



THE INFORMER

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From the Front Desk— President —Bob Patterson



I am going to continue with the theme from the June letter , that is on the subject of teaching and being friendly. I am truly amazed at the things I discover in talking to our new members about their skills, background interests and Contributions they can make to our group. See if you don't agree with me.

But before I continue, we are very close to purchasing a container for storage. This is going to require input and output from our members, so be ready to do your share and lend your advice.

On the subject of lessons and teaching, our club has been vastly successful in the past. We now have many talented persons who are cutting rocks, making jewelry, wire wrapping, beading, silversmith, and now even tumbling. I see a lot of interest in the how to of tumbling and think this has been very rewarding and is creating interest from participants and spectators.

This doesn't come without a price though. Now is the time to pay a little bit back, and to step forward and share your skills with others. Along this line, Jim Owens is planning a new class in silver working. He plans to begin with the fundamentals and move into advanced techniques. Also, I noticed some one-on-one teaching in the lapidary shop last week. Other classes need to be organized in chaining, beading, wire wrapping and other craft projects.

One thing we most need is some training in rock identification and classification. I have been thinking how best to approach this subject and would welcome ideas. We have some vastly talented people that need to pitch some ideas into the hopper here. Try it, I am sure you will like it. Don't forget, that

Our storage container will be here soon. See details on Page 2

in order to teach, you must be well informed and then end up learning things you didn't know or recalling things that you had forgotten.

Our club has benefited from several bequests lately. We have received several machines that can be put to use in our club or be auctioned off for needed funds. I noted that we received an excellent centrifugal casting machine and many jewelry making tools which we needed to begin lost wax casting. I plan to work with this machine in the near future. Jim Owens expressed an interest in participating. This leads into learning about wax forming and preparation of items that can be cast into metal.

I only wish I was as good at execution as I am at imagination.

**When my grandson and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."**

.....

**When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure.." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised, "mine says I'm 4 to 6."**

The Alamo Rock'n Jewelry Shop is looking for instructors for cabochon, wire wrap, metal smith, PMC, and dichroic glass classes. Instructors will be compensated and class will be small. Any interested parties please contact me at the store.

*Thank you, Lisa Mayfield*

Lisa Mayfield Helen Pfeiffer

**Alamo Rock 'n Jewelry**  
alamoroc@texas.net  
www.alamorocknjewelry.com

Tues-Fri 10-6 Sat 10-5  
4102 Buffalo Gap Rd., Ste R 325.232.8527  
Abilene, TX 79605 fax: 325.232.8529

## A WORD FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY

A thank you note was sent to Melba & Wilson Hollis for their generous donation of lapidary equipment.

Called Zack Stockton to see how he was doing. He had a new pacemaker installed and now is doing much better. He is going to try to make the business meeting Monday night.

Wrote a note to Julia McCray whose grandson is in Cooks Children's Hospital in Fort Worth in very serious condition.

*Submitted by: Joyce Talley*

## STORAGE CONTAINER

Our 40'X8'storage sea shipping container will be delivered Saturday August 1 around 11:00 am. Tony Steele is bringing his tractor to level a spot to set it and Tim and I will help with setting grades.

After it is set up, the auction items will be placed inside so anyone wishing to view them can do so.

We will also have a work day, I sent out the invitations yesterday, to mow and clean up around the clubhouse and inside. Come help and enjoy the fellowship.

The next thing we have coming up is building shelves in our new storage building. If you have any materials to donate toward this project, let us know. We will need lumber, steel purlin, angle iron, plywood, sheet metal, copper wiring, etc. A work day to work on this project will be scheduled soon. We will also be installing a 4 foot walk in door on the side for easier access and to assist in ventilation.

**A grandfather was delivering his grandchildren to their home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep crowds back," said one child. "No," said another. "He's just for good luck." A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."**



Minutes of CTGMS meeting held Monday, July 6, 2009:

President Bob Patterson called the meeting to order. Approximately 28 members and one guest were in attendance. Our guest was Lamar Pfeifer. After the pledge of allegiance and prayer, the secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting. The financial report was read and accepted.

New members Lisa and David Mayfield and Logan Cravens introduced themselves. The Mayfields own the Alamo Rock'n Jewelry shop located at 4102 Buffalo Gap Rd. Their business card is in the newsletter.

