

THE COWTOWN CUTTER

VOLUME 06/09

JUNE 2009

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

Minutes 1

President's Corner 2

Minutes Continued 3

Birthdays 3

Article of Interest 4

Article of Interest (Cont.) 5

Program 5

Field Trips 5

Committee Positions 6

The Editor's Pen 6

Area News 7

Real Gems 7

Club Info. 8

Want to add something? Contact Stephanie Moran at: fwgemclub.newsletter@gmail.com



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**FIELD TRIP – Jasper, Tx
June 27th 2009, Meet at “The Stump” restaurant @ 8am.**



Minutes for MAY 26th, 2009



Recorded by Secretary, Dora M. Hale

Meeting called to order by President Susan Thielker at 7:35 p.m.

Welcome all visitors including Mike and Cathy. Congratulations and welcome to Dennis and Lucille Wilson, the winners of the Grand Prize amethyst geode. Welcome to all who helped with the show, and we got 9 new members from the show.

Minutes were approved as published in the newsletter. Moved by Peter C. and seconded by Steve H.

Old business: Sign up for T-shirts. We may have new saw oil in the next week or so. We will need help to unload it.

New business: (sunshine) - A sympathy card has been sent to the family of Jack York, a former member of the club.

Show business: reports on most dealers happy, but need to improve the dock situation when they are loading at show closing. We sold 1145 tickets; 58 reported seeing it in the newspaper and 98 got cards. We need to sort tickets. Next year WRMC will be charging for parking. Silent auction netted about \$1000.

Classes: In order to have cabbing classes, we need to get in some new sanding belts. Interest is being shown in learning silversmithing.
(Minutes continued on page 4...)

President's Corner by Susan Thielker

Hello friends,

It looks like we did it again; we pulled off another great show! The visitors and the dealers that I talked with all were happy and impressed. We also had a record number of people come through the door. The club added 9 new members at the show, bringing our last 2 month total to 19 new members.

I hate to start listing individual names of people to thank, for fear of missing someone that was involved, but I really feel I need to acknowledge a few. Steve & Mary, thank you for all your work before hand on Thursday evenings, sorting and labeling silent auction items, all your work with the dealers, and dealer set ups, printing jobs, and then still helping in so many ways during the show weekend, all while trying to run your own booth. I can't imagine what it would be like without you. Elsie, thank you for all the phone calls and dealings with the coliseum and all the behind the scenes work that we don't even realize you do. On show weekend, thank you for the doughnuts, for being Johnny on the spot with change for everyone and for working the club table all weekend. Peter, thank you for emergency room runs, emergency printing runs, runs to the club house for forgotten items, and answering the many, many questions about rock identification. Also, thank you for picking out our wonderful raffle prize that was such a hit. Delta, thank you and kudos: many compliments were heard on the excellent and wonderful looking kid's corner. Dora, thank you for providing sustenance to dealers and members over the weekend and all the shopping trips and work that that entailed.



Thanks to all who worked the entrance table and a special thank you to Martha and Schuyler who between the two of them covered all of the time slots on Sunday. David, what do we say? Thank you for all of your time behind the microphone offering us auction updates, dealer advertisements, interesting commentaries, a calming voice during the fire alarm, and just all around keeping us smiling. Linda, thank you for all your time, work, smiles, and wonderful personality over the weekend, again making our silent auction a success. James & Stephanie, thank you for all your help with hauling, putting up and taking down signs, all the camera work and filling in all the different areas that you did. Thank you George F. for working the front table and along with George K. being around to answer questions. It was great having so many junior members and junior friends of the club helping out in so many ways. Thank you's to Nathaniel, Autumn, Sarah, Chelsea, Claire, Mathew, and Jerett. You were all a great help!

Thank you to the non members who worked to help us make it through this show. Anita, it was great to have your welcoming personality back at the admission table. Joy, two days working the silent auction table when you aren't even a rock lover? We'll get you hooked yet! Steve & Jackie, thanks for again providing our overnight security. Thanks to all of these nonmembers, plus Pat, Alice, and Linda for supporting us and our club with your generous gifts of time and help. I know there were several others who worked different time slots and helped with the set up and take down. Norm, Irene, Fran, and any that I missed - thank you to all! I think we all made a great team and did an excellent job.

