

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**2008 CLUB OFFICERS**

President	Miguel Chrisman	(915)740-0301	Membership	Lydia Mueller	(915)598-5100
Vice President	Marie Murphy	(915)471-1071	3 Year Trustee	Matt Durning	(915)833-3500
Treasurer	Shirley Snare	(915)833-5263	2 Year Trustee	Tom Smith	(915)356-8653
Secretary	Judy Herd	(915)821-7818	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	(915)833-3500			

**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 Any articles received after that will not be published until the following month.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](mailto: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](http://www.epmgs.org). Any information you would like to see on this website contact Laura Spencer at [trukestrel@hotmail.com](mailto: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 28 June 2008 at 7:00 PM. This is a Regular Meeting. Members with the last name starting L thru M are asked to bring the goodies.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS**

The School Board Meeting information will be posted under School Information and Class Enrollment. If you are interested in attending School Board Meetings please go to that section of the Newsletter for times, etc.

**ADDRESS CHANGES**

**NOTE:** Anyone who has a change in mailing address or phone number please send e-mail to Lydia Mueller at [hjmgran@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hjmgran@sbcglobal.net) and Charlie Christensen at [charlieenos@msn.com](mailto: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 ROCK

VOLUME LVIX NUMBER 9 JUN 2008



## PRESIDENTS CORNER

Hey Rock Hounds. As you all have noticed, not only is the price of gas going up but, so are the temperatures!! We're not actually into the summer yet but, we will be hitting the 100's by this week end. And with that comes the need to use good - old - common - sense. It is not important to just bring plenty of water to the field trips but, drinks that will replenish the nutrients that the body needs, ie Gatorade, or other drinks that replace electrolytes, etc. Sodas, ie pepsi, cokes, etc, do not meet those needs. Wear clothing that will keep you cool, use sunscreen, and wear a hat. A favorite of mine is to take a bandana (color optional) wet it, roll it up, and wrap it around my neck. This may work for you too - give it a try.

Keep cool, Play safe and Have fun.

*Mike Chrisman*



## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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

## BIRTHSTONE FOR JUNE - PEARL

Pearls are produced by shellfish, mainly by oysters and mussels and more rarely by snails. They can be as large as pigeon eggs. They are constructed of lime carbonate (in the form of aragonite) and an organic horny substance called conchiolin.

Pearls can be found in the Persian Gulf, off the southern coast of India, the northern coast of Australia, and the coast of Central America.

*Source: Diggins from Dakota Oct 03 via Rock Chips Jun 07.*

(May 22-June 21)



**Gemini**  
**Mercury**

(June 22-July 22)



**Cancer**  
**Moon**

## 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.

**HAIR SPRAY:** To find the picture in your slab to mark where you want to cut a cab, you spray it with water, right, "wrong"! Spray that slab with UNSCENTED hair spray. Spray them all and you can find one quickly next time. It leaves a shiny smooth finish that is easily washed off. Use hair spray on your display minerals too. It brings out the color and dust does not cling to them. That means less soaking in hot water to keep them clean. Be sure to use UNSCENTED spray, as the minerals seem to trap and intensify any perfume odor.

*Source: Leaverite News 4/08 via Rock Chips 5/08*

## ELEVEN WAYS TO BECOME A FOSSIL

**Freezing:** This rare creature has suffered a minimum of change. His arteries may still contain dried blood, his stomach undigested food. Most common is the ice-age mammoth of Siberia and Alaska.

**Drying or Desiccation:** If these organisms were thoroughly dried, they can be of high quality. Best known are the camels and sloths found in our Southwest Caves.

**Wax and Asphalt:** Natural paraffin makes an excellent preservative, as proved by specimens found in Polish mines. The most famous asphalt fossils are still embedded in the La Brea Tar Pits in California.

**Simple Burial:** English bogs are famous for their buried forests. Sand dollars, sea urchins, and mollusks have been preserved by this method for up to 75 million years.

**Carbonization:** Incomplete decay of volatile substances leaves carbon behind, sometimes reducing organisms to paper-thin layers of shiny black film that reveal much detail.

