

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 the date posted on the mailing label of your copy of “The Voice”. Dues are \$10.00 for Adults (18 and Over) and \$4.00 for Juniors. Make check out to EPM&GS and mail to PO Box 31516 El Paso TX 79931. Delinquency of over 90 days will result in being removed from the Membership Roster.

All Meetings will be held on the 4th Thursday of every month at 2216 East Yandell (The Bridge Club), El Paso TX. Board Meetings will usually be held a half hour prior to the general meeting.

2007 CLUB OFFICERS

President	Matthew Durning	(915)833-3500	Membership	Judy Herd	(915)821-7818
Vice President	Charlie Christensen	(505)640-1203	3 Year Trustee	Tom Smith	(915)757-1292
Treasurer	Linda Swander	(915)566-3365	2 Year Trustee	Ted Swander	(915)566-3365
Secretary	Marie Murphy	(915)757-0467	1 Year Trustee	Randy Herd	(915)821-7818
Historian	Vacant	(915)	Show Chair	Harry Bruntz	(915)852-1504
Editor	Charlie Christensen	(505)640-1203	Assist. Show Chair	Jeanette Carrillo	(915)533-7153
Field Trips	Jim Enos	(505)640-1133			

The Voice

The Voice is the official bulletin of the Society and is published monthly. All articles must be in the editor's possession by the Thursday 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 Any articles received after that will not be published until the following month.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. **A Note from Charlie:** I would like any kind of shop hint, camping hint, or safety tip type input. Or, if you have other tidbits that you think might be of interest to a bunch of crazy rock hounds please do not hesitate to submit. If I have room and it's pertinent I will input it into the newsletter. My goal is to make this a newsy newsletter.

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 27 Sep 2007 at 6:00 PM – Rock Auction Meeting. Bring something to auction or if you don't have anything to auction bring money to buy. We have a lot of great items and have a lot of fun. Members with last names starting with L thru Z are asked to bring refreshments.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

School Board Meetings will be held on the Third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM at The Senior Center (The School), and is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

ADDRESS CHANGES

NOTE: Anyone who has a change in mailing address or phone number please send e-mail to Judy Herd at pyritejudy@sbcglobal.net & Charlie Christensen at charlieenos@msn.com If you do not have e-mail capabilities please send notification to Judy Herd, 4824 Round Rock Drive, El Paso TX 79924. Thank you.

THE VOICE

VOLUME LVIII NUMBER 12 Sep 2007



Presidents Corner August 2007

Hello fellow members and rock hounds around the South West. I sit here at home in front of the computer with the full moon rising outside my window. I saw the same moon just a day ago sitting around one of the camp fires surrounded by friends at "AGATE 2007". I could only participate in three days of the ten day event because my wife Linda and I had to return to our jobs. As one of the ladys from Arizona told us "work what a dirty word!" I agreed but what are you going to do?

This annual round up from what I saw during my few days there was a success. There were 44 participants as of Monday with more coming in. I'm not going to mention the various states but they covered the whole South West U.S. There were kids, dogs and all levels of experience hanging out climbing hills and valleys. They slept in pup tents to rolling mansions but they had one thing in common, exploring and collecting in one of the most diverse areas Apache Creek NM. The EPMGS was well represented there but we had one question collectively, where were you?

I went on a scouting mission with a few members looking for a new place to hunt agate and we hit pay dirt. A new blue banded agate field was located North West of the Luna Gold field. Slopping through a marshy stream under the barb wire and up a hill the meadow area was saturated with agate. I found two five pound specimens of blue and white agate some covered extensively with crystal. I learned from the organizer of the outing that the agate was "seam agate" explaining the bending in the pieces. Some of the specimens were formed when the agate covered the dog tooth calcite crystals leaving the tooth indentations as they eroded out. A potential new EPMGS member from Las Cruces saw the preverbal

little piece of agate showing and dug out not one but two specimens side by side perhaps once one piece but both weighing in at approximately 25 pounds each. One was dark blue folded over a solid crystal center, the other was a geode of dark blue agate around a cavity of small quartz crystals. They had a wow factor of 10.

