

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 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.

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. The meeting in July is our yearly picnic – the date to be announced.

2009 CLUB OFFICERS

President	Miguel Chrisman	(915)740-0301	Membership	Charlie Christensen	(575)640-1203
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			

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 Wednesday 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 Any articles received after that will not be published until the following month.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.

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 22 January 2009 at 6:30 PM. This is an Eatin' Meetin' and Officer Election Night (see Details under "COMMENTARY"). **ALL MEETINGS THIS YEAR WILL BE HELD AT 6:30 PM.**

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The School Board Meeting information will be 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 EPM&GS Membership, PO Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931. Thank you.

THE VOICE

VOLUME LVX NUMBER 4 JAN 2009

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Another successful Show and it's all thanks to the Club members that made it possible. My sincerest thanks goes out to everyone that volunteered their time. Especially to those that were there all day, every day. And to those who brought all that good food, as I heard numerous comments from the vendors as to how good the dinner was and thanked us for it.

On behalf of our Hostess (Monique) she thanks every one that helped her in preparing and serving the food in the kitchen for the vendors dinner.

I am honored to once again serve as your President for the upcoming year. I will be looking forward to seeing all of you rock hounds at the meetings and Field Trips.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Mike Chrisman -- President



COMMENTARY

Why Are You A Member?

Once again another year has rolled around and no one volunteers to hold an office in the El Paso Mineral and Gem Society. Several offices are still vacant. The office of president is a one year position, yet once again, the current president must do it another year because no one else will do it.

So why are you a club member?

I have been active in this club for 18 years. The first year I was a member. The second year I was the secretary. I have held a position every year since then except 2007. I took a year off. I was tired. I still am. I have been secretary, vice president, program chairperson, membership, and president. None of these positions are hard to do. I am secretary for 2008. I apologize for not getting the minutes in the club news letter every month. Sometimes I just plain forgot and sometimes I just didn't care. I am burned out on holding a position of authority in this Society. Isn't it your turn? I'm sick and tired of holding a position only because no one else will do it. This is your club. Why don't you hold an office?

Judith Herd

NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR:

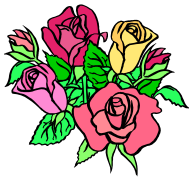
I am in complete agreement with Judy's commentary above. Please note that her opinions and mine are our own and not those of the club as a whole. But I am sure there are others that feel the same.

A good example is our last meeting. This was to be our Election Night and our yearly gift exchange. We had exactly 14 members show up. Therefore, we did not have a quorum, therefore, we could NOT hold an election. So, we will have the Election at the January Meeting. Now we realize the weather was windy and blustery but of those 14 members at the meeting – 5 drove in from Las Cruces. Take my word for it – it was yukky and not a fun drive. We realize there were people ill and people on vacation but this was the worst turnout we've ever had at a meeting. We were all on our way home by 7:45 PM – almost made it home in time to watch CSI.

People during this past year have complained about our club, the officers, etc, but those that are complaining are not putting forth the effort to make our club better – by being an Officer, coming to the meetings, and/or being actively involved. You want a better club – make it better by being active within the club.

Jim and I have been members in this club since Dec 2004. During this time I have been Vice President, Editor, and Membership, and if the Secretary is absent I sit in that position. Jim did Field Trip Dude duties for a couple of those years. We will continue to be active in the club because we are members and therefore feel we should contribute.

Sorry about the “soap box” but I, like Judy, am getting tired of there being “the same few” that actually get involved.



Get Well Wishes are extended to Pearl Ellison. Tom states she suffered a heart attack the Monday before our show but is doing well and is at home in Oklahoma.

Best Wishes go out to one of our long time members, Redgie Medlock, who is fighting a battle with cancer. Even with her feeling fatigued and drained from her ongoing chemotherapy she was at the Gem Show every day manning the Schools Sales and Raffle Table. Our Prayers and Best Wishes go out to her.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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

BIRTHSTONE FOR JANUARY - GARNET

Garnet is a delightful rock that can be either igneous in origin or, more commonly, a product of metamorphism. The garnet's luster is vitreous, and its hardness ranges from 6 1/2 - 7 1/2. Fresh crystals have a glassy luster. There is no distinct cleavage. However, parting can occur in six directions. Garnets will not streak. Garnets can be found in a variety of colors ranging from deep red, purple, rose, pink, white, yellow, green, brown, reddish black, and black. They come from a group of aluminum silicates and calcium silicates. The color is determined by other ingredients present like magnesium, iron, manganese, or chromium. Most garnets are found in schists, gneiss, and marble, but can also occur in lavas and in granites.

Garnets that rate the title of January's Birthstone are also the ones that are considered semi-precious stones. Semiprecious garnets are primarily of the pyrope or almandine variety. Pyrope is an aluminum silicate with manganese, while almandine is an aluminum silicate with iron. Pyrope garnets are usually the best quality, free from flaws. A variation of this is a combination between pyrope and almandine, called rhodolite. It too is usually flawless. There are some garnets that are better suited for industrial uses like garnet sandpaper and other abrasives.

