

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
web: <https://www.gmss.club> Volume 55 Issue 1, Jan. 2025
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

Special "Antarctica Edition"

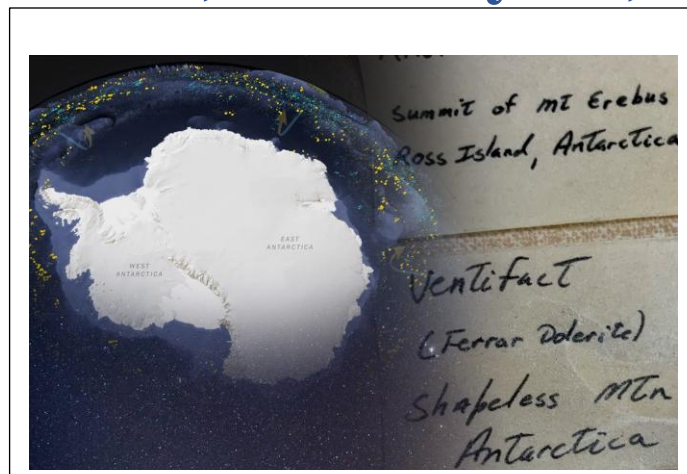
Mon., January 20, 2025 Club Meeting

Come out of the cold

Time to Visit Antarctica!

(It's summertime there)

See Program Information -
Page 5; More News – Page 11



ALH84001 on display at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History

"Mysteries and Meteorites"

By Anne Fitzgerald

See Page 5

Lapidary Class Starts Sat., Jan. 11th!

See Information - Page 6

Feb. 1 Field Trip – Pages 5 & 6

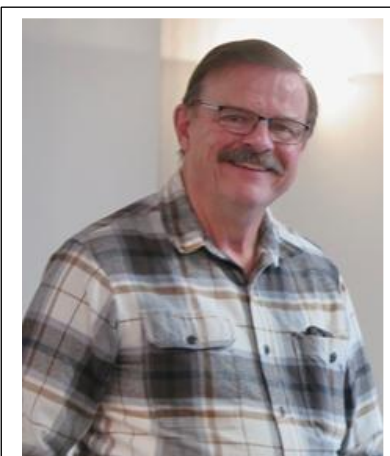


Photo by Judy Cook

What is this man smiling about, and what does it have to do with Antarctica?

See Page 8!

Christmas/Holiday Party Photo Gallery - Pages 7-10

President's Message

Matt Klinger



Happy New Year everyone. I hope the holidays produced many wonderful memories for you and your families. Mine did as well as five pounds of extra weight I'll be hauling around!

We all need to

*start thinking about what we each will be doing to make our annual show a success. We can all start by attending our **first Show Committee meeting on January 28th at the club.** The meeting will begin at 7:00pm. I look forward to seeing each of you there. A **new Lapidary class** is forming. If you would like to participate please contact Bill Verge' at 617-872-4528 or email him at b.verge @comcast .net. A **field trip to Corning Glass** is planned for **February 1.** Please contact Dave Arcaro by text or phone at 315-935-3627 if you would like to go. There are several new and exciting programs and field trips being planned. I would invite all of you to come in and find out about them and maybe give some input. And as always God bless.*

- Matt Klinger

Secretary's Report

Teresa Arnold

GMSS Board Meeting - January 8, 2024

Meeting was called to order by President, Matt Klinger at 7PM

Vice President: Dave Arcaro:

- **Field Trips:** Feb. 1 – **Corning Museum of Glass.** Considering **out-of-state** trip possibly to TX, probably next year. June 8 & 9 – **Penn Dixie dig** with experts. **Erie Canal in Greece** – date depends on weather; will give notice a week in advance.

- **Upcoming Meetings:** **Jan. 20** – Amanda on Antarctica. **Feb. 17** – possibly Syracuse Salt Co. **Mar. 17** – Spring Auction. **April 21** – Fred Haynes on “Garnet Beach Sand on Lake Erie.” Future meeting with Susan Sharp on sea glass.

