



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 35 FEBRUARY 2009 NUMBER 2

	<p>NEXT MEETING: February 16, 2009 TIME: 7:30 PM LOCATION: CLEAR LAKE PARK BUILDING 5001 NASA ROAD ONE SEABROOK, TEXAS</p>
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The PROGRAM FOR February...

The program will be The Field Trip to the Moon DVD consists of a three-minute Introduction, a 21-minute Feature Presentation and seven minutes of Extra Materials

SHOW and TELL

Ed Tindell, fresh from a trip to the Big Bend area will share a report of our latest field trip. Bring in your prize specimens and educate us. Bring us your rockhounding finds and let us see how you did.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	Stoney Statements Spotlight	Editorial
Today's Planet - Volcanoes	2	
Today's Planet -Quakes	2	Time to prep for the next show and we will be talking about some of the preparations at the next general meeting. Ed Tindell will need 6 – 8 volunteers to load up the trailer on Thursday night before the show, unload and setup on Friday morning and break down on Sunday at the end of the show. They need to bring a pair of gloves.
January Minutes The President's Column	3	
Birthdays/Anniversaries	4	
Lapidary Corner-	4	
FIELD TRIPS – Teri Smith Rockhunting Field Trips	5	I will have the sign-up sheet for work areas for the show at the meeting so everyone that can, should show up at the general meeting.
February's Birthstone - Amethyst	6	
DIAMONDS" THAT AREN'T Regional Show Dates	7	<p>GEM SHOW – GEM SHOW Hey you all it is that time again! The CLGMS Show is on February 21, 22 at the Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway The Rock Food Table is Back! Tell your Friends!</p>



Stoney Statements spotlights the Ole Miner Ready for the 2009 Gem Show.



**** Happiness isn't something you experience; it's something you remember. **** Oscar Levant



Today's Planet

by Al Pennington

VOLCANOES – Pending Eruption in Alaska

REDOUBT Southwestern Alaska 60.485°N, 152.742°W; summit elev. 3108 m

AVO reported that during 24-25 January seismic activity at Redoubt increased markedly. On 25 January, seismic tremor became sustained and amplitude increased notably prompting AVO to raise the Aviation Color Code to Orange and the Alert Level to Watch. During an overflight later that day, observers saw no evidence of an eruption. However, they also noted increased steaming through previously identified sources in the snow and ice cover, along with sulfur gas emissions. An overflight on 26 January revealed elevated sulfur dioxide emissions from the summit and new outflows of muddy debris along the glacier that is downslope of the summit. On 26 and 27 January, seismicity fluctuated but remained above background levels. Redoubt is a 3108-m-high glacier-covered stratovolcano with a breached summit crater in Lake Clark National Park about 170 km SW of Anchorage. Next to Mount Spurr, Redoubt has been the most active Holocene volcano in the upper Cook Inlet.

CALLAQUI Central Chile 37.92°S, 71.45°W; summit elev. 3164 m

Based on a pilot observation and analysis of satellite imagery, the Buenos Aires VAAC reported that an ash plume from Callaqui drifted NE on 22 January. The VAAC also reported that an ash plume from Nevados de Chillán, a nearby volcano 120 km N, drifted SE on 21 and 22 January.

Geologic Summary. The late-Pleistocene to Holocene Callaqui stratovolcano has a profile of an overturned canoe due to its construction along an 11-km-long, SW-NE fissure above a 1.2-0.3 million year old Pleistocene edifice.

Recent Earthquake Details –

Central Chile heats up with 3 quakes in the 5.1 – 5.8 range 1/29-2/2/09 as several volcanoes in the region also become active. The early January quake activity in Yellowstone has subsided from the main location but activity continues to occur with minor quakes throughout the region. Check this out.

