

Sedona Red Rocking News

Sedona Gem and Mineral Club

PO Box 3284, Sedona, AZ 86340
www.sedonagemandmineral.org

No Meeting in December 2014

General SGMC meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m. at the Sedona Library, 3250 White Bear Road in West Sedona.



December, 2014

Volume 60, Issue 9

Member American Federation
of Mineralogical Societies

Member Arizona Coalition of Rock
Hound Clubs

Newsletter Editor: Ray Topp
Email: radio@rconnect.com



President's Message

Pat McMahan – SGMC President

It was a very good year for our club, for our members, for our Board, and for our bank account. Our membership in recent years decreased from about 160 to around 60 at the end of last year, and our bank account decreased from about \$22,000 to around \$10,000. At year end we now have 127 members and about \$18,000 in our bank account. Along with new members (Tom Helgesen signed up 17 at our Show alone) many members who have not been with us in recent years came back to join. Welcome back!

As President, I want to thank each of you for your help in making these good things happen. Our Show was very successful and fun for all – I think it was our best Show ever! I want to thank each of our committee heads and volunteers. We had happy dealers with a wide interesting, variety of products, enthusiastic volunteers, and a good mix of local, out of town tourists and rockhound attendees. We had the best displays ever, a terrific raffle, and all of it was coordinated and run by Super Star Show Chairperson Susan Read.

Our Club's educational arts classes organized by Becky Helgesen throughout the year were exceptional. Thank you Becky, and each teacher, and for every student's parts in making this happen.

I had the best Board imaginable. We worked as a team, at times through some challenging issues to create the best outcomes possible for our Club. Sherrie and John Brown provided a wonderful meeting place surrounded by their beautiful rocks, with great food which was provided by Sherrie. It was the most delicious food ever.

Terrific field trips were lead by Ted Schultz. We discovered some areas completely new for our club. On the trip to Burro Creek, our field trippers discovered a new area and found beautiful purple agate, while some found gorgeous red, orange and other colored dendritic agate. Some of the most beautiful petrified wood was found on another trip. A lot more great stuff was found. We encourage each of you to come out and make these discoveries yourselves. Thank you Ted for making this possible for our members.

Evelina Dunton brought to our club some of our best guest speakers ever. We had great informative, educational talks on a variety of rock related subjects. Our speaker line up for this next year is even better.

All of these fun and meaningful events that make our club the great club it is, are documented each month through our Newsletter, "The Red Rocking News" by Ray Topp.

Ray stepped up to the plate and volunteered to write and compile our newsletter at the beginning of 2014 and, as you can see, is doing a fabulous professional job. Each month Ray keeps the "Red Rock-

ing News" contributors on target with deadline dates, then creates a literary masterpiece like this one, month in and month out. Ray, thank you for your fine work!

A special thanks goes to Susan Read. As Club Secretary this year she helped get our Club back on track and was a terrific help to me as President in many ways. Her minutes were detailed and accurate, she was a great help to me with agendas for club and Board meetings, and her follow up and tenacity helped keep me on track. She was the great woman behind this leader.

In addition, Susan ran our Club Show this year and years past, and her husband Mike was always there to help and assist her. At our shows she was the first to arrive and last to leave, and she always brought a truckload of her personal things which the club used. She opened her house for the many club meetings and always had bunches of good treats at her house for our volunteers. Susan has done a fabulous job for our club in so many ways. Thank you Susan from all of us!

Our club is *very* fortunate to have Marge Schwartz taking the helm as our next President. She has been in a number of leadership roles in our club over the years, but the one many of us enjoyed the most was Sunshine. She has brought a new dimension with her birthstone information. Her pleasant, fun, interesting personality, along with her great organizational skills, will ensure our meetings will be the best, most fun ever.

Have a wonderful holiday season and, again one and all, thank you for making this a great year for your club.

Warm Regards and thanks again for all your help – Pat



December Birthstone

Marge Schwartz – Membership Chairperson

The December birthstone list is somewhat more unusual than that of other months of the year because the modern birthstone chart has three gemstones for December instead of just one or two, like most months have.

