

SHOW-ME ROCKHOUNDS

JANUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER

Dues are \$10.00 per family and \$5.00 for individual memberships. Show-Me Rockhounds is a non-profit organization affiliated with the Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City, Inc. and the Mid-West Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Monthly club meetings (Now on Saturday afternoons each month) are at the Plaza Library in the Large meeting room. Our purpose is to further the study and awareness of the Earth Sciences amongst our membership and the public.

OFFICERS: Martin Mueller, President; Rolland Smith Vice-President Sharon Penner, Treasurer; Secretary & newsletter, Carol Ferguson.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Due to popular demand; drum roll please!

We will be meeting on the third Saturday of the month!!!

I'm so excited, I can't just hide it.

I visited with Joel Jones at the Plaza Library and we have the room through May and beyond as it could work out. For our next meeting on the 20th, we have the room from 12:15 to 2:15pm. The flexibility this gives us makes me giddy; now if the weather permits we can leave the meeting and go collecting anywhere in the area. Or visit someone's shop, or do lunch, or see a collection, or, or, or...

Let us say hello to Bert and Rita's second (third?) retirement and a fond farewell to Ace's Rock Shop. They donated many kilos of Utah pipestone and many pieces of soapstone, with flats of small slabs which have yet to be inventoried for the Association booth but so far appear to be a good couple of thousands of dollars worth of material.

Again it is a little hard to think of the March show rushing towards us and we need to start preparing. Pencil in the show dates, clean up your display cases, get the competition case ready and plan to help out with any of the many tasks that need to be done to have a smooth show. There are benefits to each job; mostly it is the working with others which help us make our community strong.

I'm so happy to have a Saturday noontime meeting; I hope to see you there. I'll bring the maps. Sincerely Martin Mueller

Calendar:

Saturday, January 20, 2007

12:15 PM - 2:15 PM Show-Me Rockhounds Meeting Plaza Library

Per Rolland –January program Colligoniceras woollgari Fairport chalk
Cretaceous period 65 mya Eastern Ellis county, KS

Jan. 24-28 Quartzite Show Quartzite, AZ www.quartziteimprovementassoc.com

Feb. 8-11 Tuscon Gem & Mineral Show Tucson, AZ www.tgms.org

Saturday, February 17, 2007 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Show-Me Rockhounds – **note time change from last month.....meeting starts earlier.

March 9-11 Kansas City Gem & Mineral Show KCI Expo Center
www.kcgemshow.org Need lots of help---call Kim Brown 913-722-1519 for more information.

Saturday, March 17, 2007 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Show-Me Rockhounds **note time change from last month.....meeting starts earlier.

DECEMBER 2006 MEETING MINUTES: The SHOW-ME ROCKHOUND Annual Holiday party was attended by 9 rock hounds at the Westport Flea Market Bar & Grill after spending a few hours at Aces Gems & Minerals shop just down the street. Many Rockhounds showed up this Sunday to help clear out the basement of the shop and items where either free or at very nominal costs. Good to see Rita and Bert again.

At the party, we enjoyed each others company, ate well and then played “that game”..... you know, that game that everyone plays at this time of the year for gifts! At any rate, a good time was had by all. No business meeting was held but some discussion was tossed about by the officers and it seems we will all continue in our current capacity.

About 5 Show Me Rockhounds did venture out on New Years Eve to the home of Bruce Stinemetz for an evening of lively conversation, laughs, food and drink to welcome in the New Year. Some of the conversation included concern for the health status of 3 well-known and loved rockhounds who have developed nasty cancers this year. Best wishes and prayers to Bill, Judy’s daughter Julie and Mary from Tulsa and all of their families. Also mentioned were a new day & time for the Show Me meetings (Martin to work on that), future field trips—possibly to a new quarry in Northern Missouri near Princeton, MO....stayed tuned on that one! Charley wants to go back to the Odell diamond area...others expressed interest in the Tuttle Creek area. Our Johnson County girl with a hillbilly heart wants to collect more quartz this year. Other travel plans include the RMFS/AMFS show in Roswell, NM in June which Carol and Charley indicated emphatically—they were going! At mid-night, Bruce, true to form, did shoot off some very nice large mortar shells and the cold night sky was lit up with fiery beauty! See you all in 2007 and a Happy Healthy New Year!!!

History of the Times Square New Year's Eve Ball

Revelers began celebrating New Year's Eve in Times Square as early as 1904, but it was in 1907 that the New Year's Eve Ball made its maiden descent from the flagpole atop One Times Square. This original Ball, constructed of iron and wood and adorned with 100 25-watt light bulbs, was 5 feet in diameter and weighed 700 pounds. In 1920, a 400 pound ball made entirely of iron replaced the original.

In 1955, the iron ball was replaced with an aluminum ball weighing a mere 150 pounds. This aluminum Ball remained unchanged until the 1980s, when red light bulbs and the addition of a green stem converted the Ball into an apple for the "I Love New York" marketing campaign from 1981 until 1988. After seven years, the traditional Ball with white light bulbs and without the green stem returned to brightly light the sky above Times Square. In 1995, the Ball was upgraded with aluminum skin, rhinestones, strobes, and computer controls, but the aluminum ball was lowered for the last time in 1998.

