

# ROCK TALK



**WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM AND MINERAL CLUB**  
SHOW LOW, ARIZONA

White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club  
P.O. Box 3504  
Show Low, Arizona 85902  
[www.whitemountain-azrockclub.org](http://www.whitemountain-azrockclub.org)  
[whitemtngmc@gmail.com](mailto:whitemtngmc@gmail.com)

Vol. 27, Issue 12  
December 2023

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**S**uch a terrific holiday party! Thanks to Cathy, Ron, Karen, Carl, Brookie, Larry, Debbie, Marta, Donna, Terry, Ursula, and Shelly, as well as any other Christmas elves I may have missed. The meeting room was so very festive. Thank you, Mikki, for sharing your musical talents. What a wonderful gift! Great potluck! We have some super cooks in our club. The gift exchange was a lot of laughs. Thanks for making it so fun, Shelly. I hope everyone had as good a time as I did. You all set the bar pretty high for next year.

Stan shared with Carl how honored he was to be made a life member. Most of us do what we believe needs to be done without thinking about any rewards. This altruistic behavior is what makes a good club great. Thank you, Stan.

It is becoming all too common that we have sad news to report. Michael Leistikow passed away suddenly last month. Mike and Shirley joined the club shortly after they located in our communities. They more or less pushed up their sleeves and jumped right in. Both contributed many hours to the show. They rarely missed a club meeting or a field trip. I loved that they regularly attended the WMSO concerts and brought additional friends to

each concert. As a musician, knowing I have a personal cheering section makes me want to play better. Mike was elected as the 2024 treasurer. That means we have an opening that needs to be filled. While Carl has agreed to be the interim treasurer, please consider stepping up. He will train you and provide support as needed.

Please keep Thelma in your thoughts. Her daughter lost her battle with cancer last month. Sending caring thoughts your way, Thelma.

Trivia - One mineral we have a lot of in Arizona is basalt. Black or dark gray, the individual crystals are almost too small to see since they are formed by rapidly cooling lava that did not allow crystals to grow. The most common volcanic rock, it can form an island in just a few days such as the island of Surtsey near Iceland that appeared in 1963. The moon's dark patches are made of basalt.

Thank you all for making this a productive and positive year. You are all appreciated. Your friendship means everything to me. Have a joyous holiday season.

Sandra

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Current & Upcoming Expense

Historian supplies  
Rocky Mountain Federation Dues  
Rock Talk printing and postage  
Christmas party expenses

### Income This Month:

2024 Gem & Mineral Show  
Silent Auction  
Fifty/Fifty  
Member dues  
A very generous club member contribution

# BULLETIN BOARD







**Joan Devito**  
**Donna Pollard**  
**David Sorrels**  
**Roland Webster**  
**Loren Wright**

**Why Not Join our  
 Let's Do Lunch club**

**WHEN:** Friday, December 15,  
 be there at 12:00 Noon.

**WHERE:** Monica's Café, 1100  
 W. Hall Street, Show Low  
 (Same street as KFC)

Let's celebrate our December  
 birthday club members!

## IN THIS ISSUE

ITEM	PAGE
President's Letter/ Treasurer's Report	1
Notes of Interest Important Reminders	2
Club Information	3
Minutes of December Meeting	4
November/December Field Trips	5
Rock of the Month	6
Crafty Corner	7
Remembering Michael Leistikow	8
Upcoming Shows	9
<b>EXTENDED PAGES</b>	
Meeting/Party Photos	10-11

**Notice:**

**Last names N-Z will supply the  
 potluck table for the  
 January 7, 2024 meeting.**

---

**Carl Hickman has agreed to  
 carry on with the treasurer's  
 position on a temporary basis.  
 Is there anybody out there who  
 might consider taking on this  
 responsibility on a permanent basis?  
 It's not hard,  
 and Carl will be glad to  
 train anyone who is interested.**

**Rock Talk Newsletter**

Our newsletter is published monthly by the White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Any information or comments members wish to include in the monthly newsletter must be given to the editor at the general membership meeting or call the editor no later than Tuesday following the meeting.

**Membership Dues**

Membership dues are \$20 for a single membership and \$25 for a couple/family. (\$5 less if you receive newsletter by email.) Dues are paid in January each year along with a completed application form. Memberships initiated in November or later in a given year are also good for the following year.