Old Business: Gary reported that we can purchase a ready-made building or a sea container for about \$2700 or above. Tony and Gary feel that a sea container would be stronger and more durable. After discussion of the differences between the two kinds of storage, Gary suggested that the club set a cap of \$3,300 or so, purchase the sea container and get it delivered. Gary feels the club really needs more storage space. We would not need a permit for the container, and Bob said we would probably have to put doors in the container, wire it for electricity and build a ramp for the lawn mower. Lou David Allen moved that the club authorize Tony and Gary to purchase a sea container, with a cap of \$3500. Joyce seconded the motion; the motion carried. Gary will report progress with the container at the next meeting.

Bob asked again about the possibility of installing a tin horn for a back entrance to the club parking area. Gary said he'll look into it further and report back to us.

New Business: Jim "Butch" Walters, one of our newest members, is interested in making a bid on the storage building if the club is interested in selling it. Tony thought we should wait on any decision to sell the existing building until after we have the new container.

May Kidwell donated 4 rock saws and a tumbler base to the club. Tim said that as we don't have a 24 inch saw, that would probably be the one to keep. It was suggested that club members might want to buy the other saws. The saws will require a lot of work before they can be used. Gary suggested that we let the buyers clean up and repair the saws instead of investing the club's money and Tim's time. Gary moved that we set up a silent auction of about two months to sell the donated equipment. The motion carried. Details will be in the newsletter.

Charlie Harrison has the large tumbler that belongs to the club. He said that we could pick it up, but please call first, and 3 or 4 people could come load it and bring it back to the clubhouse.

Lisa Mayfield announced that the Alamo Rock Shop will be conducting classes. She said anyone can bring in rocks for identification and they'd be happy to do it.

There will be a silent auction after the meeting tonight. Bill Myers donated more beautiful cabs for the club.

Illnesses and deaths: Lou David thanked the members for their prayers and support during Sierra's illness. He brought a picture of Sierra and a poem he wrote about her. Lou Jane Davis broke her arm and has been in the hospital in Brownwood. Jo An is doing well. She is driving again and going to therapy.

Linda Hollowell, Beverly Vargo and Nell Gee will provide refreshments for the meeting in August.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

*Secretary, Beverly Vargo*

## The Shop Report — Foreman - Tim Walker

Two new expanding drums have been ordered for one of the cabochon machines. Work will begin on refurbishing the donated 24" slab saw. It should be ready to use soon.

As always, what ever you work on at the shop, clean up after yourself. Don't leave it for the next person.

Report anything you think needs repairs. We don't want anyone getting hurt.



## OUR TRIP TO NEW MEXICO

June 19, Carlos & I headed for the Carlsbad Rock Show. They were having some kind of big Baseball playoffs and the motels were full. We had to stay in Hobbs, about 70 miles away. But, that was ok. Neither of us had ever been there. I cannot believe Carlos had never been there, having lived in West Texas his whole life.

I never knew there would be so many gas and oil wells and refineries every where. Also a big atomic energy plane in the middle of nowhere. An interesting drive...

We were to meet our nephew and great niece from Ft Stockton and spend the day with them.

Had not been there 20 minutes when this little lady walks up behind us and says "What in world are you doing here?" It was Joy and Ray Castle, just coming in from Colorado. Imagine that! We visited them off and on all morning.

The club had 8 vendors, 4 club members, and four regular vendors. One of them was someone that use to do our show. Carlos says they were from Phoenix. The Club had six display cases, not too impressive.

The show was housed in a museum and botanical garden setting. The museum had great rock formations, beautiful gem and mineral specimens. Very Impressive! Someone told Carlos this was the most people that had attended their show. I guess they've had it in different places.

Their silent auction was run by a woman (member) who was selling here husband's (deceased) slabs, etc. Not much going on there, although Carlos bought some of her slabs. We assumed that the money went to her and not to the club.

I bought a piece of bismuth—never had or ever heard of it. Ray said he had heard of it, but had never seen it. I think it's very different and have been wearing it pretty often. Our resident geologist, Calvin, Knew what it was before I even got up close to him. Pretty savvy guy, that Calvin.

Their club does give a \$1000 scholarship and that's good.

We basically enjoyed the show, even though it was small.

I will reiterate, again, about the differences in our show and others. We don't go to many shows, but we haven't seen one yet that can compete with ours and that's a good thing. And that's many thanks to all who participate in making our show a very good one.