Magnitude 3.1 Date- Time Saturday, January 31, 2009 at 13:43:37 UTC
SOUTHERN IDAHO

Magnitude 2.3 Date- Time Wednesday, January 28, 2009 at 09:04:19 UTC
SOUTHERN IDAHO

Magnitude 2.0 Date- Time Thursday, January 29, 2009 at 16:05:53 UTC
Huntington, UT

Magnitude 2.8 Date- Time Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 19:23:23 UTC
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, WYOMING

Earthquake Fact

The Mid-Atlantic Ridge appears above sea-level at Iceland. This offers scientists a natural laboratory for studying on land the processes also occurring along the submerged parts of a spreading ridge. Iceland is splitting along the spreading center between the North American and Eurasian Plates, as North America moves westward relative to Eurasia.

MINUTES OF THE CLGMS, January 19, 2009

President Ed Tindell opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. The December Meeting Minutes were approved as published in the January Stoney Statements. Treasurer Loyce Pennington presented the Treasurer's Report and it was approved as presented.

President Ed Tindell reviewed each committee and their purposes. He announced Lester Gary is now the Librarian Chairperson. He asked for a volunteer to audit the books and Ben Dugger volunteered. The upcoming Annual Show was discussed.

Unfinished Business – President Ed Tindell recognized Al Pennington with the Bulletin Editor's Hall of Fame. He was also recognized by AFMS for our web site.

New Business – Mike Flannigan announced that CLGMS.org is available and our web site was further discussed. We received a request by mail from Frasier Elementary, Pasadena ISD, for 12 Earth Science Sets with a cost of \$400.69. The motion was made, seconded, and passed to make the donation. A Thank You was received from Thomas and Kathy Young for the flowers we sent to Kristi Higginbotham's funeral. Trina Willoughby and Lesley Gary are co-chairing as Program Director. President Ed Tindell made a report on the recent field trip to Alpine, TX.

The program was presented by Al Pennington regarding our upcoming Annual Show. Admissions policies were reviewed. He announced that the Rock Food Table will be presented. He reviewed the Information and Membership Policies and the Gem Mine policies and procedures. He discussed the demonstration which can be made by any member present and further discussed the Hands-On procedures. The special area for the Scout Badges and the Swap Area were also discussed.

Al Pennington also made a presentation on the Field Trip to the Moon Educator Guide DVD Presentation from NASA for schools. He reviewed the geology investigations and the uses of rocks and minerals found on the moon which can provide fuel for vehicles and lunar material to construct habitats. He discussed the search for water on the Lunar South Pole and the Lunar Base to be constructed in 2010. The best sites for mining metals and minerals found on the moon were discussed in addition to their uses, i.e. construction material.



Door prizes were awarded, refreshments were served and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Annabel Williams, Secretary

The President's Column

There is an old saying about being elected: did you step forward or did everybody else step back? In other words did you want the job or did everybody else not want it? In my case I'd have to say I stepped forward. After being in the club for more than a decade, and having been asked by the Nominating Committee more than once, I decided my time to serve in an elected office had come. I've been serving the club ever since I joined as Field Trip Coordinator and as a member of the Show Committee but those are volunteer positions. There is an old saying about volunteering too: you should never complain about the work volunteers do. That isn't true about elected officials and I hope when my term is up that I haven't had to deal with too many complaints. A few are par for the course as no one is perfect and I'm sure I'll make a few mistakes, so forgive me in advance, but too many means I haven't done my job.

So what is the job of president? The president is the official contact point for the club, presides over all meetings and is an official member of all committees. Our club was blessed when it was formed by people who knew how to get the work done by forming committees. A committee is a group of one or more persons that follow well established procedures to provide a service for the club and its members as opposed to an institution, which is a person who does the same thing as a committee but keeps all the details to themselves. When a committee changes hands the work continues. When an institution changes hands you often have to reinvent the wheel (start over) or worse the service stops being provided all together. As president, I have set a goal for the club to make sure that all of our committees are fully staffed and working by the end of 2009. It is my hope that you will help the club make this goal. I will be discussing each committee at upcoming meetings and in future columns of the newsletter.

If you have any ideas for the club please let me know. I can be reached at ed-tindell@sprynet.com.

Sincerely, Ed Tindell

A February HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Lewis Hall	3
Timothy Burns	9
Dick Rathjen	21
Julia Owens	29

Amethyst (sincerity).
From the Greek
amethystos, meaning
“without drunkenness.”
Has been used to signify
Christian humility.

