



THE TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE

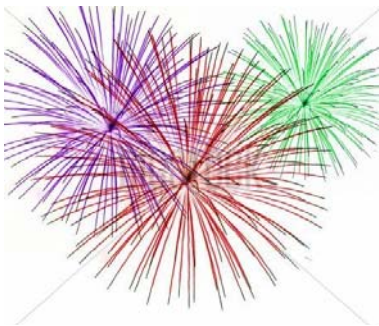


Bulletin of the Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club, PO Box 2082, Holland, Michigan

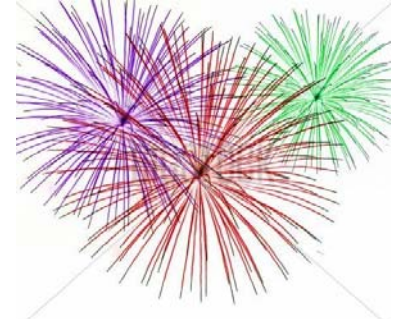
Website: Tulipcity.org

July 2010

Volume 43, Edition 7



POTLUCK PICNIC n WORK SESSION Sunday, July 25, 2010



At Bob and Julia Sherwood's

916 Adams Road, South Haven – Exit 26
(Pullman Road) off Interstate 196

Drive 1 mile West on Pullman Rd, cross Blue Star Hwy to Adams Road, then North to #916 Adams Road

Arrive anytime after 2:00 PM to enjoy swimming, rock hunting and sunning

Since Bob and Julia live on the Lake Michigan shore, you are welcome to come early to enjoy the above mentioned activities of swimming, rock hunting on the beach or just sitting in the shade to enjoy the view from the bluff. The only drawback to the swimming and collecting is the 110 vertical feet (176 steps) to the beach and especially BACK UP.

5:00 PM - Picnic Supper, followed by a meeting

- Bring your own table service; plates and utensils.
- The Club will furnish coffee and cold drinks.
- Bring another beverage if you have a special need.
- Bring a potluck dish to share: base the quantity on the size of YOUR group.
- There will be home-made ice cream for part of the dessert.



Rough
Septaria, you
can find on
South Haven
Beach



Polished
Septaria by
Ken
Hoekstra

7:00 PM - Work Session - fill Paper Grab Bags

Bring dry but cleaned rocks or pieces about the size of a quarter for generously filling the paper bags. Check out your basements and garages, break up and prepare those rocks!

9:00 PM - Sunset over the lake, a lovely sight, followed by a bonfire

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Cindy Root

Hard to believe that July is already here. Sorry I missed you in June, but I was preparing to go camping. I was amazed at the curtain of heat that slapped us when we crossed the bridge from the U.P. Obviously you weren't using blankets when we were.

I have just a couple things to bring to your attention. Remember that August is set up for the show and the show is the third weekend of September. Additionally, the nominating process will begin again in September. At this point I know of five positions on the board that will need to be filled. There may be others, I just haven't heard from everyone. If you have an interest in serving on the board for the upcoming year, please let me know. By September a nominating committee will be in place, but if you've already made that decision to serve, I would love to hear from you.

OFFICERS

President	Cindy Root	d-root@sbcglobal.net
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Field Trip Chair	Bob Sherwood	bobandjulia@accn.org
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Liaison Representative	Rebecca Cistaro	r4squares@charter.net
Membership Delegate	Jodi Zenk	jodis50@charter.net



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Birthstone: **Peridot**

8/1	Grace Katt
8/3	Trudy Feters
8/6	Ruben Ruiz
8/7	Thomas Long
8/7	Ken "Spanky" Valentine
8/10	Jim Benson
8/11	Ken Hoekstra
8/13	Lisa Robin-Henning
8/14	Kay Van Opynen
8/16	Carson Long
8/18	Debbie Lobert
8/20	Anne Westover
8/28	Cindy Root
8/29	Larry Graves
8/29	Stephen Hamlin

