



July Newsletter

7/2020

Volume 2020, Number 7

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Meeting at Miller Center
301 Grove Street
Lynchburg, VA 24501
3rd Wed of the month
7:00 pm until 9:00 pm

Wintery weather meetings
schedule is if the Lynchburg
schools are down for
weather then the meeting is
cancelled

Workshop is the 2nd Saturday
of the month.

2020 Officers

PRESIDENT

President's Meanderings:

By James Tomlin

According to a geologist, why is the world so diverse? *Because it's made up of alkynes of people.*

Hello everyone, I hope this newsletter reaches you in good health and spirits. I am happy to announce that with rules and regulations lifting a bit, we are opening up workshops again. Still in effect are the guidelines we must abide by. We must maintain a six foot distancing, use of masks within close proximity of others and wash hands/ use hand sanitizer upon arrival. Please if you are ill, or have been around others that are ill, refrain from attending. I ask at this time we keep attendance down to a manageable number so we do not run risk of exposure. If you would like to attend the workshop please email the club at lynchburgrockclub@yahoo.com or visit the clubs facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/432839874271992/?ref=share> to let us know you are coming.

Our club is in need of inventory for when we may attend shows. Workshops are going to need volunteers in order to make spheres, made by a wonderfully designed method by Dave Callahan. We need some skilled volunteers to run the slab saw and to operate the sphere shaping apparatus. If you are wanting to learn how to cab, Thom Noble is graciously willing to teach, but limited to 1-2 people, so please let us know. There is always something to do, or learn at the workshops, so please come join us.

Our monthly meetings are still closed for now until guidelines governed by the state allow us to reconvene. We are still gathering on Zoom, at the same time and days, as the regularly scheduled meetings. Dave Woolley has been very generous with his time and has had very nice presentations for us at the previous Zoom meetings. Thank you for all of those who have joined us thus far. For those who would like to, please join us as all are welcome.

Your fellow Rockhound,
James Tomlin

GMSL CLUB EQUIPMENT AUCTION

We are still working on the auction and as soon as we feel safe in gathering the equipment pictures and the equipment we will make this happen.

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Members At Large -
Michael Staton &
Eric Routon

Youth Out Reach
Jennifer Staton

Newsletter Editor pick

In the coming months I will start with the makeup of the earth. I am using Mindat.org as my source. The beginning of this article is the same as it describes what we are talking about.