I explored Lee Russell Canyon and Turkey Park for the first time and found real nice specimens of blue and white banded agate some with tiny "snow flakes". The place is an agate hunters dream. The weather conditions are worth noting. The weather was great, a little cloud, a little rain, a little breeze topped off with cool evenings made the experience better. Can you imagine needing three blankets at night in August! This desert dwellers blood runs thin up in the cool Apache National Forest. The area has been receiving regular rain making the hills very, very green. The wild flowers were every where, swaying oceans of yellow, purple, red and violet. Every tank and pond was to capacity and over flowing, could this be the end of the drought? I for one hope so.

A note on our school, the City of El Paso is in the process of making a new contract with us concerning our volunteering there. Do not listen to rumors we are not getting kicked out or financially sucker punched, get involved with your club and get informed. The best way is to go to our regular club meetings held on the 4th Thursday of each month at various times depending on what is going on. Read the news letter to stay up with the correct times so you don't walk in to the meeting a hour after the "Eating Meeting" starts and complain that there are no frijoles left for you. **DO NOT FORGET, ROCK AUCTION AT OUR SEPTEMBER 27 MEETING 6:00PM.** Bring the rocks you'd like to say goodbye to or your aunt Molly's false teeth as long as they are not connected to aunt Molly. Also, please bring a covered dish. By the way, our December show is at capacity by dealers and they've paid up too! Way to go Harry & Jeanette.

As the summer season starts to pass into good memories of camping, picnics, camp fires, field trips, friendships new and old, the hope of the same continues into the fall. The field trips saved for the cooler times are just around the corner. So get off your couch and move, rocks might be older than dirt but they're not going to wait for you forever!

Matt

madtex@swbell.net



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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

BIRTHSTONE FOR SEPTEMBER – Sapphire

The September birthstone, Sapphire, is chemically and structurally the same as [Ruby](#) - both are varieties of the mineral [corundum](#) Sapphires are well known among the general public as being blue, but can be nearly any color except shades of red or pink (since those are called rubies).

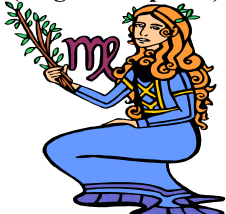
The blue color is by far the most popular color for sapphire but orange-pink, golden, white, and even black have generated much interest in the gem trade. Tennis bracelets are available that contain a complete rainbow of sapphire gemstones.

Oriented [rutile](#) crystal inclusions cause a six-pointed-star light effect (called *asterism*) to form the popular Star Sapphire.

Sapphires are well known from such places as Sri Lanka and India, and excellent specimens are also found in Tanzania and the Kola Peninsula of Russia. In addition, sapphires are found in many places throughout the world, including North Carolina, Brazil, and China.

Sapphires are extremely durable (only diamond and moissanite are harder). Artificial sapphire crystals are used as the crystal face in genuine Rolex watches, and they are extremely scratch resistant. *Source:* <http://mineral.galleries.com/minerals/gemstone/pe ridot/birthaug.htm>

(Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)



Virgo

(Sep. 24 – Oct. 23)



Libra

Mercury

Venus

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.

Fluorescent Information

For those of you who are interested in Fluorescents and weren't at the meeting when we had a Fluorescent presentation here's some info on the Fluorescent Mineral Society. "The Fluorescent Mineral Society, Inc. (FMS) is an international organization of professional mineralogists, gemologists, amateur collectors, and others who study and collect fluorescent minerals." For further information about FMS, contact Fluorescent Mineral Society, PO Box 572694, Tarzana CA 91357; or by e-mail, president@uvminerals.org. See their website at <http://www.urminerals.org>.

Word Search Game

Harry Bruntz found this game on the web and was kind enough to forward it to me to include in our newsletter. Please see Page 8 for the Word Search Game and have fun.

To Clean Fluorite

Do not use hot water or even warm water – the luster will vanish forever. And the specimen will crack along cleavage planes very easily. It can be placed in muriatic acid to remove calcite, and then washed in cold water.

Source: RMFMS News Aug 2007 & Tulip City G&M Club June 2007

Remove Algae and Lichen from Rocks by soaking them in ammonia water followed by the use of a stiff brush. (Some minerals, like calcite, will dissolve in ammonia, so check your chemistry before you do it.)

Silver jewelry displayed in a case will not tarnish if display cloth is sprayed with chlorophyll. You can obtain the same results with a piece of chalk.

