

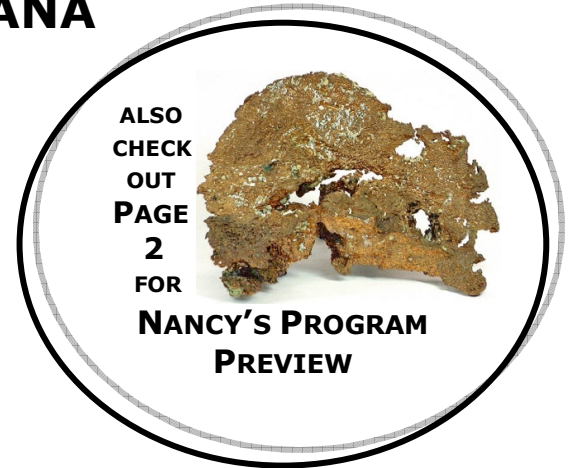


ARROWHEAD NEWS

Wyoming, Michigan



GO GARNET COLLECTING WITH DANA



Photos and text by Dana Slaughter

HERE ARE TWO PHOTOS OF THE BEST SPECIMEN THAT I COLLECTED ON MY LAST TRIP.
THE SPECIMEN MEASURES ABOUT 1 INCH ACROSS WITH A 5/8-INCH ALMANDINE-SPESSARTINE CRYSTAL ON RHYOLITE.

See **ARIZONA'S LION SPRING GARNETS** on page 6

March 2010
Volume 47 #3

www.IndianMoundsRockClub.com



Arrowhead News

Visitors are welcome at all Meetings! When & Where

Club Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday, September through May, and take place in the fellowship hall located in the basement of the Wesley Park United Methodist Church.

The church is on the corner of Michael and 32nd Street, south of 28th Street, in Wyoming.

At 6:30 PM, on the third Tuesday, June through August, our club has a **picnic** at Pinery Park in Wyoming, which is on DeHoop just north of 28th St. Our usual spot is behind the north parking lot on the west side of DeHoop. Bring a dish to share, your own drinks, and table service.

Board Meetings are held right after the club meeting, or by special announcement on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Club Membership dues are \$15 per family, \$10 per individual and \$5 per junior. Payment is due by the third Tuesday of September and is for the following January – December. **New** members that join at or after the annual show, pay only one-half of the yearly dues for the current year. Membership includes 9 issues of the Arrowhead News.

Who's Who

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The **subscription rate** for the **Arrowhead News** is just \$8.00 per year.

Article submission is due to the Editor **before** the 25st of the month.

Recent back issues of the Arrowhead News are available on our website.

<http://www.indianmoundsrockclub.com/Arrowhead%20News.htm>

Arrowhead News



NO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PROGRAM REVIEW AND PREVIEW

By Nancy Spalenka, Program Chair

PROGRAM REVIEW

Thirty-nine people signed in at the February 16, 2010 meeting to see pictures of exquisite gems that were shown at the 2009 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. Roger King, who had just returned from his 18th year of visiting the show, then gave us an insight as to what the Tucson Show entails. He had on display some pictures of some of the huge minerals that were seen there. Thanks Roger, for sharing your pictures and experiences.

A 2-DVD, 4-hour "What's Hot in Tucson: 2009" program can be ordered from the whatshotintucson.com website. As a special gift to club members, a 10% discount off the sale price of this DVD is offered. When an order is placed, enter the following discount code into the coupon field, hit APPLY COUPON and you'll get the instant 10% discount. 09minclub

BlueCap Productions has other beautiful DVDs from the Tucson shows, including "Capturing the Minerals, Three Photographers' Perspectives" from 2009 the Westward Look Show, and "What's Hot in Tucson" from past years.

PROGRAM PREVIEWS

THE KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Our March program will be a 55 minute video tour of 'our own' Copper Country, including Fort Wilkins, Old Victoria, The Delaware Mine, Historic Calumet, mining, the Quincy hoist, and a number of fascinating museums. Geology and history intertwined.

There will also be a display of Copper Country minerals and artifacts, the results of 35 years collecting by Don Van Dyke.

