

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

Articles originating with the Arrowhead News may be used by affiliates of the AFMS, MWF, or other non-profit organizations, provided proper credit is given to author and publication (unless stated otherwise.) All articles without a byline have been written by the Editor. Articles reprinted from other publications are reprinted for educational purposes under the fair use provision of the U.S. Copyright Act.

ARROWHEAD NEWS
Brenda Van Dyke, Editor
1531 Whitmore Ave NW
Grand Rapids MI 49504-2459



First Class Mail
Dated Material



ARROWHEAD NEWS

Wyoming, Michigan

**A FOSSILIZED TURTLE (AT
RIGHT),
AMMONITE (BELOW)
AND MANY MORE FOSSILS,
(BEAUTIFUL OR NOT,)
WERE TOPIC OF NOVEMBERS'
PROGRAM**



*Photos courtesy of
Nancy Spalenka*

Month Year
Volume 46 #7

www.IndianMoundsRockClub.com



Welcome to the *ARROWHEAD NEWS*, official publication of the Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club of Wyoming, Michigan.



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

President/Liaison

Jim Elliott
7475 Parsonage
Saranac MI 48881
616-642-0442
jimboell@iserv.net

Vice President/Program

Nancy Spalenka
2119 Waldron St SW
Wyoming MI 49519
616-249-0513
gnsपालenka@sbcglobal.net

Secretary/Membership

Rhonda Leep
11199 Gun Lake Rd
Middleville MI 49333
269-795-7629
rsleep@chartermi.net

Treasurer

Dave Lehker
1716 Lotus SE
Grand Rapids MI 49506
616-243-1257
lehkerd@gvsu.edu

Board Member/Sales

Orville(Skip) Schipper
269-795-9121
doschipper@sbcglobal.net

Board/Publish/Librarian

Donna Griseto
810-444-5611
dbgriseto@aol.com

Board Member

Bob Beauvais
616-534-3871
rebeau@juno.com

Sunshine/Kitchen

Eleanor Brummel
616-453-1658

Field Trip

Kreigh Tomaszewski
kreigh@tomaszewski.net
Nancy Wolff, assist.
269-983-4900
nancyswolff@hotmail.com

Dealer Chairs

Kris Quint
269-926-7610
rkquint@cpuinc.net
Nancy Wolff
269-983-4900
nancyswolff@hotmail.com

Show Chair

Harry Brummel
616-453-1658
John Kuipers, assist.
616-534-9298

Liaison

Don Van Dyke
4296 Oakview
Hudsonville MI 49426
616-669-6932
donvandyke@tm.net

Editor/Web Master

Brenda Van Dyke
1531 Whitmore Ave NW
Grand Rapids MI 49504
616-735-1235
brenick@gmail.com

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.

Send **exchange newsletters** here

Arrowhead News



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim Elliott, President Happy Holidays to All!

December is here, along with the first snowfall of winter and Christmas is on the way. That also means that our Christmas Banquet is not too far away. Speaking of far away, I could not attend the November meeting due to business travel that took me out of the country and I am sorry to have missed the Annual meeting.

Our Christmas Banquet is a wonderful time of food, friendship, and time catch up with each other. Not to be missed. Show up early and have a great time!

Also on the not too distant horizon are the close of the year 2009 and the start of a new year. And with the start of each New Year we make our New Year's resolutions. Can you all include at least one club related resolution in your list this year? Here are a few ideas to ponder, and perhaps as a club member you can make one or several of these New Year's resolutions to help your club:

1. This first one is easy and doesn't take too much effort – Pay your club dues prior to 1 January 2010!
2. Volunteer to help on any of the various committees, accept a chairmanship if asked; offer to be nominated to a Board position.
3. Write an article for the Arrowhead News. We need your help to maintain this as the **Best** newsletter in the Midwest Federation!
4. Encourage potential new members to visit one of our meetings. Friends, family, co-workers and neighbors – they all may share some curiosity about our hobby that will be of interest for them to attend.
5. Help out at our Annual Mall Show! We need everyone to participate in order to make this event a success.
6. This one is yours - Fill in something I didn't mention.



We need your resolutions and we need your participation!

