



ARROWHEAD NEWS

Wyoming, Michigan



A FIELD TRIP PREVIEW...

"FROM MASSIVE - BEYOND CABINET SIZE - TO MICRO MOUNT SIZE, THIS IS A COLLECTION THAT WILL BE THE ENVY OF ALL OF US."

SEE PAGE 6 FOR MORE

'Let's go to
Tucson' on
February 16

See Nancy's
*Program
Review and
Preview* on
page 2 for
details.



Photos on cover and on page 6 by Don Van Dyke

February 2010

Volume 47 #2

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FEBRUARY 2010

By Jim Elliot, President

As February's cold encompasses us all, except the lucky few to be headed to Tucson Arizona or other parts warm, my thoughts turn to the months ahead and warmer events. Certainly February is OK with Valentine's Day and Presidents Day, and I do hope you made something nice for the Valentines in your lives! Something that seems to constantly show up during this cold weather is an abundance of Seed Catalogs. These catalogs do have a way of bringing some warmth and summer desires into our lives with the very nice pictures and thoughts of growing things. I have already been getting seeds sorted and ready for planting in my garden this spring.

Spring isn't too far away to also plant the seeds of helping out and volunteering for your club. Also with spring is our biggest event of the year, the Annual Mall Show. Here is where we really need your help, so fill out the volunteer lists early and often! I am also hoping some of these seeds will sprout into new club volunteers, new board members and new faces helping out with all of the tasks that make our club what it is.

If you haven't had an opportunity to display some of your treasured and spectacular items during the Annual Mall Show event, please think about doing so. It really is very rewarding and provides a good focal with incredible examples for visitors to see just what Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club is all about. We will discuss this at one, or several of the next meetings.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

I also look forward to warmer sunnier weather.

Stay safe and have fun,

Jim

PROGRAM REVIEW AND PREVIEW

By Nancy Spalenka, Program Chair

Forty-six people signed in at the January 19, 2010 meeting and heard Doris Koehn tell some stories about her adventures collecting minerals. A special thank you to those who put the tables and chairs back in place following the meeting. That really helps.

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show will be the theme for the February 16 meeting with a 20 minute DVD, 'What's Hot in Tucson 2009', hosted by David Wilber. We will have a short tour into the rooms of mineral dealers, large and small in which they will show their special pieces hidden away and only shown to top customers. Following this Roger and Arlene King will share their experiences at the 2010 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Dave Lehker, Treasurer

2009 Year End Summary

Beginning Balance: \$ 6879.20

Major Expenses:

Show expenses: \$2,855

Newsletter expenses: \$2,588

(includes internet, domain name, printing, mailing, and some expenses into 2010)

Insurance and membership cost: \$509.25

Income:

Show dealer income: \$2,855

Members Dues: \$1,220

End Balance: \$6,543.40





MWF MINERAL STUDY GROUP NEWS (QUARTZ)

By Kreigh Tomaszewski

Our second Tuesday meeting was small last month, but we had a good discussion about Quartz and its many varieties.

Quartz is the second most common mineral in the Earth's crust. It crystallizes in the hexagonal system. The ancients used to think it was petrified water. Quartz comes in a variety of colors; purple (Amethyst), golden (Citrine), black (Smoky Quartz), and pink (Rose Quartz), plus rare blue and green (Prase). When the quartz crystals are too small to be seen it is known as Chalcedony or Agate or Jasper, and comes in every color of the rainbow. Spherical micro-crystals of quartz make Opal.

