

EL PASO MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY, Inc.

P.O. Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931

FOUNDED – 1947

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 2216 East Yandell (The Bridge Club), El Paso TX. at 6:30 PM. Board Meetings will usually be held a half hour prior to the general meeting. The meeting in July is our yearly picnic – the date to be announced.

2009 CLUB OFFICERS

President	Miguel Chrisman	(915)740-0301	Programs	Lorraine Johnson	(915)751-4527
Vice President	Judy Herd	(915)821-7818	3 Year Trustee	Matt Durning	(575)382-4301
Treasurer	Linda Durning	(575)382-4301	2 Year Trustee	Tom Smith	(915)356-8653
Secretary	Marie Murphy	(915)471-1071	1 Year Trustee	Randy Herd	(915)821-7818
Historian	Marty Gaugler	(915)859-6634	Show Chair	Harry Bruntz	(915)539-2022
Editor	Charlie Christensen	(575)640-1203	Assist. Show Chair	Jeanette Carrillo	(915)533-7153
Field Trips	Matt Durning	(575)382-4301	Webmaster	Laura Spencer	(575)635-7719
Membership	Charlie Christensen	(575)640-1203	Assist. Webmaster	Charlie Christensen	(575)640-1203

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 Any articles received after that will not be published until the following month. Please note Charlie Christensen's e-mail address: charlieenos@msn.com. Please e-mail articles to be published. 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: Our club now has a website, www.epmgs.org. Any information you would like to see on this website contact Laura Spencer at trukestrel@hotmail.com and/or Charlie at charlieenos@msn.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.

GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting will be 25 July 2009 at **5:00 PM**. This is our Annual Picnic. RSVP is required. Contact either Charlie at 575-640-1203 or Matt at 915-491-3244. See more info under "Hints, Tips, and Stuff".

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The School Board Meeting information is posted under School Information and Class Enrollment.

ADDRESS CHANGES

NOTE: Anyone who has a change in mailing address or phone number please send e-mail to Charlie Christensen at charlieenos@msn.com. If, you do not have e-mail capabilities please send notification addressed to EPMGS Membership, PO Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931. Thank you.



**EPMGS IS CORDIALLY INVITING ALL MEMBERS AND
THEIR FAMILIES TO OUR
ANNUAL PICNIC**

**HELD SATURDAY 25 JULY 2009 STARTING AT 5 PM AT THE
MEMORIAL PARK OFF COPIA**

**RSVP IS REQUIRED NOT LATER THAN MONDAY 20 JULY
2009**

CONTACT EITHER:

CHARLIE AT 575-640-1203

OR

MATT AT 915-491-3244

SEE MORE INFO UNDER “HINTS, TIPS, AND STUFF”



THE VOICE

VOLUME LVX NUMBER 10 JUL 2009



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

Quite a few of you will get this newsletter after the 4th of July weekend – we hope all of you had a fun and safe celebration of our Country's Independence.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

For those of you who are celebrating one or both of these occasions in the month of July Happy Birthday and/or Happy Anniversary.

BIRTHSTONE FOR JULY - CARNELIAN

Carnelian is a translucent, bright orange to deeply red chalcedony. Strickly spoken, it should not be banded or striated, but very often it is just the orange-red part cut out of a large agate. The name refers to its flesh-red color. It is sometimes also called cornelian or cornaline.

Sard is a translucent, brown chalcedony. It should not be banded or striated, but very often it is just a brown portion cut out of a large agate. It's also only the tone of the color that distinguishes sard from carnelian, the latter being more orange-red. It's also only the tone of the color that distinguishes carnelian from sard, the latter being more brown.

Specific Properties: The color of carnelian and sard is caused by embedded iron compounds, the more yellow to brown tones by hydrous iron oxides and the valued red tones by iron oxides. The distribution of the color is sometimes cloudy, but good specimens have an even coloration. Carnelian and sard cut out of agates is usually banded. Brighter brownish or yellowish stones are sometimes heated to convert the

hydrous oxides into simple oxides, as their red color is more valued. Bauer reports that deeply red carnelian has also been produced by heating greenish to black chalcedony in Ratanpur in India. Carnelian and sard can be found as irregular or as spherical nodules that fill out former gas cavities in volcanic rocks. It's also only the tone of the color that distinguishes carnelian from sard, the latter being more brown.

Occurrence: Carnelian and sard can be found in the same environments as agates and chalcedony, often along with them. They form as a secondary product in volcanic rocks, usually as nodules in basalts.