*Submitted by Joyce Talley*

## EQUIPMENT AUCTION

If you are interested in any of these items you can see them at the clubhouse any Monday night. We will be holding a live auction at the Sept meeting or the Oct. meeting. That decision will be made this Monday. If you are unable to attend, you can send a bid by mail or email to [ctgms50@clearwire.net](mailto:ctgms50@clearwire.net).

2 -- 14" SLAB SAWS---these are "kit" saws made in th60's & 70's. They are plywood boxes with the saws mounted inside. These have been out in the weather and will require a lot of cleanup

MIN BID \$50      new retail \$1500

10" TEXAS ROCKS SLAB SAW--- This is the saw that has been used in the shop for a long time. We need the room for a 24" saw. It has to go. Needs a good blade and some TLC. Gravity feed

MIN BID \$50      new retail \$600

TUMBLER BASE--- There are no barrels with this item. It has a motor will hold 4—12 pound barrels

MIN BID \$30

LARGE VIBRATING LAP 20"---      MIN BID \$50      new retail \$1600

2 WHEEL ARBOR WITH WET TRAY--      MIN BID \$50      new retail \$220

LARGE 40 + + LB. ROCK TUMBLER—This is a heavy duty machine that will tumble some very large rocks. MIN BID \$50      new retail 800

We also have a variety of jewelry tools and supplies to be sold.....



**Editor's Notes:**

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If you have a story or a news item please email it to me at [ctgms50@clearwire.net](mailto:ctgms50@clearwire.net)

Send it in email or as a Microsoft Word document attachment. Remember to get it to me by the 20th of the month.

Many thanks to Bob and Helen Patterson for having the newsletter printed each month.



**BIRTHDAYS**

James Mabe	August 2
Irene Grant	August 7
Ruth Sparks	August 9
Charley Harrison	August 10
Betty Fowlkes	August 17
Brad Burkett	August 22
Jim Richardson	August 25
Linda Hollowell	August 26
Mike Thompson	August 27
Lou Jane Davis	August 29
Odell Walker	August 31

I've been listening to President Bob Patterson and he is absolutely correct. Our classes for the last year, for the most part, have been non-existent. We used to brag that we were one of the few clubs offering classes for our members. We have become content with the status-quo. I have included links to some other clubs on page 6 for you to browse. They have calendars showing a large variety of classes.

We have a membership with a broad range of abilities that we need to tap into. If you would be willing to teach a class at the club or at the Alamo Rock'n Jewelry Shop, see their ad on page 2, please speak up. We would all love to benefit from your knowledge.

**CORRECTION!**

Your fat fingered editor made some mistakes on the list of tumbling materials for sale in last months issue. The following shows the correct price for these items:

60/90 SILICON CARBIDE GRIT	\$10.00 FOR 5 LB.
220 SILICON CARBIDE GRIT	\$12.00 FOR 5 LB
400 MESH ALUMINUM OXIDE GRIT	\$6.00 FOR 1 LB.
600 MESH ALUMINUM OXIDE GRIT	\$6.50 FOR 1 LB
NON-ABRASIVE CERAMIC PELLETS	\$17.50 FOR 5 LB.

We are currently out of the ceramic pellets but more are on order!

WHILE SUPPLY LASTS!

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Nita & Tony Mckinney	August 3
Judy G. Abernathy	August 23
Bruce & Judy East	August 25
Linda & Robert Hollowell	August 25
Ann & Errol Rutledge	August 29

**GET WELL SOON!**



- Lou Jane Davis—Broken shoulder, recovering at home
- Zack Stockton—New pacemaker and doing well
- Bruce & Judy East—Taking care of Daughter with injured knee
- Ernie Wright



# Upcoming Shows

## AUGUST

8-9--BATON ROUGE LOUISIANA: Annual show; Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society; Fraternal Order of Police Baton Rouge Lodge Number One, 10777 Greenwell Springs Rd.; adults \$3, children \$2; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Paul Broussard, (225) 687-3864 or (225) 939-3293; e-mail: paul\_broussard@msn.com

15-16--BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA: Show; ARK-LA-TEX Gem & Mineral Society; Bossier Civic Center, 620 Benton Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, two-day admission \$5, children 12 and under free; live demonstrations, youth activities, more than 20 dealers; contact Charles Johns, 9314 Overlook Dr., Shreveport, LA 71118, (318) 687-4929; e-mail: cwsejohns@bellsouth.net; Web

