



The Tidewater Prospector



Newsletter for the Tidewater Gem and Mineral Society, March 2017, Virginia Beach, VA

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PRESIDENT EMERITUS

John "Mac" Davis
1927 - 2014



Notes from the President

by Robin Stoughton

Happy St. Patrick's Day!! Spring is right around the corner and that means it is time to go rock collecting!!



Would like to thank Carl and Sandee Barton for an awesome program last month!

Would also like to thank, Al DeHart, Lloyd Schiffelbian, Roger Tiangco, Tom Hartlove, and Carl Barton for helping at the storage unit.



This month is our annual club auction. It will start at 7:00pm so please get there earlier. If you

have an item to donate, please label it and put a minimum bid on it.

I need 3 or 4 people to take turns as auctioneer for the night

REMINDER: All newsletter input needs to be to Brooks by the 3rd of each month.

We still have display cases available for our April show. If you want to do one, you need to let me know before the 1st of April.

REMINDER: There is NO meeting in April due to the show on the same day.

REMINDER: Annual club dues are now \$15.00 for adults.

Our show is coming soon, dates are April 21st-23rd with set up on Thursday, April 20th between 1:00 and 7:00pm. I need volunteers to do the set up as I will not be available. This includes going to

storage to get the show materials. All members who volunteer will get their name entered for a drawing. This includes helping with set up, clean up, and working the tables all weekend. I also need members to demonstrate their craft, beading, polishing, faceting, cabbing, wire wrapping, or whatever, all three days of the show. Hours are; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5

Our annual picnic, rock swap/sale will be Saturday, June 17th at our new meeting place.

Hospitality: Thanks to all members who bring snacks and drinks to our meetings, it is greatly appreciated!



Field Trips: Tom Leary has set up two trips



for us. On Saturday, March 11th we will be going to the gold panning site we went to last year. We will meet at the gate at 9:00am.

You can bring metal detectors and all your regular digging gear and lunch and water. There are NO bathrooms, just the woods. Head to Farmville, Va. via Route 460. Take 15 North, you will pass the Willis Mt. kyanite location. The gate we meet at isn't too far past here and is on your left. There is a church on the right.

If you do not want to attend this trip you can go to Earthen Paradise and collect kyanite in Prospect, Va. Tom will be going there on Sunday, March, 12th. You can arrive there anytime after 9:00am. You may also camp at Earthen Paradise Saturday night.

The cost for the gold panning trip is \$10.00 per person and for the kyanite trip, \$20.00 per person.

Work Shop: We will try and do cabbing on Saturday, March 18th from 10:00-5:00, weather permitting. If you have rocks to cut, you can do that also. Remember you must be current on your dues and there is a \$5.00 fee for the workshop.

February Meeting Minutes

by Cheri Jackson

The first meeting in our new location was called to order at 7:30PM by President Robin Stoughton.

Minutes were approved as written in the newsletter.

Guests and visitors were welcomed.

Lloyd reported that there was \$2,334.08 in the Treasury as of the end of January.

Robin told the membership of the loss of member Hans Adler.

Some of the members shared some of their memories of Hans and Robin told everyone that she and Bill would be attending his funeral the next day representing the club and other members could see her for the details if they wished to attend.

Lloyd reported that Hans' family had made a donation to the club in his memory.

Brooks is working on digitizing, illustrating, and compiling Hans' mineral publications and writings for anyone in the club to have access to them either on the web site or on cd-rom.

Robin said that member Wesley's mom broke her hip and if anyone wanted an address to send cards they could see her.

It was announced that Bill, Robin, and any members who would be able to volunteer were going to the club storage unit to inventory it for the upcoming auction and to see what we had left for the shows.

They were to meet at 1pm on Sunday and were told to see Robin for the gate code.

She also said the club would welcome donations for the auction if anyone wanted.

We were reminded that in order to have more time the March meeting would be held at 6:30pm.

We still need volunteers for the TOTE show to setup, work the table, and teardown and that there would be no April meeting due to the show.

The club still has a couple of cases that people can use if they want and you need to let Robin know by the March meeting if you want access to one.

We are holding our second Rock Swap on June 17th.

