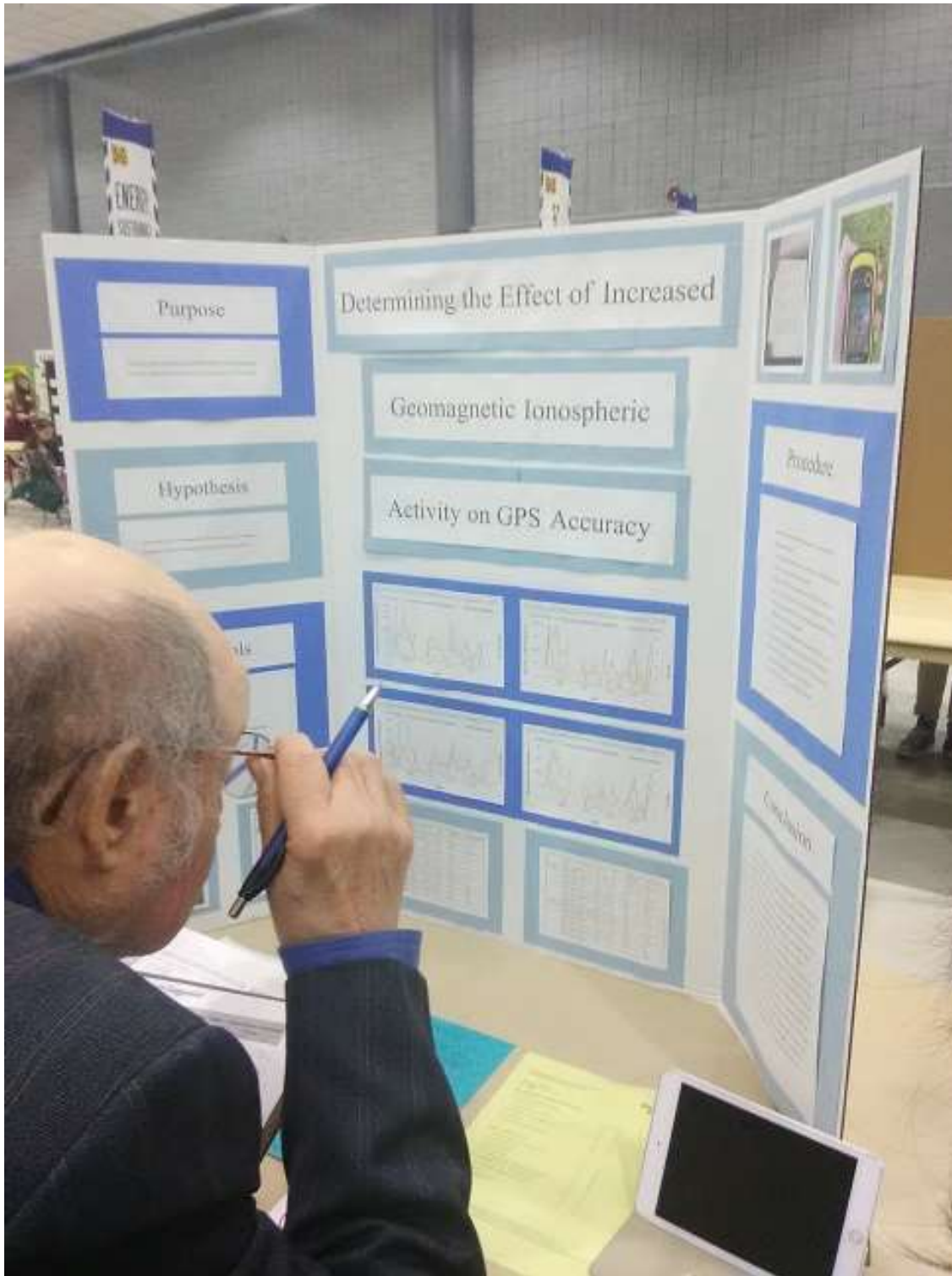


Canada Diavik diamond mine summer A154 dike and open pit. To safely open-pit mine its ore bodies, extinct volcanoes located just offshore under the lake waters, dikes were built. Courtesy: Copyright © 2016 Rio Tinto

- **Next meeting :** Our April general **club meeting** at History Center is **canceled** until we are allowed to for our safety.

Science Fair:

Sarah Johnson was the winner of our \$300.00 prize and certificate with her entry “ Determining the effect of increased geomagnetic ionospheric activity on GPS accuracy”



Member Photos -







Classes:

Del Glasner is offering a class on **Basic Lost Wax Casting** on Saturday April 18. Cost will be \$35 each person plus material cost. Hours 9:00am-5:00pm at the club classroom.

Limited Min/max to 6 persons RSVP 318-517-7372 before April 10

Classroom/Shop: Open for members most Saturdays 10-5

Check our facebook page link below to confirm.

