



The Tidewater Prospector



Newsletter for the Tidewater Gem and Mineral Society August 2020 Virginia Beach, VA

PRESIDENT

Robin Stoughton
(757) 340-531

1st VICE PRESIDENT (Membership)

Mike Jackson
(757) 855-1207

2nd VICE PRESIDENT (Program/Entertainment)

Kelley Finch

TREASURER (Finance)

Lloyd Schiffelbian
(757) 495-7946

SECRETARY (History/Library)

Cheri Jackson
(757) 855-1207

WORKSHOPS

Bill Stoughton
(757) 340-5391

SHOWS

Rosanne Hinshaw
(757) 467-8570

NEWSLETTER

Judy Hyszczak
(757) 533-1512

FIELD TRIPS

Kelley Finch
(757) 630-6607

WAYS & MEANS

Roger Tiangco
(757) 490-3768

LIBRARIAN

Wesley Jacocks
wesley18@cox.net
(757) 466-8138

HOSPITALITY

Robin Stoughton
(757) 340-5391

WEBSITE

Brooks Britt
(757) 745-7104

Notes from the President

by Robin Stoughton



Hope everyone is doing good and surviving this awful heat.

We will not be having a meeting this month but most likely will be able to in September.

A ZOOM or virtual meeting may be in the works so hopefully we can do something with that.

There will not be a workshop either. Unfortunately we are still having to deal with this virus and all the restrictions so that limits all club related activities.

Looking to the future, the M.A.G.M.A. Fossil Field Trip at Camp Pipsico is scheduled October 30, 31 and November 1.

At the time the newsletter was being put together, we were still not sure if the October Treasures of the Earth Show would be held. We can only hope that the virus will have ebbed out and we can feel comfortable meeting in groups again. Also, a lot is related to the restrictions that the state government is implementing too.

Stay safe everyone and I hope we can meet again soon.



TREASURER'S REPORT



Another month without a club meeting, but I am hopeful we will be able to finally meet on August 21 at the church!

It was another quiet month for the club's treasury. Three adults mailed their club dues for a total of \$50. The club paid \$136 for August's storage unit rent and \$31.26 for newsletter supplies. The treasury balance is about \$4,332 Club membership now stands at 70 adults and one child.

CLUB DUES DEADLINE EXTENDED (again!)

Due to the coronavirus preventing the club from meeting, the deadline to pay club dues for 2020 has been **extended** until Friday, August 21st. Dues are **\$15 for adults** and **\$7.50 for children** under 17 years old. You can pay your club dues any time by sending a check to the **club's P.O. Box address** (on last page).

ROGER'S REFLECTIONS

By Roger Tiangco

THE EARTH SHOOK EVEN MORE SO FIERCELY – THE ROARING AND BOOMING INCREASED, AS THE SEAS SUDDENLY APPEARED TO RECEDE, PRESAGING A GIANT TIDAL WAVE! SOON AFTER, THE CLOUD BEGAN TO DESCEND UPON THE EARTH AND COVER THE SEAS. WILD SEAS TOSSED THE SHIPS ANCHORED IN THE HARBOR LIKE TOYS, “ SPIDER LIGHNING” SPLITS THE SKIES, FIRES FLASHED FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOPS, THE FURIOUS PYROCLASTIC FLOW OF VOLCANIC LAVA, THE COMBINATION OF ASH RAIN, PUMICE AND MOISTURE THAT KILLED PEOPLE SO WANTONLY AND THE OVERPOWERING STENCH OF SULFUR THAT FILLED THE AIR, The “Wrath of Mt. Vesuvius”, August 24,1700 – buried Pompeii and Herculaneum, as chronicled by Pliny the Younger.



Whereas, on June 8, 1783 – a series of earthquakes began at the Lakagigar fissure in Southeastern Iceland and burst open with extreme violence – a record volume of lava erupted thru September 1, 1783. Giant fountains of lava shot into the air, billowing clouds of debris darkened the skies and deposited ashes over a wide area. A river of molten rocks replaced the Skapta River in its bed, in some places, more than 600 feet deep!

Then on August 26, 1883 – the Eruption of Mt Krakatoa, a triple cone volcanic island in the Sunda Strait, between the Indonesian Islands of Java and Sumatra – cast a destructive shadow across 300,000 square miles of Southeast Asia. It blew some five cubic miles of searing hot ash and pumice into the sky and dropped chunks of red-hot debris – some of them eight feet across, over an area larger than Borneo. Pumices and Scorias were so light they floated, drifting as far away as 7500 miles across the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The eruption sent atmospheric shock waves circling around the Earth more than six times and caused a plume of black vapor to rise as high as 50 miles into the atmosphere.

