

The Sooner Rockologist

Vol. 64 Number 3

March 2009

Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society Purpose

- *The purpose shall be an educational relationship among the members for the study of rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, and lapidary techniques, and for the exchange of the results of such studies and classifications with similar societies and the public. (We have fun, too!)*

Membership & Meetings

General Membership meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (with the exception of June and December when we celebrate with an anniversary picnic in June and a December Christmas party in lieu of regular meetings). Guests are welcome!

On the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. (except on holidays), we meet for a Demonstration & Work Night to give members an opportunity to share information and teach each other and assist each other with various personal projects.

Meetings and work nights are held at the Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Building, 3400 N.W. 36th Street in Oklahoma City. Annual dues are \$10.00 for a single membership and \$15.00 for husband and wife (children also). A \$1.00 per person initiation fee applies to new members, subject to application and approval.

OMGS Welcomes New Members



In what is perhaps the largest single group, Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society welcomed new members to the club. Please make these members feel at home. (Pictured left to right) Paula and Roy Allen, Nina Brown, John Luna, Verna and Dennis McNabb, Kevin and Ann Christopher, D'June Emmanuel, Teresa Gabrish, Mario Herrera, Bill and Sandra Hiatt and OMGS President Paul Cinnamon.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

Paul Cinnamon

These are exciting times to be a member of OMGS. After an extended period of time in which our organization has lost a number of long time faithful workers, some through the frailties of health, others due to relocation, etc., we are experiencing a much needed influx of new, enthusiastic individuals, as anxious to share their talents and knowledge with us as we are to assist them.

If my count is accurate, at the February Board of Directors meeting, membership applications for 20 individuals were processed and approved. At our regular club meeting on February 19th, most of these new

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2008 Elected Officers

President

Paul Cinnamon 405-262-6715

Vice President

Donna Davis 405-760-6566

Secretary

Jeannie Manners 405-577-2029

Treasurer

David Read 405-789-2997

Board of Directors

One year term:

Vernon Dorton

Wanda Manderscheid

Doyle McCown

Joanne Carroll

Two year term:

Darla Wood

Elaine Welch

John Bode

Appointed Officers & Committee Chairpersons

Anniversary Picnic: Donna Davis

Audio/Video: Tom Manners

Christmas Party: Dottie Smith

Property Custodians: John Bode & Paul Cinnamon

Education: vacant

Federation Activities: Arlene Burkhalter

Field Trips: Ed Vermillion

Historian: Joann Carroll

Hospitality: Ambrosia Geffre

Librarian: Norma Cinnamon

**Meeting Display: Doyle McCown
Billie Marie Nedd**

Membership: Wanda Manderscheid

Programs: Vernon Dorton

members were present, and were introduced and received their club credentials. We should all do our utmost to make them welcome and assimilate them into our club activities.

In addition to this wonderful news, we had a number of guests present at our February meeting. Of these guests, at this present time we have an additional 16 persons who have filed applications for membership. Our challenge as seasoned members of OMGS is to befriend these new associates, ascertain their interests, lead them toward existing members with like interests, and willingly share our knowledge and skills. I'm quite certain many of these newcomers can teach this old dog a few new tricks!

To those of you who are new members, we implore you to communicate to us your interests, giving us an opportunity to provide you with meaningful assistance. We also invite you to participate in our first Monday of each month work night activities, and sample some of the areas of our hobby that appear fun and interesting. Many of us have interests spilling over in several different areas. These work and discussion sessions normally occur from 6—9 pm. in the Will Rogers meeting room, on the first Monday of each month except June and December. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, I'm sure any of our members will try to assist, or guide you to someone who can.

For all those interested in cutting and polishing rocks, OMGS has received some good lapidary equipment from an anonymous donor that will be auctioned to the highest bidders at upcoming meetings. Our plan at this time is to auction a 6 inch flat lap variable speed "All You Need" machine during our March meeting. Many of us have these durable little diamond lap machines. The second machine I purchased when I started learning lapidary in 1985 was one of these. They are capable of producing fine cabochons for use in jewelry or display, and can also be used to polish slabs. They can produce as fine quality as the most expensive "Genie" machine, at only a fraction of the price. At present I believe the new price of this machine with the accessories is \$379.95. At future meetings we plan to auction small rock saws, and a heavy duty tumbler unit with grit and polish. If you have a need or interest, come with your checkbook or cash. The proceeds will go into our operating budget.