Source: www.agatepage.de

(June 22-July 22)



Moon

(July 23 – Aug 22)



Sun

GENERAL MEETING

This is just a note about an important item that was discussed at the meeting.

Mike is looking into the possibility of moving our meetings to the Memorial Senior Center (where our classes are held). It would be more cost effective – the Bridge Club increased their rent to \$100 a month – and we only use it one night a month, and have no storage capabilities - the Senior Center would charge us \$15 an hour (max cost would be \$45 a night if our meeting lasted 3 hours), and we'd have storage capabilities where we can keep the TV and VHS/DVD player, and the Hostess box. Mike is double checking that the hours we have our meetings will be ok with the Center. He will let us know what he finds out at the Picnic. If we do change locations it won't happen until the September meeting and it will be announced via a big announcement in the newsletter like I did the Picnic this month.

HINTS, TIPS, AND STUFF

EDITORS NOTES: The source of these tips, hints, and stuff are other club bulletins. Be careful when trying out any new idea. They have not been tried by this editor.

OUR ANNUAL PICNIC – As you may have seen by the announcement at the front of this newsletter our annual club picnic will be held at the Memorial Park on 25 July at 5 PM. We are needing RSVPs from all who are interested in attending so that we

know how much BBQ to order and whether or not there's enough people interested. If not enough people RSVP by 20 July 2009 we will cancel the picnic. **Those that did RSVP will be informed if the picnic is cancelled.** The Club will be supplying the BBQ Brisket and Chicken, Drinks, Condiments, and the Dinnerware. The rest is POTLUCK!! So bring your favorite BBQ side dish – no monster quantities. You will also need to supply your own chairs. Hope you all join us – we usually have a great time sharing lies about rocks we've found, etc.

PROGRAMS - Loraine Johnson will be conducting programs for our club members. A new schedule will be submitted at a later date.

You all missed a great program at our last meeting. Agates Close Up had some awesome pictures of amazing agate formations. They showed close up shots of the different formations that create the amazing patterns and colors that agates exhibit. Did you know that Kentucky has some awesome agate?? I didn't before seeing this program. I don't know what Loraine has planned for our next program but I can bet that it will be another awesome one!! Come join us – you may see and learn something awesome.

Description of a Rockhound - By Matt Saari

In a way, we are an odd lot because we have asked for no government appropriations to expand our recreational opportunities. We're inquisitive people, citizens with a thirst for knowledge, regarding learning and discovery as great and even spectacular adventures. We lug home heavy bags of rocks, which are worth little or nothing; but we also bring back color in our cheeks, muscles all limbered up, appetites like plow horses and an unwavering belief in our ability to jump over the garden gate. The rockhound destroys nothing. He picks up stuff nobody has ever wanted or needed. It's well preserved on tables in the living room, on window sills, in basements, on porches, in pockets, and in the trunks of our cars. Rockhounds just amble quietly along lakeshores and up crooked ravines. They climb bluffs and mountains. Belly-deep breathing of hilltop air cleans the smog out of their flues, burns the carbon from their valves. Because they feel good, they're agreeable, pleasant persons to be with.

Source: T-Town Rockhound – April 2004 via Rock Chips July 2008

How is Sandstone formed? In Petra, a 2000 year old city in the Jordanian desert, many of the ancient buildings were built and carved out of the local sandstone. As in Petra, sandstone can often be found in areas where windblown sand accumulates over thousands or millions of years. Sand deposits also build up on the ocean floor, or in lakes and rivers. When the sand particles, mixed with cementlike minerals such as quartz and calcite, are compressed

under great pressure over long periods of time they stick together to become stone.

accumulated sand + cementing minerals + pressure + time = sandstone

Not all sand is the same. There are various colors and the grains may be of different sizes and shapes. This stone from Petra appears to be made of at least two kinds of sand that are different colors, separated into layers. How did the layers form? Maybe in prehistoric times one kind of sand accumulated for a few millennia and then another kind for a few millennia, and then the first kind again, and so on. This doesn't seem too likely and there is no geological evidence to support this theory. Hernan Makse and his colleagues believe they may have an explanation. Their theory is that there was originally a mixture of different kinds of sand grains that separated into layers as the sand piled up millions of years ago. In order to understand how sand may have sorted itself out millions of years ago, we can look at a similar process as it occurs today in avalanches.