**Meetings**

We meet the first Sunday of the month (unless it falls on a holiday) at the VFW Post 9907, 381 North Central Avenue in Show Low. Turn north off the Deuce of Clubs at Burger King. Social half hour at 1:00 PM, meeting starts at 1:30 PM.

**ELECTED OFFICERS**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Sandra Angelo	(928)537-3726	sandra_angelo@hotmail.com
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Carol Glick	(928)228 6202	malcarglick@yahoo.com
<b>2ND VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Rick Palmer	(928)333-5019	palmer57@frontiernet.net
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Debbie Christmas	(602)475-4714	Deb_xmas@yahoo.com
<b>TREASURER</b>	Carl Hickman	(928)536-3744	carlhickman8@earthlink.net
<b>EDITOR</b>	B.G. Hogarth	(928)532-3043 Cell-(775)397-2312	hogarths@citlink.net
<b>FIELD TRIPS</b>	Open		
	Open		

**Members at Large**

Dick Turpin	(480)240-0995
Terry Pollard	(480)431-0686
Ursula Wilson	(928)532-5703
Shirley Leistikow	(623)261-5752

**Volunteer Positions**

<b>Webmaster/Coalition Chair</b>	Aimee Webster	(602)503-8417	afwebster61@gmail.com
<b>Show Chairman</b>	Cathy Cargile	(714)348-9162	skyranch5734@yahoo.com
<b>Assistant Show Chairman</b>	Carl Hickman	(928)536-3744	carlhickman8@earthlink.net
<b>Sunshine</b>	Donna Pollard	480-600-2714	tdpollard@msn.com
<b>Education, Schools</b>	Open		
<b>Greeter/Door Prizes/Raffle</b>	Thelma Gray/Open		
<b>Auctioneer</b>	Donna and Terry Pollard		
<b>Highway Cleanup</b>	Brookie/ Larry Embry	(928)537-0760	
<b>Bonus Prizes</b>	Sandra Angelo	(928)537-3726	
<b>Historian</b>	Donna Pollard	(480)600-2714	tdpollard@msn.com
<b>Librarian</b>	Rick Palmer	(928)333-5019	palmer57@frontiernet.net
<b>Meeting Room Setup/cleanup</b>	Shelly Applegate		

**Chamber of Commerce Liaisons**

Show Low: Thelma Gray

Springerville/Eager: Rick Palmer

Snowflake/Taylor: Open

Heber/Overgaard: Aimee Webster



# WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

## MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 3, 2023

The December meeting was a little different from our traditional meetings. We began about 1:00 PM with a prayer instead of the pledge (Thank you, Greg). Guests and members were welcomed. Mikki began the holiday celebration with some beautiful carols and Donna joined in for a duet when Mikki needed a partner in song. We all indulged in a very yummy potluck.

Minutes were accepted. Carl reported our checkbook is very healthy. Vendors are returning contracts with checks, some members have renewed their membership for next year, our silent auctions have been very successful, and we received a very generous donation from a club member. The budget is one of the topics for the upcoming board meeting scheduled for December 7.

Michael Leistikow passed away unexpectedly this past month. He had been elected club treasurer. Carl agreed to stay on as interim treasurer until the position was filled.

Donna reported that the deed for the St. Johns property we were gifted has been signed. Paperwork should arrive early this week. The only request our benefactor had was to be granted life membership in our club. Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed. Joseph C. Smith has been granted Lifetime Member status.

Eleven people braved the field trip in November. This month's field trip will be to our new club site in St. Johns. Hopefully the weather will be nicer. (See both reports on Page 5 in *Rock Talk*.)

Hope announced that "Let's Do Lunch!" will be December 15, 12:00 PM at Monica's in Show Low. Sandra announced that the White Mountain Symphony Orchestra will hold its Christmas concert December 9 at the Snowflake High School Auditorium at 3:00 PM. There will be a Chili and Cornbread fundraiser following.

Shelly coordinated the gift exchange. Debbie Trimble won the rolling auction (Coral). Cathy Cargile won the door prize (A book on Arizona minerals and an amber specimen).