February Anniversary includes:

Ray Jones 28



Thinking about paying you 2009 dues?
Pay at the Show or March meeting, OR?

GOODIE GETTERS...For February



Main Goodies provided by club.

Lapidary Corner (Special request from a new member)**FIELD TRIP FOR PETRIFIED WOOD**

The rains fell,
The seedlings grew
Massive branches
Brushed against the sky,
A hundred million years ago.

Trees toppled
Into shallow ponds
Covered with ash
And turned to stone,
A hundred million years ago.

The other day
Our rods probed deep
Recovering that
Which nature hid away
A hundred million years ago.

I wonder
What curious beasts
Were nurtured here
And where indeed was I.
A hundred million years ago.

By Marion Grambau, *Dust & Grit* 5/96

**To remove stain from quartz and agate, try this:**

dissolve 2 teaspoons potassium permanganate in a pint of water. Strain the mixture through cheesecloth. Let the specimen soak in the solution overnight. The purple color that

forms on the specimen will be removed by the cleaning solution.

Freshen pyrite and marcasite by soaking them

overnight in a solution of oxalic acid. Use two ounces of dry acid to a quart of water.

Plain steel blades or blades that have had the diamonds worn off can be used to saw softer materials such as malachite, turquoise, azurite, and others.

via News & Views 12/1998 and Backbender's Gazette, 2/09

Hand Lotion Cleans Grease!

A hobbyist says when sawing rocks or other greasy things, he must wash his hands a lot. Soap requires several washings—even lava soap. One day he accidentally squeezed his wife's lotion instead of the soap dispenser, and found that the oil washed off in one application and his hands smelled like lotion instead of ALMAG! He used Jergens® extra dry lotion and rinsed in plain water.

via Chats and 4/2007 and Backbender's Gazette, 2/09

Field Trips (2009) by Ed Tindell

**Teri Smith Rockhunting Field Trips
Spring 2009**

Field Trip Leader:

Teri Smith. You can contact me at *agatehunter@sbcglobal.net*, which is my preferred method, or by phone at (432) 837-2451 (Antelope Lodge); (432) 837-1026 (home); or (432) 386-3431 (cell).

Field Trip Locations:

The Ritchie Ranch is just Southeast of Alpine. The terrain is gentle hills and the roads are good enough to accommodate most vehicles, but high-clearance vehicles are recommended. You can find many patterns & colors of agate, jasper, and quartz crystals. Much of the agate and jasper is suitable for jewelry. The cost is \$5 per person, and 75¢ per lb. for collectible rocks. This is a great ranch for both beginners and advanced collectors. It's also very "kid friendly".

The Larremore Ranch is 34 miles south of Alpine. This ranch contains some spectacular buttes at the south end of Kokernot Mesa. The roads are good enough to accommodate most vehicles, but high-clearance vehicles are recommended. The best rock and fossil hunting is in the flatter areas at the base of the buttes, which are covered with thorny brush and cactus. You can find agate, jasper, quartz crystals, calcite, and marine fossils. The cost is \$20 per person per day. You can also pick through their agate piles for 75¢ per lb.

East Needle Peak is 95 miles South of Alpine in very rough country. A 4wd vehicle is recommended, and a high-clearance vehicle is absolutely required. This is a specimen hunter's paradise! You can find fossil shells, shark teeth, agate, petrified wood, jasper, chalcedony, flint, quartz crystals, calcite, aragonite, and selenite. Pseudomorphs of agate after aragonite and saginite have also been found, including the "pom-pom" agate for which the area is famous. The cost is \$35 per person per day.

Fri., March 6	7 a.m.	East Needle Peak
Sat., March 7	9 a.m.	Ritchie Ranch
Sun., March 8	9 a.m.	Larremore Ranch

Fri., March 27	9 a.m.	Larremore Ranch
Sat., March. 28	7 a.m.	East Needle Peak
Sun., March. 29	9 a.m.	Ritchie Ranch

Reservations and trip cancellation:

Reservations are required. If no one has made a reservation for a particular field trip three days before the trip is to take place, it will be cancelled. Trips may also be cancelled if the weather is freezing or rainy, as roads

may become impassible. Field trips will be limited to 20 people unless special arrangements are made in advance.