We were also told that anyone who who wants to sell stuff at meetings was welcome to do so.

We then had our raffle and door prize drawings.

The meeting was then turned over to Carl and Sandee Barton who did a wonderful program on their fossil trip

out west last year.

They did an informative talk and had many really nice photos to show.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Treasurer's Two Cents

by Lloyd Schiffelbian

February was a normal month for the club's treasury. At the monthly meeting at our new church location, sixteen adults and one child renewed their memberships for \$230 and the raffle raised \$32. Our club expenses were routine and the treasury balance is about \$2,437.



Just a friendly reminder that our annual club dues have increased to **\$15** for adults and **\$7.50** for children.

Hans ADLER Memorial Fund

In memory of a former valuable club member, **Hans ADLER**, the club is accepting donations at the request of his family. To acknowledge contributions on behalf of Hans ADLER, we will publish a list of those who contribute to his Memorial Fund.

Now That Is Huge!!!

The largest known Opal is a yellow-orange one of 220 troy ounces unearthed by a bulldozer at Andamooka, South Australia in January, 1910. It is valued at \$210,000.

The largest recorded stone of gem quality was a 520,000 carat (229 pounds) aquamarine found near Marambais, Brazil in 1910. It yielded over 200,000 carats of gem quality stones.



The largest lump of gold ever found was in the Holterman Reef, New South Wales, Australia in 1972. It weighed 7,560 ounces.

The largest pearl, for you pearl lovers, weighs 14 pounds, 1 ounce. It is 9.5 inches long by 5.5 inches in diameter. It was found in Palawan, Phillipines, on May 7, 1934, inside the shell of a giant clam.

Want something from the good old US of A. How about a turquoise weighing 218 pounds found in Riverside County, California, on January 17, 1975.

Del Air bulletin 98 et al. Via Golden Spike News 4/01 via Hy Grader 6/01

March Program

by Ken Barnette

Hello everyone. Thank you Carl and Sandee Barton for your presentation in February! I know everyone enjoyed it. I also hope everyone felt at home at the new meeting location. March brings our annual auction. This is a great deal of fun and a great fund raiser for our club! See you there.



**Oh so
LUCKY
to have
you!**

Brad's Bench Tips for March

by Brad Smith

BENCH SHEARS

When cutting sheet metal, it's quicker and easier to use a set of shop shears as compared with using a hand saw. The cut is not as precise, but many times you don't need that. Shears will easily cut up to 24 gauge sheet, and some will cut 22 or even 20 gauge.

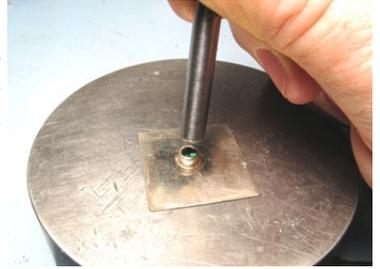
Current prices for shears run from \$13 - \$22 in jewelry catalogs, and the Joyce Chen scissors recommended on some jewelry blogs run more than \$20. But we found a cheaper alternative at the 99 Cent Store - some gardening utility scissors that were only \$1.07



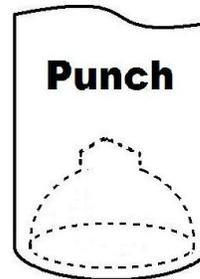
I buy a half dozen of them at a time for use in my jewelry classes. They're great for cutting bezels, trimming around a bezel cup and cutting a piece off a larger sheet.

BEZEL CLOSER

A bezel closer is a steel punch that makes quick work out of pushing the metal down over a round stone and burnishing it. The working end is a concave cavity that fits over your bezel or prong setting and is pushed and twisted to capture the stone. Sets can be purchased but are expensive and contain many sizes you will probably never use. If all you need is one or two sizes, here's how you can make them yourself.



Find a good quality, round steel rod a little larger in diameter than your bezel cup or prong setting. Cut a 5 inch length. File both ends flat. Locate the center of one end, center punch a divot, and drill a small pilot hole about 5 mm deep. Remember to use a little oil as lubricant when cutting steel.