CLUB SALES AT THE SHOW

By Nancy Spalenka

A special section of our Show Club Area is for the sale of items to be donated by members and dealers, with all proceeds going to the club treasury. Your efforts here can make the difference between just getting by, and having a very successful show! We really need something from every one and hopefully you'll give "of your best". Donated items should be "quality" items, member made or collected and should have a value of \$5.00 or more, and you, as donor, set the price.

Bring as many of your donations as possible to the Club Sales Table during "set-up" on Wednesday evening, April 7. Nancy Spalenka will be looking for you.

NEEDED

This is just a reminder that particularly nice mineral specimens are needed for the Memorial Display Case at our April Gem and Mineral Show. If you have one to display, please bring it to the March club meeting and give it to Nancy Spalenka. Size-wise, specimens that are fist-sized or a little larger generally make a nice display. Please put a label for your specimen in the box along with your name, not on the specimen. Uniform labels will be made for the specimens. The specimens will be returned at the close of the show. For more information, call Nancy at 616-249-0513.

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THE 2010 INDIAN MOUNDS MALL SHOW!

Harry Brummel, Show Chairperson and John Kuipers, Assistant

It's hard to believe, but the Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club's 35th annual mall show is just around the corner! The show will be held at Rogers Plaza in Wyoming, Michigan from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM on April 8, 9 & 10. Our annual mall show is one of the high points on the club's calendar, presenting great opportunities for fun and education for the public and our members, as well as generating revenue needed to support club activities throughout the year.

Please note: **THE ENTIRE SHOW DEPENDS ON YOUR HELP!** "How so?" you may ask. Well just consider these examples:

Show setup begins at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, April 7. We need everyone to be there to help set up and skirt tables, arrange material in the club area, install and fill display cases, and much more. And all the work must be completed by the time the mall locks its doors at 11:00 PM.

Then there are the **displays**, an important part of the show if ever there was one. Displays give you a great opportunity to demonstrate your love of the rock and mineral hobby by showing some of your collection in display cases. Don't be bashful - your display need not be "museum quality." If your items relate to our hobby, are meaningful to you and will interest our visitors, then they are adequate and needed. Display chairperson Gordon Spalenka is always looking for more "displayers," and our newer members are especially encouraged to participate. No display case? Contact Gordon at 249-0513 and he'll try to help - likewise if you have an extra case to lend someone. And don't forget the possibility of joining one or more fellow club members and filling a case jointly.

The **memorial case** is also important. This display is dedicated to the memory of deceased club members and usually contains a varied assortment of minerals; lapidary work, gem trees, faceted items, metal smithing, etc. loaned for display case by club members and returned to them after the show. Nancy Spalenka oversees this project, so please say "Yes!" if she contacts you for an item!

Demonstrators are absolutely essential! We really need members willing to demonstrate the various aspect of our hobby to mall visitors all during the show. If you have a hobby related skill that can be feasibly demonstrated at the club table area, please let demonstration chairperson Don Van Dyke (669-6932) know - he'll appreciate it!

The show simply can't function without **club table workers** (also known as "**host and hostesses**") to staff the club table area and represent our club to the public throughout the show. Table workers are needed to sell mineral specimens, egg cartons, and grab bags, to answer questions about our hobby and club, and (hopefully!) to enroll new members. So please sign up to work as many shifts as you can when sign-up sheets are circulated at upcoming club meetings. We guarantee you'll have fun and meet lots of interesting people!

Donors are necessary too! The club will again will be selling donated items furnished by our members. Please supply quality material, preferably donor-made, although other good quality items are acceptable. The donor sets the selling price, and all proceeds go to the club. Any unsold member-donated material is returned after the show. Also, don't forget to bring in your unneeded hobby-related magazines for the club to sell. That surely beats dumping them in the landfill!

Publicity people are indispensable! And that includes **all** of us! So take as many show flyers and 4x6 cards as you can reasonably use to promote and publicize our show, in as many ways and places as possible. Talk it up with your friends and acquaintances!

Last, by no means least, we need **take-down help!** Remember, "What goes up must come down." So, at 9 PM on Saturday, we will need you to help take all the show paraphernalia down and put it away until next years' show. And this must be accomplished by 11 PM, when the 21mall doors slam shut. Please be there to help ensure that our show ends "happy note."