Garnets can be found throughout North America, however gem quality garnets are not found everywhere. Pyrope comes from Arizona and Utah. Almandine comes from Alaska and Idaho, while rhodolite comes from North Carolina. Idaho is home to some magnificent star garnets. In California, the garnet deposits most worth mentioning are found in pegmatites in San Diego County, in the benitoite locality in San Benito County, and in magnetite deposits in Kern County. Uvarovite is found in serpentine rock and in limestones associated with chromium ores. It is a calcium-chromium garnet, getting its rich green color from the chromium.

Source: Golden Spike News – Jan. 2007 via Rock Chips Jan 2008

(Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

(Jan. 21.- Feb. 19)



Saturn



Uranus

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.

DON'T FORGET – MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE DECEMBER 2008.

NOMINATIONS FOR CLUB OFFICERS

Nominations are as follows:

- President – Mike Chrisman
- Vice President – Judy Herd
- Treasurer – Linda Durning
- Secretary – Marie Murphy

As stated in a previous newsletter I will continue on as the Editor to The Voice and will take on the duties of Membership. Marty Gaugler will continue as Historian, and Matt Durning will continue as Field Trip Dude.

Please come to our next meeting and participate in the Elections of these Officers.



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

Well what a great show we had this December 2008! I'd like to thank all the volunteers and organizers for their dedicated hard work. Without you special people none of it would have been possible. Thank You.

Our **Lapidary Arts Contest** was another successful addition to our show. The winners had their own display case to show off their talents. The Best in Show was **Liz Kosturakis** for a silver and sugilite ring. Our other winners were **James Enos** for lapidary, **Kenneth Raab** for faceting, **Francisco Cuevas** for Wire wrap and **Romy Saenz Hawkins** for Open class. Thanks to all our participants and judges for their time and hard work. You might as well start working on your 2009 entries you only got 12 months to go.

It's four days till Christmas and I finally have some breathing room. Between family, work and show issues I have not had the time to get out to the field at all. I've got some scouting trips lined up to check out areas new to me in Las Cruces – Dona Ana County and the Lordsburg area. This year will be another good year out and about. What better way to handle the absolute incompetents in government that have

run our economy into the proverbial toilet than to enjoy our great lands. The greed and corruption that our local and federal officials enjoy don't smell as bad in the great outdoors. As a matter of fact please identify any of those types in the field by throwing big heavy rocks at them so we can show the proper respect they deserve. Or introduce them to my dog "Taco". Hey when you write a column you can voice your opinion.

Welcome to our new members and returning ones. For January 2009 we will have a nice easy trip to an old familiar spot. We will return to **Kilbourne Hole** for peridot bombs. Perhaps we will also go to another collecting area for peridot bombs in an area smack dab next to the international border. For those who don't know, the explosion left a hole longer than the one we see at the well known spot. For our new members there is nothing required to know or do to enjoy our field trips. We have also not left any one behind for long. **We will meet at the "State Line Restaurant" parking lot located on Sunland Park Drive just below Doniphan at 8:00 a.m. Saturday January 10, 2009.**

For our newcomers here is a "basic list" of things to have on field trips. You can expand and customize as you gain experience. Start with a full tank of gas, water and lunch for the day, a bucket or heavy duty bag for rocks, gloves, hat and sun screen. A rock hammer makes it look like you know what you're doing too but absolutely not necessary for the most part. A good attitude and a willingness to get a little dirty. Kids and pets are always welcome on all trips. Our members are young to as old as dirt itself.

By the next news letter I will have a list of places that will be our schedule of outings. Feel free to email me for any questions about what's going on. Till we meet again.



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	Sid Sheppard	Art Moreno	Ken Raab	Greg Berglund
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 Jim at the Center first to make sure that the meeting date has not changed. His number is 562-4268.

Wed 28 Jan 2009	Tues 24 Feb 2009	Mon 23 Mar 2009	Tues 21 Apr 2009
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		10-27-2008 thru 12-10-2008 01-05-2009 thru 02-11-2009 02-23-2009 thru 04-01-2009
Monday & Wednesday	Silversmith	Beginning Advanced Beginning	10-27-2008 thru 12-10-2008 01-05-2009 thru 02-11-2009 02-23-2009 thru 04-01-2009
Tuesday & Thursday	Casting, Faceting, & Wirewrap Classes		10-28-2008 thru 12-11-2008 01-06-2009 thru 02-12-2009 02-24-2009 thru 04-02-2009
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

NO SHOW DATES THIS MONTH – NEED ROOM FOR TUCSON SHOW INFO. SORRY!!!!

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.

THE COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT THE 2009 TUCSON GEM SHOW CAN BE FOUND UNDER THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE: http://www.tucsonshowguide.com/tsg/show_index.cfm. ATTACHED YOU WILL FIND A SIMPLIFIED LIST OF WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE TUCSON SHOW.