

# SEDONA RED ROCKING NEWS

## Sedona Gem and Mineral Club

P.O. Box 3284, Sedona, AZ 86340  
www.sedonagemandmineral.org

General Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Sedona Library off of Dry Creek Road in West Sedona.

The Board of Directors meets at 4:00 PM the day before the General Meeting, also at the library.

Members and guests are always welcome to attend.



November 2010

MEMBER AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

MEMBER ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

## “Gems, Minerals, & Fossils - What to Do with Them”

Presented by Roland Michaelis



ROLAND MICHAELIS, ASTRONOMY AND MINERAL ENTHUSIAST AND PHOTOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGIST

Roland Michaelis, Past President of the Prescott Gem and Mineral Club, will present a

slide show program on November 16, 2010. Roland will share his experiences as an active member in several gem and mineral societies. He was one of the early members of the Prescott Gem and Mineral Club and also served for five years in the neighboring state of California as Show Chairman for the Santa Rosa Gem and Mineral Society.

In an exciting interactive format using computer graphics effects, Roland will discuss how one might start a rock and mineral collection, how to create effective exhibits, and where to find sources for information. He will show examples of rocks, gems, fossils, gemstones and the lapidary arts. He will then examine some of the physical properties of minerals – a few familiar minerals and some of those which are quite rare. The presentation is artfully illustrated and organized to highlight these facets of collecting.

Roland Michaelis retired to Prescott in 2001 following a career in the physical sciences. A graduate of UCLA with a degree in Astronomy, Roland worked in a variety of increasingly important technical positions at several observatories and laboratories

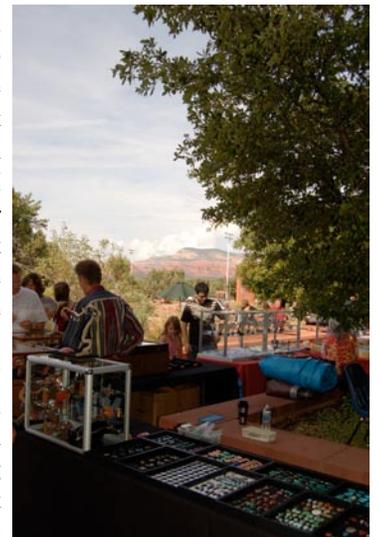
including Lick Observatory, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, and California Academy of Sciences where he lectured in the Morrison Planetarium for many years. Additionally he served as Engineering Vice President of the Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers.

Roland retired from NASA's Ames Research Center where he was Chief of the Imaging Technology Branch. Since retirement he has pursued his interests in lapidary, gems and minerals, astronomy, and his life-long enthusiasm for the desert southwest and history of the Old West. Roland is currently Sheriff of the Prescott Corral of Westerners.

## 2010 SEDONA GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

By Susan Read

We had a very successful Show this year for our Club and Vendors. At the entrance of our Show a table was set up to collect information from people who attended, and I can tell you, we had greater number of attendees than last year. This year's attendance was 1390 people. Sunday we were far busier than last year. Our Raffle sales were up by 42% over last year. Brian Freifield and Susan Zepkin did a fantastic job in bringing in over 50 Sedona merchant raffle donations to mix with our Club's mineral and fossil raffle prizes.



We had two Sedona residents and one out of town winner for the three grand prizes. We were not able to sell enough raffle tickets to provide three scholarships, as that was our goal this year, but feel the Board will provide two scholarships to graduating students at the Sedona Red Rock High School.

## Holiday Party December 8, 5 pm

St. Andrews Church Community Hall.

100 Arroyo Pinon Dr.

Set-up crew starts at 4pm, Party at 5pm, Dinner at 6, entertainment, raffle and gift exchange after dinner.

Bring a dish to share and a wrapped gift for each member of your party, marked for man, woman or either.

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## Field Trip: Diamond Point.

By Rita Topp



Saturday October 23, 19 rock hounds gathered at 8AM to start our journey to Diamond Point about 18 miles outside of Payson. The group consisted of 2 junior hounds, 4 guests, two from the area and 2 from

the East Coast on vacation, the remaining 13 were SGMC members and very new SGMC members.