Meet at:

The lobby of the Antelope Lodge, 2310 W. Highway 90, Alpine, TX.

Bring:

Wear desert-smart clothing, a hat, boots, and gloves. Long pants and long-sleeved shirts will protect you from most of the stickers and thorns. Bring your lunch, lots of drinking water, and bags to put your finds in. Bring and use sunscreen, as our elevation is high enough that you burn quickly. Make sure your vehicle is appropriate for the terrain of the field trip location, and the gas tank is full. Ensure that you have a usable spare tire or at least a couple of cans of fix-a-flat, as we can be almost 100 miles away from the nearest tire shop.

Payment Methods:

Cash and personal checks are accepted.

Other Cost:

Rollin Rock Club membership required. You may join at the time of the field trip. Membership for 2009 is \$10/individual and \$16/dual. However, if the field trip you are attending has been declared an "official" field trip for your local gem club, AND your club has the insurance offered by the AFMS and its regional subgroups, you do not need to join the RRC.

Alpine Accommodations:

I recommend the Antelope Lodge in Alpine. Reservations can be made by calling (800) 880-8106, or by emailing *antelope.lodge@juno.com*.

Notes:

Hunts usually last all day, but it's often possible to leave early if you talk to the field trip leader before the trip starts. Some walking, climbing and carrying may be required, so these trips are not recommended for those in poor health, or for young children.



Thanks,
Ed Tindell
2009 CLGMS Field Trip Coordinator
a.k.a. "The Official Cat Herder"

February's Birthstone

Amethyst

Amethyst's top grade (monetarily) is a deep purple and has no flaws or inclusions in it. It can be mauve or violet and is a form of the mineral quartz. When heated to 550-560 degrees C. amethysts turn dark yellow or reddish brown and are called citrines. They are more richly colored and more expensive than natural citrines. The color will also fade if left in the sun too long.

Split Personality

It is possible for some specimens of quartz to be different colors in different areas. Amethyst and citrine are varieties of quartz which can both occur in the same stone. Such stones are sometimes called ametrines, but we think they could equally well be called citrysts or citrethysts.



What's in a Name?

Amethyst gets its name from a Greek word amethystos meaning "not drunken", as it was believed to protect against intoxication by alcohol.

(Yet, one source says, if it is to protect one from the effects of wine, it needs to be held under the tongue while drinking. You need to hold your face just right, for it to work!)

Beautifully Colored Gemstone

Amethyst is one of the most beautiful of the colored gemstones, particularly in its better qualities. The most important attribute should be an attractive color, but varies according to individual taste.

The rich deep violet color is generally the favorite and most expensive, but a stone of medium color intensity, with plenty of sparkle, can also be very attractive. Many of the amethysts for sale in stores are only in low to medium quality, being either pale or quite included, and as a result are not particularly attractive.

Synthetics

It's believed the 70% of amethysts on the world market are now synthetic. This has only been discovered in the last few years. The hardness of real amethyst is 7, and appears on the Moh scale as quartz. Many of the low cost Amethysts are of high quality, and are deeply colored and can be found in inexpensive jewelry. This is often due to the cost of testing the stone being higher than the cost of even the natural stone, so it is not often performed. Therefore, be aware of a cheap amethyst, what looks like a perfect stone.

References: Website:

<<http://www.24carat.co.uk/a2z.html>> (Gemstone Information) and Tim McCreights (1991) From *The Rockcollector* 2/09 via *The Complete Metalsmith: An Illustrated Handbook*. via *The Rockhounder* 2/09.

“DIAMONDS” THAT AREN’T by: Jody Rymaszewski

In January, 2008, I visited my brother and wife in Roswell, New Mexico. We spent a couple of pleasant, sunny afternoons sightseeing and rock hounding. We took Hwy 380 to Bottomless Lakes State Park which is just east of the Pecos River. The park contains a chain of eight sinkhole lakes which formed in the Permian (~230 mya) salt and gypsum layers there.

