Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. ROCK TALK Volume November

Volume 9 - Issue 2 November - December 2014

President's Page

Fall is here and Southern Arizona is coming alive after a long summer and a darn good monsoon. Lots of plans for events at the TGMS facility and we are all ready for Field Trips now that it is getting cool enough to venture outside again.

Remember to attend our annual sale on December 6, 2014. Thanks to Jo Anne Sam and Janelle Cortright for their time and efforts to make this event a success. Also our Christmas Party on Wednesday, December the 17th. Melody will be back to sing your favorite songs and the food will be special.

The 61st Tucson Gem and Mineral Show ® is coming up very fast and I encourage all our members that can volunteer for the many jobs that have to be done. Without you and the time you spend from set up to tear down there would be no Show. So "thank you" in advance for the many hours you give us to make this Show happen.

As most of you have probably heard, the Tucson Convention Center has been privatized. The new company that has been awarded the contract is SMG and has an excellent reputation for managing the business of entertainment. There will be changes but probably not this year. They are very wisely taking their time to see where we are before they make any decisions as to where we are going.

This brings me to the subject that seems to be a concern to a few members. The TGMS Board made a decision to charge half-price admission to members who attend the Show. This decision was an alternative to raising the membership dues (this will not affect TGMS members who volunteer). Yes, the Society is solvent but we have expenses. We have money in the bank and as most of you know who have been in business and are still have businesses, you cannot rest on your assets, you must try to keep ahead of the game. We do not know what is ahead as far as contracts or charges to keep the Show at the TCC but we are making a few changes now to, hopefully, offset changes that may be coming. We have also had major expenses at the TGMS building:



two air conditioners had to be replaced, repairs on the roof, the carpet needs attention, and general improvements and maintenance, so there are many things that are expensive but necessary to keep us in business. This is only one of the steps we have taken to maintain our income and, while some may complain, I seriously ask you, is \$4.50 really too much to pay to see the best

gem and mineral show in the world ??

I will close with that thought and hopefully the understanding that I make no apologies for the Board decisions; we only have the best interest of the Society and ultimately the Show at heart. I would appreciate your understanding and support in trying to do the best job we can for the members of our Society.



Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. 2014 - 2015 Officers & Directors

President: Diane Braswell ph. 520.574.1942 Vice President: Mark Marikos, ph. 520.360.4264 Recording Secty.: Marilyn Reynolds, ph. 520.296.0688

Treasurer: Ellen Alexander, ph. 520.743.9383 Membership Secty.: Alrene Hibben, ph. 520.529.6502

Director: Madison Barkley, ph. 804.761.8324 Director: Dick Gottfried, ph. 520-584-0211 Director: Jo Anne Sam, ph. 520-403-0117 Past President: Mark Ascher, ph. 520.886.0397

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Jim Bleess, Ellen Alexander, Karen Weinrich

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TGMS General Meeting - September 10, 2014

The General Meeting of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Diane Braswell at 7:30 p.m. The meeting originally scheduled for Monday, September 8, was postponed due to record setting rain and flooding in Tucson and Phoenix on that Monday.

Visitors and new members were recognized and welcomed to the meeting.

PROGRAM: Jerry Glazman, a docent at Kartchner Caverns, presented the slide show "Off the Beaten Path - Exploring Kartchner Caverns Beyond the Pavement" which shows areas the public does not see on the Rotunda/Throne Room or the Big Room tours. Since the opening of the cave in 1999 over two million visitors have experienced the stunning array of cave formations and colors. presentation began by following rangers who entered through the sink hole and followed the route used by the two explorers who discovered the cave in 1974 and continued into the back area. Some of the formations discussed were stalactites, stalagmites, soda straws, shields, box works, and helictites. The Rotunda/Throne Room tour is open year-round and the Big Room tour is open October 15-April 15 when the bats are not present. Jerry is generously donating his speaker honorarium to the playground building fund at Kartchner Caverns State Park.

BREAK: Michael Hollonbeck provided the refreshments which included sandwiches, taquitos, fruit, vegetables, pretzels and cookies. Many thanks!

OLD BUSINESS: MOTION: To approve the minutes of the May 5, 2014, General Meeting as published in Rock Talk. Seconded and approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Field Trips: Kerry Towe reported that the Field Trip Committee has been working on organizing trips for the year. On the third weekend in October Merritt Simmons will lead a trip to the Carlisle Mine and sites near there. In November there will be a trip to the Blanchard Mine in New Mexico with the Albuquerque group. Other mine tours are being worked on and, hopefully, the Ray Mine will be included.