The weather was cool and the sun played hide and seek most of the 5 hours we were there. Coming out just with the right timing to make the exposed crystals shimmer. The ground cover was damp on the surface. Once the fallen pine needles and other decomposed material were pushed aside, we used pitchforks, shovels and hand tools to move the earth. It wasn't more than a few minutes when someone shouted "got one." Most of the specimens were found 5 to 8 inches below the surface, others 3 to 5 inches. We did hear that one hole dug was a couple of feet deep which gave up a pretty good size piece.

The crystal that received the most attention was found by Mike Read. Mike, bring that one to the November club meeting for show and tell (don't forget to collect your 3 free raffle tickets).

Just as we were all getting packed and ready to begin our convoy out of the forest, our guests David and Trinh came up and told us about finding a vein of limestone with crystals exposed ready for harvest. Susan and Mike with their guests Betty and Joe decided to stick around to see if they could get these crystals still in matrix. This story needs an ending. So for the rest of the story you'll have to go directly to the source at our November club meeting.

Kate, Dale and the two junior members, Jack and Jonathan left early, so I don't know for sure if their time was successful. I can for a fact say that the rest of us each got a handful or more. I therefore declare this event to be a very successful field trip and I personally want to go back and play in the dirt some more. Let's try to do this one again. Diamond Point is open for digging October 1<sup>st</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup>, the rest of the year you can gather from the surface.



Rock hounds were reminded to back fill their holes before moving to a new digging site as well as before we left for the day.

Our SGMC field trip for November 20<sup>th</sup> will be lead by Pat McMahan. The destination is Sheep's Bridge for agate, sign up at the meeting and hear all the details from Pat that evening.



Pictures provided by Barb Schultz, club historian.

## Birthstones of Summer and Fall

By Marjorie Schwartz

I seem to have some catching up to do! Our summer hiatus does not give me a chance to wish all of our summer babies a happy birthday and in September, our newsletter person stepped down. Ed has taken on the task temporarily and I did send the Birthstone article last month to him but it ended up in Cyber space by mistake. I hope to briefly tell you about all the birthstones from June through November in this article.

June – Pearls come from an invertebrate called a mollusk. The product they make is a gem of unsurpassed beauty and elegance. Ancient civilizations had many stories to explain the origin of June's birthstone, such as the Greek belief that pearls were the hardened tears of joy that the goddess of love shed as she was born from the sea. According to Arab legend, pearls were formed when oysters were lured from the depths of the ocean by the beautiful moon and then swallowed moonlit dewdrops. And the Ancient Chinese thought that these gems originated from the brains of dragons.

July - The Ruby's rich color speaks of love and passion. It was called the "Rajnapura" (King of Gems) by ancient Hindus. Rubies are considered to have magical powers, and were worn by royalty as a talisman against evil. It was thought to grow darker when peril was imminent, and to return to its original color once danger was past—provided it was in the hands of its rightful owner! Rubies were thought to represent heat and power. Ancient tribes used the gem as bullets for blowguns, and it was said that a pot of water would boil instantly if a Ruby was tossed into it. Ground to powder and placed on the tongue, this crystal was used as a cure for indigestion.

August - Peridot is a mineral named Olivine, which is found in a variety of greens, ranging from light yellowish green to a dark olive. This gem is formed as a result of volcanic activity. Natives discovered Peridot crystals in the black sands of Hawaii, explaining their presence as tears shed by Pele, the goddess of fire or "She-Who-Shapes-The-Sacred-Land." Throughout history, August's birthstone has been used as a means to connect with nature. Early

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*(Show Continued from page 1)*

*(Birthstones Continued from page 2)*

Pat and I want to thank our Club Members for helping out with all aspects on putting on a successful Show. Without



our Club Members, this feat would not have been possible. Many thanks to our Advertizing Show Committee Chairman Gayle Macklin for doing an exceptional job. The attendance reflected her hard work. Some vendors said there were serious buyers at the show which gave them their best show ever. Rita Topp's help in providing Saturday and Sunday's Continental Breakfast for our Club members and Vendors was truly most helpful.