Did you know you can tell a man-made diamond from natural ones by the use of a magnet? Synthetic diamonds will stick to a magnet, but natural ones will not.

Source for above 3 tips: Rock Chips July 2007 & KGMS Gems Feb 2007

Pecos Diamonds

Pecos “diamonds” are double-terminated quartz crystals from along the Pecos River for around 100 mile stretch from Carlsbad to beyond Roswell. They range in size from around 1mm or less to around ¾” diameter by possibly 2” length. They range in color from colorless to black, with most being flesh and tans. Included are some carnelian, sard, sardonyx, etc. They occur as singles, twins & multiples, clusters (many of which are very attractive “rosettes”), penetrates, etc. Pecos “diamonds” weather out of gypsum.

Source: Unknown

Copper Bracelets

Is it true that copper bracelets relieve Arthritis? This folk remedy has been in disrepute for several years, but now researchers have discovered there may be something to it. Copper, they have found, reacts with the skin chemicals to produce an anesthetic called “ethylene” which can be absorbed into the body.

To Preserve Fossils

After proper cleaning, paint the fossil with diluted Elmer’s Glue and water (50/50). It dries fast and makes the fossil look sharp and clean. It can also be washed off if necessary with no trouble.

Arizona Flagstone (Sandstone)

Is very good for sharpening diamond saw blades. Just saw a small piece or two.

Sanding Disks

Don’t throw away those worn out sandpaper disks. Instead, cut a slit from edge to center hole and lay them like a collar around the stems of your plants. Slugs won’t crawl on the rough scratchy surface. (Note from Charlie: Snails probably won’t either.)

Source: The above 4 tips – Deming Rock Chips Jun 2007



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

There were no minutes for the meeting in June as there wasn’t a quorum present. There was no official club meeting in July as we had our yearly picnic instead.

General Meeting Minutes – 23 Aug 2007

The meeting was convened at 7:05 PM by President Matt Durning.

No Visitors. A quorum is present. No meeting minutes from July as it was our yearly picnic. Picnic was good and attended by many of our members and family.

No door prize tonight. Eddie Davis had no tickets.

A scholarship fund has been set up in Memory of Gloria Smith. So far \$100 has been raised.

Treasurers Report was given.

Blanca Cedillo has asked that a new Membership person be found as she is unable to give the club the attention it deserves due to family obligations. Judy Herd volunteered to take over the position starting immediately.

Field trip for September is to The Silver City Gem Show which is Labor Day weekend – Sat thru Mon.

Agate 2007 starts 25 Aug 07 and continues through 3 Sep 07. This is being held at Apache Creek camp ground.

No old business to discuss.

New Business. Remember we are having our Rock Auction 27 Sep 07 starting at 6:00PM.

Matt and Miguel Chrisman, School Chairman, have been dealing with the city of El Paso regarding some issues pertaining to our School which is located at the Memorial Senior Center. Some of the issues include Liability Insurance (\$1m with city as beneficiary), setting up a contract (which the city is setting up with any volunteer group). We were invited by the City in 1978 to teach our classes there.

Historian position is open. Looking for someone to take over this position.

President Matt Durning wanted to recognize Miguel Chrisman for all his work with the city and his Master Chef duties at our yearly picnic. Miguel is also responsible for collecting our mail from the post office. He picks up the mail every Wednesday at 9 AM. He will notify people if they have any mail to be picked up.

We discussed the need to come up with a new membership card. This card will also include the yearly meeting schedule on the back. It will replace the business card we usually pass out. Each member will be receiving a new membership card once we get it set up and printed. They will also receive new cards every time they renew their membership.

These cards will show their membership expiration date.

School report was given. New classes will be starting 10th and 11th Sept. There is a possibility that the open shop session on Fridays will have an increase in fees – from \$3 to \$5. Notification will go out if this happens.

Membership report was given by Charlie. We have a total of 143 members which includes 10 new members who joined the club in July and August.

Harry Bruntz informed us that all tables are sold out for our show 30 Nov – 3 Dec 2007. Set up will start on 29 November 2007 at 12:00. Next years show will be held 5-7 Dec 2008.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

NEW MEMBERS

We have 1 new member who joined our club in August.