They are Turquoise, Blue Topaz and Tanzanite. Besides the current stones, other traditional birthstone gems include Zircon and Lapis Lazuli.

Turquoise

Turquoise is the oldest and most popular of December's birthstones. It was found on artifacts dating back 5,000 years, in ancient Egypt, Sumeria and Mesopotamia. Its name means "Turkish Stone" in French, because that's where the first deposits of turquoise were first found in the ancient world, before the first mines in Egypt, and it is the route that the gemstone took when it was introduced in Europe.

The Egyptians were the first to recognize the value of Turquoise, and use it as a precious stone. The tomb of Tutankhamen was packed with turquoise jewelry, the stone being used on its sarcophagus and mortuary mask. Most likely, Cleopatra used ground-up turquoise for her eye paint.

Millennia later, Turquoise became a sacred stone for Tibetans and Native Americans, who used it extensively in their specific religious rituals officiated by the shamans. Both Tibetans and the Native Americans believed Turquoise to promote spiritual and mental clarity and also help build trust, understanding and kindness within the community.

Unlike other precious stones, Turquoise was not a stone only for rituals or for the rich. It is believed that ancient warriors wore turquoise rings that would save them from falling off the horse. Many cultures believed that turquoise helped children have a healthy night sleep, preventing nightmares and also protecting against harm.

The Native Americans in the southwest used turquoise as money, believing it would bring animals to the hunter, riches to the warriors and overall happiness.

Turquoise ranges in color from sky blue to green. Very often, to enhance this color, jewelers use a layer of wax to coat the gem, which means that the color is not permanent.

This December birthstone is relatively easy to scratch so you need to avoid hits and also hot water and household chemicals.

Blue Topaz

The second of the modern December birthstones is Blue Topaz. Its name comes either from the Sanskrit word "tapas" which means fire, the symbol of love and fidelity, or the Greek word "topazos" which means "green gemstone."

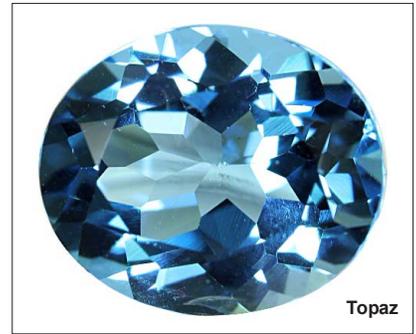
In its pure form, Topaz is colorless. However, it can be found in just about any color, such as green, pink, blue and pink.

Topaz Symbolism: Traditionally, it was believed that topaz had healing powers, could dispel sadness, anger and nocturnal fears, to warn its wearer of poisons and protect him or her from sudden

death. There are also a few weird beliefs – like if you wore a topaz ring, you could put your hand in hot water and not be harmed. I wouldn't rely on that though.

According to some translations of the bible, Topaz is an apocalyptic stone. The Romans dedicated Topaz to their God, Jupiter.

Today, the Portuguese crown has a huge Topaz stone called that weighs 1,680 carats. For a long time, it was thought that it actually was a diamond!



Topaz

Tanzanite

In 2002, the American Gem Trade Association officially added tanzanite to the modern list of birthstones for the month of December.

It was first discovered in 1967 in Tanzania by a local Masai shepherd and it would soon become "the stone of the 20th century," being popularized only two years later by Tiffany's with a massive marketing campaign.

Tanzanite has a beautiful, intense blue color. It varies from ultramarine blue to light violet-blue. In sizes over 10 carats, the effect is impressive. Some tanzanite crystals need to be treated at 500 degrees Celsius to enhance their color and resistance.

Tanzanite is so popular today both because of its fascinating color, but also because of its rarity, the only known deposits being in Tanzania, at Merelani.

Without a long history like that of the other December birthstones, tanzanite does not have any powerful, mysterious powers associated to it. But what it lacks in history, it compensates with beauty.

www.a1-birthstone-jewelry.com/december-birthstone



Tanzanite

• New 2015 SGMC Board Members •

Here are the new board members and committee chairpersons established at the November 18th SGMC general meeting.