I look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas Banquet meeting.

Christmas Party Assignments:

Decorations ~ Gladys Schipper

Punch ~ Nick Van Dyke

Nut Cups ~ Eleanor Brummel

Meat ~ Roger Horvarter

Arrowhead News



PROGRAM REVIEW AND PREVIEW

By Nancy Spalenka, Program Chair

A great educational hands-on experience was enjoyed by 51 persons at our November 17 meeting when Terry and Bobbie House displayed their beautiful fossils and other minerals. They challenged us to distinguish which were fossils and which were not. The task was not easy, but was enjoyed by all. They also generously brought fossils for each person to take home. Thanks, Terry and Bobbie for a fine program.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

PUNCH BOWL AT 6:15 – BANQUET AT 6:30 PM

Our December meeting is a time for fellowship and fun at our annual Christmas potluck dinner. Members are asked to bring a "hot dish" and a salad or dessert and own table service. The meat and beverages will be provided by the club.

Responsibilities for the evening will include: Decorations – Gladys Schipper, Punch – Nick and Brenda Van Dyke, Nut Cups – Eleanor Brummel, and Meat – Roger Hovarter.

If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a hobby-related, homemade or store-bought gift with a value of approximately \$5 - \$8. The gift should be something you would like to receive. Men, bring a gift for a man and mark "**Man**" on the outside of the package. Ladies, bring a gift for a lady and write "**Woman**" on the outside of the package. Indicate who it is from on the inside. **In order to receive a gift, you must bring a gift.**



Following the dinner we will again have a "cracker barrel" sharing time to hear about some of your rock hounding experiences, so bring an interesting story to tell. This will give us an opportunity to learn a little more about one another. The gift exchange will be held after that.

We'll be looking for you all at 6:15 PM on December 15.



Arrowhead News



SILENT AUCTION – LOST & FOUND

By Ed Krzeminski

Our October Silent Auction sale appeared to be a big success. There seemed to be a large number of folks shopping for rockhound bargains (and getting them!), and there were plenty of sellers who brought in a plethora of various types of hobby materials to sell. In addition to the usual deals on mineral specimens, crystals, cutting slabs, and fossils, this year's bounty included grinders and saws, rockhound and earth science books, necklaces and jewelry, faceted loose gems, tumbler materials, kids' specimens, and even a gold pan! Several non-members introduced themselves to me, drawn in by our publicity flyers and Grand Rapids Press advertising, and admitting to having a very good time! I have not yet received any sales totals from our Treasurer, but I'll bet the auction was also a financial success for the Club.

While no volunteer-driven event such as this occurs with a hitch or two, it seemed to me that there were fewer overall complaints than in the recent past. The Board is already discussing suggestions and possible improvements for next year's auction sale, and I am personally interested in hearing from you if you have any such suggestions. Please email them to me, the Auction Chairman, at ekrzemin@grcity.us. I know that the sales room was a bit warm and somewhat cramped for space, so we are looking into a possible room change or table reconfiguration for next year. There also seemed to be fewer complaints of sales items "disappearing", as we did try to increase our internal security measures this year, and we will strive to improve in this category.

LOST & FOUND: In the sometimes-chaotic fun of the auction evening, some folks were bound to misplace items, and sure enough, I have heard from at least one member who found someone else's winnings mixed in with his (there were no names with them), and he would like them to be returned to the rightful owner. We appreciate that sort of honesty! Also, there were several items left behind after clean-up – some with Bid Slips and some not – which I picked up, in hopes that they are claimed soon. As in previous years, any unclaimed items will eventually become Club property for use as future door prizes or sale items, unless I hear from you.

I would like to hear from anyone who either Lost or Found any items at the October Auction Sale, to see if we can re-unite the owners with their wayward items. Email me, or call me at 616-530-9571. I will not be at the November Club meeting, but I am asking Club members to please bring any "found items" to that meeting to see if they can be claimed by their rightful owners. I don't anticipate there to be many, but if you saw the excitement on some kids' faces for their auction wins, you would understand the disappointment of misplacing those winnings.

A big "thank you" to all of you who helped out at the auction sale. I could start naming names, but I know that I would surely forget someone, so.... thanks! It would not have been a success without the help from each and every one of you!