**Petrification:** Our common stony fossils got that way by premineralization, the replacement of the structure by dissolved minerals, or secondary replacement, such as when limey fossils are dissolved and replaced by silica.

**Molds and Casts:** Natural molds in sediment remain after organisms decay. Sandstone beds reveal molds of shells and trees, and the finest molds are N. European amber, which has perfectly preserved the forms of insects.

**Imprints:** Sandstone, shale and tuff reveal external molds of very thin objects such as leaves. Best known of these are the Illinois Coal-Age plant imprints.

**Tracks, Trails, Burrows:** Dinosaur prints are the most famous of these. But Nebraska's "Devil's Corkscrew" once housed a beaver who dug an 8' spiral hole.

**Casting & Coprolites:** Ancient worms swallowed sand to help digest small organisms; he regurgitated these casing. Coprolite is a polite word to petrified "dung".

**Gastroliths:** Many ancient reptiles ground their food with these stones (as do our modern fowl). The stones are rounded, smooth, and even polished as times. Also known as "Gizzard Stones".

*Source: Strata Gem 4/08 via Rock Chips 5/08*

*RAISING A TEENAGER IS LIKE NAILING JELL-O TO A TREE.*

The best way to keep kids at home is make the home a pleasant atmosphere.....***and let the air out of the tires.***

#### **"ICE". . . . IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

We all carry our mobile phones with names and numbers stored in its memory, but nobody, other than ourselves, knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends. If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people

attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence this "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) Campaign.

The concept of "ICE" is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during an emergency under the name "ICE" (In Case of Emergency).

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose.

In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as "ICE". For more that one contact name, simply enter ICE1, ICE2, and ICE3, etc. A great idea that will make a difference! Let's spread the concept of ICE by storing an ICE number in your mobile phones today! *Source: Beehive Buzzer 4/08 via AFMS Newsletter via Rock Chips 5/08*

**NOTE FROM EDITOR:** I've checked this out with Snopes.com and TruthorFiction.com and it is something that is catching on (<http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/i/ice.htm>.) What I have done in my phone is put the name of the contact person next to ICE1, or ICE2, example: ICE1 Jim. This way they also know the name of the contact person.



#### **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

The General Meeting, for the month of May, of the El Paso Mineral and Gem Society, was called to order by President Mike Chrisman. Minutes for the month of April were read and approved. The field trip report for the month of May was given by Matt Durning. We went to the Mohonney Zinc mine in the Tres Hermanas Mountains in N.M. Everyone had a great time. The field trip for the month of June will be for honey onyx and fossils. We will meet, in El Paso, at the Whataburger on the corner of Rutherglen and

Montana, on Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup> at 8am. We will be going to the Horizon City, area. Rules were announced for the first annual jewelry contest, to be held in November. Rules will be printed in the monthly news letter. Matt Durning (915-833-3500), Marty Gaugler (915-491-2147), and Marie Murphy (915-471-1071) are on this committee. See them for questions. Meeting was adjourned.



## 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 (915)833-3500 or (915)491-3244 or e-mail [madtex@swbell.net](mailto:madtex@swbell.net).

### The Pick and Shovel Field Trip Report May 2008

We had another great trip this month to the Tres Hermanas Mountains in Columbus, NM. We went to the North West area of the mountains in an area called the "Mahoney Mines", an old zinc mining area.

The weather was great that Saturday and we all met at the historic Columbus railroad station. There were 15 of us and three pooches on this trip. We then drove the short distance to the mines easily accessible by any car.

The mine area is dotted with open mines some enclosed with barbed wire while others, well don't be looking up at the clouds as you walk around. Some members found small pieces of smithsonite, some found chrysocolla and crystals.

The area is abundant in fluorescent minerals. Paul G and I went into a larger mine with his UV equipment. The area glowed in black light the color green of willemite a zinc silicate and in red of calcite. I also found out why miners wear hard hats, the hard way. The large smithsonite specimen found by Bob M. a few years ago is still the exception to the rule, if there's one then there are probably others still around. A good way to hunt for smithsonite is at night with a UV or black light.