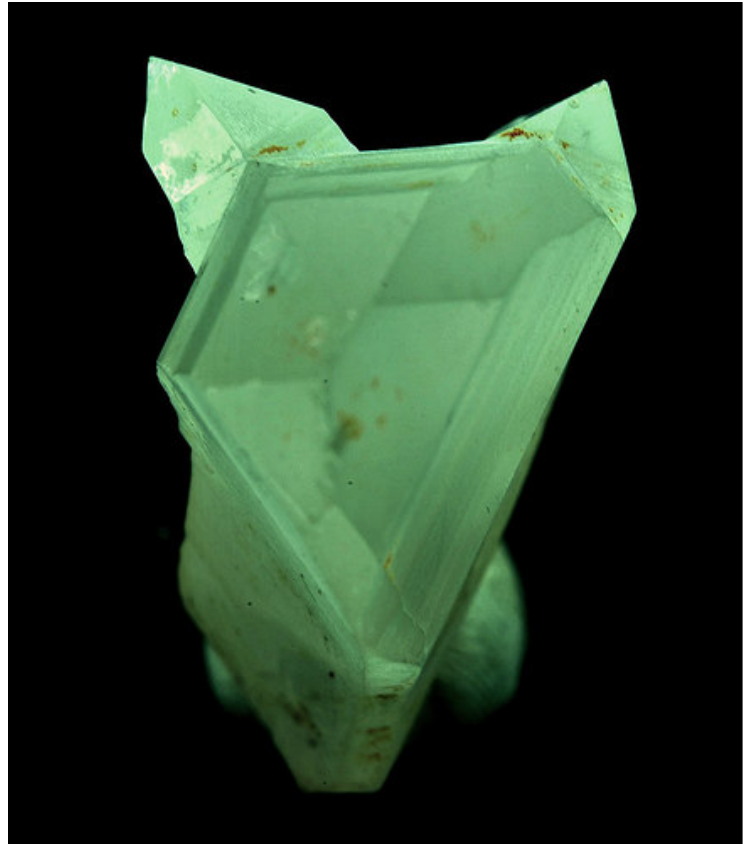
A unit cell of quartz (Silicon Dioxide) consists of three atoms of silicon and six atoms of oxygen. The silicon atoms can connect to the oxygen in two different ways forming either a right handed or a left-handed helix. It is possible to tell right and left handed crystals apart by their crystal faces, but they often grow together as Dauphine Twins that can be identified by areas of high and low luster on the crystal faces. Brazil and Japan Law twinning are less common. Quartz has over 50 different crystal habits.

Quartz is strongly piezoelectric, is pyroelectric, and triboluminescent. It is used in electronics. It is used to make glass. Quartz is a very important economic mineral.

Between the attending members of the study group we had specimens for hand inspection of most of the common forms of quartz, and many of the lesser known varieties. We are learning from each other by sharing specimens and a little bit of research we each do for each meeting.

The next West Michigan MWF Mineral Study Group will meet from 7 to 9 pm on February 9, 2010, at the home of Doug Howe, 4941 Riemen Dr. S.E., Kentwood, MI 49508. The mineral to be studied is Calcite. 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. We hope you can join us for this growing opportunity.

Japanese-law triplet twinning of quartz



*Photo by flour_doublet on flickr®
under a Creative Commons License*

MEMORIAL DISPLAY CASE

By Nancy Spalenka

If you have a particularly nice mineral specimen that could be placed in the Memorial Display Case at our April Gem and Mineral Show please bring it to the **March club meeting** and give it to Nancy Spalenka. She needs to have the specimens ahead of time to know how to organize the space in the display case. It will help if you can put the specimen in a box and put your name in the box, not on the specimen. The specimens will be returned at the close of the show. For more information, call Nancy at 616-249-0513.

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

By Rhonda Leep, Secretary

January 19, 2010 - President Jim Elliot called the board meeting to order.

Secretary	Minutes were read as published in <i>Arrowhead News</i> and approved without changes.
Treasurer	Jim E. gave report at club meeting. We did discuss the auditing of the books, but no nominations or decisions were made.
Program	Nancy S. discussed and confirmed February's program.
Editor/Web	No report
Publisher	No report
Field Trips	More discussion with Kreigh regarding proposed bus trip and discussion of the club subsidizing part of the fees, but no motion made or passed.
Show	Have 10 dealers booked. Discussion regarding available tables & renting additional tables.
Publicity	Need new Chair.
Sunshine	Eleanor needed one more person for February and Jim E. volunteered.
Librarian	Arlene has transitioned (<i>the job</i>) to Donna Griseto
Historian	Need
Membership	Rhonda to have membership material available to be reviewed by club members and Jim E. to print in 11 x 17 format for February meeting.
Sales	Advertising for Annual Show approved for Ed K.
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donna G. is working on badge prices and has enough information to order new badges to be made. • More discussion regarding signage at Annual Show. Ed K. was appointed chair of this committee. • More discussion regarding club scholarship and Skip Schipper was appointed chair of this committee.
New Business	Discussion regarding purchasing a digital camera for club and if this would be part of the next Publicity Chair duties.
Adjourned	

