

APACHE JUNCTION ROCK AND GEM CLUB NEWSLETTER

#2 BY BETTY MEHLHOFF

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Here we find ourselves individually and as a club looking at the Holiday Season and the approaching end of another year. Despite the inevitable challenges we all face, in my estimation, most of us have had a good year with many things to be thankful for.

I recently became aware of two of our members who are facing an increasingly common challenge. What follows is an excerpt from an email I was privileged to have been included on.

“To all of you that have donated, it means the world to us! Since some of you have asked how you can help, I'm attaching his GoFundMe page. It's <https://www.gofundme.com/help-darryl-beat-cancer> . We truly would appreciate if you will keep Darryl in your prayers and positive thoughts!”

Both Daryl and Sheri are feeling the effects of fighting Daryl's bone cancer. Any support you can give will be greatly appreciated by Daryl and Sheri Burnett. Here's to Daryl's swift recovery, an end to Sheri's heavy burden in keeping everything together will Daryl fights off his cancer.

On a lighter note...If you haven't yet heard, our Christmas Dinner will be at the Shop during the time we would normally be holding our General Meeting. So, please join your fellow rock-hounds for dinner and good cheer on Thursday, December 13th. The Club will provide Turkey, Ham and non-alcoholic refreshments and we are asking members to bring side-dishes and folding chairs for yourselves and your guests. If you've ever looked in the show trailer it's easy to imagine we have enough tables to feed an army. Chairs, not so much. There are some hard seat folding chairs, but they are an insufficient number for all who are expected. Earlier I mentioned we would be 'sharing our Great Cheer;' another

way we will be sharing is by contributing meal stuffs and cash donations to The Salvation Army. Please, please, consider bringing non-perishable food items for donation and/or making a cash donation at our celebration. To be most effective this Holiday Season, Salvation Army donations need to be delivered within days of our dinner.

Moving on, the club has just put the November 17-18th Fall show behind us. As always there are highlights and some lowlights. John is still putting the final touches on his financial report, which should be ready before the December General Meeting. What I can say with certainty is that attendance was about 90% of our 2017 Fall Show. Survey data indicates the biggest vendor concerns were: signage, food availability, and overall attendance. While there is work to be done, the fixes are understood and within this club's ability to overcome. Despite concerns, some vendors reported good to excellent show results. Our Show Committee is committed to turning concerns into successes. There is a need for volunteers to engage in pre-show preparation. If you have any interest in becoming more involved, I know Tom Mortensen would like to talk with you. One final note: The club recently acquired a new, never used, 8" Cab-King and a refurbished slab/trim saw at a very favorable price. The Boards plan is to sell or auction these tools at the Spring '19 Show.

If any of our members are lucky enough to acquire either of these auction items, they will soon be flush with lapidary rough to work with. That is however, after the upcoming field trips being arranged by Dan Jarvis. Watch your inbox for announcements of trips, trip descriptions, and reports on trips taken. Also, stop by the shop where trip descriptions are posted on the board just inside the front door. While Dan is listed as the leader of most of our upcoming trips there is a need for others to help carry the load. Your President will be doing his small part to help by leading our next trip on Dec 5th, to collect Globe Onyx.

Speaking of small parts, our Youth Program is on life support due to the recent resignation of Dan Lines. This program is one that is near and dear to my heart, I don't want to see it eliminated due to lack of member participation. The first need is for someone to step up and take the lead by managing and owning the overall communications, resource gathering and scheduling of school shows. There are members who will assist the lucky, tongue in cheek, applicant with

fulfilling needed tasks. There is absolutely nothing like the sight of 100+ 3rd graders hanging on your every word as you talk about rocks, their origin and the fun to be had looking for the pretty stones you are sharing with them. Talk with any of our Board members if this sounds like something you would like to be a part of.

To All of You, Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas and May Your Homes Be Filled with Love and Family!

General meeting minutes for November 8th 2018

Apache Junction Rock and Gem Club

Ed Lindsey, President: called meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduced Officers

Welcomed New Members and Guests

Announced rocks for sale

Announced 50/50 Raffle

Announced silent auction

need Volunteers for show

need Monitors for Winter hours

announced closures for holidays

Thanksgiving: Closed November 21st and November 22nd

Christmas: Closed December 24th, 25th and 26th

New years: Closed December 31st and January 1st 2019

Mattie Gadd: Show Poster boards for show and where to sign up to volunteer.

