

# THE VOICE

VOLUME LXIII    NUMBER 2    FEBRUARY 2012

NEWSLETTER OF THE EL PASO MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY

P.O. Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931

Membership Dues are due and payable as of December of each year. Dues are \$12.00 for Adults (18 and Over) and \$4.00 for Juniors. Make check out to EPMGS and mail to PO Box 31516 El Paso TX 79931. **Delinquency of over 90 days will result in being removed from the Membership Roster.**

**Meetings will be held on the 4th Thursday of every month at The Memorial Senior Center, 1800 Byron, El Paso TX at 6:30 PM.** Board Meetings will usually be held a half hour prior to the general meeting

THE VOICE

The Voice is the official bulletin of the Society and is published monthly. All articles must be in the editor's possession no later than the Monday following the monthly meeting. Any articles received after that will not be published until the following month.

E-mail [madtex@q.com](mailto:madtex@q.com) and mailing address: EPMGS, Editor, PO Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931. Members are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Permission is granted to reprint material from other sources provided that credit is properly cited. Ads are accepted from members for publication at no charge for the sale or exchange of items pertaining to the hobby.

**WEBSITE: [www.epmgs.com](http://www.epmgs.com)**

The El Paso Mineral and Gem Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization. The purpose of this Society shall be to increase and disseminate knowledge about minerals and other geologic materials; to encourage mineral study, collecting and fashioning as a hobby; to conduct meeting, lectures, displays, field trips, and to sponsor shows for the general edification of the public.

**ADDRESS CHANGES**

**NOTE: Anyone who has a change in mailing address, phone number, etc. please send e-mails to Sue Critz at [scritz@earthlink.net](mailto:scritz@earthlink.net), or mail to: EPMGS Membership, PO Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931. Thank you.**

## General Meeting

Our next meeting will be **Thursday at 6:30pm on February 23, 2012**. We will have a talk and video on Opals that evening. If you have any opals in your collection that you'd like to share with the discussion please bring them to the meeting. Members whose last name begin with A-M please bring a desert dish. Thank You! Our longtime friend and teacher **Robert Bates** passed away, he will be fondly remembered. Our snow bird member and great show volunteer **Gene Boroff** is recovering in a Las Cruces Hospital, please keep both in prayer.

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**Happy Valentine's Day, Love never says you have too many rocks.**



## Field Trip

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The January field trip was to the Hatch area. Our members searched the valley area south west of the Klines claim. We found large and

small banded rhyolite specimens, barite and quartz. On the ridge overlooking the valley, we walked the area where ancient pueblos once stood with a great view of the Hatch valley below. The afternoon was topped off with several famous Hatch green chili cheese burgers from “Sparkys”.

The next field trip will be February 25, 2012. We will be going to the Iron Hill area in the Corallitos area. We will be collecting botryoidal hematite. The collecting areas will be on the side of hills off the ground and with light digging. Several mines and caves are located there so bring a flash light but enter at your own risk. Time permitting we will then travel a short distance nearby for agates. **We will meet at the Corallitos exit 127 on I-10 West at 9:00am** at the only store parking lot. High clearance vehicles are necessary to make the trail. We’ll get you there.



## On the trail

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On a sunny morning this month I accompanied two friends to “Tonuco Mountain” uplift in the San Diego Mountain range 25 miles north of Las Cruces, NM. Tonuco is the large flat capped mountain West of the border patrol check point on I-25. This interesting formation has a lot to see. There is a long canyon with petroglyphs from the Jornada Mogollon Culture 1200-1300 AD.



We took the direct approach and climb the 100 yard 45 degree east face up to one of several mesas. There are several fluorite mines to explore and valleys that hold barite and rhyolites.



**Fluorite mine entrance**

But beware; you can hear the distant roar of I-25. It's a remote area so don't travel alone and come prepared.



**looking for fluorite in mine**

## Rhyolite

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Rhyolites are a cool rock with a hot beginning. They are classified as an igneous rock in the Felsic rock designation, meaning that it crystallizes from silicate minerals at relatively low temperatures. Rhyolite has the same composition as Granite but its grain sizes are much smaller than Granites. It is composed of light colored silicates and is usually cream tan to pink in colors. Rhyolites do come in other colors, many different banding and shapes. This lends to the confusion of many different named Rhyolites. Some of the Rhyolites found in the southern NM region are "Candy Rock, Apache Rhyolite, Wonder stone, Birdseye" and my favorite "Sonoran Leopard Skin".



Sonoran Leopard Skin



Candy rock

The name rhyolite, from the Greek word  $\rhoύαξ$  (stream) -- ergo, streaming rock -- was apparently given in allusion to the flow banding that is so characteristic of much of this rock. This name was first applied in the literature in 1860 by Baron Ferdinand von Richthofen, grandfather of the (in) famous World War I pilot, Manfred von Richthofen, the "Red Baron." Snoopy's arch enemy.