In conclusion, the basic provisions from previous shows also apply this year. Security will be provided; no blue jeans may be worn by club members working at the show, "hawking" of show visitors is not permitted, and all trash must be removed from the mall.

Our mall show is educational, rewarding, satisfying and fun! But these benefits can be realized only if **you** participate. Please do!

Arrowhead News



BOARD MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 16, 2010

By Rhonda Leep, Secretary

Nancy Spalenka welcomed all board members to meeting.

Secretary	Motion to approve minutes as published in Arrowhead News passed.
Treasurer	Discussed annual donation to church was due- motion to increase donation to \$200.00 passed.
Program	March meeting Keweenaw National Park- Don Van Dyke to present.
Editor/ Web	No Report
Publisher	No Report
Field Trips	Discussion to set guidelines for future field trips.
Show Committee	Did have discussion regarding 10 th dealer using one of other dealers' tables. If dealer signs contract and pays fee he will be allowed.
Publicity	Ed Krzeminski approved to purchase ads for April Show. Rhonda Leep to update Rock & Gem and Lapidary Journal web pages if not too late.
Sunshine	No Report
Librarian	No additions to club meeting.
Historian	Need Chairperson
Membership	Reviews updated lists and continue with updating membership information.
Sales	No additions to club meeting.
Old Business	Club book audit- Nancy Spalenka had a contact to audit our books for \$20.00 per hour. Motion-Discussion and Approval for Nancy to contact new auditor.
New Business	Motion-Discussion-Approval to reimburse members for lunch consumables- max \$40.00 [typical \$20.00 per family] to encourage member participation.
Adjourned	
	Rhonda Leep 2010

Board Members Present

President	Jim Elliot	Publicity	<i>Needed</i>
Vice President	X Nancy Spalenka	Historian	<i>Needed</i>
Secretary	X Rhonda Leep (membership)	Librarian	X Donna Griseto
Treasurer	X Dave Lehker	Field Trip	X Kreigh Tomaszewski
Sales	X Ed Krzeminski		Nancy Wolff
Publisher	X Donna Griseto	Show Chair	Harry Brummel
Sunshine	Eleanor Brummel		X John Kuipers
Dealer Chair	Kris Quint	Editor/Webmaster	Brenda Van Dyke
	Nancy Wolff	Past President	X Gordon Spalenka
Liaison	X Don VanDyke (Past President)	Board Member	X Donna Griseto
Board Member	X Bob Beauvais	Board Member	Skip Schipper

Arrowhead News



CLUB MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 16, 2010

By Rhonda Leep, Secretary

Past President Gordon Spalenka welcomed members and visitors to our meeting and then introduced Nancy Spalenka to start our program.

Secretary	Minutes-motion to approve as published in Arrowhead News passed.
Treasurer	Dave gave report to date.
Program	Tucson Night- Short video regarding previous show and Roger and Arlene King shared their experiences at Tucson shows -18 visits so far. Next month: Keweenaw National Park
Editor/ Web	No report
Publisher	No report
Field Trip	Kreigh updated members regarding Chicago, basement and Alabastine trips. Please contact Kreigh for specific questions.
Show Committee	Signup sheets for displays – Gordon Spalenka Signup sheets for Host-Hostess & Demonstrators– John Kuipers Dealers – 9 are signed up. Egg Cartons – specimens are needed – please bring colorful minerals to next meeting. Memorial case – Please bring items to March Meeting to use for case – your name, “in memory of...” these items will be returned after show.
Publicity	Still need a chairperson!
Sunshine	John Kuipers is contact for this month.
Librarian	Please return items you have been holding for a while and check out some new ones. Late returns will have their names published in newsletter.
Historian	Still need a chairperson! We are interested in ideas for our spring banquet since it will also be our 45 th Anniversary!
Sales	Ed Krzeminski has sale flyers for June sale.
Correspondence	No correspondence to report.
Membership	Would like to get membership profiles updated. Please contact Rhonda Leep for changes and updates.
Old Business	Needed photographer for newsletter – have two volunteers – Bryan Brewer and Cliff Lynnes- thanks guys!
New Business	Volunteers needed to work on 45th Anniversary Committee - Please contact Nancy Spalenka!
Mineral Study	Pyrite- Please contact Kreigh for location for 2 nd Tuesday of March meeting.
Adjourned	
Rhonda Leep	Secretary 2010

EDITOR'S EXCUSE OF THE MONTH

They told me there was no excuse for me, but I thought...who cares! Happy Spring everyone!