Ed Lindsey, President: Long term planning;

Scholarships for Students

Have a trust fund set up to follow Student

Need a team of Members to take on project

Have a team of Members to plan for future for 5 to 10 year plan

Announced The Bill Jonas Award. Called Mr. Bill Jonas up to receive and Thank Him for His many years He gave to the Club.

Richard Holle, Vice President/Shop Manager:

Future speakers

Members can take up to \$10.00 worth of slabs outside

Barrings for grinders on back order

Get instructions on how to use new grinding wheels

Please keep doors shut as We now have A/C

John Philpot, Treasurer;

Gave financial report

Change wording of By Laws, will write up old and read new to Members in future.

Budget report done

Nancy Suthann, Secretary:

Minutes approved

Sent one get well card out

Thanked Karen Moschinger for donating time at Allegiant Nursing facility

Please inform Nancy Suthann, if anyone in need of a card sent out

Jerry Fellenz, Trustee:

Need Saturday Monitors

Reminded Members its Their club, Volunteers are need to help run the club.

explained "Perks" of being a Monitor.

May come into shop after hours to work, may Not bring in another Family Member or Friend.

Dan Jarvis, Field trip Coordinator:

Many Trips planned in future

Field trip calendar posted

Natalie Kirmiel, Hospitality:

Christmas/Holiday party: December 13th 2018 at 6:30pm at the Shop

Ed Lindsey, President:

Door Prizes

50/50

Silent Auction

Meeting adjourned At 7:35pm

Shop Hours for December

Monday 8AM-8PM

Tuesday 8AM-4PM

Wednesday 8AM-4PM

Thursday 8AM-4PM

Friday 8AM-4PM

Closed for the holiday 12/24-12/26

“Thank You” to everyone who has volunteered to monitor. You are all wonderful!

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Wednesday, November 7, was a day of perfection. Perfect weather, tons of purple agate to choose from, a perfect place up in the pine trees, and perfect company. It was certainly a dream-come-true for 21 members of the club.

Upon leaving Payson as we headed to the collection site the sun was shining and the temperature was a very pleasant 57 degrees. Within 20 minutes we were near Kohl’s Ranch where we headed north on Zane Grey Highway (the Fish Hatchery Rd.). Two miles up the road we turned left on Roberts Mesa Rd., and in less than two miles we were very close to the collection site.

About two blocks before arriving at the site we stopped to open a small gate. That is when we noticed “THEM”. They were big and black and alive, and they were looking at us with great big eyes. We hesitated to proceed down the road, but when one of them said “mooooo” we felt safe to continue on. Next to the place where we parked there were hundreds of thousands of small pieces of purple agate. A short walk off the road resulted in finding many larger pieces. We all agreed there was enough purple agate to last for a very long time.

As we were packing up our equipment one of the club members showed samples of shell and crinoid fossils found within a hundred feet of where we had parked. Of course he waited until we were headed out to let us know about the great fossil find. But now we have another reason to return to the site. As we left the site the temperature was a magnificent 68 degrees with just a hint of a breeze. It was pure magnificence. Many wanted to stay longer, but some had plans to go nearby to Diamond Point Mountain to dig for Arizona diamonds. Agates and fossils and crystals all on the same day. It all must have been just a very pleasant dream.

Reported November 11, 2018

Dan Jarvis

ANOTHER GREAT DAY IN THE WILDERNESS

A beautiful sunrise and a refreshing 52 degrees greeted 19 club members and 2 guests as they gathered at the intersection of Highway 87 and Bush Highway. Wednesday, November 28, was forecasted to be a great day for weather, exploring Arizona, and rock collecting. After all were ready to go the group prepared to roll down the road for an adventure north of Mount Ord in a place called Sycamore Creek.

Within twenty minutes the group exited Highway 87 and began their descent into a canyon where Sycamore Creek has been running for a very long time. The last two miles were a little rocky, but all vehicles made it safely to an area next to the creek where people have camped many times. Can you believe it the temperature upon arrival had dropped to a cool 46 degrees, but with the sun shining the group knew that “heavenly” temperatures would soon come (and they did). After instructions to watch out for centipedes and other related creatures everyone scattered in all direction to look for red jasper.