Sargeant at Arms: Kristin Buskirk: No report

Treasurer Report: Teresa Arnold (Absent):

Motion made by John Sweeney, seconded by Cheryl Brown to *accept minutes from Dec. 3 Board meeting, printed in Dec. Crack 'N Cab.* Approved.

Treasurer Report: Linda Sweeney:

- Nov. Income: \$3025.47 / Expenditures: \$2019.66.
- 42 at Dec. party, club subsidized \$306.
- Yr-end report ready.

Editor: Larry Petry:

- Submissions for the Crack 'N Cab Jan. issue are due by 11PM on 1/9/2025.

Webmistress: Amanda Lytle (Absent):

I won't be able to attend the meeting tonight due to severe weather in my area so I'm passing on my updates in the topics I'm involved in. Hopefully what I've typed makes sense -

Treasury to digital format:

Will resume this after presentation ASAP.

Website Plans: “New Content Idea”

Suggestion - Feature clubhouse's collections / specimens with their information to add educational and novel content on website:

- The club is sitting on an impressive inventory in display cases and Lapidary storage room that could produce original content, being that it's part of the club.

- showcasing the specimens can show that our club is interesting.

- Links of YouTube channels on the site are only a substitute until we can provide in-house material. We have plenty of specimens to highlight for fresh content rotation.

Library:

- Earth Science genre better as links provided to online resources (Earth Science gets updated too fast to keep as books) will create space for adding newer quality books to help update library.

- Suggestion: NEW YORK STATE & NORTHEAST Categories NOT FOR LENDING (many materials irreplaceable). Members can use their phones to grab pages they need while at the club.

-FYI: for anyone ordering books for the library - many books after 2022 risk being created by AI loaded with misinformation, even from reputable publishers. I'm currently gathering book recommendations by experts aware of this situation to know what is safe for purchase.

Save the Date!

Cabin Fever Festival Fundraiser

WHEN: March 29, 2025
 TIME: Artisan Hour 9am-12:30
 Chili Cook-off 1pm-4pm

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CABIN FEVER FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER

Do you have a fantastic chili recipe or are you looking for some time to connect and create with others in the club?

We are holding our first Cabin Fever Festival Fundraiser on March 29, 2025. This will be an all-day event where you can choose to take part in all the activities or whatever suits your needs or schedule for the day.

Artisan Hour, which will take place from **9am-12:30pm**, will give you an opportunity to learn new skills and or work on pieces you are already working on.

The **Chili Cook-off** will give you the opportunity to showcase your world-famous chili! Club members are invited to put their recipes to the test while others rank the entries!

Drawings for gift baskets will be held throughout the event. All funds raised will go toward supplies for the lapidary lab.

More information will be coming soon! We will need club members to support the set up and breakdown of the event.

If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Jamie Cary via email at cary.jamie@gmail.com

Thank You!

KIP Perkins

Although the December 15 Christmas party at Bella Domani is starting to fade from memory it is still clearly the best time to say a big THANK YOU for coming and to say special thanks to **Rich Meyer** and **Dave Arcaro** who donated minerals and carved stone animals to add to the gift boxes I made and gave everyone that day. The flowers and gifts that **Linda Adams** offered made

it a very special day. Thank you, Linda, for making a special effort to get those poinsettias safely to the tables.

But Wait...There Are More Thank You's...

Cathy Patterson

I personally would like to thank Kip Perkins for the last few years making special gift boxes, from her Stampin' Up hobby, to gift everyone at our Christmas parties. Kathleen Irene Perkins, aka Kip, has been a continuous member since the mid 1970's! That's 50 years! Her many continuous years of offering suggestions to keep the club on a positive track, helping with housekeeping many times over the years, having a long memory of club history, and being a regular contributor at board meetings make this "elder" GMSS member really **ROCK IT! Way to go KIP!**

Need Sunshine?

Winter in CNY isn't known for its sunny days but as Sunshine Ambassador for the GMSS please contact me with me with members who might need a little sprinkle of sunshine coming their way. That includes get well, thinking about you, be on the mend, and Bravo cards with a note. Contact me, Cathy **Patterson**, Sunshine and I'll take it from there!