August Anniversaries

8/4	Dave & Trudy Feters
8/5	Ken & Betty Hoekstra
8/9	John & Shae Kobs
8/14	Bill Fries & Linda Rosenthal
8/16	C.H. & Linda Falstad
8/19	Chris & Melissa Nyhuis

No July Question of the Month due to Summer Picnic



June Question of the Month: What is this symbol? Answer: Union shield penny (2010-present)

The 2005 act that authorized the redesign for the Bicentennial stated that another redesigned reverse for the Lincoln penny will be minted which "shall bear an image emblematic of President Lincoln's preservation of the United States of America as a single and united country".^[13] Eighteen designs were proposed for the reverse of the 2010 cent.^[14] On April 16, 2009 the [Commission of Fine Arts](#) (CFA) met and selected a design that showed 13 wheat sheaves bound together with a ring symbolizing American unity as one nation.^[15] Later this design was withdrawn due to its being similar to coinage issued in Germany in the 1920s.^[16] The [Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee](#) later met and chose a design showing a Union shield with ONE CENT superimposed in a scroll; [E Pluribus Unum](#) was also depicted in the upper portion of the shield. According to the Mint, the 13 stripes on the shield "represent the states joined in one compact union to support the Federal government, represented by the horizontal bar above."^[18] The new Union Shield design replaces the Lincoln memorial in use since 1959.^[17] The coin was designed by artist [Lyndall Bass](#) and sculpted by US Mint sculptor-engraver Joseph Menna.^[19] In January 2010, the coins were released early in [Puerto Rico](#)^[20]; this was due to a shortage of 2009-dated pennies on the island.^[1] The new design was released at a ceremony at the [Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library](#) in [Springfield, IL](#) on February 11, 2010.^[21]



www.lifestorynet.com/memories/59980/

Our sympathy to George Visser and family on the passing of LaVonne E. Batts Visser, age 84, of Holland, went to be with her Lord and Savior on June 23, 2010. George and LaVonne were long time members of the Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club.

July 17th - LaFarge
& Duff Quarries



July 25th - Potluck Picnic and Work Session
At the Sherwood's in South Haven
Details on the cover page.

July 31st - Aug 9th Field Trip to Nipigon -
Thunder Bay & Michigan's U.P. (filled)

August 11th - Board Meeting
Library small meeting room 7pm

August 18th - Show Committee Meeting
Library small meeting room 7pm

August 25th - General Meeting at the
Holland Civic Center - Show Prep

September 29th - Show Committee Wrap-up
Library Auditorium



Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club's

41st Annual Show

ROCKHOONDING:

A GREEN HOBBY

Friday, September 17: 9am – 8pm

Saturday, September 18: 9am – 7pm

Sunday, September 19: 11am – 5pm

Holland Civic Center
150 West Eighth Street
Holland, Michigan

Record Mineral Find on Display for Limited Time

In late June, the Lake Superior Copper District of Michigan's Upper Peninsula yielded what we believe is the largest crystallized copper specimen on record. Destined for a museum or distinguished private collection, the specimen will be on display from August 4 - 29 at Mageia Minerals, a new rock shop in Chassell, Michigan.

This grand copper specimen was recovered from a fissure vein, making its survival intact quite miraculous. Fortuitously, it also was encased in mud, forestalling any corrosive or oxidative processes. *The entire specimen is crystallized.* It contains hundreds of crystals of varied habits, and several distinct shades of patina. A museum quality display has been constructed to showcase this amazing feat of nature.

Mageia Minerals is the realization of a decade long dream of Kathryn Wells, currently pursuing a Geology degree at Michigan Tech University. Stocked with extensive displays of datolite, copper, greenstone, and Lake Superior agate, Mageia's local offerings are augmented by the acquisition over the last two years of six estate collections including worldwide crystalline specimens as well as lapidary rough, slabs, and premier cabochons.