Board Members:

President: Marge Schwartz
1st Vice President: Evelina Dunton
2nd Vice President: Mike Silverhorn
Treasurer: Ted Schultz
Secretary: Pam Koch
Past President: Pat McMahan

Committee Chairpersons:

Education: Mark Morehead
Refreshments: Amy Koba
Newsletter: Ray Topp
Membership: Nadine Cummins
Sunshine: Mike Silverman
Historian: Ted and Barb Schultz
Show Committee: Vacant

December Coalition Field Trip

Location of Trip: Buckskin Mountains, Bouse, AZ

Hosted by: Verde River Rockhounds

Date: Saturday, December 27, 2014

Meeting Place(s) and Times:

Meeting time is 8:30 a.m. Meeting place is at Midway which is about 15 miles north of Bouse. From the intersection of Main and RT 72 in Bouse, turn east on Main, cross the RR tracks, drive 0.25 mile to Rayder Rd, turn left on Rayder which soon becomes Swansea Rd. and go 2.2 miles to a fork. Bear left (NE) and drive 10.5 miles to Midway, at intersection of Swansea, Lincoln-Ranch and Transmission Line roads.

Directions to Bouse, Arizona:

It is 200 miles to Bouse from Cottonwood, or about 130 miles from Phoenix. If you're coming from Cottonwood allow about 4 hours driving time to the meeting place. Take Hwy 89A from Cottonwood to Prescott Valley, all the way to the intersection with Hwy 89. Continue south on Hwy 89 all the way through Prescott, Kirkland Junction, Yarnell and Congress. At Congress, turn right(SW) onto SR 71 which will go under Hwy 93 in a few miles and continue on to intersect with U.S. 60 at Aguila. Go west on U.S. 60 through Gladden, Wenden, Salome and Hope. At Hope, turn right onto SR 72 and proceed about 20 miles to Bouse.

From any other location consult a good map or use MapQuest.

Vehicle Required:

Passenger cars can make it to the meeting place, but high-clearance, 4WD vehicles will be required to get to the collecting sites. Should you need to switch to another vehicle, we can usually find space for you.

General Itinerary:

I will be staying in our (Layton) travel trailer at Midway in a big, flat camping area there (you can't miss it). You are welcome to join me for camping out there Friday night, Dec 26.

We will meet at Midway and collect at several sites near Midway on Saturday. After the fieldtrip, you could go down to Quartzsite where you could spend a couple of days at the various shows. It's a little early at some venues, but there should be a lot to look at (and buy).

Motels in the Area:

1. Parker, Arizona. Consult the Internet for many good motels. About 28 miles from Bouse plus 15 miles to Midway, so plan your driving time accordingly.

2. Quartzsite, Arizona. Consult the Internet for motels available. About 28 miles from Bouse plus 15 miles to Midway, so plan your driving time accordingly.

3. Salome, Arizona (near Hope on U.S. 60). Sheffler Motel 928-859-3001. About 17 miles from Bouse plus 15 miles to Midway.

What to Collect:

The Buckskin Mountains and surrounding area are honeycombed with old mines and prospect holes, mostly from people looking for gold and silver over the last 150 years. Most of the mines follow fairly rich copper deposits but there wasn't much money in the copper itself. A list of the minerals we will collect include: chrysocolla, malachite, jarosite, gypsum, hematite, barite, augite and epidote.

What to Bring:

Gloves, eye protection, rock hammer, sledges, chisels and digging tools (for the energetic treasure hunters), water, lunch and appropriate clothing. Daytime temperatures should be around 80° and nighttime around 50°.

Cell phone reception will be spotty away from towns, so don't rely on them too much. I will bring several 2-way radios for off-road use on channel 6.1.

Trip Leader – Jim Van Wert; 928-649-1938, 928-202-2177 (cell), email: jerockshop@gmail.com

February Field Trip to Tucson

Location of Trip: Tucson Gem and Mineral Show

Dates: Wednesday, Feb 11, 2014 – Friday, Feb 13, 2014

General Itinerary:

Arrive Wednesday, early enough to do a little shopping.

