

# Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

## Chips and Chatter

July 2014  
Vol. 48, Issue 7



1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2013 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place, 2013 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Member of  
SCFMS



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## Feature Articles

July Birthstone, Ruby.....3

## Monthly Columns

Minutes of the June, Meeting..... 2  
President's Message..... 2

## Notices

Meeting ..... 1, 3  
METROPLEX Clubs ..... 6  
Show Calendar ..... 2

## Federation Information

AFMS/RMFMS Convention..... 4  
Keith Harmon is AFMS Scholarship Honoree for 2014 ..... 4  
Safety Matters, The Eyes Have It ..... 5  
SCFMS Convention..... 5

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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

July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

Spring Creek Barbeque – Richardson at 7:00 PM.  
The presentation: BBQ and all the trimmings NOTE THE DIFFERENT DAY AND TIME! Spring Creek Barbeque is just north of Belt Line on the east side of Central Expressway in Richardson. 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.

**VISITORS WELCOME**

## Club Officers for 2014

President: ..... Ling Shurtz  
1st VP: ..... Mark Carter  
Secretary: ..... Lee Elms  
Treasurer ..... Del Grady  
Editor: ..... Don Shurtz  
E-mail: ..... don.shurtz@gmail.com, l.shurtz@gmail.com

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

## Minutes of the June 5th, 2013 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by President Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Mark Carter.

Sunshine report:

- David Dobson and his wife are expecting their new baby any day now. Butch Mitchell has just gotten out of the hospital because of a stroke he had on Monday.
- The minutes of the May meeting as printed in the Chips and Chatter were discussed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Mark and seconded by Butch. The motion passed.

The Treasurers' report for May was presented by Treasurer Del Grady. A motion to accept the Treasurers' report was made by Mark and seconded by Butch. The motion passed.

Old Business: We went over the changes to the by-laws. A motion was made by Mark and seconded by Butch to accept the changes made. The motion passed.

New Business:

- Our meeting for July 3rd will be our annual Bar-B-Que dinner over at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que in Richardson. We will meet there at 7pm for dinner.
- Field Trips and Shows: The IGEM show was last weekend and it apparently had a good turnout.
- The Arlington Gem Show will be held in Grapevine this coming weekend.
- The Ft. Worth Show will be July 26, 27, and 28 at Brookhaven College.
- Visitors: We had a visitor this evening, Tom Casper. He is retired and has been busy with the Lake Ray Hubbard Woodcarvers Club, and he has always like rocks and fossils and stuff and wanted to see what we are all about. So, he joined the club this evening. Welcome to the club Tom.

After the break we watched a video that was loaned to us from Butch and Patti Mitchell. It was called the Gemstone Journey and it is produced by Jewelry TV.

The video took us from how the gems are mined and collected all over the world and then how they are cut, polished and put into settings. It was about 45 minutes long and very informative.

After the video we had our raffle. We got to choose from a lot of very pretty crystals and mineral specimens, and a cut and polished fire agate.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lee Elms, Secretary

### President's Message

Our next meeting is July 3, 7:00 PM (note the half-hour earlier start) and will be the POGMC Get Together B.B.Q dinner at the Spring Creek B.B.Q in Richardson. Let's have some good B.B.Q. Ling

### Show Calendar - 2013 Show Dates for July and August 2014

JUL 4 - 7, Farmington, NM, San Juan County G&MS, San Juan Civic Center, [mickie2@earthlink.net](mailto:mickie2@earthlink.net)

JUL 11 - 13, Tulsa, OK, Tulsa R&MS & RMFMS & AFMS Convention, Tulsa Fairgrounds, [www.ttownrockhound.org](http://www.ttownrockhound.org), [Iriggs1331@coc.net](mailto:Iriggs1331@coc.net)

JUL 25 - 27, Ft. Worth, TX, The Bead Market, Cendera Center, [rebekah@thebeadmarket.net](mailto:rebekah@thebeadmarket.net), [www.thebeadmarket.net](http://www.thebeadmarket.net)