The shop is located at the blinking traffic light in Chassell, southeast of Houghton on U.S. 41. Hours are 10am-7pm through Labor Day excepting Sundays, when it is open 1-5pm. A web site will open soon at www.mageia.com. Inquiries may be sent to magic@mageia.com, or made to 906-523-2721.

Visit www.amfed.org/mwf
for calendar of events

August
27 - 29

South Bend, IN
Michiana Gem and Mineral Society
Fri 2-7pm
Sat 10am - 4pm
Sun 10am - 4pm

St. Joseph 4-H Esther Singer Bldg
5177 S. Ironwood Rd
Contact: Marie Crull 574-272-7203
Email crullb2@sbcglobal.net

August
27 - 29

Peoria, IL
Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc.
Hosting the MWF Convention

Grand Hotel
4400 N Brandywine Dr
Contact: Jim 309-645-3609
Special Exhibit Homer the Triceratops
Sat 9am - 5pm
Sun 10am - 5pm

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 2010



PRESENT: Jim Benson, Rebecca Cistaro, Jennifer Ensing, Betty Hoekstra, Jon Mull, Dave Nienhuis, Bob Sherwood, Julia Sherwood, Rick Smith, Kathy Steffler
 ABSENT: Sharri Luttikhuizen, Karri Nienhuis, Dave Root, Linda Winkleman

GUESTS: Ken Hoekstra, Chet Smith

The meeting was called to order by the president at 7:10 pm.

Jim B. passed out a Treasurers Report. Moved and seconded. Approved as amended.

April and May Board minutes reviewed - Both were moved and seconded. Both approved as amended.

Cindy R. brought up the Job Descriptions for the Board positions. Dave would like to have them by the June General Meeting. We are to review ALL board positions and make any changes.

Discussion regarding 501(c)(3) to be a future topic.

Cindy is going to e-mail the Lawyer some of our questions and will forward us his answers.

Bob S. gave a Field Trip Report.

Julia S. asked if anyone on the Board has green rocks, minerals or gems that could be put in the display case for the show. Several contributions were offered

The next Board meeting will be held on July 14.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Ensing, Secretary

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

June 30, 2010

Vice President Dave Nienhuis called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Approximately 62 people attended.

There were no visitors but Dave welcomed a new member, Anna Greydanus.

Juniors picked their "prize" and were excused to the Junior meeting.

Ken drew the adult door prize ticket - two prizes were awarded.

Jim B. gave a Treasurers Report

Dave N. gave an overview of the Board Meeting.

Bob S. gave a Field Trip Report.

Dave N. reminded everyone of the Picnic at the Sherwoods' on July 25 - more info in the July Newsletter.

It was announced there will be no July Workshop
 NEW BUSINESS

Julia S. made a motion to purchase *AGATES II* by Johann Zenz by taking a collection at the meeting with any funds needed to complete the cost of \$140.75 to come from the Club treasury." We passed the hat and collected \$148.00.

Julia also thanked Patty Valentine for her huge contribution of specimens to use at the show.

Dave N. drew a name from the Question of the Month jar.

The evening program was the video on Rhodochrosite.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm

**WHAT IS SEPTARIA?**

The "Turtle Back" septaria that is found so profusely in the Glenn and South Haven area is in reality a nodule weathered until the crack pattern is exposed.

Septaria (sometimes spelled septeria) are nodules characterized by internal cracks filled with a crystalline deposit. Septaria is normally formed in a shale matrix. The bodies of the nodules are impure argillaceous (clay like) carbonate with the center portion being more aluminous (Al_2O_3). The filling in the cracks is usually calcite ($CaCO_3$).

The formation of septaria is thought to be a four step process: 1) formation of a soft body 2) case-hardening of a shrinkage crack pattern 3) filling of the cracks with the precipitated mineral matter 4) hardening of the nodule by pressure. The mechanism involved in the case-hardening, dehydration and shrinkage cracking is an irreversible chemical behavior.