We are all looking forward to our field trip at the General Materials Gravel Pit. As many of you know, it has been two years since we have been allowed to rockhound there.

First, they shut the plant down while they installed new equipment. Then they were plagued with ongoing problems with this new equipment. They finally got most of the equipment problems resolved during this past winter, but they are still behind on production, particularly of the larger rock, which is of the most interest to us. The foreman thinks they will have an adequate supply on hand to keep us entertained for a few hours on March 14th. In order to participate on this field trip, one must be a member of OMGS, or one of the other RMFMS affiliated clubs in the state. This is due to the blanket liability insurance policy that is required by the owners of General Materials. All participants will also be required to sign a Release of Liability form that we will have at the location. For couples with minor children who have a family membership, one of the

Parliamentarian: John Bode
Publicity OPEN
Newsletter Editor: Tom Manners
Scholarship: Arlene Burkhalter
Show 2009: Vernon Dorton
Sunshine: Donna Davis
Telephone: Oveta Vermillion
Ways & Means: Dean & Wanda Manderscheid
Doyle McCown
Workshop: Mark Brickmann

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If you have articles of interest that you would like to see printed in The Sooner Rockologist, please be sure to contact the editor.

Please submit your contributions no later than the first of each month. Your submissions may be edited for punctuation, clarity and space. If you have an announcement or a trip report to share, please e-mail me or give it to me at the monthly meetings. E-mail attachments in MS Word are appreciated so as to prevent retyping the information. Unless otherwise noted, articles are written and/or contributed by the Editor.

If you owe membership dues, please mail your check to:

OMGS
Attn: Jeannie Manners
P. O. Box 2084
Oklahoma City, OK
73101-2084

parents must sign the form releasing OMGS and General Materials from any liability for their children. As this field trip is open to all affiliated clubs in the State, I anticipate a large group of eager rockhounds. If you are unfamiliar with the material we should be finding, tag along with some of us who have hunted there many times in the past, and we'll try to get you started. The event is scheduled regardless of the weather, but obviously during March in Oklahoma the weather can play a large factor on outside activities, so pray for a comfortable day.

Happy Rockhounding!

OMGS Board Meeting Minutes February 12, 2009

Members present: John Bode, Paul Cinnamon, Donna Davis, Vernon Dorton, Jeannie Manners, Doyle McCown, David Read, Elaine Welch, and Darla Wood.
Guests: Norma Cinnamon, Robert Davis, Lou Dorton, and Tom Manners.

Donna Davis, vice-president, called the meeting to order. We have a quorum. David Read moved, Doyle McCown 2nd motion passed to accept the minutes as printed in the Rockologist. The treasurer's report was given. Doyle moved, Darla Wood 2nd motion passed to renew the CDs at the special 2% rate offered by the bank. The audit has been completed.

Correspondence: Several newsletters from other clubs have been received and given to the editor. Several members sent their 2009 dues.

New member applications: Applications have been received from Nina Brown; Bill & Sandra Hiatt; Roy & Paula Allen; Kevin & Ann Christopher; Diana Davis; Glenn Frantz; Teresa Gabrish; Dennis & Rose Kyrk; John D. & Caroline Luna; D'June Emanuel; Verna McNabb; Mario & Kathy Herrera; and Elsie Stickler. Discussion ensued about concerns that have been voiced by club members about dealers becoming members, participating in our show, etc. The consensus was reached that dealers can be members, as long as the By-Laws are followed. Show participation would be a matter of concern for the Show Committee. Jeannie Manners moved, John Bode 2nd, motion passed to accept all the applications for new members.

Committee reports: Field trips: Paul Cinnamon reported on the upcoming field trip to General Materials on Saturday, March 14, 8 – 12:30. All participants must be a member of a club, for insurance purposes.

We are in need of an Education committee chairman. Paul will make contacts.

