

# Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

## Chips and Chatter



**July 2013**  
**Vol. 47, Issue 7**

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### Purpose

The Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas is organized for charitable and educational purposes to promote interest in the various earth sciences, in particular those hobbies dealing with the art of cutting and polishing gemstones, the science of gems, minerals and metal crafts, as well as their related fields.

### Monthly Meeting

Our next meeting will be the annual get together (indoor picnic?) at Spring Creek Barbeque, **Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 starting at 7:00**, see page 5. **NOTE THE DIFFERENT DAY AND TIME!** The Spring Creek Barbeque is just north of Belt Line on the east side of Central Expressway – from 75 north or south take the Belt Line exit and either take the U-turn lane (southbound) or go through the light at Belt Line (northbound) and then look on your right.

### Club Officers for 2013

- President: Del Grady
- 1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
- Secretary: Lee Elms
- Treasurer: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
- Editor: Don Shurtz
- E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com

**VISIT OUR WEB SITE TO VIEW THE CHIPS AND CHATTER IN COLOR**

**Chips and Chatter Deadline:**  
**The 3rd Thursday of each month**

Check our website, [www.pogmc.org](http://www.pogmc.org)  
 for prior month issues of the  
**Chips and Chatter**

## June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Minutes



The June meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Vice President Mark Carter.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mark.

### Sunshine Report:

Del Grady is still recovering from back surgery. Del and Carolyn were at the meeting, but Del was not up to leading the meeting.

Patty will be having knee replacement surgery.

Visitors: None.

The Minutes of the May meeting as published in the June Chips and Chatter were discussed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Carolyn and seconded by Hat. The motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report for May 2013 was presented by Don Shurtz. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Carolyn and seconded by Ling. The motion passed.

Old Business: None.

### New Business:

Due to 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities in Garland, we decided to have our next meeting on **WEDNESDAY**, 3 July at the Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson. Festivities will start at **7:00 PM**.

The SCFMS Meeting will be held in Bossier City, LA on 17 and 18 August hosted by the ARK-LA-TEX Gem and Mineral Society. Don indicated he could probably be our club's delegate but would give a final answer at the next meeting.

The presentation was a DVD about the Thomas Range in Utah, specifically about the Searle's., Solar Wind, and Manyard claims. Following the meeting there was a drawing for Topaz specimen donated by Mark from his personal collection. Carolyn won the drawing.

We had the raffle.

The meeting was adjourned about 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Shurtz for the Secretary, Lee Elms

## Show Calendar - 2013 Show Dates for July and August

JUL 5-7, Farmington, NM, San Juan Country G&MS, Civic Center, [mickie2@earthlink.net](mailto:mickie2@earthlink.net)

JUL 13-14, Tulsa, OK, Tulsa R&MS, Exchange Center, Tulsa Fairgrounds, [riggs1331@cox.net](mailto:riggs1331@cox.net), [www.townrockhound.org](http://www.townrockhound.org)

AUG 9-11, Fort Smith, AR, Fort Smith Convention Center, [egi168@hotmail.com](mailto:egi168@hotmail.com), [www.egishows.com](http://www.egishows.com)

AUG 10-11, Baton Rouge, LA, Baton Rouge G&MS, Baton Rouge Marriott, [Cajunladi@cox.net](mailto:Cajunladi@cox.net), [www.Brgemandmineral.org](http://www.Brgemandmineral.org)

AUG 16-17, Tahlequah, OK, Tahlequah R&MS, Tahlequah Community Building, [rouckhoundsally@aol.com](mailto:rouckhoundsally@aol.com)

AUG 17-18, Bossier City, LA, ARK-LA-TEX G&MS, Bossier City Civic Center, [larockclub@gmail.com](mailto:larockclub@gmail.com), [www.larockclub.com](http://www.larockclub.com)

AUG 24-25, Jasper, TX, Pine Country G&MS, Jasper Event Center, [earthscache3@yahoo.com](mailto:earthscache3@yahoo.com), [www.pinecountrygms.org](http://www.pinecountrygms.org)

AUG 24-25, Mountain Home, AR, Ozark Earth Science G&FC, Van Matre Senior Cntr, Cooper Park, [edscamp3@yahood.com](mailto:edscamp3@yahood.com), [www.ozarkearthscience.org](http://www.ozarkearthscience.org)

AUG 31-SEP 2, Silver City, NM, Grant County Rolling Stones, Business and Conference Cntr, [rollingstonesgmsshow@gmail.com](mailto:rollingstonesgmsshow@gmail.com), [www.rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com](http://www.rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com)

Ref:

March-April SCFMS Newsletter

Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/showdates/>

## Visit an Area Club

Arlington Gem & Mineral Club, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm

Dallas Bead Society, The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX meets 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 10:00 am

Dallas Gem & Mineral Society meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, UT Dallas Research & Operation Center, room 2.209

Dallas Paleontological Society, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244

Ft. Worth Gem & Mineral Club, meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Ave, Ft Worth, TX

Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:30 pm, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth

Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd, Dallas, TX

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,

## Birthstones for June – Ruby

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The July birthstone is Ruby. Ruby is of the same family of minerals as corundum and sapphire. The entire corundum family has the same chemical composition, Aluminum Oxide (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) and has a Mohs hardness of 9. What differentiates ruby from the rest of the corundum family is its distinctive red color. The red color is caused by the presence of chromium (Cr) replacing some of the Aluminum atoms within the crystal lattice structure. In the trade circles, a ruby with the bright red color (pigeon blood red) will be worth more than a stone with greater clarity but not as bright red coloration.

The traditional source of rubies was the Mogok Valley in Myanmar (formally Burma). However the ruby production from that area has dramatically decreased. In the 1990s the Mong Hsu area of Myanmar began supplying most of the world's ruby. Rubies have also been mined in Thailand, Cambodia, India Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tanzania, Madagascar, Vietnam, Nepal, and Tajikistan. A few rubies have been found in the United States from Montana, North and South Carolina, and Wyoming. Most recently rubies have been found in Greenland. Whether the mining of rubies in Greenland becomes economically feasible has yet to be determined.



Even with natural rubies, there is a lot of international intrigue. The international community agrees that the coloration of a ruby must come from chromium. However, the saturation of the red color is a source of disagreement. A lightly saturated stone may appear as pink, so the question is whether it is a pink sapphire or a pink ruby. This is a relatively recent (late 20<sup>th</sup> century) source of contention. The degree of saturation is basically subjective. With no clear cut definition, the International Colored Gemstone Associate (ICA) has adopted standards that classify pink corundum stones a ruby. However, this standard has not been universally accepted, and in particular, it is not accepted by most jewelers in the United States. So if you buy you “ruby” from an overseas sight, stand by as it may not be classified as a ruby in the US.

As with most valuable gemstones, one needs to be mindful of synthetic or lab grown rubies. The first synthetic rubies were produced in 1837, but lab grown rubies of gem quality were not produced until the late 1800s. The first gem quality rubies were produced by the flame fusion technique. The first lasers ever built were ruby lasers using a large rod of lab grown ruby; the first ruby laser was built in 1960. Many years later, as advanced techniques were established for building lasers, many of the ruby laser rods became surplus to the laser industry, but were a boon to the synthetic gemstone market.

Ref:

American Gem Society, <http://www.americangemsociety.org/june-birthstones>  
How Products are Made, <http://www.madehow.com/Volume-4/Synthetic-Ruby.html>  
Mindat.org, Ruby, <http://www.mindat.org/min-3473.html>  
Ruby, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruby>  
Ruby Lasers, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruby\\_laser](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruby_laser)  
True North Mining, <http://www.truenorthgems.com/>

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## Mailed Chips and Chatter – New Look

Don Shurtz, Editor

Did you notice the new look of the mailed Chips and Chatter last month? No, the design and layout were the same – but it was folded differently for mailing. The U.S. Post Office has numerous regulations concerning “self folded mailers”. What is not confusing is that the Chips and Chatter falls into the category of a self folded mailer – in other words, it is not placed in an envelope. What is confusing about the new regulations is the use of staples. In general staples are not permitted, although the regulations seem to indicate that a staple to hold the document together is permitted. I showed our standard (old) 2 fold version to two different post offices. One printed out the regulations, and then when I question them about the staple, they said it was OK. The other post office was adamant – no staples. To insure that we don't have a batch of Chips and Chatters rejected by the Post Office, I opted to go for the less controversial tri-fold. The staple to hold the Chips and Chatter is on the inside where it won't jam their equipment, so the post office indicated it was OK. Thus – the New Look!



## Editor's Corner – A Novel Show Concept

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

When I travel for business that includes weekends, I can generally find a few hours to visit a gem and mineral show if it is within reasonable driving distance. I recently returned from a two week stay in Oxnard, CA and found a show hosted by the RockAtomics Gem and Mineral Society. The show was outdoors. Most of the vendors were in tents, but I do not know if the tents were provided by or arranged by the club as I could not find a club booth to ask! I made two passes through the show and try as I might; I could not find a club booth or club representative. Parking was free at a little farmers market, and the show was on the grounds maintained by the farmers market. Show admission was also free. I wonder why the club did not seem to have any money raising activities (silent auction, grand prize, kids activities)? The show itself had a lot more vendors selling rough material that most SCFMS shows, with all but a very few booths having some rough. There were 6 or 7 vendors that sold rough exclusively. To me this seemed more like a big Dallas G&MS Rock Swap than a show. I only bought about 15 lbs of rock, but it was more rock than I could pack in my suitcase, due to checked baggage weight limits, for my return to Dallas, so it is now on a slow truck. I bought several pieces of “onyx”, actually calcite, with names like silver lace and strawberry. The silver lace has some interesting dendrite formations, and the strawberry actually does have a red colored band. I will try to get pictures of this material for the next Chips and Chatter.

