



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2008

THE INFORMER



FEATURED ROCKHOUND

Richard McKissick

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Editor's Notes:



*"Remember, if you don't send me news I can always make up some."  
... Jerry Davis*

++++  
If you have been overlooked in my request to write your rockhound bio for the newsletter, please let me know. I have asked several that are not willing to tell their story, so we will never know their background or why they became rockhounds or dealers or whatever they became. Anyway, if you have a story or a news item please send it to me.

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At the age of 21, in the spring of 1952, I became aware of the fact that I was interested in rocks in a serious manner. I lived in the Dallas/Richardson area and wanted to know more about the hobby. I found the phone number of the Dallas Gem and Mineral Club, which met on a regular basis at Fair Park. I joined that club and one of the members, "Mrs. Quartzsite" taught me to make a "cab". I used a piece of moss agate and cut and polished a heart from her instructions. I presently have the heart.

The only other expo-

sure I had to this hobby was reading books at the public library on my lunch hour and making notes about locations to hunt rock in Texas. I refer to my old notes on these hunting places today.

Because of my career with Sun Oil Company and raising my family no other time was spent toward the hobby until 1988 when I retired from the Sun Oil Company. That is when I joined the club.

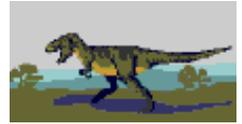
My first experience hunting rocks was at the Walker Ranch with Bob and Helen Patterson. We each pulled a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel to the ranch and dry camped in the pasture. We spent a week there camping and rock hunting.

Bob and I found a dried up creek and

*(Continued on page 2)*



FEATURED ROCKHOUND *Richard McKissick*



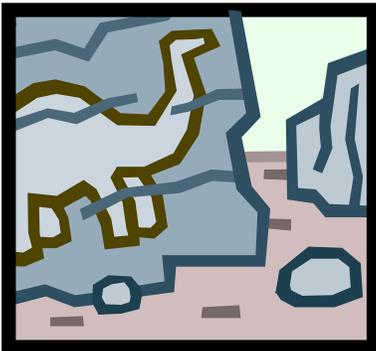
(Continued from page 1)

started digging in it. We found several large hunks of Flower Garden Agate. We also found other pieces of agate and sunstone on the ranch.

On another occasion Carlos Talley and I looked for some much talked about Dinosaur Bones. We had the tentative location but with all our expert experience, failed to find the precise location of said extinct carnivore.

The trip the club took to Utah, where I found a large cache of coprolite on a plateau was really exciting.

When we reached the top of the plateau that was about 15 to 20 feet above the rest of the area, it was flat and like a large spot of grazing area. Petrified Dino was everywhere. Needless to say, I harvested quite a bit of it.



There was the other trip the club made near

Moab Utah when Billie, Penny and others had the run in with the "no-see'ums." The ones that had the most exposure to those bugs, made a trip to the doctor's office for treatment when we got back.



Gage Hotel- a must stop.



Field trip to Stillwell Ranch and on down to La Linda bridge over the Rio Grande.



Immigrates have moved these barriers several times to come into the US at La Linda.



# UPCOMING SHOWS

## February 08:

2-16--TUCSON, ARIZONA: Annual show, "Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show"; Martin Zinn Expositions; Quality Inn, 1025 E. Benson Hwy.; 10-6 daily, 10-5 last day; free admission; more than 400 dealers from all over the world; free shuttle to other Zinn shows; contact Regina Aumente, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004, (505) 867-0425; e-mail: mz0955@aol.com; Web site: [www.mzexpos.com](http://www.mzexpos.com)

16-17--PLAINVIEW, TEXAS: 46th annual show; Hi Plains Gem & Mineral Club; Ollie Liner Center, I-27S; adults \$2, students \$1; dealers, kids' wheel, silent auction, show cases, hourly door prizes; contact Mildred Matlock, 701 Zephyr, Plainview, TX 79072, (806) 293-3476

23-24--MESA, ARIZONA: Show, "2008...Rocks are Great"; Apache Junction Rock & Gem Club; Skyline High School, 840 S. Crismon Rd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$3, students \$1; dealers, silent auction, door prizes, raffle prizes, activity table; contact John Frary, 659 W. 5th Ave., Apache Junction, AZ 85220, (480) 452-4870; e-mail: 1swany2@iglide.net; site: [www.apachejunctionrockclub.org](http://www.apachejunctionrockclub.org)