Sycamore Creek is usually a dry wash, but the group was pleasantly surprised to find a small amount of water running, and there were several crystal clear pools of water up and down the creek. The very cold water was frequently used as a very convenient “rock washer”. Very tall sycamore and juniper trees lined the creek bed, and the best of nature was very abundant.

Even though the area had been visited many times by rock hunters it did not take long for the prized red rocks to be found. In addition to the many small samples found there were a few giant rocks found loaded with red jasper and white quartz. Some of the rocks were so big it took two or three people to roll them and lift them into vehicles. Only time would tell if they had fantastic rock specimens or very beautiful boat anchors.

Everyone knows from experience that about a month after picking up buckets filled with some rocks we often say “Why in the world did I take those rocks home?” It seems that the longer a person remains a member of the rock club the fewer rocks they take home from a field trip. The word “high-grading” is learned very quickly when a person becomes a rockhound. A grand-father of one of those

on the trip used to say “When I go rock hunting I take a pocket full of marbles. Each time I pick up a rock I put a marble in its place. And, when a person loses all his or her marbles then you know he or she is a certified rockhound.”

Reported by Dan Jarvis

12-1-18

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

At the present time there are 26 field trips either planned or in process of being planned. I expect all of them, or most of them, to be completed between now and the end of April. For now I (Dan Jarvis) will be leading the majority of the field trips. For my personal sanity I would rather have others leading the trips, and I expect in time I will be able to train several of those who are on the Field Trip Committee to lead future trips. Listed below are the trips that have dates set, and the names of the trip leaders are given. There is also a list of trips in process of being planned. A “?” below means I do not know who is leading the trip, or it means I would prefer someone else lead the trip. I would sincerely appreciate help with some of the following trips.

December 5	Globe onyx (north of Globe)	Ed Lindsey
December 8	Salt River river rocks	Dan Jarvis
December 12	Box Canyon 6 Mines exploratory trip	Dan Jarvis
December 15	Forest Rd 225 (north of Claypool)	Dan Jarvis
December 19	Gray Horse Mine exploratory trip	Dan Jarvis

January 9	Saddle Mountain fire agate	?
January 12	Superior Perlite Quarry	Dan Jarvis
January 16	Box Canyon iron pyrite	Dan Jarvis
January 19	Chilito Mine azurite/malachite	Ed Lindsey
January 23	Table Mesa yellow banded jasper	?
February 9	Jerome banded iron or agate	Dan Jarvis
February 20	Diamond Point quartz crystals	?
March 16	Payson Secret Site fossils	Dan Jarvis
March 27	Payson Old Coral Site exploratory	Dan Jarvis
March 30	Roberts Mesa Rd fossils and agate	Dan Jarvis
April 6	Seneca Lake	Ed Lindsey

FIELD TRIPS IN PROCESS OF BEING ORGANIZED

Capstone Pinto Valley Mine bus tour (Dan Jarvis)

Copper Chief Mine exploratory trip (Dan Jarvis)

Mayer onyx (Paul Stearns)

Resolution Copper Mine bus tour (Dan Jarvis)

Salome amethyst (Ed Lindsey)

TBD aquamarine (Ed Lindsey)

Silver Bell Mine (Dan Jarvis)

Silver King Mine (Dan Jarvis)

St. Johns petrified wood (Dan Jarvis)

Woodpecker Mine amethyst (Ed Lindsey)

Woodruff/Dobell Ranch petrified wood (Paul Stearns)

THIS INFO HAS BEEN POSTED TO THE WEBSITE IN THE MEMBERS AREA, ON THE BULLETIN BOARD JUST INSIDE THE FRONT DOOR, AND ON OFFICE DOOR.

Dec 5th Trip to Globe Onyx Site

TRIP LEADERS: Ed Lindsey

CONTACT INFORMATION: sealindsey@comcast.net Cell: 480 427-6583

NEED: We need members who have Quads to assist with equipment/member transportation up the last leg of the site access. Please contact me if you have a Quad and are willing to help with site access.

WHEN: Wednesday, December 5th, 2018

WHERE: Globe Onyx, off Hwy 60/77

MEETING LOCATION: McDonald's, Ash St/60E, Globe.

MEETING TIME: 8:30 AM, leave 9:00 AM

MATERIAL: A variety of Onyx colors and patterns containing: black, white, honey, red, brown and green.

COLLECTING METHOD: Primarily shovel, sledge and pry bar. Some float, most is of inferior quality to freshly mined material.