JUL 26 - 27, Farmers Branch, TX, Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers, Brookhaven College, [steve.lshearin@lmco.com](mailto:steve.lshearin@lmco.com)

AUG 9 - 10, Baton Rouge, LA, Baton Rouge G&MS & SCFMS Convention, Marriot Hotel (on Hilton Avenue), [www.brgemandmineral.org](http://www.brgemandmineral.org), [www.scfms.net](http://www.scfms.net)

Aug15-16, Tahlequah, OK, Tahlequah R&MS, Tahlequah Community Building

Aug 23-24, Jasper, TX, Pine Country G&MS, The Event Center, [jonetta.nash@yahoo.com](mailto:jonetta.nash@yahoo.com)

Aug 23-24, Mountain Home, AR, Ozark ES,G,M&FC, Van Matre Senior Center, [edscamp3@yahoo.com](mailto:edscamp3@yahoo.com), [www.ozarkearthscience.org](http://www.ozarkearthscience.org)

Ref:

January / February 2014 SCFMS Newsletter

Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

## Ruby, July Birthstone

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas



Ruby, the birthstone for July, is the pink to red variety of corundum. Corundum (including ruby) is a hard stone – it is the defining stone for Mohs hardness of 9. Diamond and Moissanite are the only natural minerals that are harder than corundum. Like all corundum minerals, it is formed from Aluminum and Oxygen ( $Al_2O_3$ ). The name ruby comes from the Latin word “ruber” meaning red. Ruby derives its red color from trace amounts of Chromium replacing a small fraction of the Aluminum atoms in the crystal matrix. Surprisingly, chromium is responsible for the green coloration in Emerald, a variety of Beryl. Of the various factors in the



value of a ruby, color is most important. The most valuable rubies are blood red while the pink rubies are generally of lesser value. Another factor in the value of ruby is the clarity of the stone. A clear ruby will generally be more valuable than a cloudy ruby or a ruby containing excessive amounts of rutile. However, absolute clarity is also one of the primary indicators of a ruby being lab grown – nature does just not produce a lot of absolutely clear rubies. Size is also important to the value of a ruby. A 10 ct ruby would be considerable more valuable than 10 1 ct rubies.

As indicated, ruby is the pink to red variety of corundum. The other gem corundum minerals are called sapphire and come in a variety of colors. Sapphire is the birthstone for September

In antiquity, rubies were treasured for their ability to arouse the senses and stir the imagination. They were also thought to bring health, wealth, and wisdom. In ancient Asia, rubies were buried beneath the foundation of buildings to bring good fortune to the building’s structure.

Although rubies are found in several locations, for centuries the Mogok valley in Myanmar (Burma) supplied most of the world’s rubies. In more recent times, rubies have been found in India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tanzania, Madagascar, Viet Nam and Nepal. A few rubies have been found in the United States in Montana, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Wyoming.



As mentioned earlier, very clear rubies are often thought to be lab made. Not that many years ago, ruby was grown extensively in laboratory facilities for use in some of the early red lasers. In fact, the first operational laser was a ruby laser that was developed in 1960. Many of the rods of synthetic ruby were eventually replaced by solid state lasers, and the ruby rods have found their way into jewelry. However, these were not the first lab-grown rubies produced. The first synthetic ruby was made in 1837 by Gaudin. Verneuil made the first commercially viable synthetic rubies in 1903 and by 1907 was producing 2,000 lbs of gem grade synthetic ruby per year.

Reference:

Birthstones, <http://www.americangemsociety.org/september-birthstone>

Ruby, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruby>

Synthetic Ruby, <http://www.madehow.com/Volume-4/Synthetic-Ruby.html>

Pictures:

Rough ruby, picture by Don Shurtz of ruby on display in the Perot Museum of Nature and Science

Cut ruby, [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ruby\\_oval\\_1.29cts.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ruby_oval_1.29cts.jpg), photo by Wiener Edelstein Zentrum, used under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license

Ruby laser rod, [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ruby\\_laser\\_rod\\_and\\_view\\_through.JPG](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ruby_laser_rod_and_view_through.JPG), photo by Zaereth, release to public domain.