23-24--PASADENA, TEXAS: Show; Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society; Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Pkwy.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, students 12-18 \$1, children free; 30 dealers, jewelry, fossils, minerals, lapidary materials and tools, children's activities, demonstrations; contact Mike Reves, 218 Lazy Hollow Dr., League City, TX 77573, (281) 282-6117; e-mail: demmikeer@hotmail.com; Web site: [www.ghg.net/gpenning/index.htm](http://www.ghg.net/gpenning/index.htm)

## March 08:

1-2--BIG SPRING, TEXAS: 39th annual show; Big Spring Prospectors Club; Howard County Fair Barn; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; dealers, demonstrations; contact Jerald Wilson, 707 Tulane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432) 263-4662

6-9--DEMING, NEW MEXICO: 43rd annual show, "Rockhound Roundup"; Deming Gem & Mineral Society; Southwestern New Mexico Fairgrounds; Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; displays, demonstrations, jewelry, rocks, drawings, raffle, field trips, silent auction, auction; contact Bud Daily, P.O. Box 1459, Deming, NM 88031, (505) 267-4399

14-16--ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO: 40th annual show, "Treasures of the Earth"; Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club; School Arts/Flower Bldg., New Mexico State Fairgrounds (EXPO-NM); Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$1 Fri., \$3 Sat. and Sun., kids under 13 free with adult; more than 35 dealers, gems, minerals, jewelry, beads, cutting rough, fossils, natural objects, mineral displays, demonstrations, door prizes, kids' booth, silent auctions; contact Paul Hlava, (505) 255-5478; e-mail: hpf5@qwest.net

## ***From the Front Desk— President —Gary Hudson***

Hello everyone!

I hope you had a prosperous year and a very happy holiday season.

Now it's time to get back to work. Uncle Sam is anxiously awaiting your cards and letters..... I mean tax forms. I have been working on mine and took a break to write this report.

As most of you know, Lou David Allen had to resign as our Treasurer due to personal responsibilities. Then on top of everything else, his 14-year-old granddaughter was just diagnosed with bone cancer in her leg. My thoughts and prayers are with him and hope for a speedy recovery.

However, we do have a volunteer to replace him at this position. Errol Rutledge, one of our newer members, has stepped up to the plate to serve in this important position. He is a retired banker, having served 15 years at Citizens Bank and 17 years with First National Bank here in Abilene. I don't know why he couldn't hold a job....Ha! Everyone join me in a hearty "Thank You" and welcome to the executive committee. I believe our finances are in competent hands.

I've been busy for the last couple of weeks. My wife, Elaine, had knee replacement surgery January 10<sup>th</sup>. I've been nursemaid, cook, dishwasher, and cheerleader while trying to keep my business going. She's been a trooper through it all and is doing an excellent job with her rehab. She'll be back in Wally World before you know it. She graduated from the walker to a cane yesterday. She is having second thoughts about the other knee....

I am looking forward to some warmer weather so I can go hunt some more rocks.

Well, I have to get busy. My tax forms are screaming at me! See you Monday night!



### ***The Shop Report — Foreman - Tim Walker***

**WE HAVE SAW OIL FOR SALE IF ANYONE NEEDS SOME. IT IS CANOPUS 13. BRING YOUR OWN CONTAINER AND \$10 PER GALLON.**

If you want to buy oil for you saws, see Gary Hudson. Rules for the shop are posted on the shop wall.

*We need to buy a new diamond grinding wheel for the big blue cabbng machine. The bearings need to be replaced at the same time.*



## YOU MAY HAVE WONDERED?

BY JERRY

### *What can you do with polished rocks ?*

- Donate some to the Wheel of Fortune at the spring show.
- Use epoxy and glue the rocks along the edges or sides of flower pots.
- They would look great embedded in foot stones or stepping stones.
- Put some on top of the potting soil in pots.
- Give as gifts such as key chains, charm bracelets or for worry stones to carry in ones pocket.
- Put some in a bowl and display on a table for touching.
- Use selected ones to make key chains, charms, pendants; excellent for wire wrapping jewelry.
- Put some in glass containers, or make sun catchers to hang in windows.
- Put selected ones in egg cartons and identify type of rock. Polished in one side of carton and rough stone across from it.
- Glue transparent ones on lamp shades for light to illuminate the colors.
- Place in an aquarium or terrarium.
- Use in small water fountains.
- Embed into resin molds of different shapes, such as paper weights, coffee table tops, etc.
- Adhere to sheets of plastic and place under flower pots or other items.
- Push some into fresh mortar along a special rock wall.
- If the polished rocks are small slabs they can be displayed well in a box with a glass cover and cotton under the slabs.
- Glue some special ones to glass plates, label and display with lights behind them.
- Sell as grab bags at the spring show.
- Glue on cards to give away to advertise a rock show (see Midland show).
- Use as party favors glued on pens, cards, etc.
- Glue around points of wooden clocks to mark the hours.