The basin of the Pacific Ocean, referred to as the “RING OF FIRE” - includes New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Philippines, Japan, Aleutian Islands, Canada, USA, Mexico, Cost Rica, Ecuador, Bolivia, Columbia, Peru, Chile and The Hawaiian Islands. This “Ring of Fire” has 452 volcanoes, part of 1500 volcanoes worldwide. Hot liquids and gases from magmas – cool and produce “ores” directly, or form ores as they react with the rocks they penetrate. Veins may extend from igneous masses into the local rock carrying mineralizing liquids and gases. Some of the volcanic explosions throw lava fragments into the air – the forms and structures of these rocks were called as follows:

- A. Volcanic Bombs - masses of hot liquid lava, their motion gives them the “elongated” shape with smooth surface.
- B. Pahoehoe - the Hawaiian name for Fluid lava, which flows freely and cools with a smooth ropy surface and look like a frozen black river, tinted with iridescent purple.
- C. “AA” - another Hawaiian term for viscous lavas - it forms crusts which break and rollover, this jumble, mixed with Scoria, forms sharp jagged flows.
- D. Lava Caves & Tunnels - are formed when a strong crust hardens under which the liquid lava keeps flowing, leaving a hollow. Crude caves form in overturned masses of “AA “ lava. In some caves – dripping lava forms stalactites.

Extrusive rocks from volcanic eruptions embrace a large group of rocks – of which the common member is lava. Most of them as we know in addition to Pumice and Scoria, are: Basalt, Rhyolite, Obsidian and Andesite.

As one naturalist has written - Natural disasters are an inevitable part of the natural cycle of destruction and renewal. Against the forces of Nature, we are as powerless as any other creature – but yet, amid the economic and social chaos, individual courage, heroic rescues, helping and comforting our fellowmen – these serve as testimony to the power of the human spirit to rise up and rebuild.

Pumice is on the left while Scoria is on the right.; similar, yet different.



Brad's Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

STRAIGHTENING WIRE

Have you ever pulled out some silver wire only to find that it's all bent up? The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit.

Simply put one end in the vise and grab the other end with a pair of serrated tip pliers. Then pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band. This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16 ga.

Be careful if you are trying to pull hard on a thick wire. Brace yourself in case the wire breaks or pulls out of the pliers.



DO BEZELS SHRINK?

The engineer in me says there's no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone won't quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering.

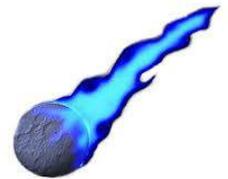
If that ever happens to you, here's a fix that usually works for those times when there's just a minor problem. I file or sand the stone down a little around it's base. For soft cabs like turquoise, lapis, jet or Howelite, you can use a sanding stick. Harder cabs like jasper or agates will require a diamond file. In a pinch, a ruby nail file from the drugstore will work.

There are two important things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment to the stone's size. All filing or sanding has to be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone.

Secondly, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder that's in the bottom joint of your bezel. Just a little bump here can put enough stress the stone to risk breakage when you burnish the bezel down over the stone.



STAGES / TERMS OF A METEOR



Most **meteoroids** are no larger than grains of sand, but occasionally pieces of a big one survive the fiery trip through the atmosphere to reach the ground. These surviving fragments are known as **meteorites**.

In summary, when moving through space, a tiny rock is a **meteoroid**. When we see it burn up in Earth's atmosphere, it's a **meteor**.

If any part of the object survives its passage through the atmosphere and reaches the ground, it's a **meteorite**.



Be More Productive With Brad's "How To" Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

This and that

Arm Chair Field Trip...

You can read about an ACTUAL field trip on pages 6 and 7, but if you are wanting for more, take the opportunity to read the book called DEAR BOB and SUE written by Matt and Karen Smith.

The book is written as a series of emails to their friends, Bob and Sue, while on their visits to 59 US National Parks. The online description says that it is at times irreverent, unpredictable and sarcastic, all in the spirit of humor. I want to report that it was a joy to read.

They take two years off from their jobs and because they are from Washington State, they begin out west but they travel up to Maine, down to the Virgin Islands and even visit a park in American Samoa. Their hiking trip in the Zion National Park up the Virgin River – literally IN the MIDDLE of the River, made me want to do that too. I have put that on my bucket list. They give you information about these places but I would not call it a travel “guide” because It is so much more.

I also discovered that they have written two more books to Bob and Sue! I am so happy to find that out!



Suitable for most hikers, the **Narrows Bottom-Up** hike can be as much as a 10-mile round-trip or as little as the 2-mile round-trip of the paved Riverside Walk. To see Wall Street, hikers must travel a minimum of 6 miles round-trip, 4 miles of which is in and along the Virgin River.