Susan

Minutes continued from page 1.

Maintenance: Purchase of saw oil.

Treasurer's report was made.

Door prizes: White ticket = Peter Cornell. Red ticket = Debbie Kersh.

Field trips: The Wise County Club has invited us to join them for a picnic and fossil dig near Decatur this coming Saturday, starting at 11:00.

A petrified wood dig is scheduled for Saturday, June 27 in Jasper, Tx. Be at The Stump, a restaurant on Highway 255 in Jasper at 08:00. We should be through by noon.

There are also about 30,000 acres of unexplored land near Alpine. Cost to search here is \$50 per person per day. We can go to Ash Grove Cement Quarry twice a year.

Program: Tonight's program is a talk presented by Deborah Schiley and Morgan Stewart about Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines. They were stationed there in 1990 and the last group out of Subic Bay. Samples of ash were shown, each of a different coarseness. Mount Pinatubo is a seduction volcano. Tectonic plates spread and there is a ring of fire. Was set off by an 8.0 earthquake causing the plug to come loose in the volcano. Due to being close to the beach, the soil moved easily.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dora M Hale, Secretary

Did You Know...

Hundreds of years ago in Oxfordshire, fossils of Clypeus were referred to as pound stones and used as a measure of weight.



Lee Aaron
Paul Woodruff
Michael Crews
Bobbie Turk
Lyn Lanning
Ashley Crews

2nd
9th
15th
24th
26th
27th

Chuck Gilbert
Mary Hilliard
Chris Balsly

1st
9th
23rd

Article of Interest

Dynamite sticks & gem stones

By Martin Patience; BBC News, Panjshir Valley, Afghanistan (May 2009)



It all felt a bit ominous. With a rucksack packed with five liters of water I was struggling my way up the Hindu Kush mountain range, thousands of feet above sea-level. Behind me was a man carrying a yellow sack - a yellow sack packed with explosives, that is. And then on the way up the narrow path, I spotted three or four green Islamic flags marking a gravestone. What happened there, I wondered. Well, it seemed that someone had been taking a rest - his last as it turned out - when he was struck by a rock fall. But the reason for all the pain and high-altitude panting was simple: we were heading to the emerald mines.

Flying stones - The journey had started three hours earlier in the village of Kheng. It was the kind of place that seemed strange even by Afghan standards. Most of the shops were a neat row of shipping containers. And almost everyone seemed to have slips of white paper they would unwrap for you to reveal emeralds. The stones weren't dazzling; in fact, they looked like dull shards of glass. They only shine after they are cut and polished. But for the few hundred villagers of Kheng - it meant money - and lots of it. The source of that wealth, the mines, was above the snowline. At first, there wasn't a lot to look at - apart from flying stones that hurtled their way down the slopes. But once you had caught your breath, and looked closer, you saw it for what it was: a frontier post perched high on a mountain. Parts of the mountain were like Swiss cheese - burrowed with mineshafts. About 300 men worked up here - living in caves, or, if they were lucky, in mud houses. Some stayed up here for weeks on end. They worked in teams - miners, diggers, explosive experts, cooks, and suppliers. They shared the profits of any emeralds that were found.



'Need luck' - You could buy in as part of a syndicate - and provide, say, a donkey-load of rice which would guarantee you a share. But you needed luck in this place if you wanted to get rich. Mohammed, the manager of one of the mines, told me that he had seen people work for 10 years and find absolutely nothing. And then he had seen people mining for two weeks walking away with a haul of the precious stones. More worryingly, Mohammed told me that 30 miners had been killed...

Article of Interest (continued)

...or seriously injured by explosions or fumes in the mineshafts in the past 10 years.

Unsurprisingly, there wasn't a great deal of science or safety considerations when it came to mining here. At the entrance to one of the operational mines, four miners, looking like sooty moles, appeared to be enjoying the daylight after hours of darkness. Armed only with a torch, I walked into their gloom. I was forced to scramble up steep inclines. The air quality got worse and worse the further I went. It felt like walking into a smoker's lung. After walking for a few minutes, the noise of a drill started echoing through the rough-cut tunnel. There were two young men. They packed the drilled hole with explosives scooped out of a plastic bag. And then fitted it with a charge.