Meet at the Best Value Inn Hotel lobby at 5:20 p.m. for a brief orientation for Thursday and Friday.

Wednesday evening we'll be having authentic tasty Mexico City food at La Parilla Suiza, 2720 North Oracle Rd., in Tucson.

What to Collect:

This is the biggest and best rock, mineral and fossil show in the world. People travel many thousands of miles to come to this event. It's almost in our backyard – guaranteed lots of fun. About 20 club members went last year and had a great time. Last year there were 43 shows. There should be enough rocks and jewelry for all of us.

What to Bring:

If buying, bring lots of money – also a good time to borrow extra money from your kids! There are lots of places to spend it.

Additional Info:

Hotel accommodations can be made at the Best Value Inn, 818 E. Benson Highway, Tucson, 520-884-5800. Reserve a room for Wednesday night, February 11th and Thursday night, February 12th. Cost per room is \$59.99 plus tax, for a 2 double bed or 1 king bed room. *Please tell the hotel you are from the Sedona Gem and Mineral Club to receive the negotiated rate.*

Pat McMahan will furnish free directories and other free guide books which give information about the shows. These directories will be available for you to pick up at Amy Koba's house at 85 Ross Rd, Sedona (Hwy 89A to Northview south 1 block to Ross then west on Ross). They will be outside by her front door, Friday, Feb 7th. Take one of each of the different guides.

Field Trip Coordinator – Pat McMahan – 928-300-8333

November Field Trip to Slag Pile

On Friday, November 21, 2014, eighteen members of the Sedona Gem and Mineral Club joined eleven members of the Verde River Rockhounds for a combined field trip to the Cottonwood Slag Pile. Our host, Tom Hurkett, Plant Manager for Minerals Research and Recovery which is the site owner, gave the group an orientation of the new slag recovery operation. They plan to start processing the slag into roofing granules and polishing abrasives beginning in January. The slag is probably over 100 years old and came from the copper ore mined in Jerome.

The copper ore smelting operation sat on the site where Vinnie's Pizza now stands. The Cottonwood Senior Center was also part of the original smelting



plant. It is expected that the slag will be processed here in Cottonwood for the next twenty plus years. Everyone on the field trip hiked to the top of the slag pile where they were greeted by great views of Cottonwood and some great specimens. Our gracious host brought a large front loader to the top and hauled everyone's buckets back to the parking area, which was a blessing, given the weight of the slag. Everyone had a great time and got some really unique and beautiful specimens of slag. Our host left open the possibility that we might be able to return again next year for some new collecting. *Ted Schultz – Trip Leader*



Sedona Gem & Mineral Club
Membership Application
(please print)

Name ↑

Address ↑

City ↑

State ↑

Zip ↑

Phone Number ↑

Email Address ↑

Membership Desired (please check one):

Individual Membership – \$15.00

Family Membership – \$25.00

Junior (9-18) Membership – \$5.00

For a family membership, list all names below: ↓

How should the names read on the badge(s): ↓

How would you like to receive the club newsletter?

Email (color) -or- Postal Service (printed in B&W)

Do we have your permission to share your personal information (address, phone number, email) with other club members only?

Yes No

Please mail this application (or bring it to a club meeting), with your dues to:

Sedona Gem and Mineral Club
PO Box 3284, Sedona, AZ 86340

For questions please call: Marge Schwartz (membership) at: 928-203-0356 or Email: bschwar13@msn.com

The SGMC Club Christmas Party

Our Annual Christmas Party will take place at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in West Sedona on December 10, 2014.

Set up will begin at 4:00 p.m. and arrival time for the party will be at 5:00 p.m – dinner will be served shortly after 5:00 p.m. We need to be out of the Church facilities by 8:00 p.m.

If you are planning on attending, you can still sign-up for one of the meal selections listed below. Also, it's always helpful when Member's assist in set-up and clean-up for this fun event.



As in the past, the Club provides the beverages (non-alcoholic).

There's still time to call Amy Koba at: 928-451-6339 or you may email her at: paintrocks@hotmail.com to sign up for one of the following categories: Set-up, Vegetables, Salad, Dessert, Clean-up.