Sunshine Alert!!

Cathy Patterson

Long time member, **Ruth Burgess**, is in need of a tsunami of sunshine! Ruth has been a member since the 1970's. She is currently in Crouse Hospital and feeling not particularly sunny while undergoing tests and getting strengthening medical help. An encouraging card might help.

Ruth Burgess

**4892 Fayetteville-Manlius Rd
 Manlius, NY 13104**

Welcome New Members!

Pamela Sleeth

Ken & Sue Maliszewski

Jennifer & Edward Hilliard

Teresa Nelson-Graham

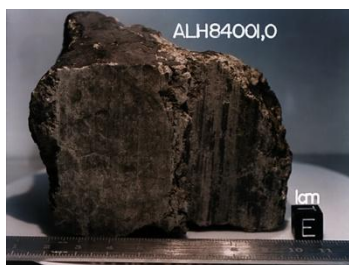
We would like to extend a hearty welcome to all our new and returning members. We have an exciting year planned with numerous field trips, interesting topics presented at our monthly meetings, and our annual July *GemWorld* show where we feature vendors and speakers from around the country.

Please get involved with your club. There are many volunteer opportunities where your skills and talents can be utilized. See President Matt Klinger who can direct you to the appropriate committee head.

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

"Mysteries and Meteorites"

As a new year begins, it's fun to think about all the new discoveries that will happen in the New Year. 12/27/1984 was not a normal day for Roberta Score. Roberta was working for the **Antarctica Meteorite Lab** from the Johnson Space Center when she was searching the Antarctic landscape for anything out of the ordinary. The fruit-shaped object she found was as unusual and as desired as a watermelon in the desert.



The initial analysis showed that the meteorite she found contained a strange tiny tube-shape that resembled earth-like fossilized bacteria. When it was proven that the *Allan Hills ALH 84001 meteorite*,

curated at NASA's Johnson Space Center, Meteorite Processing Laboratory in Houston. Credit: NASA/JSC/Stanford University.

meteorite had landed on the earth approximately thirteen-thousand years ago and definitely was from Mars, added to the fact that carbon and organic compounds were found on the meteorite, some of the initial scientists got excited and hinted about past life on Mars. Newspeople got really excited and proclaimed, "Past Life on Mars!"

It took almost forty years of calming down, but in 2022, Andrew Steele of the Carnegie Institute used transmission electron microscopy and found upon the same meteorite even more evidence of organic compounds and indications of past water on Mars. Four billion years ago, while our planet was just a baby, Mars may have been the grownup. While scientists are still uncertain, perhaps in the next year we'll have profound new information that will change the way we look at the universe.

See how many words you can discover from the word "meteorite." Here are some clues to help you in your search. Answers can be found on Page 7 of this newsletter.

Coming Soon (in the next issue) "**How to Name Your Meteorite.**"

Clues to words in "meteorite"

Civil commotion

It goes by quickly

Group of three

A device to measure

Show Committee

Our next Show Committee meeting will be **Tuesday, January 28 at 7:00** at the clubhouse. Come find out about our July *GemWorld* show and how you can get involved. There is a job for everyone. This is our fundraiser which supports our club and enables us to maintain our clubhouse.

We need everyone's help.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025 – Junior Rockhounds meeting – 1- 2 pm at the Clubhouse. We'll be looking at the Fossil Kit!

Jan. 20 – GMSS meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. **Amanda Lytle** will give a presentation on "**A Legacy Beyond the Ice: Five Specimens That Illuminate Antarctica's Journey Through Time.**" A mysterious collection from the southernmost continent turned up at the clubhouse, but only 5 specimens held clues to reunite it back to this strange land & history from where it came. Antarctica was not always a frozen desert at the end of the Earth. It's one of the oldest continents with up to 4 billion years of our planet's evolutionary changes in its records. Caught in the cycle of ancient supercontinents, witnessing the resilience & tragedy of polar forests on its lands, to helping restore faith in humanity's future - Antarctica even today is so much more than just a land frozen at the bottom of our planet.