I found a mine rail road spike and an old belt buckle. I also walked around the mountainsides and saw an abundance of wild life and spring blooms. These old

mines are being used by nesting owls, rather large ones. You can see their scat on the ledges and walls. I dropped a rock to hear how deep one mine was and I was met with two angry looking owls swooping up at me. Made me jump farther than I thought I could. Angry but unhurt the pair returned down the hole. Our President Mike had a close in his face encounter with a rattle snake a couple of days prior in the same area. So be vigilant.

The next field trip **scheduled for Jun 14, 2008** will be to the East part of El Paso County. We will be looking for honey onyx and fossils. We will meet at **8:00 am** at the "Whataburger" located at the 9900 block of Montana, approximately 2 blocks East of Hawkins Blvd. in East El Paso. The area we will go to is sandy desert hills. The area is very accessible by car or truck, and there will be a medium to difficult walk and climb to the collecting areas. It will be hot so bring hats, H2O, sun screen etc. A hammer and chisel will also be helpful. The area is only minutes from Horizon Blvd or Montana Ave. See you there.

With the price of gas getting insane, think about car pooling with someone in the club on our filed trips. Did you know that our elected members of Congress have a car and the gas provided on the public dole? No wonder they're working so hard to get the prices down. What would we do with out them?

## MAPS

Do you have old maps of the mountains or other collecting areas we go to collect or to where you've been? I was lent one of the for the area of the Tres Hermanas where we collected and I went to FED X KINKOS and they can copy it in color or black and white for cheap. I'd love to be able get copies of the maps to use as a resource of information for field trips.

**A REMINDER:** Just a reminder so that you may make plans to take time off from work, etc. AGATE RENDEZVOUS 2008 at Apache Creek NM is scheduled for August 23<sup>rd</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Try to attend. It's fun and there are a lot of different places to hunt. Last year they found a few new locations that look promising. I will post more information later but wanted to remind you all so that you could make plans if you were thinking of attending.





equipment, displays, demonstrations, door prizes; contact Patrick Braun, P.O. Box 236, Ferron, UT 84523, (435) 384-2211; e-mail: pbraun@etv.net

6-8--ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA: Show, "Great American Gem Show and Sale"; International Gem & Jewelry Show Inc.; Minnesota State Fairgrounds, 1265 Snelling Ave. N; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$6; free beading classes by Wendy Simpson Conner; contact Laurie Reluzco, 120 Derwood Cir., Rockville, MD 20850, (301) 294-1640; e-mail: laurie@intergem.net; Web site: www.InterGem.com

7--DELTA, COLORADO: Show; Delta County Rock Wranglers; Heddles Recreation Center, 530 Gunnison River Dr.; Sat. 9-5; free admission; dealers, exhibits, door prizes, family activities; contact Harry W. Masinton, (970) 856-3861

7-8--COEUR d'ALENE, IDAHO: Annual show; North Idaho Mineral Club; Kootenai County Fairgrounds, Kathleen and Government Way; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2, children under 12 free; contact Bob Bockman, 1750 N. Havichur Loop, Post Falls, ID 83854, (208) 773-5384; e-mail: Bockbb@aol.com

13-14--REDWOOD FALLS, MINNESOTA: Show; New Ulm Gem & Mineral Club; Redwood Area Community Center, 600 Cook St.; Fri. 11-6, Sat. 11-6; contact Russell Swigart, (507) 644-3604

13-15--DENVER, COLORADO: Show; International Gem & Jewelry Show Inc.; Denver Merchandise Mart, 451 E. 58th Ave.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$7; contact Laurie Reluzco, 120 Derwood Cir., Rockville, MD 20850, (301) 294-1640; e-mail: laurie@intergem.net; Web site: www.InterGem.com

13-15--OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA: Retail and wholesale show; Shows of Integrity; Oklahoma City Fairgrounds; contact Judi Tripp, Shows of Integrity, 504 N. College St., McKinney, TX 75069, (972) 542-7370