Each year, each participant is asked to bring an exchange gift valued at \$10.00; ladies for ladies, men for men – please mark each wrapped exchange gift with "Lady" or "Man."

The Club provides entertainment, and each person will receive a ticket for specimens provided by the Club, to be given away at the party

The Board of Directors hopes to see you there for this enjoyable event. For our new Members, this is a great way to meet other Club Members and build new friendships. Ho, Ho, Ho.



Board of Directors & Committee Members

2015 directors & committee leaders established at Nov meeting - list on page 2.

Board of Directors

President - Pat McMahan: 928-300-8333

1st V.P. (Programs) - Evelina Dunton

2nd V.P. (Field Trips) - Ted Schultz: 928-284-0415

Treasurer - Ralph Graves

Secretary - Susan Read

Director - John Brown

Director - Amy Koba

Director - Tom Helgeson

Past President – Ed Hodges

Committees

Newsletter Editor - Ray Topp: 928-284-1570

Membership/Sunshine - Marge Schwartz: 928-203-0356

Education - Becky Helgeson

Webmaster - Patti Polk



The Sunshine Lady

Marge Schwartz is our Sunshine Lady, and if you know of anyone who needs some sunshine in our club, please contact her at: bschwar13@msn.com

Regional Gem Shows

January 2015

9-11 – Mesa, Arizona

43rd Annual Flagg Gem and Mineral Show.

Mesa Community College, 1833 W Southern Avenue, Daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Located in the southwest parking lot of Mesa Community College, at the corner of Dobson Road and U.S. 60. Free admission and parking. Over 100 vendors, club booths and displays. The largest show in the Phoenix area. Free activities for kids. Peralta Stones display. Contact Dana Slaughter, 2952 E Silverbell Road, San Tan Valley, AZ 85143 Phone: 602-312-9791, Email: dsminerals@aol.com, Website: flaggshow.info

16-18 – Globe, Arizona

Gila County Gem & Mineral Society 58th Annual Show.

Gila County Fairgrounds, 3 miles northeast of junction U.S. 60. Friday 9-5, adults \$3, students and children free. More than 40 specimen display cases, children's fossil and mineral specimen dig, fossil program. Contact Jodi Brewster, phone: 623-810-9780, website: gilagem.com

February 2015

21-22 – Mesa, Arizona

Apache Junction Rock & Gem Club Show.

Skyline High School, 845 S. Crismon Rd. Saturday 9-5, Sunday 10-4. Adults \$3, students \$1, children (12 and under) free.

Dealers, jewelry, gems, cabochons, beads, opals, rocks, slabs, fossils, lapidary equipment and supplies. Hourly door prizes, silent auction, gem tree making, raffle, kids' egg-carton rock collections, Wheel-of-Rocks. Contact Kelly Iverson at: 480-325-2705, Website: www.ajrockclub.com

March 2015

28-29 – Anthem, Arizona

Daisy Mountain Rock and Mineral Club Show.

Diamond Canyon School, 40004 N. Liberty Bell Way, Anthem AZ. Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission \$3.00, Seniors \$2.00, Students \$2.00, Children under 12 free. 30 dealers, gems, minerals, fossils, fluorescents, jewelry, beads, wire trapping, geodes, raffles, kids events. Contact Ed Winbourne at: 623-444-4634, Email: ewinbourne@gmail.com

Jan 30 thru Feb 15, 2015 – The Tucson Gem Show

Every year the rock, gem, mineral and jewelry worlds cosmically align in Tucson, Arizona. 4,000 trade companies gather here for what is collectively called "The Gem Show." Gem and minerals are on display at nearly forty separate venues – at booths, huge tents, expo halls, warehouses, and in the Convention Center. Over a dozen local hotels rent their rooms to rock, gem, or bead dealers, who sell directly to the public. Some shows span the entire two-and-a-half weeks, and others for just a few days. Several shows are exclusively for wholesale buyers, others are open to the public. Don't miss this great show.

List of Shows at: www.tucsongemshows.net/coming.html



PO Box 3284
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