Old business: Regarding selenite digging at the Great Salt Plains Crystal Digging Area, Vernon Dorton advised us of an article in the Cherokee Messenger & Republican about its possible reopening. A public meeting has been scheduled March 3, 6 – 8 pm, in the Cherokee High School Auditorium. It would be good to have a representation of rock hounds present to voice our interests.

The Red Rock Canyon Swap Meet was discussed.

The proposed 2009 Budget was presented. Doyle moved, Darla 2nd, motion passed to accept it and present it to the general membership. The directory will be printed after the February general meeting, the deadline for membership dues.

Name badges have been discussed; Les Jones has the information to order more; Donna will talk to him and get the necessary information.

Shows of Integrity will be coming to Oklahoma City June 12-14. We have accepted their invitation to have a free booth for OMGS.

No new business.

Meeting adjourned.
Jeannie Manners

OMGS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2009

NOTE: We would like to receive input from each and every one of our members on what you would like to see happening during our work night the first Monday of each month, so we can determine who will give instruction in those particular areas of interest. Thank you

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.

Regarding health issues, Donna Davis is on our sunshine committee. She said she hasn't been receiving any notifications lately of folks being ill or having difficulties. In that regard, no news is good news!

But if you don't know who to contact to tell about these things, she is the person. She asked that I be sure to remind everyone.

Her phone number is 760-6566, and her e-mail is

robertdavis3@cox.net.

Please be sure to keep her abreast of these issues so our club can help out if needed. Thanks!

Paul Cinnamon, president, called the meeting to order. Be sure to sign up for the door prize drawing, see the exhibits on the side tables, and visit the silent auction.

Jeannie Manners stated that the minutes were printed in the Rockologist. Ed Vermillion moved, John Bode seconded that the minutes be approved as printed; motion carried.

David Read gave the treasurer's report.

Correspondence: We have received many newsletters. A card and Christmas letter was received from Dorothy Deitchler.

The guests were introduced by Wanda Manderscheid.

Doyle McCown introduced our exhibits, brought by Billie Marie Nedd, Donna Davis, Robert Davis, Robert Welch, and Dottie Smith, David Read, and Doyle McCown.

New Members: The following new members received their packets and had their picture taken: Paula & Roy Allen, Nina Brown, Kevin & Ann Christopher, D'June Emmanuel, Teresa Gabrish, Mario & Kathy Herrera, Bill & Sandra Hiatt, John & Caroline Luna, and Verna & Dennis McNabb.

Field Trip: The General Materials gravel pit field trip is on for Saturday, March 14. Meet there between 7:30 and 8 am. We will leave by 12:30. Only club members may participate, for liability insurance purposes. Stay away from the sides of the open pit and the equipment. Bring a hard hat and safety glasses; a squirt bottle, rock hammer, rake, 5 gallon bucket, and a box in the vehicle would be good resources as well. There will be boxes to receive donations for the club's silent auction.

Old Business: The proposed 2009 budget was presented to the membership. John Luna moved, Tom Manners seconded that the budget be approved; motion carried.

New Business: The Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge's Crystal Digging Area has been closed for 2 years. The US Army Corps of Engineers is holding a public meeting Tuesday, March 3, 6 pm, at the Cherokee High School Auditorium. We are all encouraged to attend, or submit a written comment by the March 18 deadline. We would like to be able to dig for selenite crystals again.

Committee Reports:

Library – The library has a new book, *Agates*.

Field Trip – Stay tuned for some possibilities coming up. Some equipment has been anonymously donated to the club to be auctioned off, and the proceeds are to go to the scholarship fund. Starting in March, 1 or 2 items will be auctioned off at each general meeting. Ann Christopher won the door prize.

Next month's cookie volunteers are Nell Walraven and Tyonne Lone Elk. Next month's kitchen help volunteer is Darla Wood.

Meeting adjourned for refreshments and a continuation of last month's program – a dvd about Exotic and Phenomenal Gemstones.

Jeannie Manners, Secretary

Road Trip to 2009 Quartzite POW WOW

By Jerry Cannedy

Having been 9 years and after reviewing the schedule of field trips Sandy and I decided to make the trip to Quartzsite one more time.