Hasty turn - I didn't fancy hanging about to see the explosion going off. So I made the hastiest turn of my life and half-stumbled down the mineshaft, trying to mind my head and trying not to drop my torch. I then shouted at Mahfouz - the BBC's ever-patient producer - that we needed to stick together - it's very dangerous! We can't be messing about at times like this. Accidents have killed or wounded 30 miners in the past decade. A few seconds later he arrived - face puffing - and calmly said: "Martin you're going the wrong way." When the explosions went off - I wasn't actually out of the mine. Instead, I was at a so-called "safe" distance. I didn't really hear very much - it was so loud - I just felt a rush of dust passing over my face and then my ears popped. After the dust and my nerves started to settle, I asked one of the miners how he felt when he saw an emerald. He told me that he forgot the hardship and fatigue of a year's work. He then motioned to go back up the shaft to see whether the explosion had hit a seam of emeralds. But I decided not to take him up on the offer. To be perfectly honest, I'd had enough for one day - emeralds or no emeralds.



Program For June



We have a great program this month that will be presented by Steve which will be an agate slide show. He will be presenting very thin slices of various agates that have been mounted in slide frames, allowing light to be projected through the agates onto a screen and discussing the various types being presented. Those presented will be from an old collection which he obtained last year.



Field Trips by Peter Cornell



June is upon us and with it the summer heat. For those of you who missed the last meeting, our next field trip will be to Jasper, Texas for petrified wood. This site is prolific with petrified wood and the question is not will I find some but rather which one should I choose. We meet at the Stump Restaurant at 8:00 am. If you need directions or any information please contact me via home phone (254) 582-8548, Cell (254) 644-5724 or e-mail. See you in the dirt. Peter Cornell

Committee Positions

Susan Thielker, President

5908 Walraven Cir
Fort Worth, Tx 76133
817.247.8467

ammonite_hunter@yahoo.com

Peter Cornell, Field Trips

254.644.5724

fossilmaniac@hotmail.com

Irene Stemple, Programs

817.798.5241

nstemple@att.net

Elsie Kennedy, Treasurer

817.648.9416

elsiegeorg@aol.com

Dora M. Hale, Secretary

817.297.9997

campaeent@aol.com

Stephanie Moran, Editor

P.O. Box 202664

Arlington, Tx 76006

817.449.8414

fwgemclub.newsletter@gmail.com

Mary Hilliard, Sunshine Chairman

817.995.8351

samehil@embarqmail

Steve Hilliard, Dealer Chairman

817.925.5760

fwgmc@embarqmail.com

What do our committee people do, you ask?

Additional information on the various committee positions and what their duties entail can be found on the, newly reconstructed, Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club website.

Find us online at

www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org

The Editor's Pen by Stephanie Moran

Greetings Friends!

This past month has been an incredibly busy month for the club. While the club is undergoing some late spring-cleaning and improvements, I've made some improvements as well. If you haven't yet heard, we now have a new website up and running. Small additions and changes are still being made to the site, but overall it's there and entirely functioning. In addition to the new site, we have a full forum and live chat room for all members and non-members to explore freely. I won't go into too many details about what's being done and has been done to the new site, but I will say that visiting definitely is worth the time. If you have ideas for me about the site, then please let me know! I'd love to hear!

The family and I haven't done much hunting around this month, but I have received a few tips on some decent hunting spots, and have been adding those into the online forum (you can get there through our new web page at www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org) under the forum & chat link, and then under the hunting spots section. I hope to hit those spots fairly soon!

As requested, I've made this newsletter a different color so that it's easier to tell the difference between issues each month. So those of you who love the color green, I hope you like this edition! If you've got a color scheme idea you'd like to see, then let me know and I'll set it up! I figure for next month, we'll go patriotic, since July carries our beloved Independence Day. Speaking of 4th of July, I also posted a ton of celebration events going on around the metroplex inside of that infamous online forum I keep mentioning. We're also going to be having a yummy ice cream social for our July meeting. I'm thinking chocolate. How about you? It's certainly warm enough now for ice cream! With all the excitement of summer coming upon us, all I have left to say is to those who plan to be outdoors, take care of yourself, drink lots of water and take a moment to seek out the shade. If you like to swim, then that's all the better. If you're planning on shooting off some fireworks for the 4th be safe, have fun, and take lots of pictures to share with us at the next meeting! ☺

