



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



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November 2021

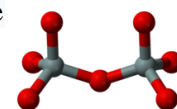
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1st Place, 2019 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2020 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2017 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Hemimorphite – Crystals or Blue Clouds

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Hemimorphite is a zinc-based mineral, $Zn_4Si_2O_7(OH)_2 \cdot H_2O$, a zinc sorosilicate. A sorosilicate consists of a double tetrahedron sharing a common oxygen atom vertex, see illustration to the right. It gets its name as the crystal terminations are dissimilar. In addition to crystals, it also forms in massive formations, often globular masses, and finely shaped needle formations. Hemimorphite is over 50% zinc by weight and is primarily an ore for zinc. It is also sought by mineral collectors, both for its crystalline shape and the globular form that looks like a blue cloud.



Hemimorphite and Smithsonite were once thought to be the same mineral called Calamine. Both are zinc-based minerals and are similar in appearance and have many similar physical properties (hardness, streak, etc. James Smithson identified that there were two distinct minerals in calamine in 1803. James Smithson was a prominent geologist and provided the funding for the US national museum that was named for him, the Smithsonian Institution.

Reference:

- Hemimorphite, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hemimorphite>
- Hemimorphite, Minerals.net, <https://www.minerals.net/Hemimorphite>
- Pictures:
- Tetrahedral diagram, Wikimedia, picture by Genjah-bmm27, released into the public domain
- Hemimorphite specimen, picture by Don Shurtz of a specimen on display at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science



How the AFMS Rockhounds Took the Johnny Horizon Outdoor Pledge Under their Wing

By Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian
From the October 2021 AFMS Newsletter



In 1968 the Department of the Interior's, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), created a fictional character to use in advertising for their anti-litter campaign on public lands. The BLM printed cards for Americans to sign in support of the then word of honor, "I pledge to help clean up America for our 200th birthday." Americans saw Johnny Horizon on TV ads and supported by celebrities Carol Burnett, Red Buttons, and Burl Ives, and followed up by sending letters to the BLM expressing their support for the project and promising they would participate. At the 1969 AFMS Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, the BLM awarded Jack R. Cox who was managing editor of Gems & Minerals Magazine, the first Johnny Horizon National Award for anti-litter efforts. Jack and the magazine were acknowledged for their outstanding service for leading the campaign to encourage rockhounds to become involved in anti-litter efforts on public lands. Through Jack's efforts and with the full support of the AFMS rockhounding community, the chief of the BLM at that time, John Mattoon, recognized how responsible the AFMS rockhounds were and validated their exceptional role in helping to keep public lands clean. At that time the BLM noted the AFMS had 60,000 members nationally. After 1976 the BLM decided to retire the campaign, but to this day AFMS member societies continue their commitment to carrying on our long-standing tradition of leaving all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found. The BLM's 1968 visitor to the public lands pledge: "I pledge to:

- Keep the land clean and free of litter,
- Respect and treat the land as my own,
- Leave gates and fences as I find them,
- Obey state game and fish laws,
- Be careful with fire.

Chips and Chatter Editor's Comment: Compare the AFMS Ethics and the 1968 Visitor to public land pledge, you will find the AFMS Ethics encompasses all of the concepts of the pledge. Not all are word-for-word, but the intent and concepts are all included.

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Please note that many shows are being canceled in response to health concerns associated with COVID-19
Check with the show contact to verify the show status

- Nov 6-7, Amarillo, TX, Golden Spread GM&TS, Amarillo Civic Center, facebook.com/Golden-Spread-Gem-Mineral-and-Treasure-Society
- Nov 6-7, Round Rock, TX, Paleo Society of Austin FOSSIL FEST – CANCELLED
- Nov 6-7, Midland, TX, Midland G&MS, Bush Convention Center (formally Midland Center), midlandgemandmineral.org/
- Nov 12-14, Humble, TX, Houston G&MS, Humble Civic Center, www.hgms.org
- Nov 20-21, Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Mesquite Convention Center, dgmscontracts@yahoo.com

Ref:

- September-October 2021 SCFMS Newsletter
- Rock & Gem Show Dates, <https://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

VISIT AN AREA CLUB

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX
[Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club](#), meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, CERA 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth
[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX
[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)
[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), meets 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,
[Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland
[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30, Wild Beads, 2833 Galleria Dr., Arlington, TX

Two Blasts from the Past – from the July 2001 Chips and Chatter

Safety Report

By George Brown, SCFMS Safety Chair

From the July 2021 Chips and Chatter, via the SCFMS Newsletter

Most of our Safety articles have concentrated on how to avoid injuries. Avoiding injuries is the best procedure to follow, but perhaps we should devote some time to what to do if injuries occur.

On field trips, the best care is usually the immediate care – given at the scene. This will be the first part of a two-part article that deals with the common injuries which occur in the field.