We left on Friday morning Jan. 16th to allow us time to get there and get settled before the field trips began. First day out we made it to Santa Rosa, New Mexico. Getting late so we stopped at a KOA on the east side of town. Mistake!! Not only High \$39.00 with Good Sam discount but their water was frozen so we only had electric. We have found KOA's to be getting unreasonable for a night stop. (May use Walmart in the future). Next night we made it to the Indian Casino about 50 miles south of Flagstaff. Again late, dark-30, and hard to locate RV camps. Another mistake, water wasn't frozen but \$49.50 for the night. Nice facility but way too high for us poor folks. The next day Sunday the 18th we made it into Quartzsite; we went back to our old location in the Main Event. We were worried about finding an open spot but later learned there were plenty all around the town. Not as many people as in the past. Spent the afternoon looking at dealers booths in the Main Event.

To those not familiar with Quartzsite, it is probably the biggest flea market and rock swap in the world. With thousands of snowbirds from all over the US and Canada many of them well off, the thousands of dealers there have a captive audience that have nothing else to do but drink beer, visit and shop, and believe me there are plenty of shoppers. Parking spaces hard to find and isles full of people every day.

On Monday we went to the local Rock POW WOW clubs headquarters to get info. Their club provides work shop classes open to the snowbirds that join the club. They offered classes Mon.-Sat. each week and have their own building to house their equipment. Wish our club could do the same but not really feasible.

We found there was also a rock show going on at the Desert Garden area, so we spent the next couple of days going through it. Hundreds of mostly rough rock and large quantity dealers. I was looking for some black agate and rutilated quartz but never found any among all those 100's of dealers. I found one dealer from Phoenix that had black agate but had none with him. No one seemed to have rutilated quartz, a dealer I talked to said it was all going to China for some reason.

Finally on the 21st the Pow Wow began. They had given us wrong information on where to meet for the field trips. So we missed the location for Fossils and Agate the first day but did barely make it to the other location just as they were pulling out, it was for Alunite. They offered 2 trips each morning, you decided on which to make and meet at the gathering location at 8:45 am . The Alunite is a band of red jasper sandwiched between two bands of tan jasper in a white looking rhyolite. I found some but don't

really know what to do with it. Might be suitable to make cameos if you do that kind of rock work.

The 22nd we went for red Jasper and hematite, there was plenty of it for everyone. This trip we located some dead saguaro cactus from which we were able to collect several ribs that I will turn into Moses sticks as Sandy calls them. The 23rd we went for green banded rhyolite, plenty to be found. The 24th we were supposed to go for Dumortierite but someone had recently filed a claim so we couldn't collect. The 25th our last day we went for desert roses, don't waste your time, not very good hunting. Found a few but nothing to write home about. Each afternoon after the field trip we spent at the Pow Wow, slowly visiting the hundreds of dealers. There were around 500 dealers there. We recognized three from our shows. Robert & Linda Woods (R & L) Phil & Joani Andrist not at our shows in a long time but still making a few shows a year, and Claudia from Spencer Opal. The inside show had a lot of beautiful and interesting exhibits. Wish we



could get them for our show. We spent most of our time outside. One dealer was selling Ammolite but he was always so busy I could never get to talk to him. Robert (Bob) Woods introduced me to a dealer from Calif. that owns a fire agate mine. He had some beautiful stuff for sale if you had plenty of money. He was selling (mine ran?) 3 gal. pails for \$400.00, but after mining some on my own I doubt there is such a thing as real mine run since each agate is looked at individually when you mine it. I'm sure its high graded and any real good ones are those they missed. They were very proud of their stones which ran from \$5.00 a caret to \$50.00 a caret. One good stone I looked at was priced \$12,000.00. Gave me a new respect for the stones I have cut. The dealer told me there was a mine open to the public at Oatman, Az. Since we were heading for Laughlin with Oatman nearby I had to make the trip.

The evening of the 25th we made it to Laughlin, camping rates there were reasonable, \$25.00 a night. The 26th we visited the Clouds Rock Jamboree at the AVI Indian Casino south of Laughlin. The event was about over so some good deals could be had from the dealers that were leaving.