VEHICLE TYPE: Most any car can traverse Haystack Butte Rd to the parking area. This is a great site to bring your ATX's and side by sides. There is limited parking at the end of the spur road (cliff-face). Unless someone brings a UTV (side by side) the final leg will be on foot.

TERRAIN TYPE: Moderate Difficulty, the most difficulty is walking from the parking site to the Onyx face. Access on the spur road is 900ft with a 154ft vertical rise. The ground is fairly level at the base of the Onyx ledge where members can stage tools and rock.

TOOLS NEEDED: Buckets, long and short handle sledges, shovels and pry-bars, rock hammer optional.

DIRECTIONS: We will be caravanning to the site. From McDonald's, East on Hwy 60/77 to Haystack Butte Rd, ~30 miles. **At this point we are about 9.5 miles of well-maintained dirt road from the site turn-off.**

COMMENTS: This is an easily accessed site for those able to walk the last 900ft. Remember this means carrying tools up and down as well as whatever Onyx you choose to take. The pay-off is a wide assortment of colors and patterns quarried in a beautiful and somewhat remote location.

GENTLE REMINDERS

MEMBERSHIP

It's that time of the year again. Stop by the shop Monday through Friday from 8AM-4PM pay your 2019 dues.

Still a great bargain at \$24.00 for the full year.

Many of you , those that have been with us at least 4 years, will need a new name badge. If you do not have 2019 at the top of your badge it's time to order a new one - - \$8.00.

Thank you,

Sharon Koberna-membership chair

DISPLAY CASES

We often have people come into the Shop to see what we are all about. In an effort to

show these inquiring minds what we love about "rock hounding" we have updated our display cases. The idea is not only to show what treasures can be found here in Arizona but in other states that our membership call "home", but to show the beautiful things that can be made from our "finds".

If you are willing to allow us to display your favorite finds for 4-6 +/- weeks we will keep the locked in our cases. These can be in the "rough/raw" state, in beautiful slabs, or completed pieces. Please bring them into the shop during regular hours. I am at the shop everyday, but if no one is there with a key, they can be locked in the office until i can get them into one of the cases.

These items can be retrieved at anytime you would like them back.

Thank you,
Betty Mehlhoff

THE GIFT OF GIVING

Many children, by no fault of their own, go without a celebration meal and a present during this season of giving.

So we have started a food and toy drive for Christmas.

The Salvation Army takes NEW unwrapped toys for children from 0-12 years. They will also take new clothes and shoes in all sizes.

If you would rather give a cash donation please ask the monitor in charge for an special envelope for this project.

We have until 12/17/18 for our Christmas giving.

We are all so fortunate to be part of this amazing club, let's pay it forward.

Thank you all in advance for your generosity.

VOLUNTEERS

This month I would like to recognize our Board.

Ed Lindsey-President

Richard Holle-Vice-president

Nancy Suthan-Secretary

John Philpot-Treasurer

Trustees

Jerry Fellenz

Glen Reesing

Tom Schafer

Elaine Zacheis-Membership Chair- new member

Dan Jarvis-Field Trip leader

Tom Mortensen-Show Chair

These fine people work very hard behind the scene to keep things running smoothly so we can just play. Thank you all for all of your time and patience. You are the BEST.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year our **Christmas Party** is going to be held at the Shop. The date is 12/13/2018 at 6:30PM. This is a potluck celebration with the club supplying the meat entree and the beverages.

We are asking the following

If you have folding chairs please bring one for yourself and your spouse/guest.

Your favorite side dish or dessert with serving utensil. Please put your name on your utensil and container so you will get them back if forgotten.

If you have a source of outside heating that we can use for the evening, please contact Betty Mehlhoff at bamehlhoff@gmail.com or see me at the shop. While we are able to accommodate the expected number of members and guests at the Club, many of us will be outside. I check the weather, (long way off), and the expected high for the 13th is 60 degrees. This means when the sun goes down it is going to be cold. Dress with this in mind. Speaking of dress, this is going to be a very casual sit down dinner. I am thinking jeans, sweaters/sweatshirts and jackets.

We are also considering a brown bag exchange. The idea is to bring something rock related in a brown lunch bag and we will put them under the tree and have some kind of drawing. This is still in the works, but we will have it figured out by party time. So bring your bag and join in the fun.