DO YOU KNOW?

If you read Roger’s article, he mentioned Scorias...

Scoria is a highly vesicular, dark colored volcanic rock that may or may not contain crystals (phenocrysts). It is typically dark in color (generally dark brown, black or purplish red), and basaltic or andesitic in composition. Scoria is relatively low in density as a result of its numerous macroscopic ellipsoidal vesicles, but in contrast to pumice, all scoria has a specific gravity greater than 1, and sinks in water.

The holes or vesicles form when gases that were dissolved in the magma come out of solution as it erupts, creating bubbles in the molten rock, some of which are frozen in place as the rock cools and solidifies. Scoria may form as part of a lava flow, typically near its surface, or as fragmental ejecta (lapilli, blocks and bombs), for instance in Strombolian eruptions that form steep-sided scoria cones.

Chemical analysis of scoria found in Yemen showed that it was mainly composed of volcanic glass with a few zeolites (e.g. clinoptilolite).^[1] Most scoria is composed of glassy fragments, and may contain phenocrysts.

Pumice is composed of highly microvesicular glass pyroclastic with very thin, translucent bubble walls of extrusive igneous rock. ... It forms when **volcanic** gases exsolving from viscous magma form bubbles that remain within the viscous magma as it cools to glass.

PROJECT OF THE MONTH

by Martin Salyers

In the last few months, I have purchased some equipment to continue my faceting hobby. As part of that purchase I received various books and notebooks. In several notebooks were articles from Lapidary Journals between the years of 1988 to 2015. So, I started scanning them into the computer in a PDF format. In total there were 776 articles concerning the Lapidary field.

I have grouped the articles into various categories. It was a good indoor hot weather project. I would like to make this information available to the all club members. Below is a general list of topics and projects in the articles contained in the notebooks.

- ◇ Lapidary Shop setup for Cabbing, Carving, Metalsmithing, Beading etc. and safety tips.
- ◇ Tools for Cabbing, Carving, Metalsmithing, Beading etc. Both Purchased and homemade. (I particularly enjoyed finding Warren Redford's Homemade Wooden Hand Cabbing Device.)
- ◇ Projects to Carving Stone, Bone, Rutilated Quartz, Boulder Opal, Cameo's etc.
- ◇ Projects to make Cabochons of various materials like agate, opal, Tiger-eye, Jasper, Boulder Opal etc.
- ◇ Information on Rock Tumbling.
- ◇ Information on using Adhesives, Gold Leaf and Electrolysis.
- ◇ Wire Wrapping Projects for Pendants, Bracelet, Rings using Cameo's, Cabochons, Faceted Stone Rings.
- ◇ Wire Projects to create Chains, Pendants, Earrings, Chokers, Rosaries, Necklaces
- ◇ Bracelets and Doll Jewelry. These include using Turquoise, Beads, Fossils, Pearls, etc.
- ◇ Projects in Metalsmithing and casting to create pendants, bracelets, earrings, necklaces etc.
- ◇ And tips for Starting and Running a Lapidary Business.

If you are interested in any of the topics in the list, please let me know what you would like by emailing me, Martin Salyers, at frenchfry55@yahoo.com. I will get it out to you as soon as possible. If there is sufficient interest on any certain topic, maybe we can get those articles placed on the club website for all to access anytime.

Have a Great Day and keep Rocking It



Rose River Field Trip Report

JULY 18, 2020

by Jennifer Spitz



The sun rays streamed over the mountain peaks the morning of July 18th at Graves Mountain Lodge, awaking the TGMS members to start off the day with a large, welcoming breakfast. If there are two things I will always remember about staying at the Lodge is the black bear rug that greets you at the top of the stairway, and the food. For dinner the night before, I had the best spiced apples I've ever tasted. For breakfast the next morning, it was the mouthwatering apple butter. I purchased a jar of their apple butter as a souvenir before leaving the Lodge. If anyone on the TGMS team visits the Syria, Virginia area, I would highly recommend at least a one-night stay at Graves Mountain Lodge if not to enjoy the peaceful scenery and the stars at night, but the food as well.

After breakfast the TGMS members met the early morning drivers at 9:00 am. After the morning briefing, Kelley escorted the five TGMS members to an accessible area of the Rose River, located a couple miles from the Lodge. And yes, I cannot forget to mention the pandemic, everyone followed social distancing guidelines for COVID-19. Although the weather was expected to be hot, the river kept the team cool as we searched for unakite. Some members waded in the stream to take a cool dip. The riverbed rocks were covered in a layer of green algae, making it difficult for some of us to identify the unakite at first glance, and to stay balanced on our feet. As the sun rose higher through the day, the sun's rays lit up the clear waters of the river. This helped to better identify the unakite in the stream, making the pink, plagioclase mineral in the rock more visible. Typically, when one unakite rock was found in an area of the stream, it was common to find several more nearby.