The 11th Annual Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry, Art and Craft Sale: The event will be Saturday, December 6, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at TGMS. The inside tables are full, but space is

available outside. See Pat in the office if interested.

TGMS Show: There was a Board decision presented with the budget on May 3, 2014 that members will be charged half-price admission. This was an alternative to raising the price for membership. The Tucson Convention Center is being privatized and it is unknown if existing contracts will be honored, what costs will be, etc. Members present tonight expressed support for the Board decision. Wayne Klement encouraged members to volunteer and pointed out that help is need to set up and line cases, dealer check-in, dealer move-in and move-out as well as work during the Show.

February Meeting: The February General Meeting will be moved back to the first Monday of the month. Most visitors who attend are already in town for other shows and this will relieve the burden on office staff that is in the process of moving Show supplies to the Show offices at the Convention Center. **MOTION:** To change the February meeting to the first Monday. Seconded and approved.

DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZES: Michael Hollonbeck, as meeting host, made the first choice. Drawing winners were Alrene Hibben, Albert Anderson, Bob Lind and Wayne Klement.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Reynolds, Recording Secretary

REMINDER!!! PLEASE NOTE:

Per the September 10, 2014 General Meeting minutes.

The February General Meeting is now going to be held on the FIRST Monday of the month instead of the second Monday of the month.

So, make sure that you mark it on your calendar, that <u>February 2, 2015 will be the date for the General Meeting instead of February 9, 2015!</u>

TGMS General Meeting - October 6, 2014

The General Meeting of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Diane Braswell at 7:30 p.m.

Diane introduced Anna Schuh, a student at the University of Arizona majoring in geology and business, who asked for some volunteers to answer a questionnaire for a school project.

Visitors and new members were recognized and welcomed to the meeting.

PROGRAM: Mark Marikos presented "Mineral Quiz Night – But Not Just Names." Each question was associated with three minerals shown and then named in the slide presentation, followed by a question asking which of the three minerals could or could not be used for a specified purpose. It was challenging and fun for everyone. The top three winners selected a mineral specimen as their prize. Winners were: Ron Gibbs, 1st place; Tim Hicks, 2nd place; and Karen Wenrich, 3rd place.

BREAK: Thanks to John Callahan who provided the refreshments which had his usual creative flair including potatoes, cucumbers, tomatoes, peanuts, chicken salad, bread and empanadas.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry, Art and Craft Sale: Jo Anne Sam announced that all the indoor spaces are filled and there is a waiting list. There are a few outdoor spaces available. Donations of cookies or other baked goods are welcome for refreshments provided to attendees. The sale is December 6th at TGMS from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

February General Meeting: Members were reminded that the meeting will be the first Monday instead of the second Monday.

NEW BUSINESS:

Field Trips: Merritt Simmons will lead a trip to the Carlisle Mine for amethyst scepters on October 25th. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at TGMS. Other possible trips for the future include Round Mountain for quartz and fire agate and the Buckskin Mountains for hematite. Please let Kerry Towe know if you are interested in these trips. Kerry mentioned possible trips to the Benson area for selenite and the Holmes Mine for amethyst and wulfenite. A trip to the Silverbell Mine will be on the last Saturday in January and one to the Mission Mine on the last Friday in February. Diane is meeting with Sterling

Cook to see if a trip to Ray Mine can be arranged.

The Huachuca Gem and Mineral Society show is this weekend in Sierra Vista.

A meeting will be held with SMG regarding the Convention Center so TGMS will know what will be happening under their management and if or how our Show will be impacted.

OPLC's Silent Auction will be the first Saturday in November. This Saturday there will be a tailgate sale by members after the meeting. The address for OPLC is 3118 N. Dale.

DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZES: John Callahan, as meeting host, made the first choice. Drawing winners were Anita Nisonger, Tim McClain, Kim Filips and Janette Simister.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Reynolds, Recording Secretary

IN MFMORIAM

Marjorie Flagg passed away on October 15, 2014 at the age of 92.

She was raised in Phoenix, Arizona where she earned a degree in education from Arizona Sate University. She taught kindergarten and first grade until starting a family, but education was always in her heart. She was a devoted wife to Richard Flagg for 68 years.

Together they raised two daughters, Barbara Moos (Stephen) and Carolyn Kerr (William). She is also survived by her beloved granddaughter, Stephanie Sarvana (Adam) and two sisters, Arlyn Uslan (David) and Marcella Merrill (Richard).

Marjorie will be missed by us all.