Septaria is also found in a deposit just south of Holland where highway construction uncovered many of the nodules. These were probably transported into the area by the glaciers which once covered this part of the county. This deposit is pretty well gleaned by local rockhounds. The Lake Michigan beaches from Douglas south, presenting as they do an ever changing beach pattern, are a much better source. The local septaria is unique in that it is often very dense and cuts and polishes beautifully with the white calcite filling in the cracks forming many interesting patterns. Some nodules have parts of the filling a pink tint which is highly prized. (via TCG&M Club resources, author unknown)



FIELD TRIPS By Field Trip Chair, Bob Sherwood

FIELD TRIP TO PIPE CREEK JR. QUARRY - INDIANA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 14

This field trip is arranged by the Ft. Wayne club and is to a quarry we have not collected in previously. Participants may collect fossils such as trilobites, corals, brachiopods, etc.

Meet at Quarry office at 7:45 am; leave quarry by noon.

Minimm age: 12 years

Required safety equipment: hard hat, steel-toe safety boots, safety glasses, long pants.

Suggested tools: rock pick, chisels, crack hammer; containers & wrapping material to protect your specimens.

Sign up prior to August 9; sheet will be at the picnic.

Directions: Take I-69 south to mile marker 59 (Gas City). Go west on US 35 & IN 22 approx. 7 miles to CR 600 W; turn south 1 mile to CR 600 S. Turn west to first drive (office)

Motel possibility: Best Western Gas City, (765) 998-2331; located at above exit.

Rate: 2 p., 1 Q., \$95.19 tax included; with AAA \$85.68 tax included

bobandjulia@accn.org or (269) 637-7097

WELCOME OUR NEWEST AND LITTLIST MEMBER

Elyse Mantooth was born June 24, 2010!

Her big sisters are excited and I am sure they will teach her all they know about rocks and gems as she gets older!

**Congratulations
Mantooth Family!**

Treasure Hunt Challenges at "Sherwood Plateau"

Junior Club Members ~ Several exciting opportunities will be available to you on Sunday afternoon, July 25th (older folks welcome too)!

* You can go down the steep steps from the "Sherwood Plateau" to Lake Michigan! We can splash and swim and collect pebble treasures. We can hike (with backpack or bucket) to rocky beach areas. We can "ooh+ahh" about our discoveries... sort by colors, give them names or arrange them in pretty patterns!

* When we are done with that, we can use the List below to identify more Treasures back on top of the Plateau! For this Challenge, *bring Your Knowledge* and Guidebooks! We will review this check sheet at 4:30 pm before the Potluck begins at 5 pm.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rose Quartz | <input type="checkbox"/> Copper Chunk | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourmaline in Mica Schist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandstone | <input type="checkbox"/> Amethyst | <input type="checkbox"/> Specular Hematite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green Quartz | <input type="checkbox"/> Septaria | <input type="checkbox"/> Sodalite (from Chili) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rhyolite | <input type="checkbox"/> Granite | <input type="checkbox"/> Thunder Egg |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Petrified Wood | <input type="checkbox"/> Kona Dolomite | <input type="checkbox"/> Geode |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agate | <input type="checkbox"/> Petoskey Coral Heads | <input type="checkbox"/> Barite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quartz | <input type="checkbox"/> Chalcedony Roses | <input type="checkbox"/> Travertine (from NM) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pumice | <input type="checkbox"/> Calcite | <input type="checkbox"/> Verde Antique Marble |



* After the Potluck, there will be a short meeting followed by the "Filling of the Grab Bags" in preparation for our Club's Show. ~ A Busy and Fun day!!

THE GEOLOGY OF FIREWORKS

By Heath Shive

July is here, and with it, Independence Day! The 4th is the day America celebrates its declaration to be free of all tyrannies and renews its pledge to preserve our Liberty.

It's also a fantastic time for fireworks! As adults we can appreciate what they celebrate, just as children appreciate the colors and thunders, but as rockhounds...we can appreciate them in still another way.