ARIZONA'S LION SPRING GARNETS

By Dana Slaughter

Arizona is justly famous for its world-class mineral specimens that grace collections throughout the world. Great mining camps such as Bisbee, Morenci, and Tombstone and mines such as the Red Cloud, the Mammoth-St. Anthony, and the Old Yuma have produced enormous quantities of valuable ore and untold numbers of fine mineral specimens. Beyond the hallmark species such as azurite, cuprite, malachite, and wulfenite that have put Arizona on the collector map is an astonishing number of lesser known minerals that are also found in choice specimens. Probably few collectors are aware that Arizona is home to some notable localities that have produced or continue to produce superb garnet crystals. The Lion Spring almandine-spessartine locality is one such place and the combination of sharp garnet crystals and incredible desert scenery make this a great place to collect during our cooler months.

The Lion Spring garnet locality is located on the southwestern flank of Elephant Mountain in the Aquarius Mountains just east of Wikieup, AZ in Mohave County. The site has gained some popularity with Arizona and seasonal collectors after its inclusion in the handy book, Minerals of Arizona by Neil R. Bearce. I recommend this carefully planned and written book for anyone wishing to do their own field collecting in Arizona.

The garnets at Lion Spring are somewhat variable in composition with almandine being perhaps predominant. Garnet is a term used to describe members of the Garnet Group of minerals that include some 15 different species. "Garnet" itself is not a valid species name but rather refers loosely to any of the Garnet Group minerals. Best known among these are almandine, andradite, grossular, pyrope, spessartine and uvarovite. The garnets at Lion Spring generally contain dominant iron and thus are almandine but some contain appreciable manganese and are spessartine in composition. Absent any analysis on a particular specimen, these specimens should probably be labeled almandine-spessartine.

Since my relocation to Arizona, I began seeing specimens in collections and at shows from this locality. I was impressed by the sharpness of the crystals and the great contrast against the light-colored rhyolite matrix. They are nearly identical to the much more well-known Garnet Hill, Nevada specimens though the rhyolite at Lion Spring is lighter in color. A friend of mine had collected several times at Lion Spring and showed off a batch of specimens a few years ago at our annual A.L. Flagg Gem and Mineral Show held the first weekend of each January at Mesa Community College. He remarked that they were fairly easy to find and extricate but that one needed a 4WD or high clearance truck. A co-worker asked me to take him and his daughter out on a collecting trip and he had the necessary 4WD vehicle so we decided to give it a try. I asked another co-worker if he wanted to go and the four of us departed Phoenix and drove past Wickenburg on Highway 93 (the road to Vegas) and followed a map given to me by another friend that had some luck at the locality.

The scenery in the area is breathtaking and the road wasn't as bad as I had imagined. 4WD isn't required but a passenger car could not make it all the way to the site. We made our way off the highway and charted a bit north to reach the southern flank of Elephant Mountain. There is a small area where one could park at least a few trucks and then it is a simple matter of identifying the host rhyolite and breaking rock. I showed everyone what to look for and virtually every rock on the ground and in nearby outcrops was rhyolite. Scott picked up a big chunk of rhyolite not 5 minutes after our arrival that held a large quarter-sized garnet in a shallow vug on the underside! They don't get much bigger than this and most are about the diameter of a pea. One could simply roam the area picking up and turning over the endless chunks of rhyolite float in search of specimens with some success. I looked for vuggy rhyolite that might hold some hidden gems when broken up with a sledge hammer. The footing is a bit treacherous and it reminded me very much of the topography in the Thomas Range of Utah, where 14 members of our club field-tripped in 1994.

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ARIZONA'S LION SPRING GARNETS

Continued from page 6

We stayed for a few hours and each of us collected some very fine specimens. I took home about 20 specimens but was fairly picky about what I wanted to take home. We didn't stray too far from the truck and I imagine that some additional exploration away from the main collecting area might bring excellent results. There is unlimited potential as virtually the entire area is rhyolitic and the garnets are found only in this particular type of volcanic rock. Rhyolite is an igneous rock typified by a very high silica content.