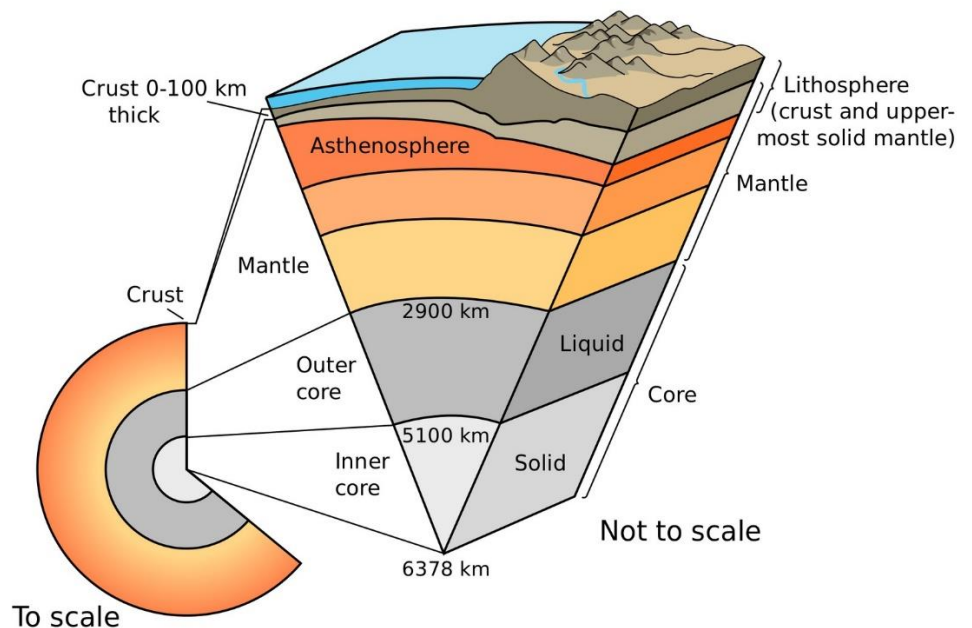
The Most Common Minerals on the Earth

Last Updated: 13th Dec 2017
By Jolyon Ralph

There are currently nearly 5000 minerals known to science, but only a few dozen are common enough to be found widespread throughout the Earth's crust. This article will explain a little bit about some of the most common minerals on the Earth and where they come from.

Inside the Earth

When we talk about the minerals found on the Earth we are talking about those that are found in the Earth's crust, the only part of the Earth really open for us to explore. The crust is a thin layer (up to 100km thick) under which lies the mantle and the upper (liquid) and lower (solid) core.



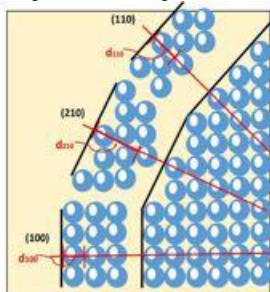
What is a mineral?

By Donald Peck (further edits by other mindat.org members)

Element or Compound

In his Definition of a Mineral, Dr. Nickel did not expand upon his statement that a mineral is an "element or a chemical compound". To clarify the point the following is drawn from other CNMNC publications.

Crystallinity



Minerals are nearly always crystalline substances. That is, they exhibit a short range, three dimensional, periodicity of their atomic structure. When suitably illuminated by X-rays, or similar wavelengths of radiation, a pattern of spots is generated which can be interpreted as planes identifiable by Miller Indices. The CNMNC requires submission of such data in the approval process for new minerals. The dimensions of the unit cell and axial angles are also required.

2D XI-Array

There is only one currently-approved mineral that is a liquid at normal temperatures, mercury, which, being a liquid, has no crystal structure and cannot produce a diffraction pattern. Water is not a mineral species, but the solid form ([ice](#)) is.

There are, however, a small number of amorphous minerals. Opal is, perhaps, the best known. When the composition is precisely defined through careful analysis, the substance is proven to be unique and a single phase, and when it is shown that a diffraction pattern is impossible, an amorphous substance may be considered by the CNMNC. However this is on a case-by-case basis. Opal, however, is another of these 'historical exceptions' which would never be approved as a mineral under the current rulings, and it is likely in a future 'cleanup' of the mineralogical nomenclature that both opal and mercury will lose their current approved status.

To be continued next month.

Program for the coming months

There will be a zoom meeting for those that have a computer and video capabilities. More info on how and when before Wednesday night 7/15/2020. The meeting will start after the VMP meeting so 8:30 pm.

Will update to the three month ahead once we get a good handle on things.

Note from the Editor

Hi All,

Sorry that I did not join in the last Zoom meeting, I tried but our hotel internet did not work like I wanted it to. I hope all got the message as I got out of work late that day and since we were in the central time zone it was cutting it close for most of you. I am sorry for that and now that I am closer to retirement I am in hopes that I have traveled for the last time for work. That remains to be seen but that is my plan.

I hope all of you are staying safe and not getting too bored. I have been picking up some colored glass from a store in Pigeon Forge of many different colors. These glass pieces were gathered from the old glass place that closed down in West Virginia. I hope to be able to share what I make from them whenever we can gather again.

Remember to send me your "Why I became a Rockhound" short story.

My email is stevegordon@comcast.net

Why I (we) became a Rock-hound

By Zachary McKinney

Need a story.

Rock Hound Obituary

We had one of our members pass away and wanted to recognize him in the newsletter.

David Lee Dawson past away in mid-June 2020.