Apache Rhyolite



Candy Rock



apache Rhyolite 2 – Specimen Pictures courtesy of "Taco Rocks"

## RMFMS 2012 Convention

Hello to the Rocky Mountain Federation clubs in Arizona!

I want to give each club a special invitation to come to the RMFMS 2012 convention. We will be meeting in Albuquerque on [March 16-18](#), with our official meetings [Friday](#) and [Saturday](#) afternoons, and the Editor/Webmaster Awards Breakfast [Saturday](#) morning and our RMFMS Awards Banquet [Saturday](#) evening. All of these meetings will be at the host hotel, which is very convenient if you are staying there. (Anyone can attend the Breakfast or Banquet, but reservations are necessary so we know how much food to order.)

A note: for anyone planning to stay at the host hotel, reservations should be made very quickly. There is a college basketball championship game in Albuquerque the same weekend. Rooms will be going fast as soon as participants are confirmed. When reserving a room, make sure you mention that you are there for the RMFMS meetings in order to get the RMFMS room rate.

Information, schedules and reservation forms can be found on

the website – [rmfms.org](http://rmfms.org) – under 2012 Convention Forms. And, if your club has not sent their Delegates Registration form in yet, the form for Delegates or the Proxy form is with the information. With the Convention being so close to Arizona, we hope that all of the clubs there will be represented at the Delegates Meeting.

In addition to our RMFMS meetings, all of the RMFMS competitive and exhibition cases will be at the Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Show at the Fairgrounds, which is not too far from the host hotel, I'm told. And it is not too late to get a showcase registered, either. I would love to see some of those great stones from Arizona in cases to show them off, either as competitive cases or as exhibit cases. Come on! Let's show people what there is to rockhound for in Arizona! Since this is my first year as president, I don't know too many of you yet, but I hope to. I will be at the convention. I'll be the lady wearing the hat with funny decorations on it. Do introduce yourself to me, and let's get to know each other. Hope to see you in Albuquerque. DeLane Cox,  
2012 RMFMS President

## Secretary Report

1.26.12

Meeting called to order at 6:40. There were 26 people in attendance. New member Mike Jellon was welcomed aboard. The school and Treasurers reports were given and approved.

Pam Contreras is the new meeting hostess.

Matt nominated Michael Cherno as door prize person, it was seconded and unanimously passed. New officers were installed. It was announced, our beloved friend & long time lapidary instructor Mr. Robert Bates passed away. There will be graveside services Tue, January 31, 2012, at Fort Bliss, 10:00 am.

The club donates to the EPMG scholarship fund in lieu of flowers when a member passes.

Teresa motioned the amount be raised from the nominal amount of \$15.00 to \$100.00 more in line with the actual cost of flowers.

Matt questioned that amount. PJ is reviewing the SOP's to see if there are any stipulations for the amount. Motion was tabled so it could be reviewed.

Matt motioned that any equipment donated to the school be presented at a club meeting for auction and the school would receive the funds.

The same would be true for any equipment donated to club, those funds would go to the club.

This was done to make all equipment available for purchase by the general membership.

The motioned was second & passed.

Valerie will show a video at the next meeting, "Wonderful Opals".

Meeting adjourned.

Great food followed!

Next meeting should snacks should be brought A-M

**Call 915-562-4268 for information and to enroll in Lapidary and Jewelry-craft classes.** The Instructors are volunteers from the school committee of the Society and are not paid in any way by the Society or the students. If you want to enroll in one of the classes, all you have to do is sign up at the Memorial Park Senior Center which is located at 1800 Byron Street, El Paso TX. It is important that you register early because a minimum of three students is needed for a "Go" with a maximum of six students per class. Sign up well in advance as there are usually waiting lists. Each Class has a \$20 fee plus a Lab Fee and any other material costs. The \$20 fee payment is to be made on the first day of the class to the Senior Center.

# El Paso Mineral and Gem Society School Schedule

## Jan 01, 2012 – December 31, 2012

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### Lapidary & Silversmith (SEPARATE CLASSES)

#### **MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY 09:00AM – 12:00PM**

02 JAN – 08 FEB                      20 FEB – 28 MAR  
 09 APR – 17 MAY                    28 MAY – 04 JULY  
 16 JULY – 22 AUG                  03 SEP – 10 OCT  
 23 OCT – 28 NOV

**SILVERSMITH (ONLY) AFTERNOON CLASSES SAME DATES AS ABOVE 12:30PM – 3:30PM**

### CASTING & FACETING & CREATIVE ARTS (SEPARATE CLASSES)

#### **TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 12:30PM – 3:30PM**

03 JAN – 09 FEB                    21 FEB – 29 MAR  
 10 APR – 17 MAY                    29 MAY – 05 JULY  
 17 JULY – 23 AUG                  04 SEP – 11 OCT  
 22 OCT – 29 NOV