Additional collecting areas lie in the area and the famous Burro Creek collecting area is nearby. This is one of the best-known areas in Arizona for a wide variety of lapidary materials, including a very highly-prized purple agate. The famous Date Creek quartz crystal locality is nearby and can be reached by any passenger vehicle. In addition, a prominent growth of spectacular Joshua trees is enjoyed en route and on the way back to the Phoenix area.

I would be happy to give additional details, including specific directions, to any of our members that might want to give this beautiful locality a try. Contact me at dminerals@yahoo.com or ask Roger for my address and I can arrange to take any small group or individuals to the collecting site---please give me sufficient notice! This is a site that is much better enjoyed from October until about June. It could be collected during the summer months but most of us try to finish our summer collecting by "noonish." There is virtually no shade at the locality.

The quality of the almandine-spessartine specimens from here ranges from poor to exceptional. Many inferior pieces that have been exposed to weathering might be gathered in a few hours by simply walking about and looking for the dark garnets on rhyolite pieces littering the area. The finest specimens are obtained by breaking suitable rock and finding shallow vugs within the rhyolite. As with the Garnet Hill, NV pieces, the Lion Spring garnets generally show only half the crystal. The best specimens from here easily rank with the Garnet Hill specimens and make for very attractive display pieces.

Elsewhere in Arizona, good garnet specimens were formerly collected at the famous Stanley Butte locality in Graham County. This site produces dull to lustrous green andradite crystals and clusters associated with slender and sometimes large quartz crystals. The locality is not exhausted but it lies within the San Carlos Indian Reservation and attempts to reach some agreement on a collecting contract, etc. have been unsuccessful. I've talked with many knowledgeable AZ collectors that say that this site is EXTRAORDINARY and could produce some world-class specimens.

Gem quality pyrope garnets have been found in northeastern Arizona around Garnet Ridge in Apache County. These intense pebbles have produced some exquisite cut stones. What they lack in size is compensated by the rich and deep color. These are sometimes known as "Ant Hill Garnets" as they are often brought to the surface by ants and are found concentrated around their colonies! I've often maintained that pyrope is one of the least-appreciated gemstones.

In the future, I hope to share more about some of my collecting trips here in Arizona. The Camp Verde pseudomorph site is always a fun trip and is easily reached by most cars and I've found a great spot that produces SHARP calcite and aragonite pseudomorphs after glauberite crystals. Do contact me if you're in the area and perhaps we can hook up and do a bit of collecting!

Hello to the Club! ~Dana Slaughter

PS--I'm looking for a copy of an article that I wrote many years ago for the bulletin entitled "Charles Darwin--His Geology and His Nose" or something to that effect. I believe that Editor Ed split it into two parts over two bulletins. If anyone in the club could send (fax, e-mail, regular mail, etc.) the complete article to me I would be most appreciative and would show my thanks by sending a fine specimen from my dealer stock directly to your home! The article was probably written in the late 90's I would imagine...maybe up to the year 2000. Thanks!

Arrowhead News



NEEDED FOR THE GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

By Diane Harvey and Nancy Wolff

PLEASE BRING TO THE MARCH MEETING

Egg Carton Specimens - Have some. Need More!

Kona Dolomite

1. Apatite (Needs to be broken up)
2. Copper
3. Barite
4. Apache Tears
5. Basalt Roses
6. Quartz

WE NEED OTHER KINDS OF SPECIMENS FOR EGG CARTONS OR GRAB BAGS

Except we DO NOT NEED:

Hematite	Soap Stone	Chrysocolla	Fluorite
Milky Quartz	Iron Garnets		

We have enough of these

WHAT CLUB MEMBERS DO AT THE GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

SET UP NIGHT

Put table covers on. Exhibitors please don't set up display cases until all the tables are covered.

Exhibitors set up display cases.

Demonstrators set up equipment, if any.

Set up club sales rough items -label and price.

