



The Southwest Gem & Mineral Society

The Southwest Gem

Volume 49 No. 7

July 2008

PO Box 17323, San Antonio, TX 78217- 0323

General meetings will tentatively be held the second Tuesday of the month, except in September and December. Board meetings are usually held the second Monday after the general meeting.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Member Health Updates | 2 |
| Upcoming Events | 3 |
| Announcements | 3 |
| Greetings from the President | 2 |
| Meeting Minutes | 4 |
| Mini Classifieds | 5 |
| Officers & Directors | 6 |

General Meeting: Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: 17018 Silverwood Drive, San Antonio, Texas

Just East of Hwy 281 on Donella Drive

Refreshments

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Auman Burnett | Richard Busch |
| Pat & Floyd Duncan | Teresa Farmer |
| Billye Harris | Gail Hopkins |

If you can not attend, please let Jim Meloche or Debbie Krause know so they can bring refreshments. Thank you for your consideration.



Health Updates of Our Members

Our President, Bob Bowie, under went minor surgery last week. The surgery was successful and he is doing fine. Unfortunately, he decided he hadn't had enough pain and let a yellow jacket sting him for kicks! He is now on the recovery from that. We wish you well, Bob!

Greetings from the President

None this month due to the surgery.

The July Program will be a DVD from the Planet Earth series on "Mountains". This tour of our mighty mountain ranges, starting with the birth of a mountain at one of the lowest places on earth and ending at the summit of Everest. It takes in some of the most reclusive creatures on the planet and reveals the secrets of their survival.

Announcements

We were contacted recently by Bobi Gaustad in hopes that someone in the Club would help her. She is looking for someone who would be willing to cut and polish some slabs for her. Her father passed away and left her between 10-15 rocks. She is willing to pay someone to do this for her. If you are interested, please call her at 210-335-2927 or 382-1369.

Wire wrapping class will be July 10 and 12, @ 10am 'til complete @ Anne Kolle's house. Anne suggests bringing a cab about 25 x 18mm in size. If you don't have one she will have some to use. Please call Anne to sign up @ 210-978-4699.

Upcoming Events

- July 5-13 Giant Rock Sale 9 am 'til dark @ Delbert & Joyce Speed's house 4680 Wisteria St.—Dallas 75211, 214-337-9446
All will be sold!
- July 10, 12 Wire Wrapping Class @ Anne Kolle's house; 10 am 'til ?. Call Anne to sign up and with questions, 210-978-4699.
- Aug. 23-24 Pine Country Gem & Mineral Soc. Show, VFW Hall, Jasper, TX
- Aug. 30-31 Arlington Gem & Min. Soc. Show, Arlington Convention Center, Arlington, TX
- Sept. 20-21 Pleasant Oaks Gem & Min. Club Show, EMGI at Brookhaven College, Richardson, TX.
- Sept. 26-28 AFMS/SCFMS Show & Convention hosted by the Houston Gem & Mineral Society @ the Humble Civic Center

Please let me know of any other events or shows coming up so I can include the information in the newsletter.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Bob Bowie. Bob introduced a new and former member, Doug Williams.

Jim Meloche presented the Treasurer's report.

All three scholarship checks have been delivered to the local universities. Jim read the letters of appreciation from UTSA, Trinity and St. Mary's Universities. These scholarships provide funds for students to attend the summer geological camp which is one of the most important portions of their course studies.

Jim also discussed upcoming expenses pertaining to the 2009 Show. Banners cost \$2,500.00 to update, electricity cost will be charged this time (which previously was not), and the cost to run all the electrical lines and usage.

Anne Kolle spoke about the wire wrapping class she will teach at her home in July. She will supply the tools and participants will only pay for their materials. See the announcement section for more info.

Our annual picnic will be October 18th at McAllister Park, Pavilion #3, again. More details to follow in the coming months.

Our raffle was a success with many of the treasures provided again by Alamo Rock Shop. These treasures found new homes with very happy folks! Thanks to all who participated.

Our goodies were really yummy. A big THANK YOU to those providing them.

Our program for the evening was provided through Jim Meloche from Paul Batterton of Kyle. The film's topic was on hunting for Lapis Lazuli in Afghanistan. (con't. on next page)

Mini Classifieds

This space will be for anyone wanting to sell something or is looking for something that someone else might be able to help them with.

Debbie Krause is looking for any old floor lamp bases or heavy table lamp bases she can use for her Tiffany type shades. Call her on 659-7125.

LOST-N-FOUND

Gail Hopkins loaned Bob Bowie's DVD on *Planet Earth-Caves* out in February to someone. They still have it and Bob would like it back. Please check your DVD collections to see if you may have this and return it to Bob.

Meeting Minutes, Con't:

It depicted the elements involved for a man from London to get there. All his waiting and searching for the necessary contacts to "smuggle" him into the area. The trip took 7 days to get to the mines. Then it took 3 hours up a primitive mountain trail.

It was stated that miners and horses die every year just getting to the location. The entrance to the mine began thousands of years ago. Dynamite, hammers and chisels are the tools used to excavate the mineral. This is where the wonderfully beautiful blue lapis comes from.

There are other mines in Russia and Chile, but not the quality of the Afghanistan mine.

After watching this video, you can appreciate the reason for the high cost of this rich blue jewel. Thanks Paul for sharing!!!

Auman Burnett shared the ability to take your stones and make great copies on a regular copy machine.