## The Annual July Spring Creek Barbeque

**Spring Creek Barbeque, 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, and then look for Spring Creek BBQ on your right.

**Friends, Food, Talk, Door Prize - Thursday, 3 July at 7:00 (not our normal 7:30 start)**

**SEE YOU THERE**

***Chips and Chatter***

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Page 3

Visit us: [www.pogmc.org](http://www.pogmc.org)

July 2014

“Like” us on Facebook



## **2014 AFMS/RMFMS Convention and Show**

### **Rocks and Gems of the Indian Territory**

**July 9th - 13th, 2014**

**Convention Location**  
**Hilton Garden Inn**  
4518 East Skelly Drive  
Tulsa, OK 74135-3225  
(918) 878-7777

**Show Location**  
**Tulsa Fair Grounds**  
4145 E 21st Street  
Tulsa, OK 74114-2108

## **KEITH HARMON IS AFMS SCHOLARSHIP HONOREE FOR 2014**

By Virginia Adian, SCFMS Interim Exec. VP  
From the May – June 2014 SCFMS Newsletter

With great pleasure we announce that Keith Harmon has been selected as our SCFMS Scholarship Honoree for 2014. Keith, in his usual humble spirit, does not see himself as a great earth science educator, but all who have served with him in clubs, in our federation, and worked with him at gem shows know how much he has given of himself to share his knowledge and love of minerals, rocks, and fossils.

Keith graduated from Corsicana High School in 1967 and Stephen F. Austin State University in 1971. He has chosen Stephen F. Austin University to select his student scholarship recipients. He married Charlotte in 1970. She lost her battle with cancer in 2013 and, at Keith's request, we enthusiastically honored her memory with over \$2500 in contributions to the AFMS Scholarship Fund.

Keith joined United States Marine Corps Reserve 1970-1982. He worked as a Teacher 1975-1979, in the oilfield 1980-1988, owner of an insurance agency 1986-2014, and gem and mineral dealer 1992-2014. On April 6, 2014 Keith married Toni L. Harrison in Texas City.

Drawn to rockhounding initially through interest in pretty minerals, Keith's interest expanded to all fields as he was exposed to various elements of the hobby. He has had club membership in East Texas Gem & Mineral Society, Rollin' Rock Club, Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society, and Chaparral Rockhounds.

In the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society he served as president, treasurer, show committee/chairman. He served SCFMS as treasurer, executive vice-president, president, ad hoc insurance committee and currently serves Rollin' Rock Club as president.

Over the years as a club member, Keith has made presentations to public and private schools, programs for Discovery Science Place workshops, started gem and mineral show with Don Campbell and Charles Creekmur for East Texas Gem & Mineral Society, and put together the liability insurance program for SCFMS under the leadership of then SCFMS president, George Browne. He was awarded the SCFMS Gold Spark Plug Award in 2013, which is the highest award presented by SCFMS.

There is no other person in SCFMS who has done more than Keith to increase contributions to the AFMS Scholarship Fund, an endowment whose interest provides \$48,000 in scholarships to six regional federations annually. Twice the endowment was not able to fund the scholarships as needed. Keith was instrumental in making up the deficit both times by challenging clubs in all regional federations to donate "undesignated" funds, thus meeting this need. Along with Diane Weir of the Roswell Chaparral Rockhounds, Keith developed the Rollin' Rock Club Treasure Chest fundraising method for the AFMS Scholarship Fund. Since our last SCFMS annual meeting in August, 2013, the Rollin' Rock Club has already donated \$1843 to the scholarship endowment. Most of those funds were from the auction of this year's Treasure Chest which will be awarded in Baton Rouge by a drawing of names of winning bidders at Rollin' Rock meetings. Many of you will see Keith at your annual shows. I encourage you to give him both congratulations and thanks for all his work