For Times Square 2000, the millennium celebration at the Crossroads of the World, the New Year's Eve Ball was completely redesigned by Waterford Crystal. The new crystal Ball combined the latest in technology with the most traditional of materials, reminding us of our past as we gazed into the future and the beginning of a new millennium.

About "Time-Balls" The actual notion of a ball "dropping" to signal the passage of time dates back long before New Year's Eve was ever celebrated in Times Square. The first "time-ball" was installed atop England's Royal Observatory at Greenwich in 1833. This ball would drop at one o'clock every afternoon, allowing the captains of nearby ships to precisely set their chronometers (a vital navigational instrument). Around 150 public time-balls are believed to have been installed around the world after the success at Greenwich, though few survive and still work. The tradition is carried on today in places like the United States Naval Observatory in Washington, DC, where a time-ball descends from a flagpole at noon each day - and of course, once a year in Times Square, where it marks the stroke of midnight not for a few ships' captains, but for over one billion people watching worldwide.

The Times Square New Year's Eve Ball Today. The Ball is a geodesic sphere, six feet in diameter, and weighs approximately 1,070 pounds. It is covered with a total of 504 Waterford crystal triangles that vary in size and range in length from 4.75 inches to 5.75 inches per side.

For the 2007 New Year's Eve celebration, 72 of the crystal triangles feature the new "Hope for Peace" design, consisting of three dove-like patterns symbolizing messengers of peace. The remaining 432 triangles feature Waterford designs from previous years, including the Hope for Fellowship, Hope for Wisdom, Hope for Unity, Hope for Courage, Hope for Healing, Hope for Abundance, and Star of Hope triangles. These crystal triangles are bolted to 168 translucent triangular lexan panels which are attached to the aluminum frame of the Ball. The exterior of the Ball is illuminated by 168 Philips Halogená Brilliant Crystal light bulbs, exclusively engineered for the New Year's Eve Ball to enhance the Waterford crystal. The interior of the Ball is illuminated by 432 Philips Light Bulbs (208 clear, 56 red, 56 blue, 56 green, and 56 yellow), and 96 high-intensity strobe lights, which together create bright bubbling bursts of color. The exterior of the Ball features 90 rotating pyramid mirrors that reflect light back into the audience at Times Square. All 696 lights and 90 rotating pyramid mirrors are computer controlled, enabling the Ball to produce a state-of-the-art light show of eye-dazzling color patterns and a spectacular kaleidoscope effect atop One Times Square. The New Year's Eve Ball is the property of the building owners of One Times Square. **HAPPY NEW YEARS 2007!!!** Via Internet

Speaking of field trips and gemstones and adventures! A cool show on the Travel Channel is called The Best Places to Find Cash & Treasures. Several episodes deal with rock-hounding in many of the places around the United States familiar with most rockhounds. Here is some info about what has happened to the treasures that these folks have unearthed on their travels. Check out the show on the Travel Channel or www.travelchannel.com

Sunstones: Several sunstones were found in eastern Oregon; the best was a red one cut by a gemstone artist named John Bailey into a shape he had designed. He named it the "Indigo Cut" in reference to the production house. The finished stone was over 10 carats!! It was appraised at Bonham's Auction House in New York for between \$4,000 and \$5,000. It was sold to a couple in Oregon for \$5,200. When this couple first met, they went searching for sunstones at the same mine!

Gold: In two days of panning, we found just over seven pennyweight (there are 20 pennyweight in an ounce) of gold. The gold was high quality: 22 carat (24 carat being pure!), and was valued at around \$320. It was purified, melted down and sold to a goldsmith in San Francisco.

Sunken Treasure: We found three items. Two were pieces of the ship, but the third was a silver coin. It is currently being cleaned (this process takes months). The estimated value is at least \$1,500. The Fishers, owners of the dive site, own everything that is found on the dives, unless you are an investor in their company.

Diamonds: No diamonds were found on this show!

Meteorites: Steve Arnold and Geoff Notkin, both avid meteorite hunters. Steve has turned gemstone hunting into his business and owns a five-year lease to hunt meteorites in Brennan township, in Kansas. In 2005, Steve unearthed a record-breaking meteorite that weighed over a ton and is valued at \$1 million. When we tagged along on the hunt, Steve and Geoff found two meteorites: one weighed 83 pounds, the other 93 pounds. They named the second one the "Becky Stone," in reference to our host. The stone is currently on sale for \$120,000! As of this writing, it has not sold.

Aquamarine: The rocks we found were cut into six individual gem stones. The largest was a pear-shaped 4.5 carat that was mounted as a pendant. The total estimated value of all the items we found was nearly \$2,000 retail.

Civil War: Our best find was a general's service button with a small piece of thread still attached to the back. Its monetary value is roughly \$40, but we felt that the historical value of everything we found was far greater, so we donated the few items we unearthed to the Civil War Life Museum in Fredericksburg, Va.

Sapphires: We found a total of about \$1,500 (retail) worth of sapphires. Only a few have been cut, and to realize the value they will need to be refined and mounted.