



The Rock Rattler

www.larockclub.com

larockclub@gmail.com

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President's Message

Welcome--

Well here we are in the Fall of the year. My, the year has flown by, it seems like yesterday we were at the club show. Anyway, it is now time to set our minds on two or three things, the one we need to do and the one we want to do and others we should.

First, the one we need to do: work on the club workshop. We are way behind on our plan and need to get busy. Please plan on a Saturday you can help. We can use everyone, small jobs and big jobs need to get finished. Anyone interested please get in touch with John, Tony or Del.

And the other thing is field trips (who doesn't like a field trip?) to collect what we all love, rocks, rocks and more rocks. Tony has already set up another trip to Wegner's on the 18th I think. I wanted to go but it is already full. Tony will lead the meeting this month as I will be in the High Desert of Oregon digging for plume agate at the Linda Marie, hopefully, so I will be unable to attend. But I will fill everyone in on my latest mining adventure in the North West when I return. I think we can also set our minds on the Christmas meeting. Should we do the usual, meeting at a restaurant or maybe someone has another idea? Just a thought---How about getting a committee together to arrange to go to schools to advance an interest in rocks in the young.

And I am sure there are many more things we should consider.

Stay well and rock on,
Larry

Next Meeting

When: October 7, 2014
Time: 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Where: Bossier City Library
 Historical Building
 Bossier City, La

Program:
Refreshments: Gwynne Lowe
Door Prizes: Diane Hendricks

Minutes of Meeting

August 5, 2014

Opening:	Larry Maguire
Pledge of Allegiance	Larry Maguire
Prayer:	Larry Maguire

Business Discussed:

- Building Update
 - Work day 9/27/14
 - Will work on:
 - Ramp
 - Library room
 - Plumbing
 - Painting walls
- Treasury Report given by John Autry
- John gave updated on what the 2014 show brought in
 - A thank you note will be sent to ron coleman for the child's door prize donation
- Tom gave an update on classes. At this time all classes are at a standstill until the class room is at a point that it can be used.
 - Ideas were given on ways to make the classroom and saw shop more user friendly and safe
- Field Trip
 - Wegner Mine in Mt Ida, AR
 - Scheduled for Sep 6
 - Will meet at library at 5:30 am
 - \$30/person
 - Homachita River in Mississippi
 - Scheduled for Oct 11
- 29 members attending meeting
- 0 new members attending meeting

tips and tricks

How to figure the length of a ring shank to make a certain size ring when the shank will be a “U” or “oval” shape:

First let's handle the 'oval' shape ring shank because it is the easiest. Simply make the ring to the proper size round and then gently squeeze it into an oval shape before soldering it to the setting. The cross section size of a finger remains the same whether round or oval. The problem with an oval ring shank is getting it over the knuckle which is normally more round than the metacarpal portion which is more pillow shape (rounded edges). When we wear an “O” ring it tends to force the finger into a round pattern. That is why when we wear a ring long enough, the metacarpal portion becomes slightly thinner and rounded.

Measuring for a “U” shaped shank slightly different. Say you are aiming for a size 7 ring. You first figure the ring blank length, in this case using 1.5mm thick stock, 59mm - then subtract the inside distance you plan between the top points of the “U” when soldered onto the setting. Say the distance between the tops will be 10mm. Cut the ring blank to 49mm. When making the first cut I like to leave them just a bit longer then file down to the exact fit.

Field Trip to Wegner's Crystal Mine in September

There were 23 people in attendance. We had an amazing time. Everyone found some nice crystals. Based on the owner of the mine, we may have one more opportunity to get into the mine to dig, so we are returning on October 18. The mine will be going commercial after the first of the year. After that, no one will be able to get into the actual pit. At the time of this entry, we have no pictures. We are waiting on pictures from those who attended. It is important that if you attend a field trip that you provide them to the newsletter editor as soon as possible so all can enjoy the experience.

Field Trips for 2014

Anyone planning to attend a field trip must notify field trip coordinator that you will be attending. If you are unable to attend a field trip but would like something brought back just ask. Arrangements can be made.

