



The Southwest Gem & Mineral Society

# The Southwest Gem

Volume 50 No. 6

June 2009

**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.

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**General Meeting: Tuesday, June 09, 2009**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

**Place: 17018 Silverwood Drive, San Antonio, Texas**

**Just East of Hwy 281 on Donella Drive**

### Refreshment

James Mixon Valerie Mortensen

The Moultrups The Noonans

Clara Norris The Olsens

**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**

Kathy Bowie is doing well after her surgery.

Frank Whitehead is a little under the weather and didn't attend the last meeting.

Please let myself or Gail Hyatt know if any of our members need to be remembered with prayers and mentioned in this newsletter. Thank you.

## **Greetings from the President**

Be sure to put our June meeting on your calendars. Trinity University is giving us a presentation on the planet Mars and some info on Venus. One of their grad students has been working on this subject for a couple of years and this should be a very interesting. Also, Trinity has agreed to give us a presentation on rock thin sections probably in September. They have petrographic microscopes that project images onto the big screen. More to come on this later.

Bob Bowie

**Please visit our website at [www.swgemandmineral.org](http://www.swgemandmineral.org)**

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## **Announcements**

FYI—A good source for grit, etc. is International Surface Prep, 5914 BZ Park Drive, San Antonio, TX 78218, (210) 662-7078.

A member emailed me asking me to advertise his need for a flat-lap grinder in this Newsletter. Unfortunately, I can not find his name. Can that member please contact me again. Debbie Krause

## **Upcoming Show Dates**

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

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## Meeting Minutes

Jim Meloche gave the Treasurer's Report. We remain strong financially.

Claude Townsend announced/reminder of the upcoming Cherokee rock hunt (held May 30th.)

New Business: There will now be a Suggestion Box on the raffle table. Any ideas, comments or suggestions that you might like to share, this will be the place to do so.

Name tags were discussed. They will run about \$8. They will not have a pin on the back, but a heart safe magnet. A request for your orders will come out soon as an email and at the next meeting.

The name tag topic developed into a couple of other projects. The first is a "Club Lapel Pin" design contest. Details will be available at the June meeting.

The next project discussed was reviving the "vest wear" that many of the older members still have. T-shirts were the first idea. Then vests (like before) were discussed. These vests/T-shirts are worn when attending Rock Shows or any other time that we want to have our club affiliation known. The actual mechanics were brought to light ... i.e. patterns, fabric and someone to make them. Again, more details to come.

The raffle was held. There were quite a few wonderful specimen AND they all found new happy homes. Thank to all that participated.

The program for the evening was a video, provided by Bob Bowie, called "*The New Crystal Hunters*". In the interest of time, we only viewed part of it. It was very interesting seeing a group of young people learn and become involved in rock hunting. The beginning takes place as the young people visit a quarry and learn how to efficiently sift through buckets of sand and rough to uncover raw tourmalines.

Auman Burnett brought a magazine "Rock & Gem" to share an article on "Sea Glass" or "Mermaid's Tears". Many of us had not heard of sea glass before. It was explained that this glass is glass that had been discarded into the ocean. While being tossed over and over in the ocean's waters it becomes polished, as in a tumbler. It seems that this glass has taken on a new life outside the oceans. People are beginning to take to it in a special way. It seems that it is something special from the past...in as much as people use more plastic than glass now. The sea glass is being used as adornments in many ways to include jewelry. Thanks to Auman!

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### 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.

There is a member looking to buy a flat lap grinder. I am sorry to say I can not find the email with his name, but anyone with info please let Debbie or Bob B. know.

Please save your plastic coffee “cans”, large plastic Mayo jars, etc. and bring to meetings. Collecting these for a project.

If anyone has some old furniture, dishes, containers, etc. please contact Debbie or Gail. We are collecting items we can use in our Schertz Museum.

Any old terra cotta type flower pots needed. Even if they are cracked or broken.

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