Plus: See Page 8, and News on Page 11.

Jan. 28 – 1st Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. Be in the know from the beginning! All are invited.

Sat., Feb. 1 – Field Trip – The Corning Museum of Glass (Weather Permitting).

This Fieldtrip will be **limited to 20 club members. Price of admission is \$27.00 per**

person, which will include a guided tour, which will last approximately 90 minutes. After which, those who choose may do a glass making project.

There are 3 sculpture projects being offered to our group for that day:

#1- Glass Flower

#2- Snowman

#3- Heart (Just in time for Valentines Day!)

Price is \$36.00 for any of these 3 projects.

Projects will require 24-hour cure time, so they stay there overnight, and Corning will ship them to you. Not sure about the price but somebody said around \$30. Unless you want to drive there the next day to pick it up.

There will be slots given every 40 minutes for us to make these projects. We will not all be doing them at once.

I would like members to meet at the clubhouse at 7:30am. It takes about 2 1/2 hours to get there in good weather. I want to give us a bit of buffer in hopes to arrive by 10:30am.

If you are interested, you are to Text or call Dave Arcaro at 315-935-3627.

When you contact me, I need to know:

#1-Who is going?

#2- Are you doing just a tour or tour and a project?

#3- Which project you are interested in?

I need this information no later than Thursday, January 23.

Corning Museum of Glass - check out their website for exhibits and projects details:

<https://home.cmog.org/>



Feb. 4, 2025 – GMSS Board meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

Feb. 17 – GMSS meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse.

Feb. 25 – Show Committee meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

Mar. 4, 2025! – GMSS Board meeting – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. All are invited.

Lapidary Classes at The Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse

By Bill Vergé

One of the most valuable assets to the members of the GMSS is the availability to the club's cutting lab. The club has a well-equipped cutting lab that our members can use for all sorts of lapidary processes.

Members can use this equipment by taking either of two courses:

GMSS Member John Sweeney teaches a jewelry course at BOCES which includes a lapidary program.

The second way is to take the Lapidary class that is offered at our own facility by Bill Vergé and Steve Shorey. **Our classes are usually offered on Saturday mornings beginning at 10am for 2 hours for three consecutive Saturdays.** Eligibility for these classes are: you must be a member of the GMSS (if you are not, we can sign you up), 16 years old or older. If you are 13 to 15 years old you can take the classes, but you must be accompanied by an adult member during the classes. The adult can also be taking the class at the same time.

For information on the GMSS Lapidary class contact:

Bill Vergé

Text 617-872-4528, or Email at:

b.verge@comcast.net

New Lapidary Classes Begin January 11, 18 and 25

Upcoming Winter Shows:

Jan. 25 - Rutgers Geology Museum's 57th Annual Open House, 43 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ. This year's theme will be "New Jersey Geology", with a series of lectures and activities related to this topic. All events are free to the public. For details and information, visit: the Geology Museum's website at: Annual Open House (rutgers.edu) • Presentations by Leading Scientists (TBA) in Scott Hall, Room 123 • [Note: Specific presentation details will be listed in the Jan. 2025 issue of The Rockhound Register] • Mineral Sale in Scott Hall, Room 135, from 9 AM to 3 PM • Rock & Mineral Identification in Scott Hall, Room 205, from 11 AM to 2 PM

Answers to Geo Lexis

- Civil commotion **riot**
- It goes by quickly **time**
- Group of three **trio**
- A device to measure **meter**

Sources and further reading:
https://www.lpi.usra.edu/planetary_news/2022/02/01/analysis-of-the-allan-hills-84001-martian-meteorite-reveals-pathways-of-abiotic-organic-synthesis-on-early-mars/#gsc.tab=0
<https://www.planetary.org/profiles/roberta-score>
<https://www.lpi.usra.edu/meteor/metbull.php?code=604>
<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abg7905>

**GMSS Club Meeting – Dec. 15 –
 Annual Holiday Party!**
 Photos by Judy Cook & Marie Mastracco



Belly up to the bar, boys!



Fun and conversation around the tables



Omelets skillfully made to order, then on to the buffet!



Even Santa and Mrs. Claus were there!

Rockhound of the Year - Amanda!!!



It is with great pleasure that we nominate Amanda Lytle as our 2024 Rockhound of the Year. Amanda has done a wonderful job revamping our website and bringing it into the 21st century. There is a wealth of information in it and the interest in our club has increased as a result. She has dedicated herself to helping sort and catalog a huge collection that was donated to the club. She is also organizing the library, working on grant writing and developing spreadsheets to streamline the club

finances. Thank you, Amanda, for all your hard work for our club. You really make a difference.
Respectfully Submitted, Matt Klinger President

Gift table, & lucky table decor winner



Fun gift pick - Kip got the cutest holiday nightlight,

Linda selected a beautiful crystalized geode,



Louis picked out a box of lapidary for use with his tumbler and bonus - he had the lucky chair at the table and won the poinsettia and crystal angel table decorations!



Fun Holiday Moments



Our donations to the food pantry



President Matt Klinger had a lot of help with the food donations from a number of the club elves. Thank you to all who donated! Hope everyone enjoyed the party. **Have a Happy New Year!**

And, In Other News (Special Edition)

Over 100 hidden volcanoes could soon erupt in Antarctica

Story by Josh Milton MSN Jan. 9, 2024

If you picture Antarctica, a continent roughly the size of the US and Mexico combined, an endless white void probably comes to mind. Volcanoes erupting isn't what most people think of, but this scene could happen as the frozen continent melts, a study has found. Buried under kilometres of frost are some 100 volcanoes in Antarctica, with only a few peaking above the ice sheets along the western coast.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/weather/topstories/over-100-hidden-volcanoes-could-soon-erupt-in-antarctica/ss-BB1r9gtr?ocid=socialshare>

Mushy ice and lost kit: The scientists studying Antarctica as it melts

Chris Baraniuk BBC 30 December 2024



sea beneath.

For 20 years, Simon Morley has been cutting holes in Antarctic sea ice and diving into the frigid waters below to study strange and colourful sea life – including sea squirts and sponges. But climate change is thinning out this ice, meaning it is often no longer safe enough to travel over.

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20241223-mushy-ice-and-lost-kit-the-scientists-studying-antarctica-as-it-melts>

Scientists made an unsettling discovery in the Antarctic. It's likely an omen.

Story by Ariana Bindman MSN December 30, 2024

A surreal phenomenon is unfolding in one of the most barren, mystifying regions on Earth, and according to a recent article from NASA, scientists say that it could be a new byproduct of global warming.

According to an October 2024 study published in Nature Geoscience, vegetation is taking over the Antarctic Peninsula, turning its edges into a verdant landscape worthy of plein air painting. After analyzing satellite data collected from 1986 to 2021, scientists from the universities of Exeter and Hertfordshire were shocked to discover that the greenery grew from 0.86 square kilometer to 11.95 square kilometers, spreading much faster than initially thought. It seems to have grown quicker in the last five years in particular, the paper continued. Though the region has been significantly warming for the past 60 years, rates of warming

are highest in the Antarctic Peninsula and West Antarctic, authors wrote.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/weather/topstories/scientists-made-an-unsettling-discovery-in-the-antarctic-it-s-likely-an-omen/ar-AA1wJ7JG?ocid=socialshare>

Antarctica's Irregular Heartbeat: Scientists Uncover Dangerous Signs of Rapid Melting

By University of Leicester December 19, 2024

Antarctic ice sheets melted rapidly 20 million years ago due to orbital changes. Researchers warn modern emissions could trigger similar instability, urging climate action.

Geoscientists led by the University of Leicester and the University of Southampton have discovered periods of sudden melting in the Antarctic ice sheet in a new climate record from over 20 million years ago. The research, recently published in *Nature*



Credit: University of Leicester

Communications, reveals how sensitive our planet's early ice ages were to the effect of the Earth's eccentric orbit around the Sun, indicating that the Antarctic ice sheet may be less stable than previously thought. Additionally, the study offers insights into how the Antarctic may behave in a world without the Greenland Ice Sheet, which will melt if emissions continue unabated.

<https://scitechdaily.com/antarcticas-irregular-heartbeat-scientists-uncover-dangerous-signs-of-rapid-melting/>

Not proof of life after all: 'Fossil' in famous Martian meteorite made by water, not aliens

A new study concludes 25 years of declining confidence in the enthusiastic response to the meteorite. The truth might still be out there, but it is not in this rock

Joseph Brean National Post Published Jan 14, 2022 • Last updated Jan 14, 2022

The Allan Hills 84001 meteorite used to be the most exciting rock in the world, and not because of its bland appearance. It is a dull grey, weighs a little less than two kilograms, and is about the size of a potato.

It was exciting because of where it came from and what it brought along — fossils, apparently — and it was hailed by no less a figure than former U.S. President Bill Clinton as humanity's first proof of extraterrestrial life.



Photographers take pictures of the ALH84001 meteorite at a press conference on August 7, 1996, where scientists from NASA and Stanford University said they have detected traces of bacterial life on MARS after studying the meteorite discovered on December 27, 1984 in the Allan Hills region of

Antarctica. PHOTO BY JEAN-LOUIS ATLAN/PARIS MATCH VIA GETTY IMAGES/FILE

<https://nationalpost.com/news/world/not-proof-of-life-after-all-fossil-in-famous-martian-meteorite-made-by-water-not-aliens>



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse
PO Box 2801
Syracuse, NY 13220
First Class Mail
 Time-Dated Material



www.amfed.org www.amfed.org/efmls [Future Rockhounds](#)

Eight people organized the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse in 1951. Since that time it has grown in membership to include adults, families, and young folk. The Society was incorporated in 1969 under the same name.

The objectives of the Society are to stimulate interest in mineralogy, paleontology, and the lapidary arts. Member interests include collecting, identification, and display of minerals, gems, fossils. Members share and develop their artistic skills in jewelry design and creation.

Our monthly meetings provide social and educational experiences. Field trips give collectors chances to find specimens and enjoy the out of doors, exercise and time with old and new friends.

Meetings – 3rd Monday of the month
General Meeting @ 7:30 pm
(NO meetings July, August, December)
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza) Unit 14 & 15, Liverpool, NY
Visitors are ALWAYS welcome!

See online Newsletter <https://gmss.club/crack-n-cab-newsletter>
 You can also visit our Facebook Page
Annual Member Dues:
Adult \$15 – Family/Couple \$20 – Junior \$10 – Life \$5

If you would like to join or renew membership, download the application form (PDF) see <https://gmss.club/membership-info>

You can get a form at a meeting or send requests to: **GMSS, PO Bo 2801, Syracuse, NY 13220.** We will mail an application/renewal form to you.

2024 – 2025 GMSS Officers/Contacts

- President:** Matt Klinger pres@gmss.club
- Vice-President:** Dave Arcaro vp@gmss.club
- Treasurer:** Linda Clark treasurer@gmss.club
- Secretary:** Teresa Arnold secretary@gmss.club
- Jr Rockhounds:** Rick Moore kidsrock@gmss.club
- Membership Chair:** members@gmss.club
- Sgt at Arms:** Kristin Buskirk sgtatarms@syracusegemsociety.com
- GemWorld Show Chair:** Cheryl Brown
315-708-9122 show@gmss.club
- Club Librarian:** Steve Albro 607-756-2298
library@gmss.club
- Lapidary Committee Contact:** Steve Shorey
lapidary@gmss.club
- Newsletter:** Larry Petry 315-472-9226
editorgmss@gmail.com
- Facebook:** Judy Cook
socialmedia@gmss.club
- Website:** Amanda Lytle
webmaster@gmss.club
- Photographer Extraordinaire:** Judy Cook
- Hospitality Committee Chair:** Doria McIntosh
315-471-1340 hospitality@gmss.club