Becky Solon, Speaker Coordinator and Mary Jane Cooke, Kids Corner manned their respective areas very successfully. Also, I would like to thank my husband, Mike, for his perseverance in the technical support area for the Speaker's Room. Ed Hodges, a man with many hats, was wonderful in fixing up loose ends or troubleshooting electrical, air conditioning and other issues that arose. Ray Cooke, our Treasurer, helped in collecting the money for the Show, this year and next, and provided statistics which boosted our morale on the Show's success.



Our Banners along the Hillside and Uptown quadrants were instrumental in bringing in visitors to the Show. As the survey provided at the entrance of the Show, many people

attended the show because they had seen the banners. I personally thanked everyone who left, and received very positive comments from those attending this great show. Many said it was the best overall show they had ever attended.

As many of you are aware, I will not be returning as Co-Chairman for the Show next year, but will remain on the Board replacing Carmen Matina. I can't thank Pat McMahan enough for his guidance and help in successfully putting on a great Show this year. We would encourage anyone to step up and volunteer to fill this position. Pat McMahan would also like someone to take over his responsibilities as Vendor Coordinator Co-Chairman. These two positions work, hand in hand, in putting on our Show. The

*(Continued on page 4)*

Egyptian priests drank a stimulating beverage called Soma from cups made of Peridot, believing this practice to draw them closer to Isis, the goddess of nature.

September - Sapphires have long been a favorite among priests and kings, who considered them symbolic of wisdom and purity. These gemstones are prominent among the British Crown Jewels, and Prince Charles chose this as the engagement stone for his fiancée, Princess Diana.

October - The name Opal was probably derived from Sanskrit "upala", meaning "valuable stone". This was probably the root for the Greek term "opallios", which means "color change". In the 1960s a team of Australian scientists analyzed Opals with an electron microscope. It was discovered that small spheres from silica gel caused interference and refraction of light, which are responsible for the beautiful display of colors. The spheres, which are arranged in fairly compact structures, bend the light as it passes through the gemstone and turning it into all the colors of the rainbow.

November - Topaz is a classic gemstone that has been used for centuries in jewelry. Topaz may be colorless, yellow, orange, red, blue and green but its golden brown to yellow color is classic. It can be confused with the less valuable citrine, which is sometimes wrongly sold under the name topaz. The name Citrine comes from an old French word, "citrin", meaning lemon. One of the more rare forms of quartz, this gemstone ranges in color from the palest yellow to a dark amber named Madeira because of its resemblance to the red wine. Citrine is named by several sources as the Modern Birthstone for November. Most citrine on the market today is actually heat-treated amethyst because natural citrine is found only in large quartz deposits in small amounts. All heat-treated material has a red tint, whereas the natural specimens do not.

For centuries, astrologers and other alternate healers have believed that certain stones have magical powers. According to them, there is a stone for each month and if worn by the people born in that particular month, it will bring luck, health and provide even stronger healing power during your birth month.

The Club still needs a Vice President in charge of the newsletter for our next term of offices starting 2011 Please let Ed know if you can do this for the Club. We can contribute articles to you for the newsletter and most members get it by e-mail so once completed, you just e-mail it !

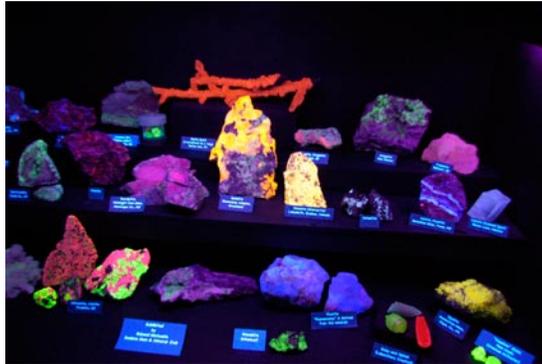


(Show Continued from page 3) From Rita Topp

difficult part of Pat's position has been completed. By securing the date for our show at Sedona Red Rock School for next year, and having signed contracts from 2011 vendors, most of Pat's work has been done.