Arrowhead News



KREIGH'S FIELD TRIP NOTES

By Kreigh Tomaszewski

Sorry, no field trips this month. But if you have a day or two free, you might want to consider going to the Field Museum in Chicago. They have reopened their Grainger Hall of Gems after remodeling. And until March 28 they will be hosting a special exhibit on The Nature of Diamonds. You will have an opportunity to see the 128.54 carat Tiffany Diamond, and the 407.48 carat Incomparable Diamond, which is the third largest cut diamond.

Editor's Note: This just in from Kreigh...

We will be joining with the Tulip City club for a basement field trip on Saturday, Feb 27th - 10 AM at Roger King's basement. Lunch (is) on your own. 2 PM at Chet Smith's basement in Holland. Home by supper. Two collections worth seeing!

We're still hammering out details, but the event was finally confirmed today. I will have an announcement/article for the January bulletin, with maps and directions.

**Ask for your Arrowhead News
delivered by email today.
It's in color, has active hyperlinks,
and it's better for our environment!**

WEST MICHIGAN WMF MINERAL STUDY GROUP UPDATE (FLUORITE)

By Kreigh Tomaszewski

We had some new and old faces for the November meeting to study Fluorite.

Fluorite got its name from the Latin, fluere = "to flow", because it was used as a flux in melting metals. The term fluorescence is derived from fluorite, which will often exhibit this effect. The element fluorine also derives its name from fluorite, which is a major source for the element.

Fluorite is commonly formed in hydrothermal events associated with calcite, galena, albite, spinel, baryte, chalcedony, pyrite, and sphalerite. It also appears in limestone vugs, and in granite. It can be found in about a dozen counties in Michigan.

Fluorite comes in at least ten colors, from clear, white, blue, violet, green, pink, brown, yellow, and black. We had specimens of ten different colors to hold at our meeting. We had specimens with phantom color layers. We had specimens with pyrite and sphalerite inclusions.

See WMF MINERAL STUDY on page 8

Arrowhead News



MEETING MINUTES FOR IMRMC BOARD MEETING November 17, 2009

Past President Don Van Dyke welcomed board members and officers to meeting.

Secretary No minutes were taken in October.

Treasurer Reported at club meeting. IRS nonprofit status was filed this month. Discussion and approval for Dave to get a price for accountant to audit club books.

Officers and Executive Committee Members

No new reports due to program and election night.

Editor Brenda had specific requests to help her fulfill the editorial duties.

Field Trips Kreigh reported that another trip to Gypsum mine is in the works along with a possible trip to GVSU geology department. Note: there may be a camera crew at next mine trip.

Show Committee So far mall cost is \$800.00 – same as last year. Nancy Wolf is signing up dealers for show.

Old Business More discussion regarding Silent Auction- location, set up and procedures. Officers to review other space available at church.

New Business Discussion regarding purchase of club software to be purchased and used by editor was approved along with pre paying typical editorial costs through May 2010 were discussed and approved. Discussion and approval of publishing costs were paid to date and prepaid for 2 months. Discussion regarding a possible bus trip for interested club members in future.

Adjourned

Rhonda Leep Secretary 2009

Board Members Present

President	Jim Elliot	Sunshine	X Eleanor Brummel
Vice President	X Nancy Spalenka		X Nick Van Dyke
Secretary	X Rhonda Leep (membership)	Librarian	X Donna Griseto
Treasurer	X Dave Lehker	Field Trip	X Kreigh Tomaszewski
Sales	Ed Krzeminski		Nancy Wolff
Publisher	X Donna Griseto	Show Chair	X Harry Brummel
Sunshine	X Eleanor Brummel		John Kuipers
Dealer Chair	Kris Quint	Editor/Webmaster	X Brenda Van Dyke
	Nancy Wolff	past President	X Gordon Spalenka
Liaison	X Don VanDyke (past President)		

Arrowhead News



MEETING MINUTES FOR IMRMC CLUB MEETING November 17, 2009

Past President Don Van Dyke welcomed club members and visitors to meeting then introduced Nancy Spalenka for our Program.