Sprained Ankles: This is probably one of the most common field injuries. Sprained ankles hurt but they probably don't hurt that much. If they did hurt more, then most rockhounds wouldn't try to keep walking on them. Delaying treatment will aggravate the injury and increase the healing time. Remember RICE – Rest it, Ice it, Compress it, and Elevate it. The sooner you do this the better the results. If you don't have ice, use cool water on a T-shirt or bandanna and let evaporation do the cooling. Elevate the foot, prop it up on a rock bag or something. Wrap the ankle from the mid-foot to well above the ankle joint. The elastic wrap is great – but see what you have. Keep it elevated and wrapped for at least 30 minutes. Let it rewarm before walking on it. If you have Ibuprofen, it

will help to keep the swelling down. It is an anti-inflammatory drug, Redo the “RICE” procedure as often as necessary and be sure that the wrap is not so tight that it cuts off circulation.

Cuts and Scrapes: Any break in the skin can result in an infection. Clean the wound immediately, don't wait until you get to the car or home. Do it now. Flush out the cut with water. Use your squirt bottle or put water in a plastic bag, punch a small hole and squeeze. Blast out the cut. A clean wound will feel better, heal faster, and be less prone to infection. Cover the cut with a bandage and use an antimicrobial ointment if you have it.

Sunburn: Sunburns occur quickly, especially in high altitudes and to fair-skinned persons. Immediately get out of the sun, cool the skin with water, and use a lotion if you have it. Stay well hydrated, drink a lot of water. Use a pain killer if you have it – aspirin or ibuprofen. After you get home, watch the sunburned area – melanoma (skin cancer) is a serious condition.

Avoid injury – but if injuries do occur, remember you are the best care. Safety is your job, just do it.

Wanda's Wandering

By Wand Fitzgerald

From the July 2021 Chips and Chatter

Editor's Note: Wanda passed last December, but she is still with us in spirit.

On Friday the eleventh of May, Robert and I started on a tour of Alaska. We all met in Salt Lake City. There were 160 people from all over the United States – four big busses full.

I would like to touch on some geographic places around Salt Lake City that we saw. Everything was beautiful. Only God could create it.

We all know that Salt Lake City has the big lake (Great Salt Lake) that you can't sink in. They are still mining salt that supplies not only America but the world.

Another mine out of Salt Lake City is the Bingham Copper Mine. It's an open-pit copper mine that dates back to 1906. It is also known as the “richest hole” on Earth. It has yielded

more than fifteen million tons of copper as well as fair quantities of gold, silver, and molybdenum. It is the largest man-made excavation in the world. Since open-pit mining began, approximately six billion tons of material have been removed creating a pit that is more than a half a mile deep and two and a half miles wide.

Salt Lake City will host the 2002 Winter Olympics, starting in February 2002. We did get to see some of the areas where some of the events will be held

Salt Lake City has a lot of history, so we enjoyed a tour through and around the Mormon Square

The next morning we saw the Rocky Mountains. See you next time

Bench Tips from Brad Smith

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MARKING YOUR TOOLS

It makes sense to mark your tools if you ever lend them to friends or take them out to classes or workshops. The question is how to mark them permanently. For metal tools, I use a very small ball bur running fast in the Dremel or Foredoom to "engrave" my initials. Other times I'll form the initials with several hits with a center punch.



But for hammer handles and other wooden tools, the country boy in me came back and thought "Why not make a branding iron?" If you'd like to try one, all you need is a little scrap copper or nickel about 22-24 gauge, a piece of

heavy brass or copper for a base, about 6 inches of metal rod, and a piece of wood for the handle.

I formed my initials from a couple of 4mm strips of sheet nickel. The "S" was one piece, but the "B" was three pieces soldered together with hard. (Remember to form the letters backward). I then soldered the letters with medium onto a



piece of 1/8 inch thick brass bar to act as a heat sink. Finally, I soldered a piece of 1/8 round rod on the back of the brass bar as a shaft to join to a wooden handle.

NO SCRATCH VISE JAWS

If your bench vise has replaceable jaws, there is a simple modification to customize it for bending sheet metal and holding jewelry pieces without worrying about the jaws leaving scratch marks.

I make a duplicate set of jaws from high-density plastic such as Nylon or Delrin. Remove the jaws and use them as a template. Cut two pieces from a 1/2-inch sheet of scrap plastic. Then clamp the steel jaw over the plastic and drill through the steel side and into the plastic. Finally, use a larger drill to countersink the plastic for the screw heads.



Plastic can be obtained from the scrap bin at a local plastics store, can be purchased online from eBay, or can be repurposed from an old kitchen cutting board.