P.J. Schabacker

Welcome to our Club. Hope to see you at our monthly meetings and at our Field Trips.



FIELD TRIPS

A New 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 Jim or Charlie at 505-640-1203 or e-mail at charlieenos@msn.com.

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP

The field trip in September will be to the Silver City Gem Show which is held on Labor Day Weekend – 1-3 Sep 2007.

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP

No decision has been made regarding a field trip in October. More information will be in the October copy of The Voice.

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 any material costs. The \$20 fee payment is to be made on the first day of the class. All other material purchases should be paid for at the time of purchase or delivery.

Active Member Instructors:

Tony De La Cruz	Rosa Cruz	Frank Dimas	Dorris Brown
Robert Bates	Redgie Medlock	Sid Sheppard	Miguel Chrisman
Butch Weckel	Ted Swander	Peggy Fontaine	Troy West
Ken Raab	Norman Ballou	Elizabeth Kosturakis	Pete Beltran

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

Monday & Wednesday	Lapidary	09-10-2007 thru 10-17-2007 10-29-2007 thru 12-12-2007
Monday & Wednesday	Silversmith	10-29-2007 thru 12-12-2007
	Beginning Advanced	09-10-2007 thru 10-17-2007
Tuesday & Thursday	Casting & Faceting Classes	09-11-2007 thru 10-18-2007 10-30-2007 thru 12-13-2007

Monday thru Friday (see note below) **(NEW) ADVANCED WORKSHOP** All the time
12:00 – 3:00 PM

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.

Wire Wrapping is scheduled when there are enough students interested in attending – we must have 3 or more interested and signed up. 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.

SHOW DATES

SEPTEMBER 2007:

1-2--ARLINGTON, TEXAS: 50th annual show; Arlington Gem & Mineral Club; Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; gems, jewelry, beads, SCFMS convention, annual Rolling Rock meeting; contact Karen Cessna, (817) 860-5232, Rick Kupke, 2004 N. Meadow Way Cir., Arlington, TX 76015, (817) 465-5270; e-mail: rickkupke@nwiis.com; Web site: <http://tses.org>.

1-3--SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO: 24th annual show; Rolling Stones Gem & Mineral Society; Recreation Center, 11th St. and Gold St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5, Mon. 10-4; free admission; field trips, exhibits, more than 40 vendors, silent auctions, live demonstrations; contact Judy Allen, 16 McKinley St., Silver City, NM 88061, (505) 388-4054; e-mail: Show@stockmanfamily.net.

13-16--DENVER, COLORADO: Bead Renaissance Show; J&J Promotions LLC; Holiday Inn, DIA, 15500 E. 40th Ave., I-70 and Chambers Rd. (exit 283); Thu. 10-6, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; contact J&J Promotions LLC, P.O. Box 420, Williamsburg, NM 87942, (505) 894-1293; e-mail: info@beadshow.com; Web site: www.beadshow.com.

28-29--ENID, OKLAHOMA: Show; Enid Gem & Mineral Society; Hoover Bldg., Chisholm Trail Expo Center, 111 W. Purdue; admission \$1; contact Billy E. Wood, (580) 234-5344.

28-29---SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NEBRASKA: 42nd annual show; Siouxland Gem & Mineral Society; South Sioux City Senior Center, 1501 W. 29th St.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 10-4; adults \$1.50, students 12 and older 50 cents, children under 12 free; exhibits, three fabulous dealers, door prizes, silent auction, fossil displays, spin the wheel, educational videos; contact Bob Hopp, (712) 258-3645.

OCTOBER 2007:

6-7--OMAHA, NEBRASKA: 51st annual show; Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club; Westside Community Center, 108th and Grover St.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Tim Kautsch, (402) 397-9606; Web site: www.nerockgem.org.

11-13--MOUNT IDA, ARKANSAS: World Championship Quartz Crystals Digging Contest; Mount Ida Chamber of Commerce; Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd.; Thu. 9-3, Fri. 9-3, Sat. 9-3; adults \$90, pre-registration \$75; dig in working crystal mines, keep all you dig, maybe even win a prize; contact Maureen Walther, Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, Mount Ida, AR 71957, (870) 867-2723; e-mail: director@mtidachamber.com; Web site: www.mtidachamber.com.

