



ROCK TALK

White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I hope that this letter finds you all well and continuing to "hunker down". We are all strong people and this, too, will pass. In the meantime, we continue to do club related duties from home although we miss seeing you all. I spoke with my contact at the VFW this month and they remain closed. At this time, they don't know when they will reopen, as they get their "orders" from higher-ups in their organization. I will check in with the VFW personnel each month. In lieu of monthly meeting minutes, I offer this narrative.

Treasurer Carl has filed our annual report with the Arizona Corporation Commission. He will be taking care of our annual IRS filing soon. A brief report from Carl is included elsewhere in this month's *Rock Talk*.

Of concern at this moment, aside from the obvious, is whether or not to plan to have our show in July. We have been moving forward.

Thanks to Stan, our road signs and banners have been changed out to reflect our new show location. Road signs gave us the most visitors during last year's show and your board decided to add signs and update our old ones. Stan has done an outstanding job!

When we contracted with Country Court last year, we paid a deposit (one half of the base price) to hold the space for our show the second weekend in July. Per the terms of the contract, we are to pay the second portion, or remaining half, by the first week in May of this year. We have received calls from several vendors who inquired as to our plans for our show, since all the other shows in our region have already canceled. At that time, we were looking at early May as to decide whether we

should cancel and perhaps take a loss on our deposit.

Assistant Show Chair Carl contacted the owner of Country Court last month to get a feel for her position considering the pending health concerns and requirements regarding social distancing. Carl had a lengthy conversation with the owner, since we wanted to see where she stood. All events previously scheduled at the venue have been canceled. Carl mentioned the possibility that we might have to cancel also, and we wanted to know our options. The owner assured Carl that, considering the situation, she would be very flexible and we might be able to roll over our deposit until July 2021. That would be the perfect scenario.

It is unclear at this time as to whether we will lose our deposit, lose a portion of it, or if we will be able to roll it over. Carl has sent a letter to the owner to confirm their telephone conversation and we plan to contact her again next month to finalize our plans depending on how we want to proceed.

Money aside, the question is whether or not to plan to have our show in July.

There are several things to consider when deciding what to do.

- ◆ We have no idea as to when the VFW will reopen. This makes it difficult to line out our show volunteers if we can't meet. Lots of planning is needed before putting on a successful show. Can we be ready to put on a show on short notice?

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Rock Talk Newsletter

Our newsletter is published monthly by the White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Any information or comments members wish to include in the monthly newsletter must be given to the editor at the general membership meeting or call the editor no later than Tuesday following the meeting.

Membership Dues

Membership dues are \$15 for a single membership and \$20 for a couple/family. Dues are paid the first of January each year along with a completed application form. Memberships initiated in November or later in a given year are also good for the following year.

Meetings

We meet the first Sunday of the month (unless it falls on a holiday) at the VFW Post 9907, 381 North Central Avenue in Show Low. Turn north off the Deuce of Clubs at Burger King. Social half hour at 1:00 pm, meeting starts at 1:30 pm.

Elected Officials

Office	Name	Phone	E-Mail
PRESIDENT	Rose Fowers	(928)537-2195	rmfowers0407@gmail.com
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	Karen Dorsey	(928)536-2360	

Members at Large

Stan Arneklev	(480)213-4187
John Bustraan	(503)312-6429
Suzanne Fern	(928)892-5236
Debbie Trimble	(928)892-5791

Volunteer Positions

Webmaster/Coalition Chair	Aimee Webster	(602)503-8417	afwebster61@gmail.com
Show Chairman	Steve Fowers	(928)537-2195	
Assistant Show Chairman	Carl Hickman	(928)536-3744	
Sunshine	Peggy Lancaster	(623)262-3859	
Education, Schools	Donna Pollard	(480)600-2714	tdpollard@msn.com
Greeter/Door Prizes/Raffle	Bill/Linda Stalder	(928)368-4496	
Auctioneer	Steve Fowers	(928)537-2195	
Highway Cleanup	Brookie/ Larry Embry	(928)537-0760	
Bonus Prizes	Sandra Angelo	(928)537-3726	
Historian	Jeannie/Stan Arneklev	(480)213-4187	
Librarians	Yvonne Garrett/Thomas Castro		
Meeting Room Setup/Cleanup	Debbie Trimble/Suzanne Fern		

Chamber of Commerce Liaisons

Show Low: Thelma Gray

Snowflake/Taylor: Stan/Jeannie Arneklev

Heber/Overgaard: Aimee Webster

Pinetop/Lakeside: Peggy Lancaster

Springerville/Eager: Rick Palmer

President's Letter, continued from Page 1)

- ◆ Most of our contracted vendors are coming from various communities throughout the region and they may not have a place to stay when they get here. Suzanne called a few motels to get an idea as to whether they are accepting guests. At this time, most motels are still open, although they are limiting what they offer to travelers.
- ◆ If social distancing requirements are still in place, we will be required to make wider aisles, thus reducing the number of vendors we can accommodate. There is no way to know whether the CDC requirements will be lifted by July.
- ◆ With so many people unable to earn a living at this time, will the public want to pay to get in to the show? Will they want to spend money on rock and related items? Vendors need to have a large gate and people willing and able to buy in order to defray the cost of booth spaces, travel, and lodging.
- ◆ If we cancel the show, we need to make a decision soon. What do you think of June 1 as the deadline? In the meantime, we will be notifying our vendors as to our status,

and if canceling, we will refund 100% of their booth space.