13-15--PARK HILLS, MISSOURI: 11th annual swap and sale; Mineral Area Gem & Mineral Society, Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs; Missouri Mines State Historic Site, Hwy. 32; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-5; free admission; rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary; contact Lloyd E. Marler, (573) 431-2951, or Missouri Mines State Historic Site, P.O. Box 492, Park Hills, MO 63601, (573) 431-6226

14-15--BUTTE, MONTANA: Show; Butte Mineral & Gem Club; Civic Center Annex, 1340 Harrison Ave.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Pete Knudsen, (406) 496-4395

20-22--HOUSTON, TEXAS: Show; International Gem & Jewelry Show Inc.; Reliant Center at Reliant Park, 1 Reliant Park; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$7; contact Laurie Reluzco, 120 Derwood Cir., Rockville, MD 20850, (301) 294-1640; e-mail: laurie@intergem.net; Web site: www.InterGem.com

20-22--KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI: 2nd annual wholesale trade show; Shows of Integrity; MCC/BTC Exhibit Hall, 1775 Universal Ave., I-435 at Front St.; contact Judi Tripp, Shows of Integrity, 504 N. College St., McKinney, TX 75069, (972) 542-7370

20-22--SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO: Annual show; Palace of the Governors Museum; Museum Courtyard, Lincoln Ave., Blue Gate Entrance; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; children's hands-on workshop, presentations; contact Carlotta Boettcher, 120 Lincoln Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87501, (505) 476-5112; e-mail: carlotta.boettcher@state.nm.us; Web site: www.palaceofthegovernors.org

20-22--TORRINGTON, WYOMING: Show, "Wyoming State Mineral & Gem Show"; Rex Young Rock Club; The Rendezvous Center; contact John R. Benesch, P.O. Box 25, Torrington, WY 82240

21-22--COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO: 44th annual show; Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society; Phil Long Expo Center, 1515 Auto Mall Loop; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, children 6-15 \$3, children under 6, uniformed Scouts and leaders, and active military with ID free; contact Ronald Yamiolkoski, (719) 683-2603; e-mail: info@csms.us; Web site: www.csms.us

21-22--OZARK, MISSOURI: Show, "Gem Fair 2008"; Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society; Finley River Park, 205 N. First St., by the Bull Ring; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; free admission; buy, sell, trade, rocks, gems, beads, crystals, jewelry, fossils, minerals, supplies, equipment, slabs, tumbled stones, benefit auction Sat.; contact Eddie & Betty Maples, 2621 W. Wildwest Rd., Nixa, MO 65742, (417) 725-3001; e-mail: ttc65@sbcglobal.net

21-22--TORRINGTON, WYOMING: Show, "2008 Wyoming Sate Gem and Mineral Show"; Rex Young Rock Club, Rendezvous Center, Goshen Co. Fairgrounds, Hwy. 26/85 West; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; adults \$2, children under 12 free with paid adult; contact Dale Tikalsky, 523 W. 20th St., Scottsbluff, NE 69361, (308) 632-5574; e-mail: tikalsky21@charter.net

27-29--SANDY (SALT LAKE CITY), UTAH: Show; Gem Faire; South Towne Exposition Center/Exhibit Hall 5, 9575 S. State St.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

28-29--CASPER, WYOMING: 61st annual show; Natrona County Rockhounds, Parkway Plaza, 123 W. E, Center St. and I-25; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; adults \$3, children under 12 free; display contest, silent auctions, raffle, door prizes, grab bags, vendors; contact Helen Hoff, NCRH, P.O. Box 123, Mills, WY 82644, (307) 266-2839; e-mail: hmhoff@bresnan.net

29--COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA: Show, "Rock Swap"; Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Society; Izaak Walton, Hwy. 81 and Hwy. 30 intersection; Sun. 9-5; free admission; buy, sell or trade, fossils, minerals, agates, artifacts, petrified wood, faceted gemstones, jewelry, silent auction, display cases, grand drawing; contact Mary Wemhoff, P.O. Box 257, 254 D St., Platte Center, NE 68653, (402) 246-3955; email: e-mail: wemconst@megavision.com