Board Members Present

President	x	Jim Elliot	Publicity	Needed
Vice President	x	Nancy Spalenka	Historian	Needed
Secretary	x	Rhonda Leep (membership)	Librarian	x Donna Griseto
Treasurer		Dave Lehker	Field Trip	x Kreigh Tomaszewski
Sales	x	Ed Krzeminski		Nancy Wolff
Publisher	x	Donna Griseto	Show Chairs	x Harry Brummel
Sunshine	x	Eleanor Brummel		x John Kuipers
Dealer Chairs		Kris Quint	Editor/Web	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	x Orville (Skip) Schipper

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CLUB MEETING MINUTES

By Rhonda Leep, Secretary

January 19, 2010 - President Jim Elliot welcomed club members and visitors to meeting then introduced Nancy Spalenka to begin our program tonight. After the program we finished our club meeting.

Secretary	There were no Club Minutes for our December meeting.
Treasurer	Jim Elliot reported for Dave Lehker. Minutes were approved as published in <i>Arrowhead News</i> . Jim reported from Dave projected costs to audit club books - \$35.00 per hour and estimated 6 to 8 hours to complete. Do we have any in-house options for auditing our books? MWF dues have been paid.
Program	Nancy Spalenka introduced Doris Koehn for "Beadwork, Wirework and Gems" topic. February program is about the annual Tucson Show.
Editor/Web	No Report. Jim Elliot will make entry for MWF editorial contest.
Publisher	No Report - only a reminder that the online version is in color.
Field Trip	Basement field trip in February. Field trip to Chicago in March. Working on another field trip to gypsum mines. Contact Kreigh for details.
Show Committee	Show date confirmed for April 8, 9, and 10. Set up to start after 6:30pm April 7. John Kuipers will have signup sheets at February meeting.
Publicity	We could use one more person...
Sunshine	Eleanor reported on current activities and noted signup sheet for refreshments.
Librarian	No report
Historian	Needed
Sales	No Report
Correspondence	No Report
Membership	Next month we will ask members to review their club information on sheets provided.
Old Business	Check with Joan Fewless if you have material to donate for egg cartons for the April Show.
New Business	Summer Sale June 12, 2010 set up 8-8:30am - see Ed Krzeminski
Adjourned	

EDITOR'S NOTES

I have a couple of correction/additions to make to the Arrowhead News. First off, the photos in January's edition were attributed to Anne Rance...most of you may have figured out that is supposed to be Anne Westover. This is not the first time I have tried to change your name Anne...again, "I'm sorry Anne!"

Also, club member Steve Crabbs wanted to pass on a tidbit regarding the tip regarding leaving your ivory in the light. Steve wants to remind us **not** to leave your ivory in **direct** sunlight where the piece could heat up and fracture! Thank you Steve!

Even more...I have heard that the new format of our newsletter is making the font appear smaller. While I am working on correcting this, I have a helpful hint from club member Julia Donker..." Hi...We have a Microsoft "tailless" mouse. When I open your newsletter, I am able to press on the far right beyond the scroll wheel - a box of tools will pop up. One of the choices is "marquee zoom" which will enlarge all of what has been sent."

Thank you for your help and ideas! Keep them coming and I will do my best to pass them on to you, after all this is *your* newsletter, help me to make it what *you* want it to be.

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THE KING'S BASEMENT

By Don Van Dyke

Words and even pictures fail to describe the treat we have in store when the Club has the opportunity to view Roger and Arlene King's basement. From massive, beyond cabinet size, to micro mount size, this is a collection that will be the envy of all of us.