Field Trips



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve
DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
Copyright © All rights reserved.

DMC Field Trip Scheduling During COVID-19

COVID-19 restrictions and concerns have led to DMC field trip cancellations and will most likely continue to cause cancellations. Normally, when a hosting club cancels their trip, they must reschedule as soon as they can, and DMC membership renewal is calculated based on the original hosting month.

With so many cancellations this year and potentially more, it is becoming increasingly difficult to reschedule, so I have decided to move the entire schedule forward by a year.

The March, April, and June trips that had to be cancelled this year are rescheduled to the same months in 2021, but renewal will be based on the 2021 hosting month, not the original 2020 hosting month.

Clubs scheduled to host for the remainder of this year, from July through December, have the option to preemptively reschedule to 2021 with renewal based on 2021 and not 2020.

For clubs who complete their trips in 2020, renewal will be based on 2021, not 2020.

All trips originally scheduled for 2021 are moved to 2022, 2022 to 2023, and 2023 to 2024.

The new schedule is posted on the SFMS website

here: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/dmc/dixie-proposed-ft.htm>

Postponed until next year
Most have cancelled their Programs for this year

ANNUAL CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

To enter the drawing you must attend the meeting held on March 18th to get your ticket. The drawing will take place at the meeting.

Eligibility will be as follows:

The "Society" will hold an annual scholarship drawing for up to, but not to exceed, five hundred (\$500.00) dollars for one voting member to attend an Executive Board approved class.

Approved classes:

- William Holland School of Lapidary
- Wild Acres
- Any class pre-approved by the Executive Board

The award will be used toward class tuition. Additional expenses to be determined at the discretion of the Executive Board, not to exceed \$500.00 total. Only one award will be issued per year. The scholarship will only be issued as a reimbursement; no monies will be given up front.

To be eligible for the scholarship, the applicant must be:

- An active member of the GMSL for at least one year
- Must do a fifteen minute presentation on what they learned at one of the club's regular meetings prior to December 31st of that year
- You cannot have won in the previous year

To collect the scholarship monies the applicant must:

- Attend an approved qualifying class
- Provide proof of a paid receipt
- Complete their obligation of a presentation

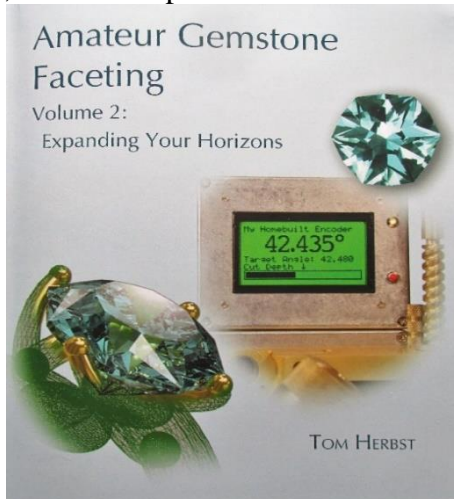
No May Executive or Club Meeting Minutes

Life is like a grinding wheel.
Whether it grinds you down,
or polishes you up is your decision.