Rocks and minerals provide the necessary chemical ingredients that give fireworks their concerto of colors and dazzling displays. Barite minerals are the main source of the element barium, which gives fireworks a green color. Calcium, derived from calcium carbonate (limestone) and calcium sulfate (gypsum) produces orange colors. Copper compounds provide vivid blues. Sodium (which gives fireworks their bright yellows) was for a long time manufactured from Chilean Saltpeter (also called *caliche*), the natural sodium nitrates found in evaporite deposits of the Atacama Desert in South America. Strontium compounds were manufactured from the mineral celestite (strontium sulfate) and give fireworks their classic fiery red hues. Even smelly old sulfur is essential to the propellant/fuel mixture of the fireworks' rockets. About ten percent of traditional black powder is sulfur. Sulfur serves as a partial fuel for the combustion and, more importantly, lowers the ignition temperature necessary for combustion.

The democracy of this great nation and the liberty of its people are cause enough for celebration. And celebrate we do! As rockhounds, we can also celebrate the science behind all that colorful chaos and beautiful bursting.

Everything that we see in the sky that night...actually started deep underground.

Sources:

Fireworks: The Art, Science and Technique by Takeo Shimizu, Ph.D

The Chemistry of Fireworks by Michael S. Russell

CLUB MEMORIAL TO BETTE SMITH

At the June 30 General Meeting the members present approved collecting funds to purchase the book, *Agates II* by Johann Zenz as a donation to Herrick District Library for a memorial remembrance of recently deceased Bette Smith. Due to Bette's long-time very active membership and the opportunity for adding this particular book to the Library shelves for us ALL to enjoy, a greater than usual amount was recommended. In passing the hard hat, \$148 was collected for this purpose, slightly exceeding the total cost! This Club's Rockhound spirit really came through!

Marie has mentioned Bette's talents and contributions in a very personal way, but additionally, it needs mentioning that Bette and Chet have opened their home and its collections to viewing by Club members nearly every winter on our Basement Field Trip. Her cheerful welcome and reminiscing about special specimens gave viewers a little piece of history along with that enthusiastic smile.



TRIBUTE TO BETTE SMITH By Marie Zigler

Recently Bob and I attended the funeral of Bette Smith in Garrett, IN. She and Chet were our close friends for over fifty years. We met them in Fort Wayne, IN at a General Electric event. We both moved to Holland in 1955, our houses were in the same block. In 1985 with GE we both moved back to Indiana. Bette and Chet had a fabulous rock museum in a building on their property. They lived close to the little town of Garrett, the place where Bette grew up. But they moved away again, back to Holland where some of their children lived.

The Smiths joined the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club in the early years of the club and when they moved back to Michigan they resumed being very involved in the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club. Over the years of the club's existence, they helped steer our club into being one of the best rockhound groups in the nation. They have been on the board, many times, arranging field trips including some well planned, month long, safaris across the USA and into Canada. Bette was the second editor of the club bulletin and it was excellent.

Around 1970 she invited a group of ladies interested in learning how to make gem trees to their Zeeland home. (I became a gem tree maker after that.) A couple of years ago when Bob and I were at the club's fall show, I saw her display of a "Fall scene" of gem trees. (Bette was not very well then.) She told me that this came about because that previous Fall, she and Chet went for a car ride to see the trees when they were at their best colors. Bette took a picture of one particularly lovely spot. She replicated the colorful scene in a field of colorful gem trees. In her display was a large framed photo of the actual picture. It was a great idea for a display and very well done. I loved it.

Bob and I were lucky enough to go on several of the safaris they planned. On the first night out on the trip to Nova Scotia, around a campfire, they presented each couple with a jar of peanut butter and another of jelly. After that, on those long trips we called ourselves "The Peanut Butter Brigade." All of us camped on the Canada trip. There were around ten vehicles, some driving motor homes, others pulling a camper, Bob and I had a long Plymouth window van. We all had our own CB and we communicated with each other along the way. We sang songs, told jokes, and asked questions, etc. When we got started in the morning Chet would say, "Are all the little ducks in a row?"