# Hulla'b'Lou

*feature by Lou Jane Davis*

(Lou found these notes almost “as is” while looking through old papers. She believes it will be of interest to both novice and veteran rockhounds, and hopes it will trigger some memories.)

## Observations of a First-time Field-tripper

After a long and circuitous route, we arrived at Glenwood, NM, a small town nestled in a group of mountains. (Because we were in a “nest,” neither cell phones nor CB radios could get in or out, but there was a pay phone to call “the kids.”) By the time we had come over hill, dale, rock and rill our trailer had lost a few things, such as plastic molding strips and part of a window. After he had fixed it all up with duct tape, Jerry said we had “a trailer any red-neck would be proud of.”

I noticed right away that in Glenwood one must have at least two enterprises to make a living: There was the Real Estate Office and Coffee Shop; E 2’s Country Kitchen and Trailer Park; the Pizza Parlor and Video Rental; and motel customers had to pick up their keys at the post office.

I soon discovered there would be no time to read the stack of books I brought (I had had visions of some trailer-lounging time.) because we daily went to various mountains, valleys, canyons and/or road cuts in search of various rocks (Oops, sorry—gemstones) and returned just in time to shower and crash. (This was Lou’s first experience with tiny-trailer showering, and it’s an activity she still doesn’t fully appreciate.)

As the week of mountain road travel continued, I progressed from “I’m staying under this seat; you can’t make me look!” to “Could you drive a little closer to the edge; I think I see a Luna agate at the bottom of that 60-foot chasm.” (Many new experiences and locales awaited Lou on this trip: for one, an open pit copper mine near Morenci, AZ, where she, along with the rest wore “cute,” blue hard hats and picked up gorgeous azure and turquoise colored stones from the scrap piles. This could be a whole story in itself; the old hands recalled earlier, better “tailings.” During the visit to Painted Desert and Petrified Forest (about 3 p.m., in July, in Arizona!), Lou came to fully appreciate a good hat and sun glasses.)

Our leader (wagon master? guide?)—the guy with the map—(This was Tony Steele; Lou was not acquainted with him then.) was heard to say, “Seems like if we stay anywhere about 2 hours, it begins to rain” One particularly wet afternoon we stopped on a plateau where water stood on both sides of the road. Picture this: macho rockhounds with colorful umbrellas, ankle deep in water, gathering carnelian agate and endangering their lives—because it was lightning nearby! Yes, rockhounds are a unique breed.

(Lou learned that rockhounds enjoy picnicking or whatever with friends; are good sports and diverse; and have a consuming interest in the beauties of the earth.

On this trip she and Jerry also were recipients of the graciousness of Zack and Gelene, who helped them to celebrate their wedding anniversary with a homemade taco and guacamole dinner and delicious margaritas.

The group suggested that Allen, Roger and Penny’s grandson who was with them, should have a great answer to the classic school assignment: “Tell what you did on summer vacation.”)

—ljd



## BIRTHDAYS

	<b>Zack Stockton</b>	Feb 28	
	<b>Beverly Vargo</b>	Feb 28	
	<b>Henry Martin</b>	Feb	

## ANNIVERSARIES

<b>Lou David Allen</b>	Feb 10
<b>John Baker</b>	Feb 14
<b>James and Betty Stanford</b>	Feb 21



## ILLNESSES/RECOVERIES

- Ernie Wright**
- Bob Patterson**— shoulder surgery again.
- Charley Harrison** recovering from knee surgery.
- Tim Walker** — surgery.
- Jim and Bobbie Owens**—illness



## MINUTE BY MINUTE BY BEV

### Minutes of CTGMS meeting of Monday, January 7, 2008



- President Gary Hudson called the meeting to order. 32 members were in attendance. After the opening prayer and pledge of allegiance, minutes of the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and the Treasurer's report were read and approved.
- Old Business: Mary from the Abilene Library called requesting a contact for the display or exhibition case. Betty Scarborough will contact her.
- Charlie Lightfoot said he had heard good comments from an acquaintance about Bob and Carlos' recent trip to school.
- We'd like to remind everyone that 2008 membership dues are due. Dues are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children.
- New Business: Allen McDaniel said the 80-grit wheel was worn out and requested that the shop foreman see about getting a new one.
- Jerry Davis suggested the need to choose a Rockhound of the Year. After discussion, Calvin Donaghey moved that the executive committee select nominees for the award. Allen McDaniel seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- Helen mentioned that some club members had made a trip to Stillwell Ranch in the Big Bend area. Pictures and reports are in the Supplement of the December issue of the Informer. JoAn Wilks showed a copy of this month's Texas Highways, which has an article about the Stillwell Ranch.
- A big thank you was extended to Jerry Davis who does a terrific job as editor of our newsletter.
- Gary reported that the club has received a letter from Deer Creek Gems of Del Rio. The owner has gone out of business and has rough rock to sell. The letter is at the clubhouse with contact information.