Location: 581 Rex Beard Rd. Haughton, La

Shows

May 23-24—FORT WORTH, TEXAS: Annual show; Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club; Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 Lancaster; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$6, military, seniors and students \$5, free admission for children 12 and under; contact Janice Craddock, P.O. Box 123975, Fort Worth, TX 76121-3975; Email: fwgmc.info@gmail.com; Website: fortworthgemandmineralshow.org

INFO:

Lapidary Jokes for the Discerning Rockhound

Updated on July 22, 2016



Suzanne Day

[more](#)

[Contact Author](#)

Looking for lapidary jokes or a bit of rockhound humour? You've come to the right place! Once, in a galaxy far, far away before I had children, I was an editor of a magazine called *Pointer* which was produced by the Victorian Gem Clubs Association (VGCA). Club members used to love reading the jokes and it was hard to find rock and gem related ones online, so I invented a few.

Club members started writing in with their jokes too, and we all got quite a giggle out of the funny ones we'd receive monthly. Recently, I pondered on the old *Pointer* magazines and wondered if more people would be interested in the original lapidary jokes we'd come up with, so I thought I'd publish them here to make the most of them. Please feel free to use these jokes in rockhound newsletters. If you could provide a link or reference back to this page it would be much appreciated!

You Know You're A Rockhound If:

- You prefer baryte roses to real ones.
- Your dream holiday destination is Coober Pedy or Far North Queensland.
- Your garage is so full of rocks that the car won't fit in.
- You collect Interesting specimens, including the brown unknown ones, just in case they might turn out to be something special.
- You've ever sorted through a mullock heap.
- You've ever dumpster dived at a marble warehouse.
- You colour co-ordinate your clothes and shoes to match your gemstone pendants.
- The sign on the side of the road says "Falling Rock" and you pull over to wait.
- You like to examine the rocks in your driveway.
- You treasure ancient, fossilised animal dung.
- You spend hours searching the ground while everyone else around you gets bored.

A Bit Of Bling

An American lady entered a jeweller's and said "You sold my husband a diamond ring yesterday but it's the wrong size". "No problem madam, we can adjust the finger size easily". "Oh, you don't understand, you sold him a five carat size, and I take a ten carat size".

Prospector Jokes

Q: Why did the prospector throw his ore samples away?

A: He took them for granite.

Q: Why did the prospector take a bath with his rock samples?

A: Because they were soapstone.

Q: Why did the prospector make his mother carry his ore samples?

A: He thought it was the mother lode.

Fossicker's Delight

Amber and Jade are out fossicking.

Amber: "Did you see that?"

Jade: "No"

Amber: "Well, there's something glinting over there in that cliff."

Jade: "Really?"

Amber: "Did you see that?"

Jade: "See what?"

Amber: "Are you blind? There was a mine shaft beside the path back there."

Jade: "Oh."

Amber: "Did you see that?"

By now, Jade is getting a bit annoyed, so she says, "Yes, I did!"

Amber: "Then why did you step in it?"

Sherlock Holmes On Fossicking

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson were on a camping and hiking trip. They had gone to bed and were lying there looking up at the sky. Holmes said, "Watson, look up. What do you see?"

"Well, I see thousands of stars." "And what does that mean to you?" "Well, I guess it means we will have another nice day tomorrow. What does it mean to you, Holmes?"

"To me, it means someone has stolen our tent."

Men who wear earrings are supposed to make good husbands because:

They have experienced pain.

They have bought jewellery.

Fossicking Gone Wrong

Two men go on a fossicking trip. They buy all the equipment: the Miners Right, the gold detectors, the Blundstone boots, the maps, the 4WD, and even a two-man tent. They spend a fortune.

The first day they go fossicking, but they don't find anything. The same thing happens on the second day, and on the third day. It goes on like this until finally, on the last day of their vacation, one of the men finds a geode.

As they're driving home they're really depressed. One guy turns to the other and says, "Do you realise that this one lousy geode we found cost us fifteen hundred dollars?"

The other guy says, "Wow! It's a good thing we didn't find any more!"

Rock Jokes

Q: Where do pebbles grow up?

A: In the rockery!

Q: Where do rocks sleep?

A: Bedrock.

Q. Why did the aquamarine replace the bloodstone?

A. People were tired of seeing all of those bloody spots.

<https://owlcation.com/stem/Lapidary-Jokes-For-The-Discerning-Rockhound>

Websites that may be of interest:

Arkansas Diamond mine

<https://www.arkansasstateparks.com/parks/crater-diamonds-state-park>

Interesting tips

<http://www.parmalapidary.com/media/April2011RockboxPLC.pdf>

Safe Tips

<https://www.ganoksin.com/article/lapidary-work-safety-precautions/>

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