Source: The Geogram – 4/08 via Rock Chips May 2008

Montana Agate Information - Agate is one of the most varied and desired forms of “chalcedony” which is one of the many varieties of quartz. Scientifically classified as a macrocrystalline or microcrystalline quartz, it has a hardness of 7. Quartz, in all its forms, is the single most abundant mineral on earth, making up almost 12% of the earth's crust. Quartz varieties are separated into 2 basic groups, macrocrystalline and microcrystalline. In macrocrystalline quartz, the individual quartz crystal can be seen with the naked eye. In microcrystalline, the individual crystals are too small to be seen even under slight magnification. Agates and chalcedony in other forms, like chrysoprase, carnelian, jaspers and flint, are some of the cryptocrystalline forms of quartz. Some examples of the macrocrystalline forms of quartz are amethyst, ametrine, citrine, rose quartz, rutiled and smoky quartz. Agates in many different varieties are distributed worldwide but localities of agate beds of major significance number less than a hundred.

Source: Show-Me Rockhounds 3/08 via The Glacial Drifter 3/08

Removing Lacquer: Ever want to remove a lacquer coating from an otherwise nice piece of lapidary material? Want to avoid using harsh chemicals? Here is tip for you. Obtain some apple cider vinegar, the brown colored kind. Submerge the lacquered object in it, leave for a week, then remove and scrape off the lacquer with your thumbnail or other appropriate blunt tool. Repeat if necessary. *Source: The Glacial Drifter 3/08*

Picnic Safety Warning - Never use the limb from a tree whose fruit has a pit (stone) in it, such as choke cherry, peach, apricot, or cherry to roast a hot dog or marshmallow. Apricots and choke cherry release cyanide when heated thus poisoning your food and

you. Use a metal coat hanger or willow limb. *Source: Rock Chips 6/07*

Polishing Chalcedony Roses - By Ted Robles, G&M Society of Franklin North Carolina

My wife and I had collected a lot of small chalcedony roses at the foot of the Cady Mountains. They were wind-polished, but that was all; I thought I would try an experiment. I put them into the ½ gallon Lortone tumbler, with tin oxide and very little water. I let them go for two weeks picking the thing up occasionally and shaking it to see if the stones were still moving, thinking to add water if they stopped, but they never did. After two weeks of polishing without grinding, I took them out – my test piece looked good, so I washed them all. After drying, they were the most incredibly beautiful chalcedony roses I have ever seen! I think the old-fashioned ways are sometimes the best, and the polish without grinding is the neatest trick I ever came up with! Try this and you might like the results. *Original source unknown. Taken from The Rockpile, Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society Dearborn MI 6/07 via Rollin' Rock Club Inc 9/07*

An Ideal Club Member's Alphabet

- **A**lways: attend meetings
- **B**ring: someone with you
- **C**ommunicate: with others
- **D**evelop: mutual understanding and respect
- **E**njoy: the hobby and have fun
- **F**riendship: cherish and nurture the valuable commodity
- **G**enerosity, Goals,
- **G**entleness: use when needed
- **H**onesty: use it regularly
- **I**deas: Share with other members
- **J**ealousy: avoid like the plague
- **K**nowledge: help promote it
- **L**abor: donate when and where needed
- **M**istakes: correct yours and overlook others
- **N**onsense: use frequently - breaks monotony
- **O**rders: help maintain at all meetings
- **P**atience: develop as much as possible
- **Q**uarrels: never indulge. They serve no good purpose
- **R**ocks: study, hunt, collect, work, polish, build with them
- **S**hare: your talents, energy and knowledge with others
- **T**alent: use and improve as much as possible
- **U**nited: help the club stay that way
- **V**alue: friends, members, yourself and the organization
- **W**ork: an important ingredient, be willing to help carry the load
- **X**-rate: gossip, malice, petty peeves, negative attitudes
- **Y**esterday: leave it where it belongs - in the past

□ **Z**eal: be generous with it, encourage others to do likewise

Source: Strata Gem 4/08 via Rock Chips Jun 2008



FIELD TRIPS

Note from Your Field Trip Coordinator: Any and all Clubs and their members are cordially invited to join us on any of our Field Trips. If you need more information call Matt at (575)382-4301 or (915)491-3244 or e-mail madtex@q.com.

