

Summit Gem Newsletter November 2007

Summit Lapidary Club, 244 Chestnut Blvd., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

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Board Members: Pres. - David Rich, V.Pres. – Mary Ann Rich

Treasurer- Tom McLaughlin, Secretary- Barbra Finnemore, Trustees- Carl Miller, Mari-Taka Manley, Bob Spore and Dave Macseoinin, Newsletter Editor- Pat Powers 440-237-6170
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Mission Statement

To afford the opportunity to share interest in lapidary knowledge and working techniques



Meeting: November 6th at 7:30PM
Program: A Trip to Sheffler's Geode Mine
by Berrie Butrick
Host: Bill & Sandy Bandy



Membership: 130 members
Dues: Joining fee \$25 then \$4 per month

President's Message - by David Rich

Thanks to good newsletter communication, my lost rock was found! I hope all of you keep up with this publication-you don't want to miss out on any of our great meetings and events. By the time you receive this, Gemboree will either be in full swing, or just over. I predict another well-attended show. Thanks to all the hardworking members that participated, you know how to get the job done.

The end of the year is drawing near, and our annual elections are to be held in December for the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary for 2008. There are several open positions at this date, including my job. Now is the time for all good club members to come to the aid of their club. Have you ever thought about running for an office? We have an active, vibrant organization that is on a firm financial footing. Lapidary classes, programs and trips are always in the works, and we have something to appeal to every member.

What direction would you like to see club move toward? How about getting involved and making a difference? Many organizations are struggling to maintain membership. We take in new members regularly, who have reached us through the website, at our shows, and by club members spreading the word. Talk among your friends, and let's get some nominations coming in. I look forward to turning over the gavel to a new, enthusiastic president!

A Very BERRIE November Meeting! - by Mary Ann Rich

Join us on November 6, 2007, for Berrie Butrick's presentation of "A Trip to Sheffler's Geode Mine." She will tell us all about traveling to Keokuk, MO, and what they found there. Berrie is highly enthusiastic about this mine. We would like you to listen to the program, and then give the trip committee your opinion on whether the club should consider it for one of our group adventures.

SLC October 2, 2007 Meeting Minutes - Respectfully submitted by Barbra Finnemore

Presentation by Kelly Woodruff - The Colorado Plateau, Thankyou, Kelly

New Members: Micky Rieger

Visitors: Jim and Linda Sir Louis, Jim Wrangler, John Kerr

Meeting called to order by President David Rich

Secretary Report: David Rich's motion was read and will be put in the newsletter. This committee would serve in an advisory position only.

Treasurer Report: All is well.

Midwest Federation: Mary Ann reported that the youth program is expanding and there are new merit badges added.

Sunshine: A card was passed around to be signed by all. Sue will be bringing Jim home. Get better Jim.

Library: Mari reports that she has some new books to add to the library. Check them out soon.

Newsletter: Will try not to use such small print.

Website: there has been more interest in the online Gemboree. If you want to add pictures to the website please send them to the webmaster.

Education: 10/6...Polymer clay, 10/9 beaded earrings, 11/13 Swarovski crystals, 11/17 gem tree, 11/30, 12/1 casting

Gemboree: Warren stated that there are still openings for the Gemboree, please sign up.

10/20..bagging rocks and the sign needs to go up. Tom and Warren have presale tickets, the cost is \$3.00, Brochures are available to post in public places. A big thank you to Oma for the display case liners.

Safety: Al reports that there is a problem with some of the lights downstairs...he fixed the bulbs in some; we need new light fixtures down there. The okay was given to go ahead and replace them. An advisory to keep paper away from the stove.

Machine Maintenance: Frank and Bob are patching the wall and putting rubber strips on the stairs.

Adopt-a-Spot: We won the award for the Prettiest Flowers.

Future Rockhounds: Will display their collections at the Gemboree. Winners will be announced for the poster contest.

Gem Tree: The tree is just beautiful...a huge Thank You to Mari. and Evelyn G. and Frank for the base. Thank you to everyone who helped with it. Let's think about what we can do next year.

Perhaps a wreath.

Trips: Fall foliage tour sponsored by Mineral will be on 10/19.

Rock collecting trip on 11/15 to South Carolina.

Garbage Can etiquette was read to all by Tim.

New Business: There will be a Russian Festival in Mogodore.

Evelyn is sending in a tool order to go in on Wednesday. Let her know if you need anything.

Bill is still waiting for grit orders.

Motion to adjourn/adjourned

Gemboree Information - by Warren Salchak

The first results are in for the 2007 Fall show...the attendance was down just a little. We had a head count 1603, not bad. The weather helped on Saturday being a drizzly day. Sunday's weather was mostly dry and warm which slumped attendance just a tad.

We need a new volunteer...Bob Spore, who has managed the Gem Mine for 13 years, would like to pass the responsibility on to someone else. He will continue to tumble and would train the next volunteer with the Spring Show. Please think about it.

Thank you to everyone who helped!

AFMS Report - by Mary Ann Rich

Just announced in the AFMS Newsletter, is a Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous. Your president thinks it sounds terrific and plans on attending.