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY

IN THE CLUB AREA

1. Club sales rough specimens (Two people at a time)
2. Egg Cartons (Two people at a time)
3. Grab Bags (One person)
4. Club sales - Finished, quality items (One person)

OTHER TASKS

Floater

Help Dealers

Arrowhead News



FIELD TRIP REPORT

By Kreigh Tomaszewski, Field Trip Chair

It was a beautiful winter day for a field trip. Fresh wet snow covered the ground, but the temperature was just above freezing (if you ignored the wind chill), and we were getting occasional glimpses of the sun thru the clouds.

We met at Roger King's house in Byron Center at 10 and followed the signs thru the garage into the basement. It was like walking into a museum. One third of the basement was devoted to displaying the results of 50 some years of collecting. The King's like pretty specimens and their persistence in collecting showed. Many cases, special lighting, and some space for expansion.

The second third of the basement is outfitted as an office and jewelry making workshop. Tables and chairs had been set up in the middle of the room so we could sit and discuss the collection as we enjoyed refreshments. Along one wall was a large stack of boxes of specimens waiting to be unpacked. We were told the remainder of the basement devoted to storage had more specimens in boxes.

About 50 rockhounds (plus a healthy gaggle of pebble pups) spent a couple hours enjoying the eye candy and learning some of the lore behind the specimens. It was well worth the trip.

And then it was time to go find lunch, drive across West Michigan, and visit Chet Smith in Holland. We gathered again at 2 for another couple hours of eye candy and discussions.

Chet's collection may not have been as flashy as Roger's, but it was more global in scope and had many specimens that were also world class. Chet had collected well at many locations that are now lost and we had a lot to discuss as we shared refreshments. A local fulgurite to the biggest polyhedral geode I have ever seen.

A high point of the Smith's basement was the lapidary ship. Saws from small trim to large slabbing. Two sphere cutters. Band saw and drill press. Conventional grinding unit. We can all dream of having such a clean and well equipped shop.

Chet had a guess the weight of a galena specimen contest (you could touch the awesome specimen, but not pick it up. Best and worst guesses got specimens. It was a winter basement field trip, but collecting did occur.

Most of us came home empty handed, but we all had a favorite specimen we wished we could have brought home. Both clubs thank Smith's and King's for sharing their collections.

This was a great basement field trip and I hope you can join us for the next one.

Courtesy Corner

Here are the kitchen sign-ups for:

March: Nancy Wolff & Kris Quint

April: is our banquet ~ everyone brings your table service and a dish to pass

May: Arlene King & Lois Van Dyke

Arrowhead News



FIELD TRIP TO THE ALABASTINE GYPSUM MINE (APRIL 24)

By Kreigh Tomaszewski, Field Trip Chair

Field Trip to the Alabastine Gypsum Mine

(Michigan Natural Storage Co.)

1200 Judd S.W., Grand Rapids, MI

Saturday, April 24, 2010, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Please read the whole notice before responding.

I have made arrangements with Professor Kevin Cole at GVSU to make another collecting trip into the former Alabastine Mine that is now owned by Grand Rapids Natural Storage. There is a wide variety of specimens to be collected. 'Pencil' selenite and alabaster gypsum are abundant, both white and honey colored. You may find clear selenite or satin spar gypsum. Fossil collectors may find shark coprolites, teeth, or spines, and plant and wood fragments, near and in the ceiling. Mineral collectors may enjoy seeing epsomite hairs hanging from the ceilings, but should only collect those that have fallen or are growing on rubble on the floor.

Safety: Everyone must sign in when entering the mine. Everyone must sign out when leaving the mine. No exceptions.

The safety list will be in the mine next to the elevator. I don't want to spend hours searching six miles of tunnels for some idiot who failed to sign out (you, and your club, won't be invited back).

I will accept no excuses for failing to follow this basic safety procedure. Safety is not an option. Please do not collect alone.