Most importantly...During this Season of Giving we have started a food/gift/cash drive to help provide needy children in our area with a gift and a good meal for the holiday. Please consider bringing non perishable food, an unwrapped toy, new coats, sweaters, shoes, or cash to the party. This year we will turn everything we get over to the Salvation Army to distribute to families in need.

For next year if there is a different organization you would rather see the club donate to or a different way to help those in need that you would like to see the club utilize please make the suggestion in writing to be considered. (In writing so it can go in a file and not be forgotten.)

Many of us have been blessed in our lives at one time or another with someone's generosity, this is another opportunity to pay it forward.

Thank you in advance.

JUST SO WE ARE ALL ON THE SAME PAGE

We have many new monitors and members, so I thought it would be a good thing to post monitor duties/rules so everyone is aware of what the monitors and members are responsible for when we use the wonderful facility we have available to us.

I was unable to locate the printed rules for monitors and members so am writing down the common sense things that I have learned on my journey as a member of AJRGC. Richard and Ed I hope you don't mind. If I have forgotten anything, let me know and I will include in next month's newsletter.

Please take the time to read the following. Treat our lapidary room, saw room, and facility like it is your own. **If you see something that needs to be done...do it. Don't complain, volunteer!**

Monitors

Open gate

Saw Room

At beginning of shift/day

Open saw shop

Turn on lights and fans

Check saws are clean

Check oil, if sediment is showing above oil, change oil. If you don't know how ask.

Check all rocks before first cut and again if rock position is changed.

Put your name on board after checking rocks.

Make sure all cuts are listed and paid for.

End of shift/day

Make sure floor is oil free.

Sweep floor and clean around each saw and litter box.

Check that saws including trim saw are cleaned and lids closed.

Make sure glue jar is closed and glue brushes are clean.

Turn off water, lights, and fans.

Lock saw room door.

Lapidary Shop

At beginning of shift/day

Turn on lights, water, wax warmers.

Check each station is clean.

Check start up money.

End of shift/day

Turn off lights, water, wax warmers.

Check each station is clean.

Count receipts for your shift, put in appropriate envelope and drop in safe.

Check soda money. Leave enough paper money to break a \$5, right a receipt, put in plain envelope marked soda and drop in safe.

Clean monitor area and counter.

Make sure office is locked, saw room is locked, backdoor is locked, dead bolt is locked, lock front door and set alarm..

Members

All members must sign in when entering the shop.

Saw room

Have a monitor check each rock you put in saws.

Put your name on the board.

If all the saws in the size you need are in use, put your name on the board in the "wait" column.

The person using the saw has 2 cuts before they must relinquish the saw. Person relinquishing the saw may put their name on wait list.

If you change position of your rock, a monitor must check rock again.

Once cuts are completed drop rock in litter box to get rid of excess oil. Brush litter off of rock and your hands and wash rock in sink.

Clean saw, wipe down outside of saw, clean area around saw and litter box. If unsure how to clean saw ask monitor.

If you drip oil on the floor as you transfer to litter box or sink, sweep up. if you don't know how ask monitor.

Measure each cut that has “dropped” or been cut off your rock at the LONGEST length.

Fill out slip and pay total to monitor.

If you use trim saw, clean.

If you glue a rock onto board be sure to close jar tightly and wash brush.

Please use the card board box to glue in and not the counter. if you forget and glue on counter clean up excess glue.

Lapidary Room

If you have any questions about how to use any lapidary equipment, ASK.

Although, ones impulse is to push our stones hard against the grinding and polishing wheels moderate pressure is all that is need to accomplish your task.

After using any lapidary station clean up after yourself. If unsure how, ask.

If you use wax, clean up after yourself.

If you use trim saw, clean up after yourself.

If you use templates return to basket.

Throw paper towels in garbage. Hang clothe towels over back of chair or over edge of table to dry.

If you buy a soda, crush can and drop in bin.

If you by water, put bottle in recycle garbage can.

If you are a smoker, **empty your butts into a garbage can before you leave facility.**

If we all take care of the facility and equipment we use and clean up after ourselves, the shop will stay cleaner for everyone.

AND... once again...IF YOU SEE SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, DO IT.
IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW ASK. DON'T COMPLAIN, VOLUNTEER!!!

Finally, however you celebrate the Winter Solstice may you be blessed with
Love, Peace, Joy, Good Health, and Prosperity during this season of
Celebration and into the New Year!

Happiness to All,

Betty Mehlhoff