When you step into the room your eyes are instantly drawn to 3 fluorite specimens, each worthy of display in a quality museum. (Photo #1) Your eyes wander to the back corner. Shelf after shelf covered with examples of the collecting abilities of the Kings. (Photo #2)

Standing in the doorway, looking down the length of the basement it is hard to imagine the work of keeping them all clean and in order. (Photo #4) Another 'monster' fluorite from Southern Illinois covered with a number of fine associated minerals. (Photo #5)

Washington Co. Missouri druze quartz and barite has its own corner (Photo #6)

Many other locations have their own 'niches' and Roger is also displaying some of his recent discoveries in the beauty found through cutting and polishing rutilated quartz, and agate.



Photo #1



Photo #2



Photo #3



Photo #4



Photo #5



Photo #6



THE QUARTZSITE ADVENTURE JAN 12 – 28, 2010

By Rance and Anne Westover

After watching the weather for days, we found a two-day window of good weather starting on Jan 12, 2010. We started out on a chilly Tuesday morning at 13 degrees above. After long days of driving we stayed at Joplin, Missouri and Odessa, Texas. The third day we picked up fire agates north of Lordsburg, New Mexico before staying in Wilcox, Arizona. On the fourth day we arrived to stay with friends just three miles north of Wenden, Arizona. From Wenden it is just 40 miles to downtown Quartzsite.

We spent two days going through the Desert Gardens Show and also Tyson Wells. It is a sight to see - so many varieties of stones from all over the world in one location. Although prices were high, bargains could be found. For example, we found mookite from Australia to be priced from \$3.00 to \$8.00 per lb. We decided to turn down fire agates priced at \$30.00 to \$40.00 a piece, at the Desert Gardens. We later bought some at the Pow Wow for three dollars apiece. Some of our best buys were Brazilian agates and bertrandite (Tiffany Stones). Of course, Anne was sending me back to the car periodically with bags of slabs that were too good to resist.

The next couple of days were spent on field trips. The first was to Burro Creek where we promptly got lost and never found any of the purple agate we had hoped to find. We finally came out to Nothing, Arizona. This is on a paved Road back to Wenden, Arizona. The second trip was to Brenda Arizona. This is where we found jasper and Arizona agate. Without the help of GPS, we would still be lost.

We would like to return but not before we purchase our own GPS system.

We all looked forward to the first day of the Pow Wow. Arriving early we toured as many booths as possible and enjoyed the day, even ran into Rod and Mary Wing. Everyone was talking about the storms that were coming in from California the next day. The monsoon rains and 60 mile an hour winds destroyed the rest of the Pow Wow Show. Rocking and rolling for two days in a mobile home with part-time electricity was not what was expected for our first desert trip to Arizona.



On Saturday we were able to start the trip back east. We decided taking Highway 60 across the state to the town of Safford, Arizona; where we were to find geodes. However, we were turned back because of a snowstorm. We spent another night in Wilcox, Arizona. The next day we headed straight for Deming, New Mexico. Just north of Deming we filled our remaining pails with agates. This has to be the biggest agate field I have ever seen.

We had decided to stay on US 10 until we arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana. From Deming to San Antonio, Texas was again a long drive. However touring the Alamo and a great dinner at the River Walk provided a very enjoyable day. Before we were to arrive at New Orleans the weather forecast of an ice storm coming again changed our plans. We headed home in a hurry.

Wouldn't you know that arriving in Greenville 16 days later the temperature would still be 13 degrees above zero?

For all the bad weather we ran into, there are memories we won't soon forget.

We saw several Roadrunners, Jackrabbits, Havilians, wind-farms, cotton fields, and pecan and pistachio groves. Cactus in many varieties, palm trees, Spanish moss, and green grass in 70 degree temperatures will also be remembered.



For those who are curious, we drove 5,650 miles and returned with 568 lbs of rocks.



CHICAGO FIELD TRIP UPDATE

By Kreigh Tomaszewski, Field Trip Chair

I have good news and bad news.

The bad news is that we do not have enough people interested in the trip to hire our own bus so the IMRMC trip is cancelled.

The good news is that the number of rockhounds that did sign up exactly equals the number of empty seats on the Holland Club's bus, so I signed everyone up who made a down payment.