Select a ball bur a bit smaller than the steel rod but slightly larger than the bezel. Enlarge the pilot hole to a full hemispherical cavity. Test for proper fit with your bezel. Bezel should first contact the cavity about a third of the way in. When the size is correct, polish the cavity using Zam on a length of chopstick in your flexshaft. If the tool is not polished, it will leave scratches on your bezel or prongs.

When using the tool, the first step is to capture the stone correctly. I usually work by hand and push the punch straight down over the bezel or prongs. This causes the metal to start bending over the stone. Next I inspect with a lens to be sure the stone is staying level. This is repeated until the stone is seated on its bearing and can't move anymore.

Next you want to force the metal down onto the stone uniformly all the way around. While this can be done by hand, I often gently tap the punch with a hammer. Finally, burnish the bezel by twisting the punch around.

See all Brad's jewelry books at [Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



Ways and Means

by Roger Tiangco

WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME! Hey gang we have a NEW PLACE, we have a NEW PLACE, we have a NEW PLACE for FUN! I mean for our TGMS Monthly Meeting place, and yes we have had our 1st meeting done on February 17, 2017. Very nice place, very comfortable and very convenient – PA United Methodist Church, @208 South Plaza Trail, Virginia Beach, VA. Yes, we do have another enjoyable evening. The support for our Paid Raffles was received with undiminished enthusiasm. Following are the gems and minerals that “play a number” to us all:

AQUAMARINE: WOW! Talking about excitement, and being rightfully so, the lady winner cannot believe she pulled from the jar, her very own ticket number to claim this magnificent Aquamarine beryl specimen in



matrix with muscovites. The size is of 55 x 44 mm and weighing over 110 grams. Beryls develop in pegmatites and certain metamorphic rocks with quartz, microcline and muscovites, its velvety appearance and hexagonal crystals very pronounced. As we have known already, the word beryl is from ancient India’s Prakrit – “veruliyam”, and made its way to us via Latin word “berullus”. The mineral beryllium, which is the very component of this gemstone, industrially speaking, is used in the manufacture of alloys to obtain desirable physical and chemical properties by fusion of metals and non-metals intimately mixed. Ancient lore has it, that it came from the nymph’s treasure chest, strewn by sea horses on the shores where man dwelt. Beryls are allochromatic, meaning, the impurities in its lattices can dictate its color, say a trace of divalent iron, a pale blue can occur, but in the absence of impurities, it is called pure beryl – as in the case of Goshenite. Other beryl gemstones are – Bixbite, Emerald, Golden beryl, and Morganite. Aquamarine is the gemstone for all young people and it signifies marital happiness and fidelity. It was awarded as birthstone for March-born. It is the State Rock of Colorado and New Hampshire. Other best collecting ar-

reas: California, Nevada & North Carolina.

CITRINE: The facial expression of another lady winner was of extreme wonder, when her ticket number was called to claim her prize. Seldom if we ever come across a gemmy representative variety of this silicon dioxide



quartz family. The transparent gemstone has a sparkling yellow color and no inclusions whatsoever. It was oval faceted step-cut and impressive deep pavilion. The gemstone size is 20 x 12 mm, with pavilion depth of 11 mm and weighs over 15 carats. As we are aware of already – Citrine crystals are often clouded and gemmy clear stones are very rare. Also, Citrine color can be very unstable and subject to change when heated. The yellow-reddish one, for example, sells under usurped name “Topaz”. Most of the gemmy Citrines came from South America. Locally, best collecting areas: California, Maine, Montana and So. Dakota.

QUARTZ: Another ecstatic lady winner, will now provide a new home to this water clear Quartz crystal specimen



and very eager to know where it came from – as gemmy as it is, it came from the mines of Mt. Ida, Arkansas.

This quartz specimen measured at 90 x 42 mm with hexagonal crystals rising from the matrix – 40 mm, and it weighs 150 grams. As we are already aware of, Quartz, is a very important rock forming mineral that develop in various environments. Principally a constituent of contact metamorphic rocks, it is most present in hydrothermal replacement deposits. As mentioned before – Quartz is the most ubiquitous mineral on Earth, the reason being – silicon dioxide, its chemical element, penetrated

(Ways and Means, see page 6)

(Ways and Means, continued from page 5)

throughout the entire magmatic cycle and participated as quartz in all stages of rock and mineral formations. It is a constituent of granite and gneiss of plutonic rocks. Greek legend has it and the Hellenese believed that krystallos from the mountains – were ice turned to rocks, from which the Gods had built an earthly dwelling impervious to the heat of the sun. Other best collecting areas other than Arkansas are – Arizona, Georgia, New York, North Carolina and Virginia.

