

Sedona Red Rocking News

Sedona Gem and Mineral Club

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

No Meeting Scheduled for December

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, 2015

Volume 61, 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

Marge Schwartz – SGMC President

The holidays are in full swing and I wish all of you good things as 2015 comes to a close. I have had a great year as President for the Club. I also retired and I am living the good life on a “fixed income.” We have had some great fieldtrips, a fun picnic and a wonderful show this year I would like to thank every member that helped and attended our events. A Club like ours offers so many opportunities to meet new people that it would be hard to have anything other than a good time. Pam always reminds me that, “If you are not having fun, you are not doing it right!”

The New Year, 2016, is right around the corner and I thank you for your support for me to serve next year again as President. Our new Board for 2016 has some new faces as well as members that served this year. I look forward to planning our activities for the next year with them.

She and her fiancé are planning to renovate a home, and currently plan to sell and move back to AZ once that is completed. We will miss her but she will keep our web page going. Best wishes, Patti.

Our new 2016 board members and committee chairpersons are listed below. We still have openings for Nominations, and Social Chair (Picnic and Christmas Party) committees.

I look forward to a wonderful holiday and hope to see you all very soon. Happy Holidays – Marge



The SGMC 2016 Board of Directors & Committee Members

Board of Directors

President - Marge Schwartz: 928-203-0356
Past President – Pat McMahan
1st V.P. (Presentations) - Evelina Dunton
2nd V.P. (Field Trips) - Dave Maple
Treasurer - Ted Schultz
Secretary - Peggy Rivera
Director - Bill Schwartz
Director - Tom Helgesen

Committees

Education - Mark Moorehead
Historians - Ted and Barb Schultz
Membership - Nadine Cummins: 480-375-0982
Newsletter Editor - Mark Moorehead
Refreshments - Amy Koba
Raffle - Tom Helgesen
Social Chair (Picnic & Xmas Party) - Vacant (volunteers welcome)
Sunshine & Birthstones - Judy Feldman
Club Photographer - Pam Koch
Webmaster - Patti Polk



The Sunshine Lady

Judy Feldman is our Sunshine Lady and if you know of anyone who needs some sunshine in our club, please contact her at: 928-284-3534



2016 SGMC Board Members

Patti Polk has agreed to continue to be our web master . Our club's website will be adding new pages of trips and activities to show others that we have a great group. She is planning to relocate to CA for a while but she can still take care of us here in AZ.

Party Pictures

by Marge Schwartz

Our annual party at S t. Andrews Episcopal Church was a grand success! Dinner was called pot luck but we enjoyed a full meal with ham, turkey, potatoes with gravy – not to mention the salads, bread and vegetables. Sherrie Brown did a wonderful job getting our tables looking festive while keeping the kitchen under control. Dessert was outstanding with many tempting items.



Santa and his elves entertained us by passing out gifts to the delight of all the rockhounds. Mark Moorehead made a great Santa with Nadine Cummins and Catherine McAfee by his side.

We unwrapped our gifts and shared lots of laughs and smiles. The fun did not stop there. Marge Schwartz and Tom Helgesen drew out raffle tickets for even more rock gifts.



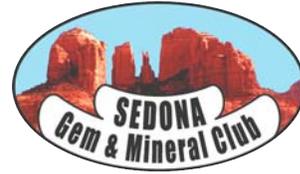
The evening concluded with Harmony on the Rocks entertaining us with Barber Shop style harmony. We even joined in on the holiday songs.

When the lights were turned off and the door locked, I knew that this was a perfect way to kick off the holiday season.



As I look forward to 2016, I have another year to work with friends from our wonderful club. Our new board members will meet in January to plan out our coming activities.

Happy Holiday Season and Happy New Year! – Marge



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 from this form (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: Nadine Cummins at:
480-375-0982 or Email: nadinecum@msn.com

December Birthstones

by Marge Schwartz

Turquoise, Blue Topaz, and Tanzanite

Another year is almost over but not without sending you some interesting facts and fables about the birthstones for this month. Please enjoy learning about the traditional and modern birthstones for this month and Happy Birthday to all of you born this festive month.

December Birthstone: Turquoise

Turquoise is the oldest and most popular of December's birthstones. It was found on artifacts dating back 5,000 years. Its name means "Turkish Stone" in French, because that's where the first deposits of turquoise were first found in the ancient world 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.

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 they believed would save them from falling off the horse. Many cultures believed that turquoise helped children have a healthy night's sleep, preventing nightmares and also protecting against harm.

December Birthstone: 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, skilled jewelers can turn it into just about any color with a little treatment – such as green, pink, blue and pink.

Traditionally, it was believed that topaz had healing powers, could dispel sadness, anger and nocturnal fears, to warn its wearer of poisons and protect them 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.



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

December Birthstone: 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 with it. But what it lacks in history, it compensates with beauty.

<http://www.a1-birthstone-jewelry.com/december-birthstone>



Regional Gem Shows

January 2016

44th Annual Flagg Gem and Mineral Show 8-10 – Mesa, Arizona

Mesa Community College, 1833 West Southern Ave. Friday through Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free parking and admission. 100 vendors, free activities for children, free mineral samples for teachers and children. Website: www.flaggshow.com

February 2016

Apache Junction Rock and Gem Club 50th Anniversary Show 20-21 – Mesa, Arizona

Skyline High School Gymnasium, 845 South Crismon Road. Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$3.00 admission, \$1.00 Students, children free. Plenty of free parking in the south parking lot (Cross-streets Southern and Crismon). One mile north of the Route-60 Freeway Exit-192. Activities for kids and food service. Dealers will be selling jewelry, gems, beads, opals, purple jade, cabochons, slabs, rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry-making supplies and equipment. Included will be a raffle, a great silent auction, hourly door prizes, a gem-tree-making activity for all ages, and a free egg-carton rock collection for kids. Contact Phil Gadd: 503-705-3933; e-mail: mmpdg16@msn.com; Website: www.ajrockclub.com

March 2016

Daisy Mountain Rock and Mineral Club 19-20 – Anthem, Arizona

Boulder Creek High School; 40404 N Gavilan Peak Pkwy; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; \$4 Admission, Students/Seniors \$3 Admission; 30+ dealers, Rocks, gems, jewelry, beads, geodes, silent auction, lots of kids events, raffle on the half hour; contact Ed Winbourne, 1717 west medinah court, Anthem, AZ 85086, 623 444 4634; e-mail: ewinbourne@gmail.com