21-22--TAHLEQUAH, OKLAHOMA: Swap and sale; Tahlequah Rock & Mineral Society; Tahlequah Community Bldg., 300 W. First St.; Fri. 9-6:30, Sat. 9-5; free admission; children's booths, educational exhibits and displays, auction; contact Sara Brasel, (918) 458-0801; e-mail: crosstimbersrd@earthlink.net; website: www.larockclub.com

21-23--HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS: Show; AKS Gem Shows; Hot Springs Convention Center, 134 Convention Blvd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5; classes in beading, PMC, chain maille, and more; contact Kay Schabillon, (504) 455-6101; e-mail: info@aksshow.com; Web site: www.aksshow.com

## September

5-6--ARLINGTON, TEXAS: 51st annual show, "Nature's Kaleidoscope"; Arlington Gem & Mineral Club; Arlington Convention Center, 1100 Ballpark Way; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, seniors and children \$3; dealers, jewelry, beads, gems, minerals, fossils, Kids' Korner, Rock Food Table, professional gem identification, silent auctions, hourly door prizes, ; contact Karen Cessna, 1408 Gibbins Rd., Arlington, TX 76011, (817) 277-2286; e-mail: cessnak@ont.com; Web site: www.agemclub.org

5-7--SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO: 26th annual show; Grant County Rolling Stones Gem & Mineral Society; Silver City Recreation Center, 11th St. and Gold St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5, Mon. 10-4; free admission; more than 60 dealers from the U.S., Mexico and Asia, free daily field trips, silent auction, Wheel of Fortune, raffles; contact L. Lett, (575) 538-3216; e-mail: show09@stockmanfamily.net; Web site: http://rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com/

18-20--ENID, OKLAHOMA: Show; Enid Gem & Mineral Society; 4125 W. Owen K. Garriot Rd., 1705 S. Johnson St.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Billy Wood, 1705 S. Johnson St., Enid, OK 73703, (580) 234-5344; e-mail: baronladislaus@att.net

## NEWS LETTERS FROM OTHER CLUBS ON THEIR WEBSITE

FREDRICKSBURG, TX <http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org>

ARLINGTON, TX [www.agemclub.com](http://www.agemclub.com)

DALLAS, TX [www.dallasgemandmineral.org](http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org)

MIDLAND, TX [www.mgms-tx.com](http://www.mgms-tx.com)

PO Box 7343  
Abilene, TX 79608-7343

Editor: Gary Hudson  
Email: ctgms50@yahoo.com

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



President .....	Bob Patterson	325 698-8648
Past President .....	Gary Hudson	325 554-7804
Vice President .....	Carlos Talley	325 692-0063
Secretary .....	Beverly Vargo	325 690-0750
Treasurer .....	Errol Rutledge	325 672-7505
Corresp Sec .....	Joyce Talley	325 692-0063
Editor .....	Gary Hudson	325 554-7804

**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 .....	Errol Rutledge
Scholarship .....	JoAn Wilks
Show Demonstrations .....	Jerry Davis
Silversmithing Classes .....	Jerry Davis

**GEMSTONE OF THE  
MONTH PERIDOT**

It is not clear whether the word peridot comes from the Arabic word faridat, which means gem or if it is derived from the French word peridot which means unclear. The French were the first to call this yellow-green stone peridot in the 18th century. Before then, peridot was known as topaz. Peridot has been mined as a gemstone for an estimated four thousand years and is mentioned in the Bible under the Hebrew name of piddah. It was used by the Egyptians as early as 1500 BC and was considered the gem of the sun.

Early miners looked for peridot at night because they believed that light from the moon made the crystals easier to find. After marking the locations of the crystals they came back in the daylight to dig them up.

Peridot is considered a tonic for the whole body and protects the wearer from negativity. It is associated with stress reduction and relaxation. Egyptians used peridot to clean and heal the heart. Powdered peridot has been used to cure asthma and a peridot placed under the tongue of someone in the grip of a fever is said to lessen his or her thirst. One legend says that drinking from a peridot goblet will increase the potency of medicines. Further research indicates that ancient Indo-Iranians, and Vedic and Persian cultures may have used cups carved from Peridot for their ritual drink of Soma.

Many gem scholars agree that the tradition of birthstones arose from the Breastplate of Aaron described in the Bible (Exodus 28, 15-30). The breastplate was a ceremonial religious garment set with twelve gemstones that represented the twelve tribes of Israel and corresponded with the twelve signs of the zodiac and the twelve months of the year.



Peridot Collageon

Peridot on basalt



**AUGUST FLOWER**

**POPPY**

**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