Other trips that stand out in my mind that the Smiths planned were to British Columbia, Wyoming, Washington and Oregon. I know Bette worked hard helping Chet find places to stop at. It might be a museum, a rockhound's house, or an arranged swap, and of course rock hunting sites. We all picked up a lot of rocks. The trips were just good times.

There were, of course, many Michigan field trips over the years to hunt for rocks. Bette was very enthused in the rockhound hobby. She had a delightful personality, and she made many new friends within the hobby. She was fun to be around. The rock specimens she and Chet found or purchased were carefully labeled and well displayed in their home. Many club members have been to the Smiths on the basement field trips. These last ten years of weekly dialysis slowed her down, but did not stop Bette from contributing all she could do at every event, including working at the big September shows.

Bette Smith found the love of her life - Chet. She was an A1 happy and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. To me she was the best a friend that could be. Good memories of times we had together flood my mind as I tried to find the words to say what I admired about her. I shed a few tears as I wrote about her. My love and prayers go to Chet.

UTAH TRIP By Pam Smith

The "St Louis Smiths" headed west; Gene, Pam, and our Yellow Lab Traverse, pulling our camper, through Missouri and then Kansas, home of many windmill farms on flat prairies. Destination: Utah! Mission: To join up with fellow TCG&M Club members in our quest for Rocks, to find amazing specimens, to learn first-hand about the very unique geology of the region, and maybe do a little sight-seeing. Results: Way exceeded expectations!!

Over the Rocky Mtns, with an overnight in Georgetown, CO (a gorgeous mtn. valley village near Vail), we arrived in Moab, UT, set up camp, and joined the group for dinner. Bob & Julia Sherwood, and Tom & Kathy Steffler had attended the Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Show, and filled us in on the details and "finds" at this excellent show.

As Bob, our trip leader, reported in last month's trip preface, they met many friendly and helpful dealers at the show whose suggestions and advice were priceless, and bore fruit...er..umm...rocks!

Everyone had been on the road for 3-4 days, so a relaxing auto tour of Arches National Park was in order. Arches, just 5 miles from Moab, contains the world's largest concentration of natural sandstone, beautifully salmon-colored. There are over 2,000 arches, huge balanced rocks, and lots of beautiful and bizarre formations throughout. Formed over 300 million years ago, over an evaporated salt sea bed, erosion, floods and compression formed a thick rock bed. The unstable salt bed below the Arches rock bed shifted under the debris weight, with resultant buckling, movement, and up-thrusting of the layers. Further erosion from wind & water produced its stunning formations. And what a great study of geology!

A visit to Dead Horse State Park concluded the day's touring. With panoramic views of Canyon Land's "Grand Canyon"-like colorful mesas and buttes, 2000 feet above the Colorado River, this is a place of legend. Cowboys drove wild horses to a high peninsula-like mesa, closing the entrance, and used it as a coral. Horses not wanted were left, where they died of thirst. That sad part of history aside, the geology is amazing. 8,000 feet of layers are visible, with four separate layers of sandstone atop a uranium bearing layer, and that covering three other distinct formation layers. Some edges and ledges in the viewing areas have low rock walls. Ever-curious Traverse had to jump up to see, too! (Wonder what he thought?) On the way back, we stopped on Potash Rd to view Indian Petroglyphs.

Joined by Neil Snepp and Norma Kremke, our group of now 8 met up with Vint and Donna Wade, dealers in Moab, who took us to several collecting sites, including one on Blue Hills Rd, where we collected selenite crystals. At their home we viewed an amazing collection, from agate to dino bone to petrified wood. I bought some pieces at great prices. Bob mentioned Yellow Cat Playa, one of the sites we hunted with Vint. Here we found pet wood, agate, barite pseudomorphs, and jasper. The surprise for me were the dinosaur gizzard stones, or gastroliths. Being somewhat of a "newbie", I'd never heard of these. But I like 'em. They're easy to spot—smooth, almost oily feeling, usually oval-shaped and appearing to have already been polished. They're often of rock types not from the area, which shows how far the dinos traveled (I swear one looked like a Laker). These stones, usually 2-6" in size, were swallowed by the bushels -full to aid in digestion, reminding me how chickens eat gravel which you can actually see in their gizzards (oh, my—memories of 9th grade biology class).