Continued on page 11

March 16

•IMRMC MEETING

- Wesley Park United Methodist Church
- Tuesday, 7 PM – 9 PM
- Program: The Keweenaw National Historical Park video, plus much more with Don Van Dyke

March 19, 20 & 21

•48TH ANNUAL GEM AND ROCK SHOW

- Michigan Gem & Mineral Society
www.mgmsrockclub.com
- Jackson County Fair grounds ~ Fair Event Center
- 200 West Ganson St; Jackson, MI
- Friday & Saturday 10AM - 7PM, Sunday 10AM - 5PM
- Adults - \$3, Seniors (60+) - \$2, Students (5-17) - \$.5, under 5 - FREE

March 27

•38TH ANNUAL METRO ROCK SWAP

- Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society of Dearborn
- Democratic Club - 23400 Wick Rd; Talor, MI
- Saturday 10 - 5
- Free admission and parking

More dates on page 12

Arrowhead News



FIELD TRIP TO THE ALABASTINE

Continued from page 10

Cost: There is a \$2.00 fee per person for entering the mine. You may pay in advance, or when you arrive. You will not be allowed entry if you have not paid the fee. If paying by check, please make it out to Grand Valley State University.

Equipment: Hard hats are required. If you have extra hard hats, please bring them along (we usually have a few that do not have a hard hat, or forget theirs). Safety glasses are not required, but are always a good idea.

You must have at least two light sources. The mine tunnels we will be collecting in are not lighted. Make sure you start with new batteries, and have extras in your pocket. It is not possible to have too much light when you are 85 feet underground.

You must bring two pairs of shoes. One pair will be worn for travel in and out of the clean part of the mine that has cement floors. The second pair will be worn in the very muddy part of the mine where collecting will take place. It is strongly recommended that your second pair be boots for collecting in the drifts. It is very important to the mine owners that the finished parts of the mine remain clean because of the foods they store. We want to be able to return again, so this is an absolute requirement (unless you want to walk out barefoot - not recommended).

The mine is a constant 50-52 degrees. It is very muddy. Clearance in many tunnels is 4 feet so you will do some crawling. Please dress for the conditions. Expect to get very dirty. Gypsum/shale mud is very sticky.

Tools: Rock pick, 2-5 lb sledge, chisels. Make sure you have a bucket or collecting bag to carry out specimens. You may want some wrapping material (newspaper) for protecting your best specimens. You may want to consider a pry bar. Travel light.

Food: Mining is hard work. Bring a sack lunch and snacks. Everything you bring into the mine must be carried out. There are rest room facilities on the surface. Don't forget water.

Elevator: If you use the elevator you must leave the doors closed so it can be recalled from the surface or the mine. None of us want to be forced to use the stairs.

Insurance: You must be an AFMS related club member to attend the trip. Identify your club on your reservation request.

Directions:

131 to Burton Street West. Right on Clyde Park, Left on Chicago Drive, Right on Judd. (or) **196** to Chicago Drive (exit 72), Right to Burlingame, then Left onto Chicago Drive, Left on Marquette, Left on Judd. Back parking lot on the right.

Please try to arrive at least 15 minutes early to sign in and pay your fee and sign in. Use Google Maps or MapQuest if you have doubts about the directions. Everyone must arrive on-time, but you may leave any time you have finished collecting.

Do not hesitate to ask questions. Contact (IMRMC) is Kreigh Tomaszewski at 616-243-5851 (home) or 616-787-7955 (work), or Kreigh@Tomaszewski.net (email). Email is preferred. Requests will be first-come, first-served.

The mine has restricted access for this date. The first 40 people who confirm reservations will be able to attend this trip. Children are welcome, but we ask that they be at least 10 years old. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are unable to keep your reservation.

I will keep a waiting list; please include your phone number with your (emailed) request so I can contact you at the last minute if someone drops out. And yes, I am working on another date. I know that 40 are not enough to meet the demand for access to the Alabastine Mine.

Five regional clubs have been included in this invitation - if you have recently (in the last year) been into the mine you should consider letting someone else attend this trip.