Lori & her husband in gorgeous scenery.



Lori's Finds From The River

Along with the unakite, other minerals and rocks such as quartz, gneiss, and schist were common. One large rock found by Lori (shown in the picture) contained several colors of a red and yellow mineral.

Without conducting further research, at first glance it was identified to possibly be Jasper. As beautiful as the rock is, Lori plans to show it off as one of her center pieces in her home. As the majority of the TGMS members left during the mid-afternoon hours, a couple members continued their search for unakite in other areas of the Rose River. After wrapping up the day before dinner time, it was acknowledged that the first area explored by the team was the better site to find the unakite. Awesome spot Kelley! Thank you!

Rose River Field Trip Report (Continued)



Jennifer, the author

That evening at the Lodge, three members sat in rocking chairs enjoying the fireflies and the stars, while discussing our finds. Later that night we noticed a distinct, bright light in the night sky. The light sat still above a distant mountain peak for a long period of time, then the light suddenly disappeared and reappeared at a different location in the sky. It began to move and flash. We were watching in awe as it moved across the horizon and realized we may be witnessing a UFO! I am usually not one to believe stories like this, even if my closest friends were to tell me such a story, but I have to say for you non-believers out there, we are definitely not alone in the universe.

The next day Kelley and I stopped at a few potential prospecting sites for the TGMS club on our way home. Our journey took us into the deep woods near Dillwyn, Virginia. While venturing through the woods, Kelley managed to get her Jeep fender caught on a dead tree while backing up on a narrow trail. Not realizing the tree was under her fender, she stepped on the gas and ripped the fender off her Jeep! My response to watching this happen in the rearview mirror I cannot write in this newsletter. We got out of the Jeep to examine the damage and luckily it was only the fender, not the bumper like I had thought. For those of you that are not Jeep owners, the only thing that stops a Jeep is a flat tire. So, we threw the fender in the back of her Jeep and pressed on through the woods, accomplishing our mission. The sites we observed look promising, so these areas may be planned for future TGMS trips within the next year.



Rosanne taking a break.



Kelley, Field Trip Coordinator



Specimens found on this field trip.



Tidewater Gem & Mineral Society
 P.O. Box 61021
 Virginia Beach, Va. 23466-1021

About This Publication

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The Tidewater Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit organization devoted to the collecting and study of minerals, gemstones, geology, paleontology and the lapidary arts as well as the love and deep appreciation of the great outdoors.

Meetings are the third Friday of each month at 7:30 PM at Memorial United Methodist Church located at 804 Gammon Road, Virginia Beach, VA Our monthly meetings are open to everyone, no admission is charged.

Website: <http://tgms.weebly.com/>
 Please contact Brooks Britt with any photos that you would like to add to our site. Email him at: bhbritt@verizon.net You can also view this newsletter on the site.

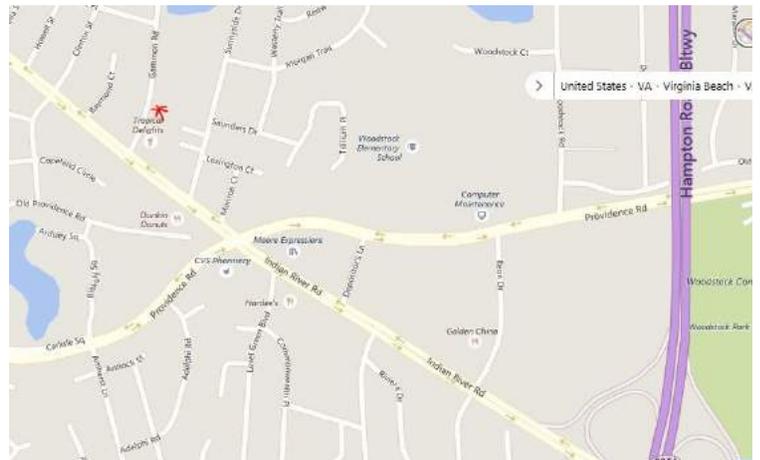
Email hyszczak@cox.net to submit articles to the newsletter editor. Deadline is third of the month for material for the newsletter - but the sooner, the better!

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com> Login to FB, then go to Groups and in the search box, type in "Tidewater Gem & Mineral Society", The page is open to view by anyone. Click "join" to join the group to add photos of your own and to post information. Brooks administrates the site and will get back with you.

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FIELD TRIP BONUS!
 Keeping everyone - the bear at Graves Mtn Lodge included - Covid-19 safe!



Unfortunately, we will again not be having our meeting this month.