The Pick and Shovel Field Trip Report

By Matthew Durning – Field Trip Chair
madtex@q.com

Since being on summer heat break I have not organized any field trips for June or July. I've been waiting for the rain to hit locally so I can check some places out. The rain always brings out the color and makes rock hounding a lot easier. Plus, it drops about 20 degrees.

I have been able to repair my large diamond rock saw. I had to replace bearings but they don't make that particular size any more. So, after a bit of adjusting and grinding, it's up and running again. I had a small pile of parts left over. I've decided when I take it apart again, I'll put all the parts in. That's the plan. I did put wheels on the legs so I can push it out side when in use and roll it back inside.

I've been cutting slabs of agates and jasper that I have wanted to cut for some time. I was using a tile saw with diamond blades but it has its limitations. The use of water on the blades also glazes the cutting edge and shortens the life of the blade greatly. It always returns to the right tool for the right job. Usually the tool I don't have. Tile saw do make excellent trim saws.

I am looking forward to Agate 2009 in Apache Creek, NM in August 29 – September 7, 2009. For information on this see The Voice June 2009.

Matthew Durning
Field Trip Chairman



SCHOOL INFORMATION AND CLASS ENROLLMENT

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, and the Lab Fee will be paid to your instructor. All other material purchases should be paid for at the time of purchase or delivery.

Active Member Instructors:

Tony De La Cruz	Dorris Brown	Pete Beltran	Francisco Cuevas	Robert Bates
Redgie Medlock	Art Moreno	Ken Raab	Greg Berglund	Freddy Gutierrez
Peggy Fontaine	Liz Kosturakis	Norm Ballou	Ron Anderson	

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The meetings are all held at noon in the conference room at the Memorial Park Senior Citizens Center. Anybody who wishes to sit in on any of the meetings is welcome. We recommend that you call Rose Strong at the Center first to make sure that the meeting date has not changed. Her number is 915-562-4268.

Wed 27 May 2009	Tues 23 Jun 2009	Mon 20 Jul 2009	Tues 25 Aug 2009
Mon 21 Sep 2009	Tues 20 Oct 2009	Mon 16 Nov 2009	Tues 15 Dec 2009

Class Schedule: (Classes run from 9 AM to 12 Noon unless otherwise noted)

Monday & Wednesday	Lapidary	04-13-2009 thru 05-20-2009 06-01-2009 thru 07-08-2009 07-20-2009 thru 08-26-2009
Monday & Wednesday	Silversmith Advanced Beginning Advanced	04-13-2009 thru 05-20-2009 06-01-2009 thru 07-08-2009 07-20-2009 thru 08-26-2009
Tuesday & Thursday	Casting, Faceting, & Wirewrap Classes	04-14-2009 thru 05-21-2009 06-02-2009 thru 07-09-2009 07-21-2009 thru 08-27-2009
Monday thru Friday (see note below)	(NEW) ADVANCED WORKSHOP 12:30 – 3:00 PM	All the time
Friday	Beading	Held from 9 AM to 12 Noon. Fee \$3.00. Bring your own materials.

NOTE: ADVANCED WORKSHOP IS FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS. THERE WILL BE NO MATERIAL SALES DURING THIS WORKSHOP. YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN MATERIALS.

The shop at the Memorial Senior Center is open for anyone's use on Friday's from 9 AM to 12 Noon. The shop fee for every session is \$3.00 to be paid to the instructor in charge of the Workshop.

SHOW DATES

JULY 2009:

3-5--FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO: Show; San Juan County Gem & Mineral Society; Farmington Civic Center, Arlington St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; door prizes, rocks, gems, minerals, Farmington Freedom Days; contact Mickie Calvert, P.O. Box 1482, Farmington, NM 87499, (505) 632-8288; e-mail: mickie2@earthlink.net

10-12--DURANGO, COLORADO: 56th show; Four Corners Gem & Mineral Club; La Plata County Fairgrounds, 2500 Main Ave.; Fri. 11-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; contact Joanna Baker, P.O. Box 955, Durango, CO 81302, (970) 385-6850; e-mail: info@durangorocks.org

11-12--CASPER, WYOMING: 62nd annual show; Natrona County Rockhounds Club; Best Western Ramkota Hotel, 800 N. Poplar St.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; adults (12 and up) \$3, seniors (65+) free, children (11 and under) free; contact Stephane Anderson-Rott, PO. Box 123, Mills, WY 82644, (307) 333-5162; e-mail: cina31373@aol.com