The Northwest, Rocky Mountain and California Federations will host a rendezvous to Texas Springs, Nevada over Memorial Day Weekend, 2008 and all AFMS members are invited to attend.

From May 21-26, rockhounds will be hunting for pink agate limb casts, petrified wood, snakeskin agate, geodes and more! The weather in the high desert should consist of warm days and cool nights. There will be daily collecting trips, potluck dinners, daily Happy Hours, evening campfires and tailgate displays.

Doesn't this sound like a great adventure? Let's start looking for bargain flights to Nevada this winter and get a group from our club to attend.

November		November			November	
Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Tryon's Auction 10AM at their house
4	5	6 SLC Meeting 7:30PM	7	8	9	10 Social Saturday
11	12	13 Swarovski Bracelet 6PM	14	15	16	17 Gem Tree 10AM
18	19 Beaded Bracelet	20	21	22 Happy Thanksgiving	23	24 Social Saturday
25	26	27 Board Meeting 7:30PM	28	29	30 Spruing 7PM	12/01 Beg. Casting

Sign up sheets for SLC Classes are posted at the club. Class instruction by SLC members is free. There may be a fee for supplies.

Argentium® Sterling Silver - by Wayne Jessup

If you have ever purchased a piece of Sterling Silver jewelry and noticed that it hardly ever tarnished, the maker of the piece probably used Argentium® Sterling silver to create the piece.

Argentium® has the remarkable properties of virtually eliminating the visual problems of working with traditional Sterling. Most notable the reduction of tarnish and the elimination of firescale during the soldering process. Not to say that this is the perfect medium for everyone because working with Argentium® seems to have a few peculiarities of its own.

History of Argentium...In 1990, Peter Johns, working within the School of Art and Design at Middlesex University, London, started to research the effects of Germanium additions to Silver alloys. Germanium was found to impart unique properties to Sterling Silver. This superior alloy was named Argentium® Silver.

What is Germanium?...Germanium is a grey/white metalloid that has both metallic and non-metallic properties. It is a semi-precious, conductive material. The pure element is brittle, with a crystalline structure.

How does Germanium work?...The Germanium in Argentium® Sterling Silver oxidizes before the Copper does. This oxidation process happens during exposure to room air. The oxidation process forms a transparent Germanium Oxide surface layer on the silver. This layer constantly replenishes itself through the migration of the Germanium atoms to the surface. This process protects the surface of Argentium® Silver alloys from forming tarnish compounds and eliminates firescale by preventing the copper in Argentium® Silver alloys from oxidizing.

Working with Argentium®...There are a few important differences that you will need to know before working with this alloy. High heat can quickly ruin your beautiful artwork if you do not take the following information into account.

1. Argentium® Silver shows a paler red glow at annealing and soldering temperatures, in comparison to standard sterling. To prevent overheating the silver, it is recommended to carry out annealing and soldering operations in a shaded area, which makes it easier to see the pale red color.
2. Sheets of Argentium® are prone to sagging when heated. This can be prevented by an initial low temperature anneal. Make sure the sheet is well supported and heat evenly with a large flame to a pale red annealing temperature, then it is best to air cool your work.
3. Use lower temperature solders whenever possible.
4. Argentium® Silver cools slower than standard Sterling Silver after heating operations. It is important to wait until any red heat has disappeared before quenching.
5. Soldering or annealing on charcoal blocks may cause firescale in Argentium® Silver. The charcoal creates a reducing atmosphere that inhibits the formation of the protective germanium oxide surface layer during annealing or soldering. If this happens, do not worry. The protective Germanium Oxide is able to replenish itself through the migration of Germanium atoms to the surface; tarnish resistance can therefore be sustained, even when the surface is abraded or polished to remove the initial firescale.

To find out more information about Argentium and find out if it's the right medium for you, please visit the official Argentium® website at <http://www.argentiumsilver.info>.

RockPuppy Musings - by Laura Thomas

David Rich is the only Leader of this club that I have known. He's also one of the first people I met when I came to my first meeting! Time machine back with me to June, 2003... That meeting was a Rock Swap...the gal that told me about the club did not come with me that night, so I ventured in by myself - didn't know a soul! Dave Mac graciously gave me "the tour" which was great! (I was a bead gal – don't know a thing about a rock unless it had a hole in it!!! Duh!)

The Rock Swap was a blast – everybody was so nice!!! I went home with a box of rocks – a lot were from David – who told me "you don't have a LOT of rocks until you measure them by the TON". What a hoot! Never saw anybody so excited about a Rock!

Fast forward to February 2004 meeting. Jim Ferrell is President, David Rich is VP. Seems that the Secretary job was open, got recruited by LaVerne and Jim Ferrell, so I said Sure – could do it. Viola! Thus begins my David Rich experience! What a bundle of Energy! Jim Ferrell's "real" job had him out on the road almost constantly, so David the VP ran all the meetings that year, and has been the President ever since!