Arrowhead News



April 20

•**IMRMC MEETING**

- Wesley Park United Methodist Church
- Tuesday, 7 PM – 9 PM
- Program: Spring Banquet, "The Tells of a Meteorite" speaker, Dave Lacko, Dealer/Astronomer from Taylor, MI

May 18

•**IMRMC MEETING**

- Wesley Park United Methodist Church
- Tuesday, 7 PM – 9 PM
- Program: Best of the Year - by and for Club Members

June 12 & 13

•**M.G.A.G.S. 36TH ANNUAL ROCKHOUND SEMINAR**

•and **MIDWEST FACETERS GUILD SEMINAR**

- Webberville High/Middle School
- www.mgags.org - email webmaster@mgags.org
- Contact Don Brown 313-421-8159 or Neil Snapp 517-339-2863

September 21

•**IMRMC MEETING**

- Wesley Park United Methodist Church
- Tuesday, 7 PM – 9 PM
- Program: "Geodes", speaker, Steve Tchozeski

BOOK CORNER NEWS

By Donna Griseto, Librarian

Time has come and here are the names of overdue books:

1. Cindy Closser - Introduction to Lapidary - 06/16/09
2. Anne Crans - The Color Treasury of Gemstones - 02/17/09
3. Brenda VanDyke - Making Bead and Wire Jewelry - ?
4. Cindy Closser - Jewelry Fundamental of Metalsmithing – 04/18/09
5. Eleanor Brummel - Rock and Gem, ? - 04/10/09
6. Eleanor Brummel - Rocks & Gem magazine, May '05 - 04/19/09
7. Randy Bursley - The Wonderful World of Agates - 09/15/09

Again, this library has a wealth of information, please check it out.

Until next month... Donna L Griseto



NO TREASURER'S REPORT



MWF MINERAL STUDY GROUP NEWS (CALCITE)

By Kreigh Tomaszewski

February's MWF Mineral Study Group meeting was held in the middle of one of our biggest snowstorms this season and attendance was up. About this time of year rockhounds are getting cabin fever and want to hold specimens. We had Calcite, the most common carbonate mineral, to hold and study.

Calcite is Calcium Carbonate and is number three on the Moh's Hardness Scale. Its best field mark is that it cleaves to a perfect rhombohedron. Its other key field marks are that it effervesces vigorously in acid, and it exhibits double refraction. Its name comes from the Greek 'chalx' "burnt lime". It is the primary mineral in limestone. Calcite can be found in almost any geological setting.

Calcite is in the hexagonal crystal system, primarily forming scalenohedral-prismatic and rhombohedral forms. It forms such a variety of crystal forms that there is an International Calcite Collector's Association whose members try to collect the more than 700 known crystal forms of this common mineral. The science of crystallography was founded when Rene Just Hauy accidentally dropped a calcite specimen and was curious about why it formed rhombohedrons of various sizes when it shattered.

Calcite is an important economic mineral that is used in the manufacture of steel, cement, and glass. Calcite cleaves so easily into rhombohedrons most collectors have never seen its conchoidal fracture. Single calcite crystals, perfectly clear, up to 20 feet long, have been collected in Iceland. Calcite crystals with copper inclusions from the Keweenaw Peninsula are some of the most prized in the world.

Between the attending members of the study group we had specimens for hand inspection of many of the common forms of calcite, and a few of the lesser known crystal forms. We had specimens from around the world, locally, and even from Hawaii. We are learning from each other by sharing specimens and a little bit of research we each do before each meeting. After handling such a variety of calcite specimens we will all be much more likely to recognize it in one of its unusual forms when we encounter it in the field. There is no better way to recognize the common minerals than to hold many specimens of them.

The next West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will meet from 7 to 9 pm on March 9**, 2010, at the home of Robert Sulaski, 4654 Meleana Ct., S.W., Wyoming, MI 49519. The mineral to be studied is Pyrite. We like to start (and end) on time, but please do not arrive more than 20 minutes early. All West Michigan rockhounds are invited to attend. Please look up a few facts about the topic mineral, and hopefully bring along at least one specimen to let others look at (the more, the merrier). We hope you can join us for this growing opportunity. ***Editor's note: note past due date...sorry about that.*

Join us on for our
Spring Banquet on April 20
and stay to enjoy
"The Tells of a Meteorite"



Nancy Spalenka took this meteorite's picture on the club's recent field trip to the Field Museum.

Arrowhead News



IMRMC'S WINTER FIELD TRIP

2010



THE KING'S BASEMENT

Photos by Nancy Spalenka

The Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club

is a nonprofit organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan.

This club's objective is to develop and encourage interest in, and to further the study of minerals, gems, fossils, rocks, lapidary arts, and earth science.



Affiliated With the Midwest and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies

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ARROWHEADNEWS

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Email edition