## THE BATON ROUGE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY SHOW SCFMS REGIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Location: Marriott Hotel on Hilton Ave

Show Times: **Saturday**, August 9<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 – 5:00 and **Sunday**, August 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00 – 5:00

### SCFMS Activities: Saturday, August 9th in the Beauregard Room:

Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters: 8:00

SCFMS Meeting: 1:00

SCFMS Awards Banquet: 7:00

### SCFMS Activities, Sunday, August 10th in the Beauregard Room:

Rolling Rock Club Meeting: 8:00



### Safety Matters, The Eyes Have It by Ellery Borow, Safety Chair From the May – June AFMS Newsletter

They do! The eyes have it all! They give us depth perception, amazing colors, pattern perception in that pretty jasper slab -- our eyes draw back the curtain on our window to the world.

Judging by experiences with all manner of rock and mineral collecting, it appears that the vast majority of our field identification of minerals and rocks is performed by visual means alone. Indeed, we use our eyes to judge the mating of facets on that stone we are cutting, to lay out the cabochon template on that pretty slab of jasper, to follow the visual clues of the trail as we hike to that long lost rock quarry. There is an endless variety of how we use our eyes in our hobby. Our eyes allow us to enjoy many areas of our rock, mineral, fossil hobby that we might otherwise be unable to pursue.

So, why do I see so many folks pursuing the hobby without protection for the valuable resource that is their vision? I see folks hammering rock, grinding stones, working in dusty environments, spending hours in the blindingly bright sunlight -- all without benefit of suitable eye protection. It seems strange that folks would so risk the precious gift of sight.

I have heard numerous reasonable-sounding arguments as to why protection was not being used during vision-risking tasks. Excuses such as "my goggles were accidentally left home", "the goggles' elastic straps are worn out and no longer hold them in place". "the goggles are too scratched or hazy to see through", "the goggles were run over by a truck", "the lenses keep falling out", "they are uncomfortable to wear", and other excuses too numerous to list. Well, trust me on this one; there are numerous solutions to these problems. Goggles are cheap (relative to the cost of eye surgery or vision loss). Lots of places sell goggles. Most hardware, grocery, department stores sell them. One does not need to visit a rock shop to find goggles. Please consider keeping an extra pair or two on hand.

There are replacement lenses available for many styles of goggles. New and replacement goggle straps can be made from elastics found in sewing, fabric and yard goods stores.

Store goggles in a protective box or case and keep them in the collecting bag so they are not inadvertently left home. Goggles are ill-fitting? There are numerous goggle styles. Visit a store and try on various kinds to locate ones you find comfortable.

Can't find well-fitting goggles? There are other ways to protect one's eyes such as face shields, prescription safety glasses, safety glasses that fit over one's own regular prescription glasses, and aviator style goggles -- among others.

Please consider protecting your precious gift of sight. We also hope you use that precious gift to keep reading these safety matters columns.

Your safety matters.

# PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas

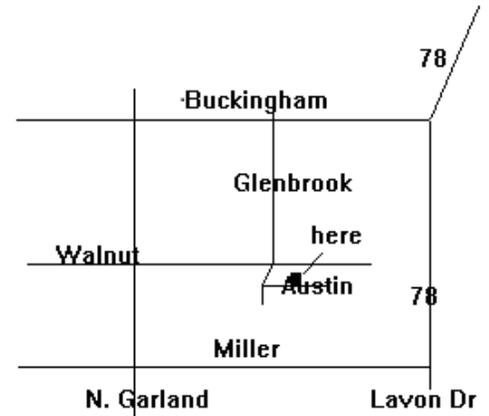


## Meetings

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:

## 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, VFW Hall, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas TX (next to their shop)  
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 7:30 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,