Another site, "10 Mile Rd", yielded pigeon blood agate, petrified wood, pink agate, and lots of gastroliths. Gene found a prized "stuffed olive" agate, which has a green ring, filled with red "pimiento" in the center.

Each site we hunted was far off the main roads, some requiring 4-wheel drive. Some were just pathways, or two-track "roads". Clouds of dust billowed around our car caravan, as we bounced along over rocks and boulders for miles. All was very dry, yet desert-tough flowering plants posed for our cameras, horned lizards, various bugs, scorpions, and yes, even a rattlesnake surprised us. Lots of water, food, sunscreen, hats, bug spray, a full tank of gas, and cautious alertness are required to rockhound these areas. And many buckets to fill!

On the road, a collection site at Greasewood Draw yielded lots of good red and yellow jasper. Through the Capitol Reef National Park area and Grand-Staircase-Escalante National Monument, with a stop to view petroglyphs. A refreshing forested mountain drive, complete with a snow-storm white-out, brought us to the town of Escalante. The precarious road through that area, though, had us driving /perched on a loooong narrow road, high on a ridge, with sheer drop-offs on both sides and no shoulders. Truly scary. We saw several mule deer as we descended, and many cool, rushing creeks and rivers, fed by the snow-melt.

Our group was now complete, with Doug and Jan Sjoquist joining us in Escalante. Our campground host just happened to have a pile of agate, jasper, and pet wood, which we all went through. We bought at very reasonable prices! Enroute to our next stop, Cedar City, we drove through Bryce Canyon, colorful pink plateau and cliff land of hoodoos, pinnacle-like spires, and mazes. Multiple pull-outs on the single in-and-out road gave us lots of photo ops. The formations are stunning cathedral-like carved rock, which reminded me of a huge pipe organs, very delicate-looking in places.

Utah Continued

In Cedar City, we met with Steve Wise, founding member of the 18-month-old Southern Utah Rock Club, who took us out collecting to three fabulous collecting sites. Steve and the club had just discovered a virgin area for agate, and we were very privileged to collect there. "Sabbath Canyon" is on BLM land, hilly, dotted with junipers. And scattered all over the surface, huge (80-100 lb) red agates, and many smaller ones—no digging needed. Absolute best agate collecting any of us had experienced. Visited Joe's Rock Shop in Orderville, operated by Steve's friend and Ken Caruso. They specialize in septaria nodules, and had huge nodules that formed the foundation for Joe's dad's original shop, as well as colorful wonderstone, and coprolite.

Ken went with us to Mt Caramel, a long rough road. We dug for septaria on vertical hills, and found many nice pieces in a lower area. Then on to the "Glitter Pit", a huge selenite mine. Large and small chunks of sparkly selenite were in piles, and digging in the wall yielded several nice pieces. Seams of selenite made up the pit walls. Bob used his "enforcer" tool to get larger pieces from the wall.

In his intro, Bob mentioned the generosity and fraternity of rockhounds on our trip. This was certainly true, as folks changed their schedules to accommodate and help us. On our return to Cedar City, Steve and his wife, Joleen, had us over to their home for a BBQ, where we also met the President of the rock club. Of course the conversations were about rocks and rock clubs. Their lovely home was decorated as a rockhound's dream, and the food and fellowship were wonderful.

Next stop, Delta, with a rock pickin' stops near Minersville for Picasso Marble, and near Milford for Obsidian. This valley area is ringed by snow-covered mountains and inactive volcano domes. The Sevier River Valley area is agricultural, using flood irrigation and drainage systems to remove excess minerals. A stop at Suntone Knoll yielded many small sparkly sunstone crystals, lying on the crunchy crushed volcanic rocks.