#### Committee Reports:

- *Show Chair:* Sallie was not at the meeting but Charlie said things are going along as expected this time of year. We could use more prizes for the children's door prizes. Helen Patterson offered to make a gem tree for one of the raffles.
- *Dealer Chair:* Judy Steele reported that 5 dealers have responded so far.
- *Silversmithing Chair:* Jerry said he would begin plans for a Level III class soon. Members must be certified in Levels I and II to take the class. He will have more information when his silversmithing studio is cleaned up and tax issues are out of the way.
- *Scholarship Chair:* JoAn reported that the college students have been off for the holidays but are returning this week. Applications for the scholarship will be distributed.

## MINUTE BY MINUTE BY BEV

### Minutes of CTGMS meeting of Monday, January 7, 2008, continued

- *Maintenance Chair:* Charlie Lightfoot indicated we need to mow the grass. Gary suggested that we should level the yard where the tank was so it would be easier to mow.
- Regarding ill members, Bobbie and Jim Owens have both been sick. Charlie Harrison said he had recently visited Ernie Wright, a former member, who has been in poor health for a number of months. Charlie noted that there are some repairs that need to be done in Ernie's home and on his shop building. Charlie suggested that club members might like to devote some time and money to help him out. Charlie and Don volunteered to get a list of materials needed and then solicit the membership for help in meeting these needs.
- Secretary Beverly Vargo requested that new members complete an information sheet and return it to her soon. The sheet requests information on birthdays, anniversaries, email and phone numbers, hobbies, etc. Copies will be at the clubhouse.
- Charlie and Sallie Lightfoot, Betty Scarborough and Ricky Alaniz will provide refreshments for February's meeting.
- After the meeting President Gary Hudson announced that Treasurer Lou David Allen is resigning his post because of demands of his work schedule and health issues of a family member. Gary says we really need someone to step up to fill this position. Please call Gary if you can help.

Note: Erroll Rutledge, a new member, has agreed to accept the job as treasurer if approved at the next business meeting.



Starting this month, we will need someone to volunteer to download the Informer off the internet, have 20 copies printed in black and white and delivered to the club house. Give the bill to the treasurer. Please let me know if you are accepting this task so I can let others know. *Copies can be downloaded from our website at [www.txol.net/rockclub](http://www.txol.net/rockclub) .... editor*

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Editor: Jerry Davis  
Email: jde@txol.net

We are on the web:  
www.txol.net/rockclub

**CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2008**



President .....	Gary Hudson	325 554-7804
Past President .....	Calvin Donaghey	325 695-1508
Vice President .....	Dave Vargo	325 690-0750
Secretary .....	Beverly Vargo	325 690-0750
Treasurer .....	vacant	
Corresp Sec .....	Joyce Talley	325 692-0063
Editor .....	Jerry Davis	254 643-4586

**Committees/Chairpersons**

Show .....	Sallie Lightfoot
Field Trips .....	Tony & Judy Steele
Classes .....	Charlie Lightfoot
Nominating .....	James Grant
Programs .....	Dave Vargo
Shop .....	Tim Walker
Club House and Grounds .....	Charlie Lightfoot
Dealers for show .....	Tony & Judy Steele
Budget .....	vacant
Scholarship .....	JoAn Wilks
Show Demonstrations .....	Jerry Davis
Silversmithing Classes .....	Jerry Davis

**GEMSTONE OF THE MONTH**



Amethyst

Mostly Purple, sometimes bluish-violet. Purple color is probably caused by traces of manganese. Once a highly prized gemstone, lost much of its value when Brazilian deposits were found. Deeply colored specimens are sometimes cut as gemstones. Huge geodes shown at rock and gem shows

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Central Texas Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of rocks, minerals and fossils. We offer field trips and provide educational opportunities and instruction to members in a variety of areas related to the Lapidary Arts and Jewelry making. We also award a scholarship to a student enrolled at a local college in a field closely related to geology. We provide educational displays related to this hobby at shows of a similar interest. — Jerry

sell for thousands of dollars. Amethyst is among the many types of sought after quartz. Some other types are Rose Quartz, Blue Quartz, Citrine, Smoky Quartz, Milky Quartz.

Photo borrowed from:  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amethyst>

**ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.**