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FOLLOWING A GOLDEN TRAIL - By Anna Domitrovic

In 1897, the steamship Excelsior docked in San Francisco Bay. That same year, the Portland steamship arrived in Seattle. Both ships were loaded down with gold and crowded with men who had made a fortune in the gold fields of Canada's Yukon Territory. The rush began to stake claims and



find more gold. And thus was the beginning of the Klondike Gold Rush.

The first discovery claim was in 1894 by trapper Robert Henderson, but it took him two more years to convince his friends George Carmack, Tagish Charlie and Skookum Jim to join him in searching along Bonanza Creek for more gold. One year later, millions were made and news of the gold find spread to the lower 48.

Steamships left west coast ports to travel as far as they could go to Skagway, Alaska. That was the easy part of the journey. There was more than 500 miles



to go to get to Dawson City and the gold. Once in Skagway prospectors needed to be properly outfitted before Canada would allow them passage. That meant proof

provisions to last at least a year. Food, bedding, tools, cook and mining gear, clothing and building materials made up the ton of supplies gold prospectors needed for permission to cross the border. And Skagway was a place to get what they needed. It would cost \$250-\$500 in 1890's currency. If they wanted to take "the rich man's route", allwater, to the mouth of the Yukon River on the Bering Strait, it would cost more. Most opted for the land route which meant crossing mountain ranges through snow-packed passes and over frozen lakes and rivers. In most cases the overland route took up to

two years! Many arrived in Dawson City well after the strike was over and the gold petered out.

The overland route started north of Skagway at Dyea, the beginning of the 33 mile long Chilkoot Trail, originally an old Indian trail. It was not an easy trek. Prospectors had to ferry their provisions over the mountains in stages, as it was impossible to transport more than a thousand pounds of goods over the

treacherous terrain. Once the mountains were cleared, the lakes and rivers posed the next problem. Boats had to be made for this leg of the journey. This is why, in many instances, it took several years to reach the final destination in northwest Yukon Territory.

A well-known photo of that time is the long line of



prospectors, loaded down with supplies, climbing the "Golden Stairs" to the summit of Chilkoot Pass. A rope line guided them up the final climb. Once at the top of the

pass, they let down their load and went back down for another. It took several months and dozens of trips to get their years-worth of supplies to this point, less than 10% of the entire way.



The water portion of the journey to the gold fields was just as treacherous. When they reached the lakes — Lindeman.

Bennett, Tagish – they had to resort to boat building to get them across the lakes to the streams and

FOLLOWING A GOLDEN TRAIL - By Anna Domitrovic - CONTINUED

eventually to the Yukon River at Whitehorse. Sternwheelers navigated the Yukon River to Dawson City, as long as the river wasn't frozen over. But whether by hand-made boats or sternwheelers, there were still narrow channels.

rough-running waters and rapids, in particular the Five Fingers Rapids, to pass before arriving at the docks in Dawson City. Some made it. Some didn't.

The Skagway of today still bustles with activity when the cruise ships dock in the harbor. One day I saw three massive cruise ships with thousands of passengers descend upon the streets and stores. I would

walk "downtown" from the hostel I called home for four days early enough to imagine olden Skagway

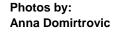


before tourists clouded my vision. Yes, I was somewhat of a tourist well. as But it was nice to be in a place

enough so that some of the locals got to recognize

Early Skagway was a lawless town on the Alaska Frontier. Stories of outlaws, con men and prostitutes, of murders and robberies abound in its history. But as time went on, businesses morphed into more respectable venues. What was once a bawdy saloon where cheap liquor flowed, gambling went on till the wee hours and prostitutes plied their trade, became establishments like the Theatre Royal, "the only first-class refined vaudeville house in Alaska." Newspapers told of legitimate banking businesses and advertised sophisticated attire and social events at the Arctic Brotherhood Hall, while prostitution was relegated to cribs on the outskirts of town. But what a place it must have been 100

years ago! Whether lawless or civilized, Skagway was the gateway to Yukon Territory, and marked the starting point for many seeking their fortune during the Klondike



PART II coming in January - February issue of **ROCK TALK!!**



"The TGMS Christmas Party"

WHEN:

Wednesday, December 17, 2014

WHERE:

TGMS facility - 3727 E. Blacklidge Drive

WHAT TIME:

Starting at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the concert will begin around 7:15 p.m.

It will include a catered dinner and entertainment by Melody Louise. Her exceptional vocal stylings and versatility includes a repertoire ranging from Jazz Standards, Pop Rock to Country Classics.