Secretary	No minutes were generated for October's Silent Auction meeting.
Treasurer	Report from Dave Lehker.
Program	The Beauty of Fossils presented by Bobbie and Terry House.
Officers and Executive Committee	No new reports due to program and election night.
Members	
Publisher	Make sure you get articles to Brenda on time [25 th of month] so Donna can publish on the 1 st of the month.
Sunshine	Eleanor reported and reminded everyone that December potluck had a signup sheet for refreshments.
Membership	More new members and remind members that dues for 2010 are due if you have not paid.
Correspondence	No Report.
Old Business	Discussion regarding Silent Auction activities and possible changes for next year. Study Group with Kreigh has been meeting- check email from IMRMC Google group.
New Business	Need auditor for club books - will discuss in Board meeting.
Election Results:	
President	Jim Elliot
Vice President	Nancy Spalenka
Secretary	Rhonda Leep
Treasurer	Dave Lehker
Field Trip Chair	Kreigh Tomaszewski
Librarian	Donna Griseto
Board Members	Donna Griseto, Bob Beauvais, and Orville [Skip] Schipper
We are grateful to have retained our Editor and Publisher - Brenda Van Dyke and Donna Griseto, in their appointed positions.	
NOTE:	New board members should plan on attending next board meeting in January.
Adjourned	
Rhonda Leep	Secretary 2009

Arrowhead News



TREASURER'S REPORT

By Dave Lehker, Treasurer

October 2009

Beginning Balance: \$7,419.15

Expenses:

Newsletter: \$253.50

Silent Auction Advertising: \$106.73

Sunshine: \$50.95

State of Michigan: \$20.00

Total Expenses: \$431.18

Deposits:

Memberships: \$287.00

Lunch: \$29.85

Auction: \$26.00

Total Income: \$343.35

Ending Balance: \$7257.32



Editor's Note: This just in from Dave...

Silent Auction Final Tally:

We had 28 Sellers and who knows how many buyers.

We had \$2190 in gross sales which netted the club \$512.40 to add to our balance.

Thanks much to all the folks who helped out by cashiering over the course of the evening. We couldn't do it without you!

HARDEST SUBSTANCE EVER MADE BY MAN

Via Cedar Valley Gems 11/09 via The Rockpile 12/09

General Electric scientists announced *{Editor's Note: checking the facts, I found that this was in 1957!}* the hardest substance ever made by man or nature, an entirely new material. It is crystal hard enough to scratch a diamond and able to withstand twice as much heat. Named Borazon, it is expected to have far reaching impact in industrial polishing and cutting operations. The inventor, Dr. Wentoz, started with boron nitride, commonly called white graphite and is very similar in appearance and feel to talcum powder. Using pressures of about 1,000,000 pounds per square inch and temperatures of over 3,000 F, he changed the crystal from hexagonal to cubic, like diamond. While a diamond burns at 1,600 degrees F., Borazon can withstand temperatures up to 3,500 F.

CABBING HINT

Via the Breccia 11/08, The Tektite 04/04, San Diego Lapidary Society 09/03 and the Rock Bag

Transparent stones should be polished on both the front and back. Otherwise, saw marks can show through and appear to be cracks.

Arrowhead News



WMF MINERAL STUDY

Continued from page 4

Most common minerals are identified by sight and holding them in the hand. If you have held 25 specimens of Fluorite you are pretty likely to identify a 26th when it is handed to you for identification. We are learning from each other by sharing specimens, and a little research we each do before the meeting.

Fluorite normally forms in a cubic habit. Most common octahedrons are cleaved. The cleavage is useful for identification. Fluorite will form an octahedron habit if deposited at high temperatures, but there are few localities where this is common.

BTW, fluorine promotes hard tooth enamel in low concentrations, reducing tooth decay. Grand Rapids was the first city to fluoridate its water.

Luster is vitreous. Penetration twins are common. There are some unusual associations like silver. Hardness is 4. Some Fluorite is thermo luminescent.

We are skipping December because it is just too busy. If other members are not willing to host meetings I will be moving to an every other month format (it is an odd numbered month, time to do something odd and go to a mineral study group meeting) for 2010.



