

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
whitemtngmc@gmail.com

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It couldn't have been more fun if Santa Claus showed up! What a terrific way to end the year. Thanks to Shelly, head elf, and her elfin support team, Carl and Dick. They kept the white elephant game moving. Yummy food options and great camaraderie. Thank you all for making our holiday party so enjoyable.

This is my last President's Letter. I came to this position in August of 2020. We have grown in membership, become financially stable, and are becoming better known throughout the community through our outreach activities. Our success has been possible because of the efforts of many individuals. Thanks to all of you who had a hand in making our club the terrific organization we are today. We have so much more we can do to continue to accomplish our mission. Under the leadership of Donna, I know we will continue to grow and be one of the premier rock clubs in our region. Thank you for your support these past years. I appreciate each and every one of you.

Trivia: Red of tooth and claw, Hematite doesn't mix in with rocks. Magnetite reacts with oxygen in the air to form this guy. A rich source of iron, it is used in making steel. It is also used in polishing gemstones. Hematite can be found from North and South America to Asia and Australia. It has even been found on Mars!

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays!

Sandra



TREASURER'S REPORT

November Expense

Elks Lodge Gem Show Deposit
RMFMS Dues & Insurance

Upcoming Expense

Rock Talk Printing, Postage
Meeting Supplies
Annual Storage Fee
VFW Meeting Space Rental

Income This Month

Member Dues

BULLETIN BOARD

Happy December Birthday

Michael Adams	Patricia Parks
Kim Burd	Donna Pollard
Joan Devito	Steven Schneider
Chooch Frayer	Maria Sierra
Dustin Hults	David Sorrels
Mikki Kas	Roland Webster
Lois McClure	Loren Wright
Robi Mukherjee	

The "Let's Do Lunch" group will take a break for the holidays and return in January.

It's time to renew membership! A membership application form is on Page 9. It can be printed off and filled in if you wish, and forms will also be available at the meetings.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

As you all probably know, this is my last edition as editor of Rock Talk. I have truly enjoyed the past nine years of this club service. I have learned more about rocks, how the club functions, and lots more about creativity. But I couldn't have done it without the help of many of you members. I am especially beholden to Sandra, who patiently read each issue before it was finalized in order to find corrections that my tired red-rimmed eyes didn't catch. To Aimee who sent the finished product by e-mail to members and uploaded it to the club's web page. To Meg, who picked up the printed copies at Perfect Printz and mailed them out. To those who contributed articles or gave me ideas for Rock Talk.

Bea Kennedy has volunteered to step in to be the new editor. I know she will do a great job at keeping Rock Talk going.

I love you all, and I'll still be around—BG

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**Office****PRESIDENT****VICE PRESIDENT****2ND VICE PRESIDENT****SECRETARY****TREASURER****EDITOR****FIELD TRIPS****Name**

Sandra Angelo

Phone

(928)537-3726

E-Mail

sandra_angelo@hotmail.com

Debbie Trimble

(520)400-6527

dltrimble076@aol.com

Mike Soboleske

(952)242-6115

Fritso53@gmail.com

Shelly Applegate

(928)245-4300

shellylynn@gmail.com

Kim Whitley

(928)853-4455

kimwhitley@gmail.com

B.G. Hogarth

(928)532-3043

hogarths@citlink.net

Dick Turpin

(480)240-0995

dickturpinaz@gmail.com

Rick Palmer

(928)333-5019

palmer57@frontiernet.net

Members at Large

Hope Rubi (928)228-8851

Terry Pollard (480)431-0686

Ursula Wilson (928)532-5703

Carl Hickman (928)536-3744

Volunteer Positions**Webmaster/Coalition Chair**

Aimee Webster (602)503-8417

afwebster61@gmail.com

Show Chairman

Cathy Cargile (714)348-9162

skyranch5734@yahoo.com

Assistant Show Chairman

Ursula Wilson (928)532-5703

Sunshine

Donna Pollard 480-600-2714

tdpollard@msn.com

Education, Schools

Open

Greeter/Door Prizes/Raffle

Thelma Gray/Diane Moten

Auctioneer

Donna and Terry Pollard

Highway Cleanup

Brookie/ Larry Embry (928)537-0760

Bonus Prizes

Sandra Angelo (928)537-3726

Historian

Donna Pollard (480)600-2714

tdpollard@msn.com

Librarian

Rick Palmer (928)333-5019

palmer57@frontiernet.net

Meeting Room Setup/cleanup

Shelly Applegate (928)245-4300

shellylynn@gmail.com

Chamber of Commerce LiaisonsShow Low: B.G. HogarthSpringerville/Eager: Rick PalmerSnowflake/Taylor: Karen HickmanHeber/Overgaard: Aimee Webster

WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 7, 2025

Our meeting was opened at 1:30 PM by President Sandra Angelo. After the Pledge of Allegiance we greeted guests and new members.

The first item to be discussed in the New Business part of the meeting was a reminder that plans are being made for a mini-show in Concho at the Mellon Center similar to what the club did last year. Booths are available for club members. This event will probably happen in March. Keep this in mind if you would like to volunteer to help at the event or to be a vendor.

Treasurer Kim Whitley reported that the club has had a good year financially. Upcoming expenses for the new year were identified.

Club presidency is transitioning to our new president, Donna Pollard. She will be stepping into her position in January.

Everyone walked out with a fun gift in our white elephant gift exchange!

Club members who go 'above and beyond,' rather than just attending monthly meetings, had the opportunity to win another present.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM. It was a great time! Great company, good food, and of course, lots of rocks!

Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen. It was lovely seeing you all. And thank you to the club members who are always helping the club and each other out.

Thank you to our outgoing President, Sandra Angelo as this is her last month in the office. You are amazing!

Hope everyone enjoys their Holidays! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Applegate, Secretary

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP REPORT

FOREST LAKES FOSSILS &

SHARP CREEK ZEBRA CHERT

At the start of the week before our November field trip, the weather was not looking good. Multiple rainstorms were expected by the weekend. Since our September adventure was canceled due to heavy rain, we decided to wait for the Friday forecast to decide. Fortunately, it appeared we would have at least half a day without rain, so we decided to proceed with at least a short day of rockhounding.

Despite some initial confusion about where and when we would gather, with the help of modern technology we got all seven participants linked up and in the field. Our first stop was a bit disappointing. Apparently, the easy access to this well-known fossil site had resulted in it being picked clean of the previously abundant brachiopods. However, a second site, about a quarter mile from the parking area, had not suffered from over-collecting. After this initial success, Donna suggested trying a third site farther north, where the club had previously collected. She expected more variety of fossils there. This turned out to be the case; in addition to the brachiopods, we found fossils of sponges and corals in abundance.

The rain was holding off, and the temperature was comfortable when we made the move to the Sharp Creek site. The road into this site has been very rough in the past, and it was even worse this time. Fortunately, all club members had 4WD, high-clearance vehicles. By driving slowly and carefully, everyone made it over the very rocky, steep, and muddy access road. This location has multiple sites where zebra chert is found, so we selected one that had the least challenging access. It turned out to be a good choice. As is frequently the case, our members began finding collectable material within a step or two from their vehicles. Larger chunks of zebra chert were found in abundance within a hundred yards of the parking area. So, the group spread out through the beautiful forest and found so much chert requiring multiple trips back and forth to their vehicles to avoid overloading their buckets.

After a couple of hours, the rockhounds began wandering back to the parking area, happy with what they had found. After a bit, we noticed that one of our members was missing. We figured out which direction he had gone and decided to start looking for him. Honking our horns didn't help, but some hunters and other off-roaders were driving in the area. We asked them to help find our lost companion. Terry and Dick drove down the only road that headed in the right direction. Eventually, Donna and Terry returned with our lost person. One of the off-road groups had found him quite a distance from the parking area. He had gotten turned around and was headed away from the parking area. His wife was greatly relieved to have her spouse back, as was the entire group.

With that problem solved, and the threat of rain increasing, we made the challenging climb back up the steep and rocky road to the Beeline Highway. In spite of a couple of challenges, it turned out to be another successful field trip.



ROCK OF THE MONTH

LABRADORITE

Submitted by Donna Pollard

Labradorite is a member of the feldspar mineral family, first discovered in Labrador, Canada, in the late 18th century. It occurs in Canada, Finland, Madagascar, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina and Texas.



The basic color of labradorite is light semi-transparent gray, yellowish, green or occasionally reddish. Internal striations reflect and refract light to produce iridescent flashes of color that change with light angle and viewing angle (labraorescence). Labradorite is composed of sodium calcium aluminum silicate and has a hardness of 6 to 6.5 on the Mohs scale.

Labradorite is used for cabochons, beads and highly polished objects, such as paperweights.

In Inuit legend labradorite is said to have been created when a warrior freed the northern lights trapped in rocks.

Thanks to:

Collecting Rocks, Gems and Minerals, Patty Polk, Krause Publications

Copilot Search: Crystal Vaults

ROCKIN' SHOWS COMING UP!

RMGM Tucson Mineral & Fossil Show January 30 - February 14, 2026

1920 N. Oracle Road, Tucson, Arizona

Tent Show January 30 - February 14, 2026

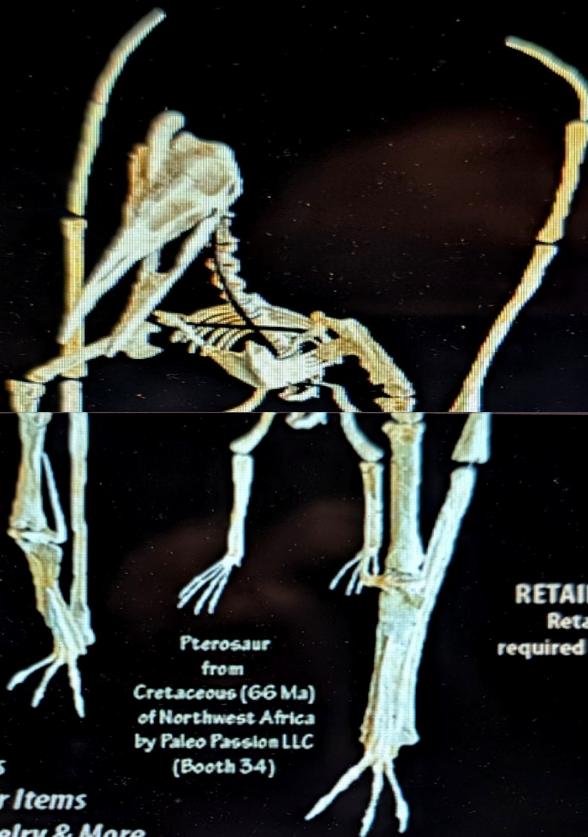
Wholesale (3 Dealers): January 23 - February 7, 2026 (metal building)

Jeanne's Rock Shop (Miracle Breeze Bld)

January 23 - February 14, 2026

Hours:
Everyday:
 10 am to 6 pm
 except
Saturday:
February 14, 2026:
 10 am - 4 pm

FREE ADMISSION
FREE PARKING
FAMILY FUN



Fossils
Minerals
Cabochons
Cutting Rough
Metals-Gold/Silver
Meteorites & Tektites
Carvings & Decorator Items
Gems, Minerals, Jewelry & More ...

Pterosaur
from
Cretaceous (66 Ma)
of Northwest Africa
by Paleo Passion LLC
(Booth 34)

RETAIL AND WHOLESALE
 Retail sales tax license
required for wholesale purchases



WWW.RMGM PROMOTIONS.com



January 2026

16-18—GLOBE, ARIZONA: Annual show; Gila County Gem & Mineral Society; Gila County Fairgrounds, 900 E Fairground Rd; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Donation Requested; Vendors selling gems, minerals, rock specimens, jewelry, fossils and much more. Activity room with hands-on learning. Lapidary, silent auction and snack bar; contact Beverly Hawkins, (928) 363-0345; Email: gilagem.shows@gmail.com; Website: <https://gilagem.org/>

February 2026

20-22—CLARKDALE, ARIZONA: Annual show; Mingus Gem and Mineral club; Clark Memorial Clubhouse Auditorium, 19 N. Ninth Street; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; Free; Dealers, wire-wrapping and geode-splitting demonstrations, agates, fossils, gems, beads, findings, cabochons, crystals, geodes, rock slabs, tumble-polished minerals, handcrafted jewelry, carvings and unique gift items; Kids' Corner offers free mineral specimens for children 12 and under; contact Bill Hedglin, (928) 634-0269; Email: billkarin3@q.com; Website: <http://www.mingusgmclub.com/>

WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026



FIELD TIPS WANTED!!



**PLEASE LET US KNOW OF ANY
GREAT PLACES FOR OUR OUTINGS!**

MONTH	MEETING DATE	FIELD TRIP	NOTES
JANUARY	4	17	Gila County Show
FEBRUARY	1	21	
MARCH	1	21	Mellon Center Show
APRIL	12	25	
MAY	3	23	Highway Cleanup—16th
JUNE	7	27	
JULY	5	25	ANNUAL SHOW 10-11-12
AUGUST	2	22	
SEPTEMBER	6 (Picnic)	26	Highway Cleanup—19th
OCTOBER	4	24	Harvest Fest
NOVEMBER	1	21	
DECEMBER	6		Christmas Party



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PO BOX 3504
SHOW LOW, AZ 85902

DATE: _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

Printed Name(s): _____

Phone(s): _____ Brass Name Badges (\$5 each) _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address(s): _____

Type of Membership: Single (\$20) _____ Couple/Family (\$25) _____
(\$5 deduction if getting newsletter by E-mail)

Please send club newsletter by: E-mail _____ US Mail _____

May we have birthdays? (Month Only) _____

List any junior members you would like to sponsor (No added fee):

1. _____ Age: _____ 2. _____ Age: _____

3. _____ Age: _____ 4. _____ Age: _____

Signatures: _____ Date: _____

Seasonal members, please list alternate address and months of residency:

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Months: _____ Phone: _____



AROUND AND ABOUT AT OUR

CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE PARTY