The 27th we went to the fire agate mine located a few miles east of Oatman on old 66. We found the mine owner who said he had 5 claims. The one he took us to was right on the shoulder of old 66. Believe me it is hard rock mining, hammer and chisel. The fire agate is located in the cracks of rhyolite that was broken up and rolled down the mountain into piles. Over the years the agate was deposited in the cracks between the rocks. The cracks are filled with a red clay that holds the agate roses. So you have to find the clay filled cracks and pry the rocks apart. Sometimes you find agate, most time not. After \$20.00 to dig and 3 hrs. Hard labor I found 6 or 7 agates. Not sure that they will be worth anything or not, you can see fire in them.



The town of Oatman was a real surprise, it's hard to visualize that thousands of people made their way to California through there. Oatman is an old gold mining town with main street on old 66. Old 66 is about 40 feet wide porch to porch with wild donkeys roaming free. If you ever get the chance and are interested in old 66 stuff at all it's worth the visit.

Thankfully our trip was free from any break downs, blow outs or ruined tires and the old pickup is grateful to be about 400 pounds lighter.

Good hunting Jerry and Sandy

Help!!!!

The OMGS Semi-Annual Rock show is just a few short months away and show chairman Vernon Dorton is looking for HELP. Our show is scheduled for November 7 and 8, 2009. Many of the things that need to be done do not require special skills, only a commitment to HELP.

The display cases need to be inventoried, grab bags need to be sorted and filled, the building will need to be set up, volunteers are needed to demonstrate lapidary skills. These are just a few of the things you can do to HELP the club.

If you would like to help or would like to learn more about the areas where help is needed and when, call Vernon Dorton at 485-9446 or the assistant chairman Paul Cinnamon at 252-6715. If you are a new OMGS member, just ask someone to point Paul or Vernon out at the next club meeting. They will be happy to talk to you.

A Festival Of Gems, Minerals & Fossils 2009!!!



BEADS, JEWELRY, GEMS, MINERALS, FOSSILS & ROCKS

Swap, Show and Sale
March 27, 28 & 29 2009

Free Admission.

The show will feature various demonstrations and displays of fluorescent rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary and jewelry. Silent auctions of materials donated by dealers and members will be held hourly.

**** A raffle Drawing on Sunday Afternoon at 3 P.M. For all Ticket Holders, need not be present to win**** **Special Kids' Event: Fossil Dig.**

Hours: Friday 10 AM till 6 PM. Saturday 9 AM till 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM till 5 PM.

Admissions & Fees: Free

Dealers: Dealers from the surrounding states (Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, & Texas & Indiana).

Event Location: Pontotoc County Agri-Plex, Ada, Oklahoma
Main Building #1 (Western Side of Agriplex)

At the N.E. Corner of the intersection of State Highway 99 (U.S. 377) and the Richardson Bypass (SHwy 1 & 3E)

Information Mailing Address:

Ed Vermillion, Show Chairperson
P.O. Box 782
Purcell, Ok 73080
405-527-6431
okieed42@windstream.net

Show Committee:

Bill Rushlau
Melody Ulanowski
Ovetta Vermillion

OMGS Calendar

March 12 - OMGS Board of Directors Meeting

March 14 - OMGS Field trip to General Materials.

March 15 - Enid club field trip, Billings - Malachite, Petrified Wood (need count to attend)

March 19 - General Meeting, Program - Glass Bead Making Demonstration with Lorie Bode

April 2 - Show Committee meeting

April 6 - OMGS work night

April 9 - OMGS Board of Directors Meeting

April 11 - Enid club field trip, Salt Plains - Selenite Crystals

April 16- General Meeting, Program - To Be Announced

May 4 - OMGS work night

May 7 - Show Committee meeting

May 11 Enid club field trip, Prague - Fossils, Quartz, Jasper

May 14 - OMGS Board of Directors Meeting

May 21 - General Meeting, Program - To Be Announced

June 13 - Enid club field trip, Hardtner, Bill White's Museum

November 7-8 OMGS Show "River of Gems" Oklahoma State Fairpark, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-5

If you have changes, corrections or additions to the OMGS Calendar, please e-mail me at trmanners@sbcglobal.net or call me at (405) 577-2029.

**For a complete listing of ALL the rock and gem shows around the nation please go to the web site;
<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp>**

If you would like to go on any of the field trips with the Enid club please contact Stan Nowak at 580-234-3126.

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