A rockhound's rockshop, located in Delta, lead us to a site for trilobites, owned by the owners where we dug free of charge. A 4x4 was needed for 20 miles of bumpy gravel road. We split shale from the huge pits, finding lots of small trilobites in plates, and several single trilobites. The Rock Shop's inventory was huge, with much of the processing area visible. The owner, a dedicated rockhound, pointed us to a dry, desolate, 2-track road where we found lots of blue, white, and speckled orange agates. In the Topaz Mt area, we found apache tears. A dust-storm kicked up so much dust, the mountains were no longer visible!

A non-rock side note: Filming was in process out on the dry lakebed for Disney's "John Carter of Mars", by Edgar Rice Burroughs. The land was certainly mars-like! Delta's Museum is a must-see for rockhounds and history buffs alike. Delta produces beryllium and is the only place in the world where it is mined. Beryllium is used in ceramic heat shields on space craft, x-ray windows, and is non-sparking. Combined with other metals, it is machined for aircraft parts at a reduced weight: 8lbs vs 36 lbs if steel. The museum has an extensive trilobite collection, and an arrowhead collection that is second to none.

Mealtimes for our hard-working group, besides filling hungry bellies at some very good restaurants, were a focal point for discussions of finds, plans for the next day's outings, and the amazing sights we'd seen. Even menu items were discussed by inquiring minds. Exactly what is a skirt steak, anyway?

Wonderstone, the colorful rhyolite of Utah and its state stone, was collected at Vernon, enroute to Tooele. In Tooele, Gene, Trav, and I camped above the town, near Fishers Pass at Clover Spring. Enchanted with the spring and the babbling stream, we set up camp boondocking style in a BLM campground (no hookups) Imagine our surprise to wake up to a 4-inch snowfall covering our camp!

The snowstorm didn't deter us from our trip to Salt Lake City, but it did close our hoped-for tour of the copper mine. We did find a great spot for lunch at a biker bar (!) with good locally-brewed beer! A stop in Ophir, an historical mining town, for pyrite collecting.

We followed the Pony Express Route to hunt for Dugway Geodes, skirting the Dugway Proving Grounds, led by Eldon Shindle, a long time rockhound and local historian. I could see why they chose this route for the Express, as it was a much flatter valley, with elevation above 6000 in the mtns. The road was bumpy, dusty, and we bounced along for 36 miles on a 2-track road. We found the famous geodes, and really dug the Dugways—from a large hole, prying and coaxing them from the walls. Jan found a piece of the much-coveted crimson crystal geode! We also found unusual striped brown & black obsidian. Very successful dig!

As the Utah trip came to a close, while driving back from Dugway, hot, tired, dusty, happy, and amazed at all we'd seen and done, I wrote:

May your geodes be filled with rubies, And your cows all wear skirts.
May the road rise up to meet you, With no boulders, ruts, or dirt.
May trilobites come out to greet you, As you Traverse the rocky mounds,
While the Sun Stone sparkles brightly,
And the mule deer abound.



Our club is a non-profit organization, sponsored by the Holland Recreation Department. It is a member of the Midwest Federation and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The general purpose of this club is to develop interest in and increase knowledge of minerals, rocks, gems, fossils, and the lapidary arts. The objectives of this club shall be promoted whenever possible, through family participation.

Advertising rates for Club members are: \$5 for business card size, \$10 for ¼ page, \$15 for ½ page, \$30 for full page. Double the rates for non-members. Payment by check; made out to: TCG&M; to be submitted with ad copy to Editor.

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Dues:
Family \$15 Single \$10

Meetings are held monthly on the last Wednesday of the month in the Herrick District Library Auditorium, 300 South River Avenue, Holland, MI at 7 pm, unless announced otherwise at a meeting or in the THE TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE. A Junior Club welcomes young rockhounds and meets separately during the evening.



Tulip City Conglomerate
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