Among all the others who helped, I want to also thank the nearly 25 people that helped with set-up and those who helped with the take-down process. Collectively, we put on the best show we have ever had and many attendees said it was the best show they had ever been to.

Susan Read  
Co-Chairman



### From Mary Jane Cooke

I second the accolades for everyone who worked on the Show. It was all great fun. I especially had a great time doing the Kids' Corner. Special thanks to Rose Marie who is always there for anyone needing help, and Heather from Mingus was a joy.

To make it seem like a real game of chance, we give two chances for \$0.25. Each prize is valued way beyond that, with no two the same. Sorting the rocks, etc, takes hours of preparatory, pre-show work.

The contributions of jewelry from Ev and Bill were coveted by each child.

The bead making was successful to the point of exhaustion. Thanks to Rita Topp and Marge Schwartz for the huge donations of beads and to Doris Banks' yearly donation of rocks.

I have been told by many people that the Kids Corner is a great asset to the overall show. Again, it was all great fun and isn't that what it's all about?

Of course, there is nothing that can't be improved. Perfection is an impossible human accomplishment. But we sure came close to it. The show is the talk of the town.

Bravo everyone, and all.

Ray and I had a very successful weekend at the Show. Not knowing how others did in sales or what might be expected in revenue, we just hoped to sell enough to pay for the space and go out for dinner each night. Well we exceeded our expectations BIG TIME.

Only leaving our space to check on the kitchen once each morning, and for trips to the restroom (also I did give a quick break to two other member vendors). Otherwise we didn't even get to walk around and see other booths and what they were selling.

Saturday was GREAT with lots of buying traffic. Sunday got off to a late start. I figure people went to church, out to breakfast or both, and the late sleepers. The afternoon went very fast and the last minute buying or looking for a deal happened for about 30 to 40 minutes before close on Sunday.

The raffle and prizes were amazing! Susan's idea of one number for multiple ticket purchases was a great one. My sister, was really happy with the new way of picking out a number, she was there last year and had to help fill in the name on those 100 tickets that were purchased at the last minute.

I don't have any suggestions since I was table bound for the two days. I did hear that a few people had electrical trouble, but it was hearsay.

Thank you all for the behind the scene work you did for the two days and for the year that led up to this show.

Wish I could be there for the meeting, but alas I'll be with my grandchildren in California for a nice L O N G weekend.



# Sedona Gem and Mineral Club November Newsletter, 2010

Volume 56, Issue 8



## NOVEMBER 2010

November 13-14, 2010 Lake Havasu City, AZ  
Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society's 41st Annual Gem and Mineral Show, Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Contact Show

Chair C. J. Stone, (928.505.2865) [www.lakehavasugms.org](http://www.lakehavasugms.org).

[lakehavasugms.org](http://www.lakehavasugms.org).

## DECEMBER 2010

December 3-5, 2010 El Paso, TX  
El Paso Mineral and Gem Society Gem Show, El Maida Auditorium,  
6331 Alabama, El Paso. Contact Jeannette Carriollo,  
877-533-7153, [gemcenter@aol.com](mailto:gemcenter@aol.com).

December 10-12, 2010 Boulder, CO

Flatirons Gem & Mineral Club Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Boulder County Fairgrounds Building, 9595 Nelson Rd. (Nelson & Hover), Longmont, CO, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5 Age 13 and up \$3 on Friday, \$5 on Sat. and Sunday, 12 and under free with paid adult; held in conjunction with the Boulder Model Railroad Club Annual

Show, Contact Ray Gilbert, [HOSS1ONE@cs.com](mailto:HOSS1ONE@cs.com).

## January 2011

January 1-31, 2011 Quartzsite, AZ  
Show, "Desert Gardens International Gem & Mineral Show"; Desert Gardens RV Park, 1064 Kuehn St. (I-10 Exit 17, south side); 9-6 daily; free admission; crystals, minerals, rough, polished, jewelry, lapidary equipment; contact Sharon or Sandy, 1064 Kuehn St., Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6361; [info@desertgardensrvpark.net](mailto:info@desertgardensrvpark.net), [www.desertgardensrvpark.net](http://www.desertgardensrvpark.net).

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