KYANITE: The name Kyanite, sometimes “Cyanite”, was originally from Greek word “kyanos” – meaning dark blue. It is a metamorphic rock, that occurs in association with quartz, biotite and almandine in gneiss and schist. Another lady winner of this beautiful specimen, will also provide a



new home to this gem specimen of aluminum silicate. It measured at 90 x 65 mm with the thickness of 30 mm and weighing over 229 grams. Its translucent white to blue-gray crystals are long and blade-like. As we already know – the gem variety of Kyanite, which although very, very rare, rivals the precious “Ceylon Sapphire”. Kyanite has perfect cleavage, one direction lengthwise. It has got unusual hardness of “7” across, but only “4 to 5” along its crystal axis. Kyanite are mostly mined for ceramics purposes. Here, in Virginia at the Willis Mountain, we have the world’s largest producer of Kyanite & Mullite minerals, which is of industrial importance. Other best collecting areas other than Virginia – we have California, Colorado, Georgia and North Carolina.

PYRITE/HAEPHESTITE: The most widespread of sulfide minerals, Pyrite occurs in rocks of many types and in all types of hydrothermal veins. As true to most of us “rock enthusiasts”- the happy winner is very much knowledgeable about this beautiful mineral. Pyrite is of Greek origin – “pyr”/fire, and at times referred to as Haephestos (Vulcan) and most popular name “fool’s gold”. The specimen, measured at 65 x 53 mm with thickness of 40 mm and weigh over 320 grams. Pyrite is known to have iron disulfide, with substantial amount of nickel and cobalt. People of the medieval times, believed Pyrite

to calm uprising and preserved bearer from all dangers, but also capable of burning the hand that clutches it. Pyrite on weathering produces sulphuric acid and the moist hand from perspiration, is apt to react chemically – burning the palm. Pyrite as a source of Sulphur, is used commercially in the manufacture of sulfuric acid, a must component of fertilizer, other chemicals, dye making, on explosives and petroleum refining. Useful hint: when iron pyrite is oxidized, it takes up oxygen and water, and changed into iron sulfate plus sulfuric acid, quantities of iron oxide are produced and form spongy masses of Limonite – mostly brown in color. Best collecting areas: Colorado, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah and Virginia.

FREE RAFFLES: The following minerals will now have new homes: Hematite, White Coral Fossil, Druzy Quartz and Twinned water-clear Quartz.

TREASURES OF THE EARTH
GEM, MINERAL AND JEWELRY SHOW AND SALE

April 21-23, 2017

**FRI: 12 Noon-6pm SAT: 10am-5pm
 SUN: 10am-5pm**

Virginia Beach Convention Center
 1000 19th Street
 Virginia Beach, VA

Something for everyone!
 Mineral Specimens & Crystals
 Gems and Jewelry of all types
 Fossils, Beads and beading supplies
 Jewelry design & repair, Appraisals

**Admission: Adults \$5.00
 Students under 16 free
 Military FREE with ID
 \$1.00 DISCOUNT WITH THIS
 COUPON**

(Good for entire group)
DAILY DOOR PRIZES



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About This Publication

The Tidewater Prospector is the monthly newsletter of the Tidewater Gem and Mineral Society, Virginia Beach, Virginia, associated with the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Permission to copy freely granted when proper credit given to both the publication and the author.

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 Princess Anne Plaza United Methodist Church located at 208 South Plaza Trail, Virginia Beach, VA. Our monthly meetings are open to everyone, no admission is charged.

Website <http://tgms.weebly.com/>

Our meeting in March is on Friday the 17th at 7:00 pm at Princess Anne Plaza United Methodist Church located at 208 South Plaza Trail, Virginia Beach, VA

This month's will be our annual AUCTION. Note early start time of 7:00 am.