### ADVANCED LAPIDARY

#### **THURSDAYS ONLY 12:30PM – 3:30PM**

1. JAN	5, 12, 19, 26	FEB	2, 9, 16, 23	MAR	1, 8, 15, 22		
2. APR	5, 12, 19, 26	MAY	3, 10, 17, 24	JUN	7, 14, 21, 28		
3. JULY	5, 12, 19, 26	AUG	2, 9, 16, 23, 30				
4. SEP	20, 27,	OCT	4, 11, 18, 25	NOV	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	DEC	6

#### **2012 COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE**

JAN 23, FEB 21, MAR 19, APR 24, MAY 21, JUN 26, JULY 20, AUG 21, SEP 24, OCT 23, NOV 19, DEC 18

#### **2012 CLUB OFFICERS**

President Liz Kosturakis (915)595-1413	Vice President P.J. Schabacker (575)589-5068
Treasurer Riitta Gillespie (915)821-4273	Secretary Teresa Ziraldo (915)526-9445
Membership Sue Critz (915)203-4763	
Historian Marty Gaugler (915)859-6634	Editor Matt Durning (915)491-3244

Field Trips Jim Contreras

Membership

3 Year Trustee Tom Smith (915)778-5240

2 Year Trustee Miguel Chrisman (915)740-0301

1 Year Trustee Matt Durning

Show Chair Harry Bruntz (915)345-2415

Assist. Show Chair Jeanette Carrillo (915)533-7153 Webmaster Matt Durning

January 2012-February 2012

26-12—TUCSON, ARIZONA: Wholesale and retail show; Eons Expos RLLLP; 22nd St.; at I-10; Thu. 9-6 daily; free admission; minerals, fossils, dinosaurs, crystals, gems, jewelry, meteorites; contact Christine Coyle, 38 Fox Ridge Rd., Sparta, NJ 07871, (516) 818-1228; e-mail: [lowellcarhart@yahoo.com](mailto:lowellcarhart@yahoo.com); Web site: [www.22ndstreetshow.com](http://www.22ndstreetshow.com)

28-11—TUCSON, ARIZONA: Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show; Martin Zinn Expositions; Ramada Ltd.; 665 N. Freeway; Thu. 10-6 daily; free admission; more than 400 dealers, free shuttle among locations, Artists' Gallery at the Hotel Tucson City Center; contact Martin Zinn Expositions, PO Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665; e-mail: [mzexpos@gmail.com](mailto:mzexpos@gmail.com); Web site: [www.mzexpos.com](http://www.mzexpos.com)

28-11—TUCSON, ARIZONA: Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show; Martin Zinn Expositions; Quality Inn-Benson Hwy.; 1025 E. Benson Hwy.; Thu. 10-6 daily; free admission; more than 400 dealers, free shuttle among locations, Artists' Gallery at the Hotel Tucson City Center; contact Martin Zinn Expositions, PO Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665; e-mail: [mzexpos@gmail.com](mailto:mzexpos@gmail.com); Web site: [www.mzexpos.com](http://www.mzexpos.com)

28-11—TUCSON, ARIZONA: Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show; Martin Zinn Expositions; The Hotel Tucson City Center; 475 N. Granada; Sat. 10-6 daily; free admission; more than 400 dealers, free shuttle among locations, Artists' Gallery at the Hotel Tucson City Center; contact Martin Zinn Expositions, PO Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665; e-mail: [mzexpos@gmail.com](mailto:mzexpos@gmail.com); Web site: [www.mzexpos.com](http://www.mzexpos.com)

28-11—TUCSON, ARIZONA: Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show; Martin Zinn Expositions; The Mineral & Fossil Marketplace; 1333 N. Oracle Rd.; Thu. 10-6 daily; free admission; more than 400 dealers, free shuttle among locations, Artists' Gallery at the Hotel Tucson City Center; contact Martin Zinn Expositions, PO Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665; e-mail: [mzexpos@gmail.com](mailto:mzexpos@gmail.com); Web site: [www.mzexpos.com](http://www.mzexpos.com)

9-12—TUCSON, ARIZONA: Annual show; Tucson Gem & Mineral Society; Tucson Convention Center; 260 S. Church Ave.; Thu. 10-6, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; adults \$10, seniors and active military \$8 on Fri., children (14 and under) free with adult; 2-day tickets \$17 ; contact Show Chairman, PO Box 42588, Tucson, AZ 85733, (520) 322-5773; e-mail: [tgms@tgms.org](mailto:tgms@tgms.org); Web site: [www.tgms.org](http://www.tgms.org)

**March** 8-11—DEMING, NEW MEXICO: 47th annual show and sale; Deming Gem & Mineral Society; SWNM Fairgrounds; Raymond Reed Blvd.; Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; more than 100 dealers, displays, geode cutting, gold panning, spinning wheel, silent and live auctions, door prizes, raffle, guided field trip; contact Maurice Crawford, 713 W. Spruce PMB 726, Deming, NM 88031, (575) 546-0056; e-mail: [mauryjudy@yahoo.com](mailto:mauryjudy@yahoo.com); Web site: [dgms.bravehost.com](http://dgms.bravehost.com)

**More show dates at [www.rockngem.com/showdates](http://www.rockngem.com/showdates)**