TGMS members pay \$5.00 and TGMS member invited guests \$10.00. This helps cover the expenses incurred in having a "GREAT" party. We will have sign-up sheets starting at the October 6th General Meeting. You can also contact the TGMS office and make reservations by calling 520.322.5773 or emailing tgms@tgms.org.

The deadline for signing up is December 12, 2014.

"Mark your calendars and come join the fun!"



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2015 TGMS COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

To: TGMS Member

Please join us at the 61ST Annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show ®, February 12-15, 2015. The numerous mineral collectors and visitors who enjoy viewing beautiful exhibits will appreciate your participation in the Show. Your competitive exhibit(s) will add greatly to the Show. The area for the competitive exhibits will be right at the center of the Exhibition Hall. This will really highlight your exhibit and the others who compete.

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Society and Show Committee are very interested in promoting interest in young exhibitors. Each junior age exhibitor, regardless of which exhibitor class they enter, will receive a \$100 check from Dr. Rob Lavinsky of The Arkenstone. He wishes to help encourage young collectors to exhibit and compete and this is his way of honoring those adults who helped him when he was a junior-age collector. The high point score by a junior-age exhibitor will receive a \$500 check and the second high point score will receive a \$300 check, regardless of the exhibitor category.

Various applications are available for you to enter competitively. If you would like to have the forms, information or a competitive handbook sent to you, please contact our TGMS Office. Applications must be received no later than December 1, 2014. Due to increasing security concerns, ALL competitive entries, including those for the Special Trophies and Best of Theme competitions, shall require a signed Competitive Exhibitor Agreement. No Agreement, No Entry.

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show ® theme for 2015 is "Minerals OF Western Europe." Trophies will be awarded for the best specimen in each of five size categories and lapidary/jewelry in the Best of Theme competition. An individual is eligible to enter a specimen in each category. This competition is open to all individuals and entries will be accepted up to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 (Best of Species/Bideaux Trophy entries 4:00 p.m.).

The Show Committee awards five special trophies to honor those who have contributed to mineralogy and the collecting hobby. The Desautels Trophy is for the "Best Case of Minerals in the Show," with the emphasis on quality and aesthetics of the specimens. The Lidstrom Trophy is awarded to the best single specimen contained within a competitive exhibit. The Yedlin Trophy is awarded to the best case of Master micromounts. The Bideaux Trophy is awarded to the best single Arizona specimen entered in this competition. The Romero Trophy is awarded to the best Mexican specimen or case in the Show. Any case or specimen to be judged for these trophies, except the Romero, must have a signed Competitive Exhibitor Agreement submitted. (The Show Committee has made a recommendation to the TGMS Board requesting that two additional categories be added; more information on this at a later date.)

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at (480) 892-0779 or email: presmyk@cox.net, or the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society office at 520-322-5773, or email: tgms@tgms.org.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Les Presmyk

Sincerely,

Competitive Exhibits Chairman

TGMS EXHIBIT CASE ENDOWMENT



TUCSON GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

Encouraging interest and study in geology, mineralogy, lapidary and allied earth sciences.

TGMS EXHIBIT CASE ENDOWMENT

We will be happy to accept any amount that you can give. With a donation of \$500.00, a plaque bearing your name(s), or the name(s) of someone you wish to honor will be prominently placed on a case, a recognition that will be seen by TGMS Show visitors for years to come.



One Form Per Case

Mail form to:				
Tucson Gem and Mineral Society Inc. PO Box 42588 Tucson, Arizona 85733	Name			
	Address			
Phone: 520-322-5773	<u> </u>			
Fax: 520-322-6031				
E-mail: tgms@tgms.org	(8			
	Phone			
	Email - To confirm spelling fo	r the plaque		
☐ Donation in the amount of \$100	☐ Donation in the amount of \$400	Method of Payment	MASTER CARD	
☐ Donation in the amount of \$200	Donation in the amount of \$500 (Personal Plaque amount)		AMERICAN EXPRESS	
☐ Donation in the amount of \$300	Other	Credit Card #	Exp. date	Sec. Code
		Signature		
☐ Donated by ☐ In Honor o	Information for plaq Please PRINT the name	ue e(s) you would like on the plaqu		20 letters.
-				

No goods or services were exchanged for this gift. The Tucson Gem and Mineral Society Inc is a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Organization. All gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Federal Employee I.D. #86-0205863. Consult a tax advisor for details.

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THINGS TO DO!!!

11th Annual

Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry, Art & Craft Sale

Presented by the

TUCSON GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED!