None of the lakes are truly “bottomless”, but the cowboys who visited them in the 1800s didn’t know that. They reported that a saddle tied to as many ropes as they could find was lowered into one of the lakes and never touched bottom. What the cowboys didn’t know was there is a strong underground natural spring feeding the lakes and the current carried the saddle along! Actually, one of the lakes is 90 ft. deep, however!



It’s a beautiful park with camping sites, pedal boats, and a nice, sandy swimming beach. No rock hounding or collecting is permitted within the park. However, we talked with the park’s Interpretive Guides at the Visitor’s Center and they told us where we could go outside the park to hunt.

At a location not too far away, we saw an abundance of minerals on the ground, glittering in the sun. It was an amazing sight to see. We found clear, white, orange, or red/brown quartz clusters up to two cm. diameter, nearly everywhere we looked. Mixed among these clusters were some small, doubly-terminated quartz crystals known as Pecos Diamonds, as well as selenite and satin spar gypsum.

These may be found along a 110 mile north-south distance in strata named “Seven Rivers Formation-Artesia Group”. Unfortunately, we didn’t find any of the larger (up to 6.5 cm) Pecos Diamonds known to be there somewhere. To learn about the park, see a photo of some nice, big “diamonds”, and to get more geological information go to: www.geoinfo.nmt.edu/tour/state/bottomless_lakes



****In February, I will bring along some of my treasures to the WGS meeting for show-and-tell, and I will reveal directions to the location where I found them!!**

Jody at a location east of Roswell, New Mexico. Pecos Diamonds scattered all over ground. This is NOT in Bottomless Lakes State Park)

From The Trilobite via the SCFMS Newsletter December 08

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS

FEBRUARY 21-22 PASADENA, TX CLEAR LAKE GEM & MIN. SOC. Pasadena Convention Center	FEBRUARY 21-22 GEORGETOWN, TX WILLIAMSON CO. GEM & MIN. SOC. San Gabriel Park	FEBRUARY 21-22 PLAINVIEW, TX HI-PLAINS GEM & MIN. SOC. Ollie Liner Center	MARCH 07-08 BIG SPRING, TX BIG SPRING PROSPECTORS CLUB Howard Co. Fair Barn
MARCH 07-08 ROBSTOWN, TX GULF COAST GEM & MIN. SOC. Regional Fairgrounds	MARCH 21-22 SAN ANTONIO, TX SOUTHWEST GEM & MIN. SOC. Morris Activity Center		

STONEY STATEMENTS
 Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc
 PO BOX 891533
 Houston, Texas 77289

(Postage)

Email: gapenning@earthlink.net

Meeting 3rd Monday of the Month – 7:30 P.M.
 February 16, 2009, Clear Lake Park Building
 5001 NASA Road One, Seabrook, Texas



Member of:

Next Annual Show
 February 21 & 22, 2009
 Pasadena Convention Center



CLGMS is on the Web: (new location)
www.hawkwindnovels.com (take the CLGMS link)

Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc

MEMBER: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

PURPOSE: To promote education and popular interest in the various earth sciences; in particular in those hobbies dealing with the art of lapidaries and the earth sciences of minerals, fossils and their associated fields

2008 OFFICERS:	President	Ed Tindell	
	Vice President	Bob Brock	281-338-2252
	Secretary	Annabel Williams	
	Treasurer	Loyce Pennington	281 481-1591
	Program Director	“Open”	
	Board of Directors:	Trina Willoughby	Troy Nordyke
		Cheryl Tindell	David Tjiok
	Newsletter Editor	Al Pennington	281 481-1591

Annual Show 2009.....	Al Pennington	Library.....	Vacant
Const & bylaws.....	Dick Rathjen	Membership.....	Mike Flannigan
Community Benefits.....	Marianne Luther	Publisher.....	Mike Flannigan
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....	David Tjiok

Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2009: Adult \$10:00, \$5.00 per additional adult at same address, Junior \$5.00, \$2.50 per member with adult at same address, Family Dues \$20.00 (4+) at same address. Send Dues to CLGMS, PO BOX 891533, Houston, TX, 77289

Granvil A. “Al” Pennington, Editor 2009 – 11326 Sagetrail Houston, TX 77089-4418
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