Until the next edition ... ~Stephanie

Area News

Gem Shows

Date: June 26th, 27th, & 28th 2009 **Place:** Grapevine, Texas **Show:** AKS Gem Shows; Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-4; adults \$5; classes in beading, PMC, chain maille, and more **Contact:** Kay Schabilon, (504) 455-6101 or e-mail: info@aksshow.com
Website: www.aksshow.com

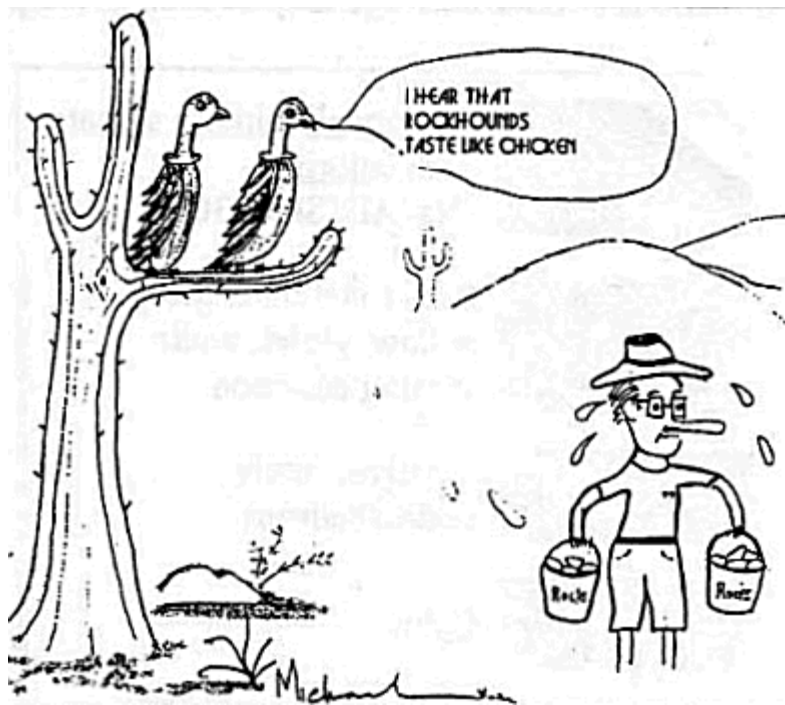
Date: June 19th, 20th, & 21st 2009 **City:** San Antonio, Texas **Show:** Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Rd.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; free admission; \$100 shopping spree drawing each day **Contact:** Kateri Rose, (509) 690-7644; **Web site:** www.myspace.com/beadjamboree

Did you know...

Hundreds of years ago, probably before anyone knew what those strange shapes (fossils) in the rocks were, they were collected and used by Chinese doctors. The Chinese called them "Hu-die-shih".

Real Gems

- What did the geologist say to the waiter: *"I've lost my apatite"* -
- What is one common flaw in all geologists? *They all have their faults.* -
- Never lend a geologist money. They consider a million years ago to be recent. -
- What's the difference between an ear ring and a nose ring? *S'not much.* -



Comic Reads: *"I hear that Rockhounds taste like chicken"*

THE FORT WORTH GEM & MINERAL CLUB

PURPOSE: The purpose of this club is to promote the study of geology, mineralogy, and the lapidary arts. We also strive to stimulate the interest in the searching, and collecting, of minerals and fossils.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership shall be open to anyone interested in the purpose described above.

DUES: \$15.00 per person, per year. \$20.00 per family, per year.

NEWSLETTER: Published monthly, before each meeting. Send articles, news, items, and classified ads to:

Stephanie Moran
P.O. Box 202664
Arlington, Tx 76006
817.449.8414
Email: fwgemclub.newsletter@gmail.com

CLUB WEBSITE (Check it out!):
www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org

Refreshments For JUNE:
POTLUCK - Bring your favorite dish!

Club Address: 3545 Bryan Ave.
Fort Worth, Texas 76110

Meeting starts at 7:30pm
Social starts at 7:00pm

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JUNE 23rd 2009 - REGULAR MEETING

Stephanie Moran
P.O. Box 202664
Arlington, Tx 76006