The bad news is that you will have to drive to Holland to catch their bus that is leaving at 8 am sharp. They are leaving from the Ditto/Subway/AAA parking lot on the north side of 8th street just west of its intersection with 31. They will return to the same spot between 8 and 9 pm.

The good news is that the bus will have a rest room.

The bad news is that there will be no stops. You will have to bring your own food and drink, and eat on the bus.

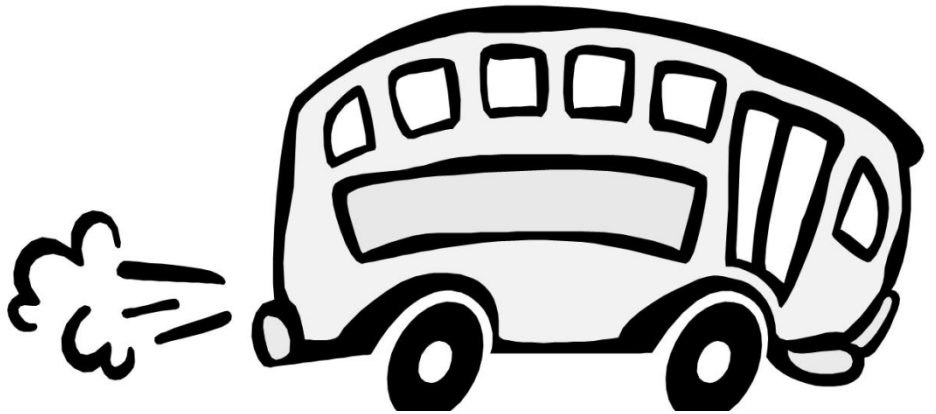
The good news is that they arranged a group rate so admission to the Field Museum will be cheaper.

The bad news is that you have to get the balance of \$24.75 (or \$21 if you are 65 or older) to me by the club meeting on Feb 16 so I can deliver one check to the Holland Club before their meeting on Feb 24th. Make checks out to IMRMC.

The good news is that if the changed arrangements don't work I can return your down payment if you let me know.

The bad news is that if you didn't sign up for the trip you are now on a waiting list and won't get to go unless someone drops out. If you want to go on the waiting list you will have to write a check for the whole amount (\$30 bus plus museum fees outlined above).

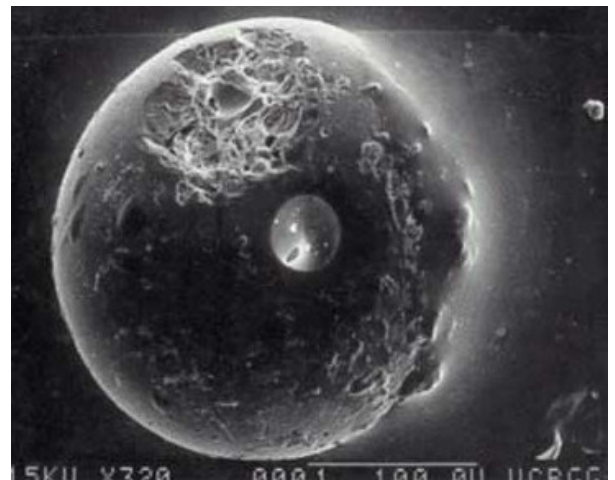
Editor's Note: this trip is scheduled for March 6 – see page 6 of the January edition of the Arrowhead News. Contact Kreigh by phone at 616-243-5851 or by email at kreigh@tomaszewski.net for more information.



WALKING ON STARDUST

From Achates Aug. '07 via The Glacial Groove Jan. '10 and The Strata Data Feb. '10

The Earth sweeps up several hundred tons of mass a day in the form of micro-meteoroids or meteoric dust. Some of these miniscule particles contain stardust that is older than our sun. As such, they are unique archives of the earliest history of the universe; and scientists are diligently collecting them in the Arctic, Antarctic, Australia the Sahara Desert and Greenland. A lot of the space dust we walk on comes from the moon — ejecta from all of the potshots the moon has received. A lot of it is from disintegrated meteorites.