Cavett Robert



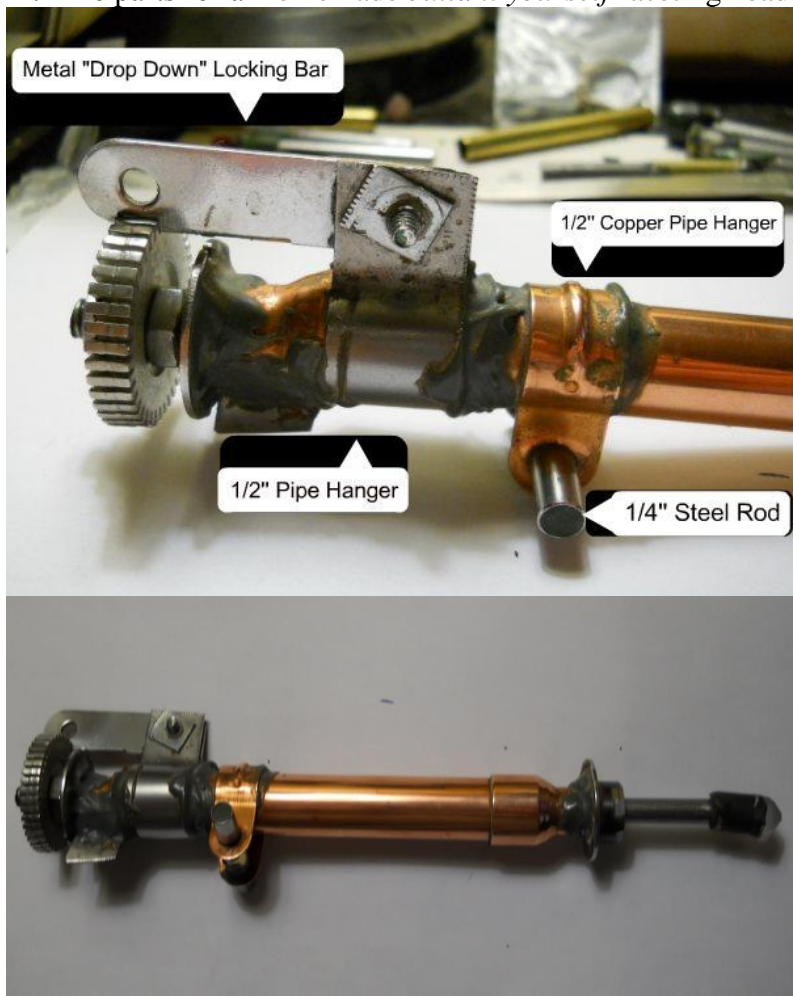
56. “Morpheus” – Mast Assembly. This Homemade machine by Ken Michalek has a non-flexing Mast, very robust construction, and no Pivot Bearing to Spindle Bearing Adjustment. It is massively built, aligned, and it incorporates Radial Encoder technology.



- 58 Tom Herbst’s (and others) have perfected (?) the faceting machine. Herbst describes how to add a Digital Encoder to faceting machines in “Amateur Gemstone Faceting”. It incorporates an Electronic Radial Encoder plus a small Computer to provide information to an Electronic Liquid Crystal display Screen of the *target angle to be cut*. The Rate of Cutting and the progressing numbers of the Angle as the Facet is being cut allow stopping of the Fine Grind cutting and Polishing at the precise Coarse Ground Angle for Meet Point reproducibility. This technology still uses a Dop Stick, Index Gear, and Protractor from the refined Jam Peg plus electronics inspired by Marcus Beale and Dave Woolley. Note that the Ohmmeter provides the same information in a none-digital format, but with an Ohmmeter that final target angle has to be relocated by a trial polish as mentioned in #20.



57. "Merlyn". The parts for a Homemade *build it yourself* faceting head.



59. "Merlyn". A Homemade Mast Type Faceting Head with removable handpiece that uses a Yoke like the "Lee" Faceting Machine to connect to a Mast.

Other Links that you may want to check out:

A Guide to Ethical and Conflict-Free Jewelry

<https://ethicaljewellery.org/introduction>.

Insurance Institute of Jewelry Appraisal

[https://instituteofappraisal.com/Investigation of Artificial Color Infusion of Gemstones.pdf](https://instituteofappraisal.com/Investigation_of_Artificial_Color_Infusion_of_Gemstones.pdf)

https://instituteofappraisal.com/Exposing_the_GIA_Juggernaut.pdf

Rock collecting guide for geology beginners

<https://www.basementguides.com/rock-collecting-and-geology-basics/>

Facebook Link for the club

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/432839874271992/?ref=share>

If you need to renew your club membership you can let me or Debbie Wade know and we can email you the form. You can make checks out to GMSL.

Our Mailing address is:

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