Next meeting is January 7 at the VFW.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Angelo, President



Photo  
By  
Donna  
Pollard

Article By  
Sandra  
Angelo

**Another Opportunity!** On December 16 we will again venture out to our 20 acres at Blue Hills Environmental. Expect to find fossils, petrified wood, and some interesting specimens. Meet at the Dollar General at the 'Y' by 9:00 AM. We will head out to St. Johns at 9:15 AM where we will meet the rest of our fellow rockhounds by Ace Hardware at 10:00 AM. For insurance reasons, Blue Hills requires us to fill out a form to use their private road. The original form must be submitted to the Saint Johns BHE office no later than December 14. If you are planning to attend, please let Sandra know no later than December 13. Thanks.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** I STILL want to see what a Phytosaur tooth looks like, and if you should find one, please bring it to Show and Tell!



Photos By  
Donna Pollard

Article By  
Sandra Angelo

## IT WAS A COLD AND STORMY DAY . . . . .

But 11 of us still found our way to the Blue Hills Environmental Landfill. We had hope that the weather would ease up when we were greeted at the meeting place by a full double rainbow. Wishful thinking! Donna had a map that showed where our soon to be property was located. And Ursula had a special place she was willing to share to find some spectacular wood, black on the outside and orange on the inside. Hunting was great but we soon discovered that hail hurts and boots get very heavy when caked with several inches of mud. Before hypothermia set in, we called it an early day. All attending are looking forward to the next opportunity to play in our own patch of dirt!





# ROCK OF THE MONTH

# KYANITE



By Donna Pollard

**K**yanite is an aluminosilicate, with a formula of  $Al_2SiO_5$ . Kyanite, originally spelled cyanite, was named by German mineralogist Abraham Werner, who also wrote one of the first known mineral identification manuals. Kyanite is also known as "disthene," which alludes to the distinguishing property of having two very different hardness (H) terms. While H. is 4 to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  parallel to the length of the crystal, it is 6 to 7 at right angles to the crystal length. This is a main test for identifying kyanite. Additionally, specific gravity (S.G.), is 3.6 to 3.7, the streak is white, cleavage is perfect, fracture is uneven, and tenacity is brittle.

The most common color is shades of blue, and the name "kyanite" itself comes from the "kyanos," the Greek word for dark blue. Kyanite can also be gray, black, green, whitish, pinkish, and may be multicolored with the darkest shades of color in the center of the crystals. The triclinic crystals may be transparent, translucent, or opaque, with a vitreous (shiny) luster that becomes pearly on cleavage surfaces. Crystals tend to be elongated, rarely with terminated ends, and form blades that are often twisted or bent or radiating fibrous. Kyanite crystals are always embedded, meaning they always form in a matrix of host rock.

Kyanite is mainly found in regional metamorphic rock, gneisses, mica schist, and garnet or staurolite mica schist. These are sedimentary clay-rich rock, abundant in aluminum, and metamorphosed under deep-burial and high pressure. Kyanite is often part of a tri-morphous aggregate where three different minerals grow together forming a densely packed structure. Each of the three, kyanite, sillimanite, and andalusite all have the same formula,  $Al_2SiO_5$ , but different crystal structure. This is an example of polymorphism

with the andalusite forming under the least pressure, with more pressure forming the sillimanite, and the most pressure forming the kyanite. Pyrite and marcasite are another more common example of different minerals sharing the same formula, but with different crystal structure. Kyanite may infrequently be found in granite pegmatites where quartz veins travel through zones of regional metamorphic rock in the general area.

Kyanite is the raw material used for the manufacture of high-temperature porcelain products, perfect electrical insulators, and acid-resistant products. Geologic scientists use kyanite in schist to determine an estimation of temperature and pressure conditions of the host rock in which the kyanite forms. Kyanite can be faceted into gems, but the differing hardnesses cause many problems creating the perfect gem.

In the United States, there are large deposits in Chesterfield, Massachusetts; Litchfield, Connecticut; and in Gaston, Lincoln, and Yancy counties in North Carolina. Spectacular kyanite with rutile is found at Graves Mountain, Lincoln County, Georgia, and mineable deposits are found in the Cargo Muchacho Mountains, Imperial County, California. Kyanite can be locally found in Granite Wash near Quartzsite; Clip Wash, north of Yuma; and Dome Rock Mountains, five miles west of Quartzsite.

World-wide, blue crystal with staurolite is found in Switzerland; with gray radiating crystals in Italy; with huge blue opaque crystal in Minas Gerais, Brazil; and twelve-inch-long green crystal in Kenya. In addition, large important economic alluvial deposits are found in Kenya, Australia, and India. Kyanite is both popular with collectors and important for manufacturing uses worldwide.