11-12--ROSEVILLE, MINNESOTA: Har Mar Summer Show; Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club; Har Mar Mall, 2100 Snelling Ave.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; free admission; gems, minerals, jewelry, fossils, agates, collectibles; contact Martha Miss, 8445 Grange Blvd., Cottage Grove, MN 55016, (651) 459-0343; e-mail: rockbiz8@cs.com

17-19--INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA: Show; GemStreet USA; Indiana State Fairgrounds, Pioneer, Our Land Bldg., 1202 E. 38 St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$7, seniors (60+) and students (12-17) \$5, under 12 free, ticket good all weekend; fine gems, jewelry, mineral specimens, fossils, beads, findings, display items, Scout badges, discount coupon on Web site; contact Jane Strieter Smith, (216) 521-GEMS (4367); e-mail: spi@stratos.net; Web site: www.gemstreetusa.com

17-19--KENNER, LOUISIANA: Show; AKS Gem Shows; Pontchartrain Center, 4545 Williams Blvd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5; classes in beading, PMC, chain maille, and more; contact Kay Schabilion, (504) 455-6101; e-mail: info@aksshow.com; Web site: www.aksshow.com

18-19--MOOSE LAKE, MINNESOTA: 40th annual show, "Agate Days"; Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club; Moose Lake High School, 413 Birch Ave., gym and parking lot; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; free admission; dealers, Lake Superior agate, cutting material, specimens, crystal groups, fossils, gems, jewelry, equipment, rough-rock tailgaters, door prizes, field trip information, Agate Stampede Sat.; contact Allan Hyopponen, (218) 525-7766; e-mail: finnspec@charter.net

25-26--KALISPELL, MONTANA: Show; Northwest Montana Rock Chucks; Red Lion Hotel - Center Mall, 20 N. Main.; Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5; dealers, displays, silent auction, kids' activities, demonstrations, door prizes; contact Sandy Dahl, P.O. Box 5541, Kalispell, MT 59903; e-mail: dahls@centurytel.net

JULY-AUGUST 2009:

30-2--BILLINGS, MONTANA: AFMS/NFMS show and convention; Billings Gem & Mineral Club; Holiday Inn Trade Center, 5500 Midland Rd.; Thu. 10-6, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5 (2 days \$8, 4 days \$15), children under 12 free with adult; more than 35 dealers, jewelry, gems, minerals, fossils, lapidary supplies, demonstrations, educational displays, moon rock, dinosaurs, Yogo sapphires, cave bear, silent auctions, live auction, a full week of field trips after the show; contact Doug True, (406) 670-0506; e-mail: dtruefossils@yahoo.com; Web site: www.amfed.org/nfms/nfmsshow

31-2--CREEDE, COLORADO: 8th annual show; Rare Things; Underground Mining Museum, N. Canyon Rd.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; gems, minerals, local rocks, jewelry, programs; contact Jenny Inge, P.O. Box 371, Creede, CO 81130, (719) 658-2376; e-mail: rarethingsgallery@yahoo.com

31-2--PRESCOTT, ARIZONA: Show and sale; Prescott Gem & Mineral Club; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Activity Center, 3700 Willow Creek Rd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; adults \$2, children under 12 free; rough rock, slabs, cabochons, jewelry, findings, mineral specimens; contact Pam Jackson, P.O. Box 345, Chino

Valley, AZ 86323, (928) 636-9188; e-mail: lpjack65@cableone.net; Web site: www.prescottgemmineral.org

AUGUST 2009:

6-9--BUENA VISTA, COLORADO: 26th annual show; Contin-tail; Rodeo Grounds, Rodeo Rd. and Gregory Dr.; Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; more than 130 vendors, rocks, minerals, fossils, beads, jewelry, demonstrations, fluorescent light display; contact Carolyn Tunncliff, 1130 Francis #7010, Longmont, CO 80501, (303) 833-2939; e-mail: ctunncliff@comcast.net; Web site: www.coloradorocks.org

8-9--BATON ROUGE LOUISIANA: Annual show; Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society; Fraternal Order of Police Baton Rouge Lodge Number One, 10777 Greenwell Springs Rd.; adults \$3, children \$2; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Paul Broussard, (225) 687-3864 or (225) 939-3293; e-mail: paul_broussard@msn.com.

FOR A MORE COMPLETE LIST OF ALL SHOWS (I ONLY LIST A FEW) GO TO
<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp> **OR REFER TO A COPY OF ROCK & GEM MAGAZINE.**