October 18, 2014---Wegner's Phantom Crystal Mine

November 15, 2014---TXI Plant

Class Schedule Update

The class schedule is available. If you would like a copy emailed to you, email Sharron at adslthomas@gmail.com to request a copy. At this time, the classroom needs to be completed before dates for classes can be confirmed. If you have questions about the classes, you can contact Tom Stringfellow at tomstring@aol.com.

Upcoming Show Dates

October

10-12—METAIRIE, LOUISIANA: Annual show; Gem & Mineral Society of Louisiana; Best Western Plus Landmark Hotel; 2601 Severn Ave.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, students \$3, children (under 12) free; exhibits, demonstrations, fluorescent mineral room, door prizes, grand prize; contact Levette Carlos, (504) 214-3205; e-mail: gemshow2014@gmail.com

10-12—MOUNT IDA, ARKANSAS: Annual World Championship Quartz Crystal Digging Contest; Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce; Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Fairgrounds Rd.; Fri. 7-3, Sat. 9-3, Sun. 2-3; adults \$85; dig quartz crystals, keep all you find, win a prize; contact Sherrie Ellison, Hwy. 270W, Mount Ida, AR 71957, (870) 867-2723; e-mail: director@mtidachamber.com; Web site: www.mtidachamber.com

10-12—MOUNT IDA, ARKANSAS: 30th Annual Quartz, Quiltz and Craftz Show; Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce; Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Fairgrounds Rd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; dealers, quartz crystals, minerals, jewelry, quilts, crafts; contact Sherrie Ellison, Hwy. 270W, Mount Ida, AR 71957, (870) 867-2723; e-mail: director@mtidachamber.com; Web site: www.mtidachamber.com

November

7-9—HUMBLE, TEXAS: Annual show; Houston Gem & Mineral Society; Humble Civic Center; 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$8, seniors and students \$7, children (10 and under) free; Kids Daze Fri., fluorescent exhibit, lapidary demonstrations, swap area special kids' area, Dino Dig, Youth Section; contact Michele Marsel, Houston Gem & Mineral Society, 10805 Brooklet, Houston, TX 77099, (281) 530-0942; e-mail: show@hgms.org; Web site: www.hgms.org

22-23—MESQUITE, TEXAS: Annual show; Dallas Gem & Mineral Society; Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall; 1800 Rodeo Dr.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$8, family (4 or more) \$20, students (4-12) \$3, children (3 and under) free; rock and mineral specimens, polished and faceted gems, fossils, lapidary equipment, jewelry supplies, games, demonstrations, fluorescent display, prizes, silent auction; contact Mark Hall, PO Box 742033, Dallas, TX 75374; e-mail: mark_a_hall@yahoo.com; Web site: www.DallasGemAndMineral.org



2014 Officers and Board Members

Position	Name	Contact #	Email Address
President	Larry Maguire	(318) 284-3544	oldhd68@gmail.com
V. President	Antony Thomas	(318) 518-0907	adslthomas@gmail.com
Secretary	Sharron Thomas	(318) 423-2130	adslthomas@gmail.com
Treasurer	John Autry	(318) 210-9416	john.autry451@gmail.com
Board Member	Edna House	(318) 949-9765	edna.house@gmail.com
Board Member	Nina Hustus	(318) 219-9136	pochance@bellsouth.net
Board Member	Lyn Simms	(318) 347-8621	lynsimms@gmail.com
Field Trip Coordinator	Antony Thomas	(319) 518-0907	adslthomas@gmail.com

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The Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society is a nonprofit educational organization devoted to promoting interest in the various earth sciences, particularly the art of lapidaries and their related fields. Informational speeches presented at area schools and the presentation of awards and cash prizes at the Public School Earth Science Fair are two of the ways the society achieves its goals. Another contribution to the community is the annual show, held at the Bossier Civic Center, 620 Benton Rd, in Bossier City. This "Jewelry, Gem, & Mineral Show" functions as a fund raiser for our group and a venue for the demonstrations of gold and silver casting, jewelry making, bead stringing, faceting, cabochon making, and flint knapping (the art of flaking stone tools such as arrowheads). The monthly meetings included programs of interest to rock hounds, information from the Rock Rattler, and jewelry making classes complete the educational objectives of the club.

Arklatex Gem & Mineral Society

PO Box 6633

Bossier City, LA 71171-6633