Over the years, our club has earned a good reputation for having a great show. However, the time is fast approaching that a decision must be made, considering we don't have any idea as to what our future holds from week to week. Things can improve in our community, but there is certainly no guarantee as to whether any obstacle can be overcome in time to have a show.

Please know that Steve and I are thinking of each of you. I have received so many calls of support from members who understand why we stopped our monthly meetings and outings for the time being. Thank you for that!

Now, we need to hear from each of the board members and any one else who wants to have their voice heard. Do we or don't we go forward with our show? It's time to decide. Call me, Steve, or Carl to let us know your opinion.

Remember these words from the logical Mr. Spock of Star Trek: "The needs of the many (must) outweigh the needs of the one." Stay safe!

Rose Fowers

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Carl Hickman

For income, we had five individual and one family membership renewals this month.

Expenses this month include:

1. a contribution to the STEM Fair
2. dues to the Show Low Chamber of Commerce
3. the club's Post Office annual fee
4. banner and flag purchases for our annual show
5. specimen boxes

More information will be forthcoming as decisions are made regarding the show, resumption of meetings, etc.



Rock of the Month

Fluorite



By Maureen Helm

Rock collectors never need an excuse to bring home more, but can they legitimately claim that their geologic treasures are a beneficial necessity to health and happiness? Throughout history, certain stones have been said to have healing effects. While nothing replaces good hygiene and social distancing, many people reach for gems and minerals for an extra measure of protection from viruses and other bugs during cold and flu season. Azumar, bloodstone, carnelian, aventurine, larimar, amber, citrine, and fluorite have been said to hold energies and properties that help to fortify the body and ward off illness. Of those, fluorite is commonly found in Arizona.

Fluorite is alleged to be a beneficial crystal for health and well-being, helping to clean and purify anything within the body that is not in perfect working order. It is said to boost the immune system and stimulate the regeneration and restructuring of cells and DNA, promoting the regeneration of mucous membranes, mainly in the respiratory tract and the lungs. It has a cleansing, purifying aura that is thought to remove toxins as well as the negativity that arises from feeling sick. Thus, it could help to align energy and keep health on track.

Fluorite is a calcium fluoride mineral belonging to the halides mineral class. It occurs in hydrothermal veins, often linked with minerals such as quartz, calcite and barite. The origin of the word "fluorite" comes from use of fluorite as flux in steel and aluminum processing. First called fluorspar by miners, it is still called by this name today. Fluorite usually fluoresces under ultraviolet light. The word "fluorescent" was derived from fluorite, and fluorite specimens were some of the first fluorescent minerals to be identified and studied.

Fluorite is transparent to translucent. It is well known and prized for its glassy luster and rich variety of colors, which have earned it the title of "The Most Colorful Mineral in the World." It is only rivaled in variety of color by quartz. The range of hues for fluorite span from the hallmark color purple, to blue, green, yellow, colorless, brown, pink, black, and reddish orange. It is often confused with quartz or calcite; however, its hardness of 4 on the Mohs Scale distinguishes it. Quartz (Mohs 7) is much harder; calcite (Mohs 3) is softer.

Fluorite forms crystals with octahedral cleavage. This means that it has four identical directions of cleavage and, when cleaved in the right ways, can produce a perfect octahedral shape. Most specimens of fluorite have a single color, but a significant percentage of fluorites have multiple colors. The colors are arranged in bands that correspond to the shape of the crystals. The effect produces the appearance of crystals within crystals of differing colors. A fluorite crystal could have a clear outer zone allowing a cube of purple fluorite to be seen inside. Sometimes the less common habits such as a colored octahedron are seen inside of a colorless cube. One crystal of fluorite could potentially have four or five different color zones or bands. Fluorite can occur in any size, but the crystals are generally no larger than a golf ball.

Fluorite can be found in England, Spain, China, Brazil, Morocco, Canada, Mexico, Germany, and the USA. The most famous blue fluorite is known as Blue John, and is only found near Castleton in Derbyshire England. The Blue John coloring has at least 14 different banded or veined varieties displaying blue-purples, greys, and yellows that were created by exposure to oily films millions of years ago.

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(Rock of the Month, Cont.)

While crystal and stone healing is considered a pseudoscience and there is no peer reviewed scientific evidence that it works, it may be wise for rock enthusiasts to surround themselves with as much fluorite and other healing gems and minerals as possible...just in case. In Arizona, fluorite can be found in the mountains, mine dumps, road cuts, and washes. It can be found around Big Horn Mountains between Quartzite and Phoenix, near the ghost towns of Octave and Weaver, off the Bartlett Dam Road near Carefree, around Superior and Globe, and in the Little Dragoon Mountains north of Tombstone.

THE STEM FAIR

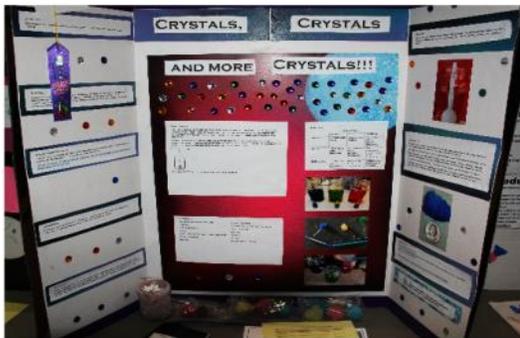


Photo courtesy of Stan Arneklev

March 7,

2020

Jeannie Arneklev, Suzanne & Bob Fern



Susan Rodriguez & Jalyn Gerlich, Navajo County Superintendent



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