### **JULY 2008:**

4-6--FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO: Show, "San Juan Co. Rock & Gem Show"; San Juan Gem & Mineral Club; Civic Center, 200 W. Arlington; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; silent auction, free kids' rocks, wheel of fortune, door prizes, raffle, vendors; contact Mickie Calvert, (505) 632-8288; e-mail: Mickie2@earthlink.net; or Ruth Rightmire, 301 S. Johnson, Bloomfield, NM 87413; ruthrightmire@msn.com.

10-13--MENASHA, WISCONSIN: Show, "Wonderful World of Agates"; Weis Earth Science Museum; University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley, 1478 Midway Rd.; Thu. 8-9, Fri. 10-8, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; adults \$4, seniors \$3, students and children free; all-agate show, rough agate, jewelry, art, displays, dealers, speakers, authors, museum-benefit auction, registration required for programs and events, cost \$75, deadline Mar. 1, 2008; contact Gary Richards, Weis Earth Science Museum, 1478 Midway Rd., Menasha, WI 54952, (920) 832-2925; e-mail: joanne.kluessendorf@uwc.edu; Web site: www.weismuseum.org

11-13--DURANGO, COLORADO: 55th annual show; Four Corners Gem & Mineral Club; La Plata County Fairgrounds, 2500 Main Ave.; Fri. 11-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; kids' activities, lapidary demonstrations; gold panning, jewelry, jewelry making tools and equipment, gems, minerals, fossils, beading, free door prizes, educational and fluorescent mineral displays, raffle, silent auction; contact Joanna Baker, Four Corners Gem & Mineral Club, P.O. Box 955, Durango, CO 81302, (970) 563-9908; e-mail: info@durangorocks.org; Web site: www.durangorocks.org

12-13--ROSEVILLE, MINNESOTA: Summer show; Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club; Har Mar Mall, 2100 Snelling Ave.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; free admission; gems, minerals, jewelry, fossils, agates, petrified wood; contact Martha Miss, (651) 459-0343

## THE EL PASO MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY LAPIDARY ARTS CONTEST

The EPMGS is proud to announce that we are holding a Lapidary Arts Contest. This contest is open to all EPMGS members.

The submissions will be judged by a three member panel independent of the EPMGS. The winners in each category will be displayed in the December 2008 EPMGS Show.

### CATAGORIES:

**Lapidary:** Contestant pieces will be judged on the cut, polish, shape, skill and over all look of a non-mounted cabochon, square, round, etc.

**Faceting:** Contestant pieces will be judged on their faceting skills; cut, color, brilliance of a non-mounted stone, precious, semi-precious etc.

**Silversmith:** Contestant pieces will be judged on their skill of silversmithing, use of materials, soldering, polishing, over all artistic workmanship. Pieces may be made of silver alone or silver with mounted cabochon(s), faceted stone(s), or other items. Pieces may be rings, bracelets, pendants, money clips, hair clips etc, business card holder, etc. No precious metal clay (PMC) allowed.

**Wire wrapping:** Contestant pieces will be judged on their skill, wrapping abilities, item wrapped and the over all artistic workmanship.

**Open Class:** Contestant pieces will be open to all imaginable pieces that must include ANY lapidary, faceting, silversmithing, wire wrapping, carving, and polishing skill common in the above categories. PMC allowed. Examples: Agate book ends, mixed media carvings, works of art.

Winners will be 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places of each category. One item will be judged Best in Show.

### RULES

Open to only EPMGS members.

Contestants may enter up to three items in each category.

Items must have been made during the 2008 calendar year.

Items must be made by the contestant only.

Winners must agree to display their pieces at the EPMGS show.

Submissions may be turned into the Contest Committee members November 17-20th at the Society school located at the Memorial Park Senior Center 9am-12am. Submissions may also be brought to the November 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm regular socie