So now, after several months, it is time to stand upon the soapbox. Since our last show our show our club treasury has slowly declined. My last estimate was that the club could last another 12 to 15 years, and then the treasury will be empty. RockAtomics G&MS can put on a show and not even seem to have a club presence. However, we can't even seem to hold an executive board meeting to discuss the concepts put forth by a club member for a show. One club is doing something right, and some other club is not. I'll leave it to the reader to decide which one is our club.

### Federation News - AFMS President's Message The Way I See It - Why Not Be a Mentor?

By Don Monroe, AFMS President  
From the AFMS Newsletter June 2013

All of us who have been involved in various lapidary activity, federations, clubs, etc. know many, many talented people and many of them serve as instructors. There seems to be a nearly universal complaint from all of us. “No one from our gene pool (relatives or friends) wants to learn what we do.” In my family, including our children and our grandchildren, there seems to be only one person who shows any interest in learning the skills in which we take pride. Well, you may have to give up on your kids and grandchildren. An old expression is that you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink. We have concluded that if you want our hobby to grow and prosper, you may have to cast your net wider and find an interested person, preferably a younger one, to mentor.

Ann and I are most fortunate to find a small family (two children) who really want to learn what it is we do. They want to acquire skills and create “stuff” and do fun things. There is nothing more rewarding than teaching someone who really wants to learn, and frankly, schools do not always meet the needs of the young people. I cannot tell you how to find someone to mentor. Take every available opportunity to demonstrate your craft and speak to any groups who will let you have the floor. Be sensitive to the reactions of the audience, and you will find those who want to learn.

I'm looking forward to meeting many of you when the AFMS and SFMS hold their joint convention this September 18–22 in Jacksonville, Florida. More information should be available on the AFMS Web site shortly.

Don

## NEXT CLUB MEETING / GET TOGETHER

Our annual Spring Creek Barbeque  
in lieu of fighting downtown Garland's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Activities



WEDNESDAY, JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> at 7:00 PM

Spring Creek Barbeque, 270 North Central Expressway, just north of  
Belt Line Road. Directions:

- From Plano area, take US 75 South and exit at Belt Line. Stay left and take the U-Turn lane. Once the U-Turn is complete, look for Spring Creek BBQ on your right
- From Dallas and areas south, take US 75 north and exit at Belt Line Road. Go through the light at Belt Line, look for Spring Creek BBQ on your right

Please note: **WEDNESDAY** - not **Thursday**, and **7:00 PM**, not **7:30 PM**

**FOOD**

**FUN**

**FRIENDS**

**TALK**

**DOOR PRIZE**

**Wednesday, July 3rd, 7:30 PM**

# PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas

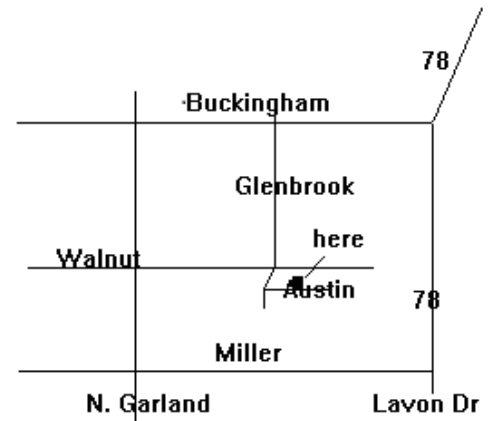


## Meetings

First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM  
Garland Women's Activities Building  
713 Austin St.  
Garland, TX  
(Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook)

## Membership

Single Adult: \$16.00,  
Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50  
(Plus badge fee for new members)



**CHIPS AND CHATTER**  
**Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club**  
**PO Box 831934**  
**Richardson, TX 75083-1934**

To:

## Coming Up

The July Meeting / Get Together will be **WEDNESDAY, JULY 3<sup>RD</sup>** starting at **7:00 PM** at the **Spring Creek Barbeque** in Richardson, see page 5

The August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will start at 7:30 PM at the Garland Women's Activities Building.