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



PRESENTATION REVIEW

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Our presentation was a video about Uluru/Ayers Rock in central Australia. The largest city in the area is Alice Springs, over 200 miles away. The natives called it Uluru. The first non-native to see it named it Ayers Rock after Sir Henry Ayers who was Chief Secretary of Southern Australia at the time. In 1993 the rock was officially named Ayers Rock/Uluru but was renamed Uluru/Ayers Rock in 2002 at the request of the Alice Springs Regional Tourism Board.

Uluru/Ayers Rock is an inselberg that means "Island Mountain." It is over 1,000 ft tall and has a circumference of 6 miles, and like an iceberg, most of it remains underground reaching down about 8,200 feet. It is actually getting taller, not from mountain building but rather from erosion that is lowering the surface around the rock. Uluru is sacred to the Australian aboriginal people. The caves on the side of Uluru provided shelter. Water coming down from the top has formed a narrow fertile strip around the rock where natives have grown food. In many ways, Uluru/Ayers Rock is similar to Enchanted Rock south of Llano. Both were sacred to native populations, and today are tourist attractions.

Uluru/Ayers Rock is composed of arkose, a type of sandstone that has a high concentration of feldspar. Uluru/Ayers Rock is about 50% feldspar, 30% quartz, and other minerals including calcite. The sandstone was deposited at the bottom of an ancient lake. About 500 million years ago the area was pushed upwards due to colliding plates. Uluru/Ayers rock did not erode as fast as the surrounding area leaving it higher than the surrounding landmass.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

We discussed new officers at our last meeting. Our By-Laws require us to vote and new officers installed at the November meeting. We will open the floor to nominations in new business, then elect and install the new officers at that time.

We also need to make plans when we get to new business for the December meeting. We traditionally have had a Christmas Potluck Dinner and party with a gift exchange. The club has usually provided Brisket and Ham for the dinner, so if we are going to have the Potluck Dinner, we need to decide on the meat dish/dishes.

The October IGEM was not a great show for many vendors, but the customers attending the show were plentiful and doing a lot of looking. Perhaps the January IGEM will have more vendors and customers.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2021

President: Ling Shurtz
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady
2nd VP, Field Trips: Open
Secretary: Cheryl Ogletree
Treasurer and Editor: Don Shurtz
E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com,
L.SHURTZ@gmail.com

MEETING MINUTES

POGMC President Ling Shurtz called the October 7, 2021 club meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

We recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Quorum: We have a quorum

Sunshine Report: Carolyn had eye surgery

Visitors: Tommy Stewert was a visitor. He had some unusual items (silver cast of fire ant mounds) and was wondering where he could sell them.

Minutes: We reviewed the minutes of the September meetings as printed in the October 2021 Chips and Chatter. Carol made a motion to accept the minutes. Don seconded the motion. The motion passed

Treasurer's Report: Don read the Treasurer's Report for August and September Lea made a motion to accept the report. Cheryl seconded the motion_The motion passed.

Chips and Chatter

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Old Business:

- The Dallas IGEM show is scheduled for October 8 - 10. Set up is Wednesday, October 6

New Business:

- Oct 2-3, Jacksonville, AR, Central Arkansas G&MS, Jacksonville Community Center, www.ncgms.org
- [Oct 2-3, Fort Worth, TX, Cowtown GM&GC \(CERA\), 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd, \[steve.l.shearin@Imco.com\]\(mailto:steve.l.shearin@Imco.com\)](#)
- Oct 8-10, Westwego, LA, G&MS of Louisiana, Alario Center, show@gmsofla.org, <https://www.gmsofla.org>
- Oct 9-10, Temple, TX, Tri-City GMS, Frank Mayborn Civic and Convention Center, lrolston@got.rr.com
- Oct 22-24, Austin, TX, Austin G&MS, Palmer Events Center, www.agms-tx.org
- Oct 30- 31, Oklahoma City, OK, Oklahoma M&GS, Hendricks County Fairground (NEW LOCATION), omgs-minerals.org

Break:

Presentation – DVD from the Great Courses Series titled Uluru/Ayers Rock – Sacred Nature of Rocks

Raffle: We had the door-prize raffle.

Ling adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November 4, 2021, at the Garland Activities Building starting at 7:30. We will pick a video for viewing

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

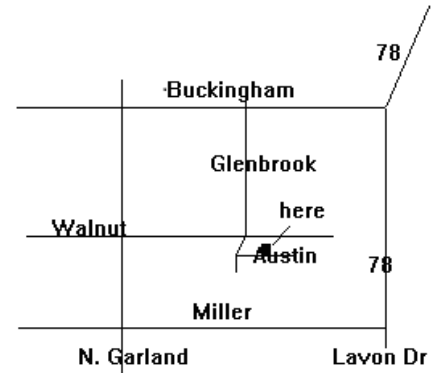
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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas



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: \$16.50,
 Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50
 (Plus badge fee for new members)



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, particularly 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. Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas is a Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization

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

To

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 4, starting at 7:30 PM

Our presentation will be the video of our choosing

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