Courtesy Corner

Here are the kitchen sign-ups for:

February: Rhonda Leep & Jim Elliot

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

SAFETY THOUGHTS

By David Rich in the -January 2010 MWF News

The new year is here and what a wonderful time to make a few safety resolutions and safety improvements.



One of your resolutions should be to wear **Safety Glasses**. Wearing safety glasses should be a part of the way you work. From blowing leaves to silver soldering, wearing safety glasses should be second nature. This little item in the tool box could save your eyesight. I personally have at least 10 pairs; they are everywhere. I have a pair with my weed whacker, at my lawn mower, and out in my barn tool box. I have the goggle type in the greenhouse where I have my fertilizer and orchard sprays. Of course, you will find them in my rock collecting bags. I have a pair in the tool repair kit in my truck. I must admit that some of the safety glasses are old and scratched up. Some are not the most fashionable, but when you need eye protection, a few scratches or outdated styles will still afford the protection you need. Now that your first New Year's resolution is made, you can be more likely to maintain good eyesight throughout 2010.

Take a good look at your work station. Go over and stand in front of your work area or hobby/craft area. Now promote yourself to Safety Inspector. Look at your electrical connections. Do you have a ground fault? Are your extension cords old or torn? Is your area cluttered up? Are your tools sharp and well maintained? What about your chemicals? Do you have them stored properly? Are the

lids on and containers labeled correctly? Should these chemicals even be in the house or garage? This is a good time to give yourself a critical safety inspection.

I would like to hear from you about your safety inspection results. Send an e-mail to me at birdman035@hotmail.com and let me know what you did to improve your hobby/craft and/or work areas.

Be safe.

Arrowhead News



February 9

- **WEST MICHIGAN MWF MINERAL STUDY GROUP**
- at the home of Doug Howe
- Tuesday, 7 PM – 9 PM
- Mineral: Calcite

February 16

- **IMRMC MEETING**
- Wesley Park United Methodist Church
- Tuesday, 7 PM – 9 PM
- Program: The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show

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 16

- **IMRMC MEETING**
- Wesley Park United Methodist Church
- Tuesday, 7 PM – 9 PM
- Program: The Keweenaw National Historical Park video, 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 11...

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April 20

•**IMRMC MEETING**

- Wesley Park United Methodist Church
- Tuesday, 7 PM – 9 PM
- Program: Spring Banquet, "Meteorites" 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 Snepf 517-339-2863

September 21

•**IMRMC MEETING**

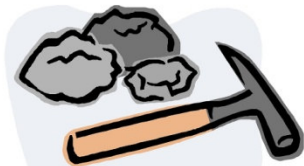
- Wesley Park United Methodist Church
- Tuesday, 7 PM – 9 PM
- Program: "Geodes", speaker, Steve Tchozeski

BOOK CORNER NEWS

By Donna Griseto, Librarian

Okay, I am new at this and I just want everyone to know that it will take me awhile to go through the whole library and reorganize it to my standards. Arlene, I want to thank you for all the years that you have put into this job. She is helping me to transition as your new librarian. One thing that bothers me a little is that some of the rock club members have had books out for almost one year. Next month I will be sending the newsletter all the names of those who owe the library its books if they are out more than 4 months. Last month I took home a bunch of pamphlets and it amazes me that we have some that are dated in the 70's and no one has ever looked at one of these. This library has tremendous learning possibilities, take a look at it and find something new. Until next month...Donna L Griseto





Rocks & Minerals 2010 Summer Super Sale

Host: Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club

Date: Saturday, June 12, 2010
9 am to Noon (Rain or Shine)

Place: Wesley Park United Methodist Church
1150 32nd Street SW Wyoming, Michigan

Admission: Free! Free! Free!

Sellers & Dealers: Anyone may sell; no table charge,
but 20% of total sales is paid immediately to Club.

Club members and local rockhounds are invited to buy and sell anything & everything; generally rock-related items, but if it sells, bring it! There will be tables & tailgates full of bargains – outside in the parking lot if the weather is nice; or inside if it's not. Sellers should bring your own tables; and 20% of your gross sales are paid immediately to the Club before leaving. Buyers, plan on lots of bargain-priced items: specimens, crystals, slabs, rough, fossils, equipment, jewelry & more! We're a non-profit organization.