# CRAFTY CORNER

By Lidia Duvall

## Holiday Rock Candy The Look of Real Gems in the Matrix!



**H**oliday greetings to all! This is an easy holiday project for gifts, display, or to eat if you have a sweet tooth.

You can add flavoring like cherry, green apple, lemon, or orange. Flavorings are available online if you wish to order them. I skipped that part. The food coloring must be liquid and not the gel type. Do not add any coloring to make beautiful clear quartz crystals. You will need:

- food coloring
- 5 skewers, point cut off
- 10-11 cups sugar
- 5 clothespins/chip clips
- 4 cups water
- 5-pint mason jars, or champagne flutes

First trim off the skewer point and soak skewers for a few minutes in water. Roll skewers in sugar on a plate and dry completely upright in a glass or cup as shown in the picture above. Bring four cups of water to a boil, then turn heat to medium. Stir in sugar with a wooden spoon one cup at a time until it dissolves. Add more sugar until it stops dissolving easily. Boil five minutes. Remove from heat. Pour mixture into jars, add food coloring (about five drops), stir with a spoon, and let it cool to room temperature. When cool, place the skewer in a jar but don't let it

touch the bottom or edges. Put the clothespin on the skewer to hold in place as in the above picture so it is resting on top of the jar. You can add more than one skewer to the jar but leave room so that they are not touching. Place in a warm, darkish place and do not move it. Check the next day to see if the crystals are growing. If not, reheat and add more sugar. Let it set for seven days without moving it.

The longer you leave it the bigger it will get as the water evaporates. A crust on the top and bottom can be cracked with a butter knife if the skewer is stuck to the top or bottom of the jar. Once you remove them from the jar, let them drip for a moment and then set on a glass plate to dry for three days. Once dry, wrap them in cellophane and tie at the bottom with some ribbon for gifts, or place in a vase to display.

\*\*To clean jars afterward use hot water to dissolve the sugar.

\*\*If left in a cold place or sunny window the crystals will be smaller. Enjoy! These are very pretty and look like real gems!



# Remembering Michael Leistikow

Article and Photo  
Courtesy of Greg Wyman



**Editor's Note:** As a closely-knit group with a common interest, we are certainly a "family" that grieves when one of us is taken in death. The totally unexpected death of Mike Leistikow after a heart surgery hit us all very hard.

This beautiful remembrance of Mike by Greg Wyman is a loving tribute to the friendship the two men shared.

So when we think of Mike, let's not think of "farewell," but think instead of the Spanish phrase, "hasta la vista," which loosely translated is "until we meet again."

**I** first met Mike and Shirley in April 2022 at a rock club outing. I asked if anyone would like to ride with me. Mike, Shirley, and Ed Henry joined me. After talking a bit we formed a close "family/friend" connection. We decided that the four of us were brought together for God's purpose.

Mike was one of those guys who was honest and trustworthy to a fault. He loved people and had a huge sense of humor. Sometimes it was difficult to know whether he was joking or serious.

He loved the adventure of going to new places in the search for that "special" rock to polish. I believe Shirley got him interested in rocks, as she would always be the last person hunting.

He also liked traveling by car or motorhome in Alaska, and was planning a trip for 2024.

Going out to eat—he always knew the best restaurants with good food and atmosphere.

He and Shirley had church family and friends in both the Phoenix and Pinetop areas.

He had a deep faith in Christ, and as much as we will miss him, he is "home." Mike touched many lives. Before his surgery he said, "If the Good Lord takes me, I'm ready."


I think Mike would agree that we all must be prepared to meet our maker. Jesus saves, but we must first know Him.







**Gila County Gem & Mineral Show**  
 January 12 - 14, 2024  
 Gila County Fairgrounds  
 900 E Fairgrounds Rd, Globe, AZ



**DESERT GARDENS**  
 ANNUAL  
**ROCK, GEM & MINERAL SHOW**

**JAN 1 - FEB 28 • EXIT 17 - QUARTZSITE**

Quartzsite, AZ **GOLD SHOW**  
 February 9 - 11, 2024  
 QIA BUILDING 235 IRONWOOD

Demonstrations ~ Equipment ~ Speakers  
 Daily Drawings ~ Gold Nuggets ~ Jewelry

\$5 for all 3 days! Fri 9-4 Sat 9-4 Sun 9-3





*Merry  
Christmas*  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU FROM US



Photos By  
Donna Pollard