This guy is a True Rock-Hound!! ... Ask him where he went on his last (last 2,3,5) vacation(s)!!!! And – he’s even managed to get his wife to “pound rocks in the hot sun!” (How did you manage that DR? Still working on my guy!)

Let me count the ways David has been an incredible asset to this club: (not a complete list, by any means!)

- Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies, David Rich serves on a Permanent Committee: Safety and Field Trips. David (Chairman) writes articles about Safety, teaches a Safety Awareness class at the Federation Fall event...ask him about this!
- Our Club has sponsored a kids group to get children interested in earth sciences, rocks & minerals. Future Rockhounds of America. Check out the American Federation website to check on this nationwide club. OR talk to Barbara + Emily Whims at the clubhouse. Ask about the Poster Contest.
- Mary Ann Rich reports on MidWest Federation activities for our AWARD WINNING Summit Gem newsletter – (kudos to Pat Powers on all her hard work there!)
- Summer 2007: SLC sponsored an Adopt-A-Spot garden in our club’s home city of Cuyahoga Falls, located right outside the Natatorium – AWARD WINNING!! Got our club’s name out to the public – Big Thanks! to ALL the folks who worked on this garden spot.
- Don’t forget the introduction of the Anniversary Auction! April 2004 was the 30th Anniversary of the Summit Lapidary Club...David got folks together... we had a cake “committee” (Thanks Deb), a decorating committee, and auction committee! We all had a blast – every member to bring an item to be auctioned to raise money for the club.
- The first year auction some proceeds went to t-shirts and hats - I personally goofed up on the hats + shirts - didn’t get medium/small size t-shirts and only got one color hat (Variety IS the spice of life, ya know!) Regardless, we can now show off in our SLC wear!
- Committees increased - both in Number Of and # of members serving on each - says to me more involvement of members!! ... Minutes are typed and distributed (thank you Secretary!) ... Goods and Welfare – new category of topics to discuss at business meetings...

Now, I am Not saying that Our Fearless Leader accomplished all these great things by himself! Uh-huh, not me-- Not at all! I will say, that once you spark the enthusiasm and get the ball rolling, the end result is a lot of fun down here at this club and there are lots of areas of interest to get involved with! A Big THANK YOU! to David Rich for steering our club for these past few years – (and Mary Ann too!).

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” – Aristotle

Sunshine News - by Pat Smeal

Wasn't it GREAT to see that Carl Fry, Elmer Schafrik and Jim Shoffner could come to visit us during the Gemboree! Bob Franks, Patty Housley and Greg Dojtidko were back in the groove too; working at the Gemboree --It is good news that so many folks are once again feeling so much better!

On a sad note, we were sorry to learn that Walt Howard, a very active former member of both Summit Lapidary and Akron Mineral, passed away in early October. Also, Wende Taylor's granddad passed away October 28th. We will keep these families in our thoughts.

When you get sunshine news to be included here...let me know.

TIDBIT: One of the keys to happiness is a bad memory.
(Rita Mae Brown)

"BOBSERVATIONS" - by Robt. Spore

A Rockhound By Any Other Name...

Sunday morning, midway through the first shift of the Gem Mine, I was reminded of a conversation I'd had at the last show with Tina Macko, about this guy out in Arizona, or one of the other western states, who had a geode museum. His name was "The Geode Kid", but she had thought it was "Thunder Egg Bob."

Both are passable nicknames, although calling someone "Thunder Egg Bob", in front of a non-rockhound may make it sound like he has some kind of embarrassing medical condition. But it made me wonder why we don't have any cool nicknames for people in the club. And by that, I mean nicknames that we could actually call people to their faces without running the risk of litigation.

(OK, I just got rid of a short paragraph here, which, after reading, I realized could get me in a LOT of trouble. But if anyone's interested, catch me at the club and I'll tell you there.)

The only person who has a nickname is Skeeter Kish, and I was told that "Skeeter" is more of a family name, sort of like how my mom's nickname for me was always "Big Dummy", which I pondered on for a while before coming to the conclusion that families are... disturbing.

Earlier this year, Erik was calling himself "Digger", but Erik. Dude. You can't GIVE yourself a nickname. I know. I've tried. In 9th grade, I told my best friend, Fred Gorgas, that I wanted to be called "Bobcat" and it made him shoot Pepsi out his nose.

Then, a few years ago, I convinced Rose to call me "Lord Studly", but she had to stop, because she discovered that prolonged hysterical laughing made her dizzy and then she fell down. But, I want everyone to think about this and see if we can come up with any really cool nicknames for ourselves. I really think that this could give our club a lot of panache.

Or, we could end up just looking like a bunch of idiots. Too close to call, really.

Just A Quick Note From Me... - by Pat Powers

Informing everyone that this year's Xmas party will be on Saturday, December 8th. More details regarding the party will be included in the December newsletter.

One final note...a big Kudos from Wayne Jessup to Bob Flick and Pete Sauricki. As Wayne states, "Bob and Pete are both such skilled artisans. I am thankful for every moment they choose to spend with me and teach me their crafts."

Bye and see you next month!