Directions: From Holland: Take I-196 to M-6, then exit north onto Byron Center Avenue for about 3 miles, then right onto 36th Street for a mile and a half. Turn left onto Michael Avenue for a half mile to 32nd Street. From US-131: Take US-131 to the 36th Street exit in Wyoming, turn west onto 36th Street for about a mile, then turn right onto Michael Avenue for a half mile to 32nd Street. Church is on the SE corner of 32nd & Michael Avenue in Wyoming, Michigan.

For Information: Visit our website: www.indianmoundsrockclub.com. Or contact

Sales Chairman Ed Krzeminski at 616-530-9571 or at edkrzeminski@juno.com.

Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club is not responsible for any losses or damages due to event activities or schedule changes.



AMETHYST

By John Zentz for Star-O-Lite, February '10

The February born shall find Sincerity and peace of mind, Freedom from passion and from care, If they, the amethyst will wear. [Author unknown]

Amethyst is both the traditional and modern birthstone for the month of February. It is perhaps one of the most familiar gemstones because it is found in varying degrees of transparency in many locations throughout the world. It is, and has been for thousands of years, richly steeped in lore. Several unique and diverse benefits are thought to be gained by wearing this beautiful violet form of quartz.



The most popular belief regarding amethyst is that it protects against drunkenness. This accounts for its name as the Ancient Greek words *a-* (not) *methustos* (intoxicated) indicate. Drinking vessels were even cut from amethyst to prevent drunkenness. Amulets were also worn by early European soldiers as protection in battle. In other cultures amethyst was believed to protect crops, promote chastity, drive out evil spirits, enhance intellect, treat excessive stomach acid, clear up the skin, and even to protect against insect or snakebite. When you add the exquisite beauty of a richly colored and well cut flawless amethyst, it is quite a versatile gemstone.



One of the earliest ways amethyst was employed as a gemstone was by carving. We call this process *intaglio* when a figure is carved into the face of a gemstone, and *relief* if the figure is raised from the face or background, as is the case with most cameos.

Amethyst is the violet variety of quartz, SiO_2 . The color can range from light pinkish violet to deep purple with varying degrees of secondary hues of red and blue. Only recently has the source of its coloration been identified. It is currently believed that a complex interplay of iron and aluminum impurities is responsible for its color and its reaction to heat. Heated amethyst usually turns to a shade of yellow, and this phenomenon is responsible for much of our current supply of citrine. The most sought after color in an amethyst is called "Deep Russian" or "Deep Siberian" which is very rare. These exceptionally colored stones come from the Ural Mountains of Russia and are rarely exported uncut. Fortunately, beautiful stones are also available from a variety of other locations, including deep, dark purple crystals from Mexico.

As would be expected, amethyst can occur like other quartz as long prismatic crystals with a six sided pyramid at either end. It is also commonly found as a crystalline crust, or druse, with only the pointed terminations exposed. With a Mohs hardness of seven and its moderate refraction, it is suitable for jewelry, even where it may be exposed to wear such as in rings or bracelets. However, amethyst's



color can fade when exposed to bright light. Natural or induced color changes in amethyst are still not completely understood. There is even a place in Bolivia where crystals can be found with both violet and yellow areas adjacent to each other. These unique gemstones are called ametrines, part amethyst, part citrine.



This most striking representative of the quartz family has been described as "extravagance in violet." And, if you were born in February, you have a great friend to help you through the season's carnivals.

[Photographs from Wikipedia]

Arrowhead News



NOTES:

QUESTIONS:

IDEAS:

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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As of the sending of this email newsletter, the only apology that I know need to make this month is to John Kuipers for the omission of his article.

I am sending it out in an email right quick! Sorry John!

Which leads to...

BRENDA'S LAST MINUTE *EXCUSE-OF-THE-MONTH!*

This month's excuse...(drum-roll)...busted hot-water heater and a flooded basement (don't worry, it's all better now!)

Tune in next month for my...Excuse-Of-The-Month!"

(You know we've all got "them", but I get to write about mine! :o)

ARROWHEADNEWS

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