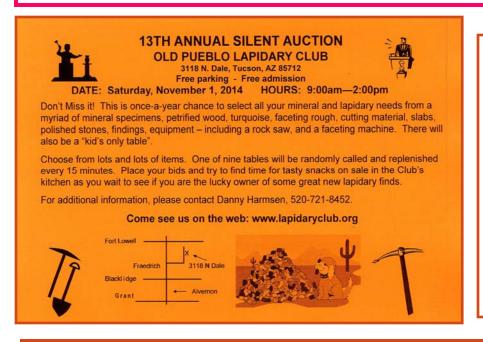
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

3727 E. BLACKLIDGE 2 blocks south of Ft. Lowell, 1/2 block east of Dodge

FREE COFFEE, LEMONADE, AND HOMEMADE COOKIES!
FREE GIVEAWAYS FOR THE CHILDREN!

FABULOUS HOLIDAY GIFT SHOPPING, FROM STOCKING STUFFERS TO WORLD CLASS MINERAL SPECIMENS, FOSSILS, JEWELRY, AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!



Old Pueblo Lapidary Club

13th Annual Silent Auction

November 1, 2014 Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more information go to: www.lapidaryclub.org

"Glitzy Minerals of the Southwest"

Wolfgang Mueller will be giving a talk on November 15, 2014 at 11: 00 a.m. at the Oracle State Park.

"Wulfenite, and Vanadinite Localities of the Southwest"

For more info go to, Friends of Oracle State Park: http://friendsoraclestatepark.org/events.htm

Other Show Dates!!!

November

8-9—LAKE HAVASU CITY, ARIZONA: Annual show; Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society, Lake Havasu Community Center; 100 Park Ave.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; adults \$2, children (under 12) free; contact Sue Kirk, 1100 Pueblo Dr., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406, (928) 302-1531; e-mail: macsuzy@mac.com

15-16—PAYSON, ARIZONA: Annual show; Payson Rimstones Rock Club, Mazatzal Hotel & Casino Event Center; Hwy. 87 at Mile Marker 251; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2, children (under 12) free; gems, minerals, specimen rocks, fossils, lapidary equipment, jewelry and findings, slabs or rough material, gold prospecting equipment, dealer displays, club displays, Educational Corner, fluorescent display, sand painting, beading, Spinning Wheel, silent auction; contact Margaret Jones, PO Box 884, Pine, AZ 85544, (928) 970-0857; e-mail: margieaberry@gmail.com

22-23—APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA: Show and sale; Apache Junction Rock & Gem Club, Apache Junction High School; 2525 S. Ironwood Dr.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$3, students \$1, children (12 and under) free; dealers, jewelry, gems, opals, beads, rocks, specimens, slabs, fossils, lapidary equipment and supplies, silent auction, hourly door prizes, grand raffle, gem-tree making for all ages, wheel-of-rocks, egg-carton rock collections; contact Kelly Iverson, (480) 325-2705; Web site: www.ajrockclub.com

29-30—WICKENBURG, ARIZONA: Show and sale; Wickenburg Gem & Mineral Society, Wrangler Event Center; 251 S. Tegner St.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; more than 40 dealers, rocks, gems, beads, minerals, jewelry, fossils, lapidary tools, kids' room, door prizes; contact Beth Myerson, (480) 540-2318; e-mail: myerbd@gmail.com

TGMS Calendar				November 2014			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday 1	
2	3 TGMS General Meeting 7:30 p.m.	4 TGMS Educational Class 7:00 p.m	5	6	7	8	
9	10 TGMS Micromount Meeting 7:30 p.m	11	12	13	14	15 TGMS Field Trip To New Mexico and the Blanchard Mine	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	Thanksgiving	28	29	
30							

Unless otherwise stated ... all meetings are held at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society facility.

Located at: 3727 E. Blacklidge, Tucson, Arizona 85716

ROCK TALK

FROM:

T.G.M.S. P.O. BOX 42588 TUCSON, ARIZONA 85733





Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 42588 Tucson, Arizona 85733

Phone: 520.322.5773 Fax: 520.322.6031 E-mail:tgms@tgms.org

We're on the web www.tgms.org

PURPOSE: To encourage interest and study in geology, mineralogy, lapidary, and allied earth sciences.

Meetings: Usually the first Monday of the month, starting at 7:30 p.m., except September (second Monday because of the Labor Day holiday), June-August (potlucks), and . The TGMS facility address is: 3727 East Blacklidge Drive, Tucson, Arizona 85716

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show ®:

The second full weekend in February, starting with Thursday.

Affiliations: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. (AFMS), Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS), International Federation of Micromount Societies (IFMS), Visit Tucson, Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (TMCC).

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