12-14--MOAB, UTAH: Show; Moab Points and Pebbles Club; Spanish Trail Arena, 3641 S. Hwy. 191; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-4; free admission; daily field trips, door prizes, demonstrators, displays; contact Judy Martin, P.O. Box 1459, Moab, UT 84532, (435) 259-2762; e-mail: judymrtn@yahoo.com; Web site: www.moabrockclub.com.

12-14--MOUNT IDA, ARKANSAS: Quartz, Quiltz and Craftz Festival; Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce; Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; local, national and international mineral dealers, quilters, crafters; contact Maureen Walther, Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce,

Mount Ida, AR 71957, (870) 867-2723; e-mail: director@mtidachamber.com; Web site: www.mtidachamber.com.

13-14--SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA: Show, "A Rock Rustler's Dream"; Huachuca Mineral & Gem Club; Elks Lodge, 1 Elks Ln.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; free admission; live demonstrations, educational displays, field trips, dealers, gems, jewelry, fossils, equipment, lapidary supplies; contact Bill Jaeger, P.O. Box 1596, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636, (520) 803-6590; e-mail: billjaeger@hotmail.com.

27-29--LIVE OAK, TEXAS: Bead Renaissance Show; J&J Promotions LLC; Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; contact J&J Promotions LLC, P.O. Box 420, Williamsburg, NM 87942, (505) 894-1293; e-mail: info@beadshow.com; Web site: www.beadshow.com.

For more shows please check <http://rockngem.com/>.



Reno Gem & Mineral Word Search.

R	R	O	D	N	O	C	B	A	C	B	T	O	E	K	R	I	D	M	K
V	H	Z	L	W	C	O	Y	N	H	J	Z	U	T	I	C	N	I	A	Y
M	L	O	Y	A	T	H	A	Y	R	Q	X	B	I	G	G	S	N	L	R
P	A	H	D	S	P	I	A	E	Y	E	R	E	G	I	T	P	O	A	A
D	E	R	W	O	L	O	Y	R	S	V	E	H	Z	L	Y	L	S	C	D
E	E	A	C	E	C	A	L	L	O	C	O	S	Y	R	H	C	A	H	I
A	N	T	N	A	D	H	E	H	P	I	N	K	I	L	V	A	U	I	P
A	G	R	A	I	S	N	R	E	R	O	T	T	A	A	O	X	R	T	A
N	A	A	R	L	O	I	T	O	A	T	E	E	R	P	B	E	P	E	L
C	A	P	T	T	I	I	T	Z	S	O	A	I	Z	I	S	S	E	D	A
X	K	E	S	E	N	T	T	E	E	I	S	H	B	S	I	I	T	A	G
T	B	M	C	E	T	E	U	P	S	C	T	H	O	L	D	O	I	E	U
I	E	P	G	O	C	I	M	R	I	T	W	E	O	M	I	U	G	H	N
G	L	A	M	O	O	N	S	T	O	N	E	M	D	R	A	Q	N	Y	A
H	S	L	A	R	O	C	E	R	B	S	E	U	L	V	N	R	U	R	R

J C A B O C H O N E L I L O M W U O D E
 E T I L I G U S U A T H P G P R T Y M P
 P I C A S S O L N A M E T H Y S T C R S
 N I P O M O B E J T E T I N O D O H R A
 Y E L L O H Q U A R T Z M P K C O R D J

AGATE	AMETHYST	AZTEC	QUARTZ	RHODOCHROSITE	RHODONITE
BIGGS	BLUE	BOTSWANA	ROCK	RUTILATED	SAGENITE
CABOCHON	CARNELIAN	CHAROITE	SUGILITE	TAHOMA	TIGEREYE
CHRYSOCOLLA	CHRYSOPRASE	CONDOR	TURQUOISE	VARISCITE	YOUNGITE
CORAL	DINOSAUR	DRYHEAD	PICASSO	PIETERSITE	PLUME
GEMSTONE	GOLD	HOLLEY	PRIDAY	PSILOMELANE	PYRITE
JASPER	LAGUNA	LAPIDARY	MOONSTONE	NIPOMO	OBSIDIAN
LAPIS	MALACHITE	MARCASITE	OCEAN	OPAL	OWYHEE