The next West Michigan WMF Mineral Study Group will meet on the second Tuesday, January 12, 2010, from 7 to 9 pm, at my home, 653 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507. The mineral to be studied is Quartz (and its varieties). The meeting will start and end on time (please do not arrive more than 20 minutes early). Each member will be expected to bring some research on the topic mineral, and, hopefully, at least one specimen, to share with the group. We hope you can join us for this growing opportunity.

Kreigh



Arrowhead News



December 15

•**IMRMC MEETING**

- Wesley Park United Methodist Church
- Tuesday, 6:15 PM – 9 PM
- Christmas Party

January 12

•**MWF Mineral Study Group**

- The home of Kreigh Tomaszewski
- 53 Burton St SE, Grand Rapids, MI
- Tuesday, 7 PM – 9 PM

January 19

•**IMRMC MEETING**

- Wesley Park United Methodist Church
- Tuesday, 7 PM – 9 PM
- Program: "Beadwork, Wirework and Gems" presented by Doris Koehn

February
27 & 28

•**38TH ANNUAL SPECIAL AUCTION**

- Roamin Club of Livonia
- Schoolcraft College, Vistatech Bldg; 18600 Haggerty Rd, Livonia, MI
- Saturday 11AM - 6PM, Sunday noon - 6PM
- Hourly silent and oral auctions, FREE admission and parking. Special mini-auctions for children

March 27

•**38TH ANNUAL METRO ROCK SWAP**

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

Arrowhead News



SANTA IS A ROCKHOUND

(A Lapidarist's version of the Night Before Christmas)



**'Twas the night before Christmas
and all through the house
Not a Rockhound was stirring—
I felt like a louse!
For the lapidary gifts I was making this year
Lay down on my bench, UNFINISHED, I fear!
The pendant my dear wife wanted so much
As I polished the cab, it fractured with a touch;
And the lovely jade brooch for Grandma so sweet,
Just wouldn't polish—it looked terribly beat.**

**As for Sister's new bracelet
with baroques dangling lightly,
I ran out of bell caps after the stores were closed tightly.
Then the tie clasp for Uncle that would make such a hit,
After I cut the cab, no mounting would fit!**

**And even Junior's new crystal growing set
Though I'd sent for it months ago, had not arrived yet!
So I tossed and I turned as though caught in a trap.
I could not settle down for a "long winter's nap."**

**When all of a sudden I heard such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter;
I raced for the door then saw with a flick
a red suited man I was sure was Saint Nick.**

**As I reached for my robe and was turning around
Down the basement stairs, Santa went with a bound.
He went straight to my workbench to see what I lacked,
Then with a nod of his head, he opened his pack.**

**Out tumbled such mountings and bell caps without stop,
I was sure Santa must own a Lapidary Shop!
He said not a word but went straight to his work,
And finished each piece, then grabbed his pack with a jerk.**

**And shaking his white-bearded face with much glee,
Took out some new slabs I knew must be for me!
Then, laying his finger aside of his nose,
With a nod of satisfaction, up the stairway he rose.**

**Went straight to the door, to his team gave a whistle
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim 'ere he drove out of sight,
"Merry Christmas, Dear Rockhounds,
and to you a good night.**




**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

Arrowhead News



**FOSSILS,
FOSSILS,**



AND



**MORE
BEAUTIFUL
FOSSILS!**

**Thanks to
Terry and Bobbie
House**

*Photos courtesy of
Nick Van Dyke*

Arrowhead News



**HO, HO,
... HO?**

By Peter Sparks via the Facets, 01/09



**It's the Friday before Christmas,
And all through the House,
Not a Thing was Decorated,
Not even a Mouse.**

**I in my Jacket,
Nathan in his Cap
Had just switched on the TV
To ignore the Cold Snap.
When there Arose such a Clatter
From the front Door Stoop
It startled us so Much
That we almost ...**

**It was the Spirit off Christmas
Reminding us Not to Worry
About the Bows and Gifts and Stuff
There was no Hurry.
Christmas is a time of New Hope
Of Life Given to All
Of Sharing, Love, and God's Promise
Not things from a Mall.**



Arrowhead News



NOTES:

QUESTIONS:

IDEAS:
