

GEM & MINERAL JOURNAL

Volume 18 Issue 11
November 2009

Presidents Message:

I think that this October was the busiest month the Club has had in many a year. Well, that's what I think. Dave Callahan, Nona and I worked many extra days in early October making spheres and bookends to sell at the Apple Festival on the 17-18th - which with the help of many volunteers and several workshops was a great success. I thank you for all your hard work and dedication for the cause. Just three days after that we held the annual Club Auction Night. I was worried that there were not going to be enough items for a good auction. But on Wednesday night the 21st, a lot of you showed up with some nice donations to the auction. I want you to know the Club is very appreciative of all your efforts. My voice was still weak from standing in the cold wind for two days the weekend before and I was happy to have Dave Woolley step in as auctioneer for a good part of the night. Dave you did a really great job and I thank you. This auction was one of our most successful and a big thank you goes to all who donated items and participated in the bidding. It made a good combination for a great auction. There were a number of items left at the end of the meeting so you can count on some good specimens at future silent auctions on monthly meeting nights.

Three days after the Auction, on Saturday the 24th we had two field trips. Dave Callahan led a trip to the VA Tech Geology Museum open house and I led a field trip to the Boxley, Blue Ridge Quarry. I don't know how the trip went at VA. Tech but our small

group of lucky thirteen had a good time at the Quarry. We located a couple of Stromatolite Fossils in the high wall but were not able to collect them. We did collect some nice Celestite, Fluorite, Pyrite, Calcite of many crystal forms and colors, aragonite and some large rocks with black limestone and white calcite veins.

I took these large rocks to Dave Callahan's where we will make some more spheres and bookends to sell at the Salem Gem and Mineral Show at the Salem Civic Center on November the 27th-29th. Nona and I took a few minutes to do some sawing for some bookends and ran a couple of spheres that afternoon.

There will be a signup sheet at the November meeting for anyone that would like to volunteer to help with the Gem & Mineral Show in Salem.

The November meeting will be the close for nominations of Club Officers for Elections to serve for the year 2010. As you know our secretary, Dorothy Rivera had to step down from her position to take some more college classes to further her higher education. We wish you luck Dorothy in all you endeavors. We will need some one to step up and nominate yourself for this office. The Secretary takes minutes at the Executive Committee meetings and at the monthly Society meetings and report them to Natalie Darling, our news letter Editor. I am sure that Natalie will be willing and able to give help at any time. So give it some thought we need a secretary, as well as nominations for any of the other positions.

I hope to see you at the November 18th meeting.

From the First VP:

NO ARTICLE SUBMITTED

Keep Looking Down,
John Haskins

2009 ELECTED OFFICERS**John Haskins - PRESIDENT**

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Tom Powers

COMMITTEE**CHAIR PERSONS:****Field Trips-** David Callahan**Hospitality-** Anne Torning**News Articles-** Natalie Darling**Silent Auction-** Warren Darling**Special Events-** Dee Tinsley**Swap for Rocks-** Warren Darling**Website-** Alan Rice**Workshops-** Dave Woolley**FRA Adult Liaison-** David Murphy**Membership-** Ralph Torning**October Meeting Minutes****Meeting:** Wednesday, Oct. 21st**Attendance:** 30 members and 8 guests**Hospitality:** Refreshments were fabulous as usual, thanks to all who contributed.**On Time Drawing:** In lieu of the on time drawing, we awarded prizes to folks who worked at the Apple Festival. Each person working received tickets for time worked. There were 7 prizes awarded. Dave Woolley, Don McIntyre and Dee Tinsley donated several. Thank you for the donations, and thank you to all who came out to support the club at the festival.**Old Business:** Nominations were opened, and there were none from the floor at this meeting. The board is currently looking to fill several positions. Hopefully folks will step up to the plate at the Nov. meeting. Dave Woolley made a donation of minerals to the display at the Nature Zone. Please consider making a donation to this display to be enjoyed by many.**First Vice President:** Not in attendance so John Haskins announced that tonight's program will be our annual auction.**Second Vice President:** Dave Callahan: we will be finalizing our

order for the solar powered turntables soon. The cost should be around \$3.63 each. Check with Dave if you wish to order some or to confirm the quantity you wish to get.

Treasures Report: Franklin Midkiff: The Apple Festival brought in \$1256.50, and this puts our current treasury balance at \$3709.41. Frank also thanked everyone who came out to help.**Program:** We had many beautiful specimens for our annual auction, and many enthusiastic bidders to make it a success. Thanks to all who came out to bid, donate, or just show support. Another successful fundraiser for our club! This is how we are able to purchase new equipment or cutting rough for all to enjoy.**New Business:** Dave Callahan reminded us that there were three field trips on Oct. 24th. John Haskins will be in charge of the Blue Ridge Quarry Trip, Dave Lines will be in charge of the Northern VA quarry trip, and Dave Callahan will be heading up the VA Tech. Trip. There is a field trip planned to the Martin Marietta Haw River Quarry in NC for Nov. 14th. Must be 18 or over to attend that one.*Minutes submitted by
Natalie Darling, Editor*

The purpose of the Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA, INC. is to promote education in The Earth Sciences including: Mineralogy, Geology, Gemology, Paleontology, and Crystallography

*The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg VA, Inc.
Meets on the third Wednesday of each month,
From 7:00pm- 9:00pm
In the auditorium of the Parks and Recreation Building
301 Grove St. Lynchburg, VA 24501
Public is invited, Please join us!*

Programs

October

Our Annual Auction was held for the program portion of the October 21st. meeting. We had many beautiful specimens that found homes with eager admirers. The ones not purchased that night will be used in future silent auctions. Stay tuned for the opportunity to purchase some beauties!

November

The November program will feature a video from the SFMS library on mineral identification. This should prove to be an educational experience. Please join us on Wednesday, Nov. 18th at 7:00 PM for our November meeting.

December

We will finish up the year with our annual holiday dinner and fellowship. This is a covered dish dinner, so everyone bring your favorite dish to share with all. There has traditionally been some "gift exchange games" in the past, so come out to the November meeting or watch the next newsletter for details. We hope to share this time with many of our members.

I'll make the mineral of the month Strontianite. Several specimens were sold at the Club auction & I thought I would learn more about this rare mineral, found in only two counties in VA. Strontianite is Strontium Carbonate (SrCO_3) having bundles of white needle like crystals. On our trip to Boxley Quarry in Blue Ridge we found some nice Blue Celestite Crystals. I discovered that Celestite is Strontium Sulfate (SrSO_4). What other minerals can you find that have different radicals that make them have different crystal forms, structure, hardness & color Etc. I hope we will find out more about this subject with our November program on Mineral Identification.

I hope to see you there.
Submitted by John Haskins



Deepest sympathy to club member Joe Enderle of Asheville, NC on the loss of his brother. Please keep Joe and his family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



Welcome New Members:
Denise, John & Andrew
Ehlers of Lynchburg, VA

Solar Turntable Offer

Details are being finalized. I will call and confirm your order quantity. Hopefully we can place the order in December.

Field Trip Report

PAST COMBINED FIELD TRIPS



Combined Club Field Trip Boxley's Blue Ridge Quarry Saturday October 24th 2009

Everyone gathered in the lunchroom for a short training video and sign in. We had members from the Lynchburg GMS, Roanoke Valley MGS as well as a member of the Northern VA. GMS, Eric Grundel, who drove in early that morning. Thirteen rock hounds total. Scott Wilson, a Boxley employee was a great host for the day. We entered the Quarry around 8 AM under cloudy skies with a strong tropical breeze. The weatherman had been forecasting rain for almost a week but it had no effect on some die hard rock hounds. Much to our relief we didn't see a drop of rain all day. We all had expectations of finding a Stromatolite or nice crystals. We did see two Stromatolites, but they were attached to the high wall about 15 ft above the quarry floor. We found a large rock that had a number of cavities and veins that were filled with nice blue Celestite crystals. You can see by the photo it gained every ones interest. We also found some nice purple fluorite, pyrite, calcite, with many different crystal forms, aragonite, pink calcite and some nice black limestone intermixed with white calcite we will use to make spheres and book ends for the up coming Salem Gem and Mineral Show. I think a good day was had by all, and the rainbow of color on the tree leaves was just an added bonus.



This section of the field trip report and photographs above submitted by John Haskins.

4th Annual Kentucky Geode Adventure October 1 thru 4, 2009

Submitted by Dave Callahan

We had a lot of last minute cancellations due to the economy, weather forecast and cold season; those of us that did go were handsomely rewarded for their efforts. Although we did start out Friday morning with some light rain showers, Bluegrass Club 2nd VP Danny Settles, invited us to see his rock collection until things cleared up. I use the term rock collection rather loosely. Those that have had the pleasure to see his collection of minerals, fossils and fluorescent minerals, know what I mean.

About 11AM the showers stopped, so we were off to a geode-collecting site on private property. Danny and his Dad left us and we collected there for several hours and then moved to

Continued on next page

Field Trip Report

Continued from page 4

Some Necessary Field Trip Safety Equipment that should be at the top of your list:

- 1: **Steel Toed Boots** - Little piggy game not possible with fewer than five.
- 2: **Safety Goggles** - Less expensive than eyes.
- 3: **Heavy Work Gloves** - Gives you that "rugged outdoorsy" look.
- 4: **Safety Helmets** - A MUST. Cranial denting is not attractive.

another private spot I know about. The geodes were plentiful and we found many keepers. You have to be very selective unless you are driving a dump truck.

Saturday morning was a beautiful day and Bluegrass President; Daniel Chumley met us at the 9AM meeting spot. This day we were off to a new site near the little community of Crab Orchard. We met some very nice Bluegrass members that had a creek on their very large farm. These geodes were a little different and we able to add many more to our growing selection. Later that afternoon, we stopped by some road cuts to collect shell fossils and dolomite nodules with sphalerite.

We had a wonderful trip and after a rainy start, the weekend turned out great. I for one, always look forward to visiting this area of Kentucky. The scenery is beautiful, the people are very friendly and the geode collecting is superb. I'm already thinking about a return trip in 2010.

Virginia Tech Mineral Museum and Mineral Sale Saturday, October 24, 2009

This Saturday was a beautiful clear fall day and in addition to the Museum and Mineral Sale, it was Parents Day at Tech so there were many people there. We arrived about 10:30 so there were still plenty of parking spaces available.

I recognized about 12 members but there may have been more. Carole and I were busy going thru the two rooms of minerals for sale. Everything was fairly priced and there was a wonderful selection from which to choose.

The large mineral and fossil museum was nicely organized and one could spend many hours observing the many display cabinets. There was also a very nice collection of fine Virginia minerals and a beautiful display of fluorescent minerals.

DMC Field Trips scheduled for November and December 2009

**10:30 AM Eastern, 9:30 Central (Sharp!)
Saturday, November 21, 2009
Dale Hollow Lake, Byrdstown, TN.**

Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society will host a DMC field trip to Dale Hollow Lake for agatized Crinoid stems and plates. This field trip is suitable for children.

Questions - contact:

Travis Paris - nuggetnose@comcast.net
865.691.8228 or **Daniel Miller** -
dmillerspe@aol.com 865-494-9700

**10:00 AM, Saturday, December 05, 2009
Fort Drum Crystal Mine
Fort Drum, Okeechobee County, FL
FEE AREA**

FEE \$20 per adult

Children: 12-16 \$10, under 12 FREE

Pets: allowed on leash

COLLECTING: Calcite in fossil clams, fossil shells in the Nashua and Tamiami formation limestone (1.8 to 3 million years old). Also, sharks teeth and bone fragments have been found.



Upcoming Field Trips

For further information on field trips, contact David Callahan,
540-297-1853
Email dbc11@aol.com

**Sign-up required for all field trips. Call, email, or see me at the club meeting.
Do NOT just show up at the quarry or collecting site!**

THE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OF LYNCHBURG, VA. INC. &
THE ROANOKE VALLEY MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY, INC.

MARTIN MARIETTA MATERIALS ~ EAST ALAMANCE QUARRY ~ HAW RIVER, NC.

SATURDAY. NOVEMBER 14. 2009

8:30 to 8:45 assembly at the office

8:45AM safety briefing and hazard training (you must be present for this important meeting)

9AM to 1PM collecting

SPECIAL NOTE: DO NOT BE LATE. IF YOU MISS THE 8:45 HAZARD TRAINING AND SIGN-IN, YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND THIS TRIP AND ENTER THE QUARRY. THE MANAGEMENT IS FIRM ON THIS. WE MUST DRIVE IN AS A GROUP AND STAY TOGETHER. NEVER ENTER THIS OR ANY OTHER QUARRY WITHOUT PROPER SAFETY TRAINING AND SIGNING THE RELEASE. ALWAYS WAIT AT THE OFFICE TO BE ESCORTED. NEW QUARRY SAFETY REGULATIONS ARE BEING ENFORCED. IF YOU DO NOT COMPLY, THERE IS A VERY GOOD CHANCE WE WILL LOOSE OUR COLLECTING PRIVILIGES.

THE TRIP: This is our second trip to this quarry and we will be driving on our own, as it will be impractical to keep a convoy together. I will suggest a route, but you should plan your own trip based on your knowledge of the area and time you allot for the 100 plus mile trip. I will have a map available at the meeting with the suggested route.

RESTRICTIONS: **The age limit is 18 and older to enter the quarry.** Hard hats, steel toed boots and safety glasses will be required at all times while in the quarry. All safety rules will be reviewed at the safety meeting and will be strictly enforced. **Anyone not obeying the high wall, barrier and other stated rules will be asked to leave the quarry immediately.** It is extremely important that we have a safe trip and obey all the stated and obvious safety regulations. Quarries can be very hazardous, we want to be invited back and have access to other Martin Marietta facilities in the future.

COLLECTING: We have found in the past, some beautiful Epidote, Quartz, Feldspar, Pyrite, Chalcopyrite, Garnet, Titanite (Sphene), Stellerite, Gismondine, Chlorite, Biotite, Muscovite, Hornblende, and Apophyllite along with a host of other unusual zeolites. It should be interesting to see what we can find. There are actually two quarries, side by side, one was a Luck Stone facility and the other was Martin Marietta. Both are now Martin Marietta facilities. We may have access to both. We will be able to drive into the quarry.

THE TRIP: The suggested route from Lynchburg is US 29 south to Danville, VA. about 63 miles. Follow the US 29 south bypass around to Rt. 86 south.

The suggested route from Roanoke is US 220 south to Martinsville (use the bypass). Then follow US 58 east to Danville. Follow the new US 58 bypass around Danville, past US 29 south to Rt. 86 south. The distance thus far is about 89 miles.

Follow Rt. 86 south for about 9 miles where it joins US 158 in Yanceyville, NC. Follow 158 east and 86 south thru town for about 2 miles to Rt. 62 south. Follow Rt. 62 south for about 15 miles to Pleasant Grove, NC. where Rt. 49 intersects. Follow Rt. 49 south for about 5.5 miles and just thru the little community of Green Level, you will see the Martin Marietta, East Alamance Quarry sign on the right.

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Schedule of Events...

November 2009

SHOWS & TRIPS

Nov. 21st- Official combined Mineral Collecting Field Trip to the Haw River, NC Quarry. Details pg. 6.

Nov. 21st- DMC collecting trip to Dale Hollow Lake, Byrdstown, TN. See page 5 for details.

Nov. 21st & 22nd- Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil show Sponsored by the Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, So. FL Fairgrounds, West Palm Beach, FL.

Nov. 27th-29th- **Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society annual show at the Salem Civic Center in Salem, VA. We will have items for sale as well to benefit our club treasury.**
[More info at the club meeting and on page 9.](#)

Dec. 5th- DMC Collecting trip to Fort Drum Crystal Mine, Fort Drum, Okeechobee County, FL. See page 5 for details.

Dec. 16th- 7:00-9:00 PM- Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg annual holiday dinner / social. Please join us and bring along your favorite dish to share. Further details at the November meeting and in next month's newsletter.



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Meeting 7 PM	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Roanoke Gem & Mineral Show	28
29 Show continues	30					



There was no executive board meeting for the month of November.

Eastern Federation Bulletin Article Awards will be handed out at the November 18th meeting of the Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. If you submitted an article to our journal in 2008, you could be one of the award recipients. Plan on attending this month's meeting to get your award and congratulate all of our award-winning writers!

2009 Apple Harvest Festival

Article by John Haskins, Photographs by Don McIntyre

Early on Saturday morning October the 17th we gathered in the cloudy gray dawn to get ready for the Amherst County Apple Harvest Festival at the Amherst High School.

We unloaded the trucks and trailer with a host of tents and equipment as well as boxes of items to sell. Everyone pitched in to help and by 9:00 AM we were ready for business. It was cold and threatening rain so we didn't know what to expect. The crowds were undaunted by the weather and much to our relief it was business as usual.

The running water of the sluice seemed to draw the young people to our booth. As they enjoyed sluicing for crystals and minerals we had a great response from the adults with our offering of geodes, jewelry, rock candles, spheres, bookends and our new rock pets. We also gave away these rock pets to the younger customers as prizes in the sluice. This turned out to be pretty popular and good word of mouth advertising.



Dave Callahan with three happy geode customers



Bernard, Frank, Jack & John assist at the very busy sluice line.

On Sunday we started around 11:00 AM to set up for the sales that afternoon. Some of the volunteers on Saturday returned on Sunday as well as several new members that wanted to learn what the club does at these festivals. I would like to thank each and every one of the members that volunteered their time and hard work to make this another successful fundraiser for the GMSL. It can't be done without a good number of you involved. I told you it was fun and a good way to get to know other members. I think the windy cold weather on Sunday slowed the crowd down but we still had a pretty good day.

Additional Apple Festival Photo's on page 13 for electronic viewers.

The sales totals were not much below last year and considering the economy I feel we did well. I heard from several customers the GMSL was the highlight of the festival for them and they looked forward to coming to our booth every year. We also signed up several new members at the festival and got some participation at our October Club Auction from people we met at the festival. That sounds like we had a very fruitful festival again. If you think this weekend was fun you should sign up for the Salem Gem and Mineral at the Salem Civic Center on Friday, Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving, (November 27,28,29th.) I hope to see you there, it is a great experience, come join us.



Above left: Nona, John and Jean with our beautiful stone spheres. Top right Frank and Bernard at the sluice line with eager participants. Right: our very professional sluice set up



Collecting Pyrite at Navajun, Spain *Submitted by Bill Gilbert; Email billis4rox@comcast.net*

Your first question with reading this article...where have you been? I would like to explain that I just didn't disappear from Richmond. I was offered a position at our plant in Memphis, Tennessee and I have been in the process of relocating. I will be getting involved with the mineral club here in Memphis, but I would like to say that I will miss the Lynchburg Club and your wonderful field trips. I would encourage emailing me. More collecting adventures ahead! I was hoping to tell you about Navajun pyrite in a program. Please accept this article in exchange.

Collecting pyrite at the mine in Navajun is a dream come true for many collectors. This location is famous for the perfectly formed, shiny cubes, and spectacular groupings. The fun part is that they actually come out of the mine that way. Incredible! We have all seen these perfect cubes for sale at mineral shows/swaps and can easily buy it on the Internet. I can certainly understand why these specimens aren't cheap. You might expect a large commercial operation at this location, but only pyrite specimens for collectors are mined at Navajun. This is a fee for digging location and it was not cheap, we made sure we got our money's worth. In my case, I did drive there and collect these beautiful cubic pyrite specimens. At the time, I was living in northern Spain working on a project for my employer. My Moscona fluorite friend from Oviedo is friends with the owner of the Navajun Mine. He arranged for our stay and asked him to make sure we collected some good specimens, and we did.

The area where I lived was very green for it rained a lot. In the Rioja region, where the little town (and I mean little) of Navajun resides, it is very dry. It sort of reminded me of Arizona. It took about 7 hours to drive to Navajun from Gijon.

Continued on page 10

There will be a sign up sheet at the November meeting for members interested in helping out at our booth at the Roanoke Club Show (see below). This is a three-day show, and any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society Annual Show

Salem Civic Center
1001 Boulevard
Salem, VA 24153

\$3.00 admission
(Ticket good all
3 days).
Under age 16
Free.

Date/Hours:

Friday, November 27, 2009 (2:00 PM-7:00 PM)
 Saturday, November 28, 2009 (10:00 AM-6:00 PM)
 Sunday, November 29, 2009 (12:00 PM-5:00 PM)

Pearls, stone
 beads, stone
 setting,
 amber, opal,
 mineral and
 fossil dealers

Hourly door prizes
 including a Gold ring
 with a sapphire to be
 given as a Grand
 Prize

Geode cutting.
 Displays by club
 members.
 Large fluorescent
 minerals display.

Jewelry makers,
 goldsmiths and
 silversmiths- custom
 made jewelry

Gem trees, wire
 wrap, wire
 sculpture ~
 Free
 Identification of
 stones

Collecting Pyrite at Navajun, Spain...cont. from pg. 9

The drive was very enjoyable. In Rioja, we passed many acres of vineyards. For some reason the people there spoke Spanish. We managed very well and had no problems with the language.

Navajun isn't located near a busy city where there is a lot of commercialization. It actually was out in the middle of nowhere. The town of Navajun had about 200 residents consisting of 2 horses, 3 dogs, 12 cats, 25 people and the rest sheep. The hills around this little village were terraced so that the sheep would have places to graze. Flat stones from the area hills were used on the outside of the buildings instead of brick, very picturesque.



Bill Gilbert, (right) with the mine owner Pedro Ansorena

So many pyrite cubes to collect!



Jean smiles at the sight of the pyrite cubes in the wall.

As I mentioned earlier, this is in a remote area. No 7-11's. The nearest store was 15 kilometers away. Pedro Ansorena owned the Navajun Mine and the only hostel in Navajun. This hostel which is the equivalent to our bed and breakfast lodges, provided us our meals and a place to stay. He prepared gourmet dinners for his guests. His hobby was gourmet cooking. We did eat very well and the Rioja wine was also very good. The accommodations and the food were great. The first night we had dinner with five men from France and two men from Austria.

The Navajun Mine was located near the town. The drive to collecting site was about 3 to 4 miles back in the hills. The mine was accessible by only one road. One thing to note, the Rioja region in Spain is noted for dinosaur fossils and we saw foot prints, a fossilized egg and petrified wood at this location.

Finally to the collecting! Please take a look at the pictures included in this article. I wish I could show you all the pictures that we took at Navajun. Collecting was amazing! Also, it was so very easy. The hard part was we had to stop and wrap up the specimens. I just wanted to break away more chunks of matrix and expose more cubes. You could literally just pull the cubes out of their positions in the wall. When breaking off a new section of matrix, you had to be careful because cubes would fall down as you pull the matrix section from the wall. The matrix material is mostly a very fine-grained sedimentary marlstone (clay and calcite). The matrix was sort of damp, which made it easier to chisel sections off the wall. Since we were paying a hefty fee for digging, our task was to pack-up the best specimens. However, I didn't want to pass anything up. Remarkably, some of the cube might have a place where it was touching another cube on the corner resulting in a broken corner. Those just went over your shoulder. I would estimate for every one cube that we kept, we put aside ten. The specimen quality ranged from perfect, shiny cubes to those of a duller shine. Some of the cube appeared to be somewhat compressed.



Due to it's fragile nature, all of the pyrite cubes had to be wrapped to protect the specimens from breakage or other damage.

Continued on Page 11

Up Coming Field Trip... *Continued from page 6*

Follow Rt. 86 south for about 9 miles where it joins US 158 in Yanceyville, NC. Follow 158 east and 86 south thru town for about 2 miles to Rt. 62 south. Follow Rt. 62 south for about 15 miles to Pleasant Grove, NC. where Rt. 49 intersects. Follow Rt. 49 south for about 5.5 miles and just thru the little community of Green Level, you will see the Martin Marietta, East Alamance Quarry sign on the right.

The distance from Lynchburg thus routed will be about 100 miles. Allow a minimum of 2 hours 30 minutes. The distance from Roanoke thus routed will be about 126 miles. Allow a minimum of 2 hours 45 minutes.

Turn at the quarry sign and drive a short distance to the office. Park here and do not block any traffic that might be moving into or out of the quarry. Plan your arrival so that we can assemble at the office or gate, between 8:30AM and 8:45AM. We will have a mandatory safety briefing and hazard training at 8:45AM. Everyone must be present and releases will be signed.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Dress according to the weather this day in Burlington, NC. It may be hot, cold or wet so come prepared. Bring snacks and water. Safety gear should include hardhat, safety glasses, gloves and steel-toed boots. Also long pants and long sleeved shirt. Collecting gear should include crack hammer, chisels, and sledge if you're into heavy collecting, collecting buckets or bags and newspaper to wrap those fragile specimens.

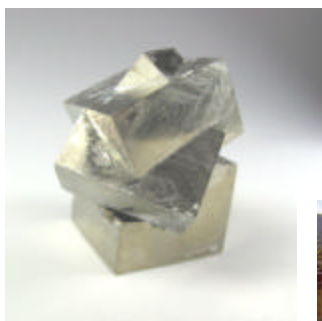
CONTACT: David Callahan, Field trip Chairman, dbc11@aol.com, home phone 540-297-1853, Cell 540-874-5201. If I don't answer, let it ring until the answer machine picks up. I'll return your call.

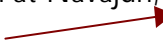
Collecting Pyrite at Navajun, Spain... *cont. from pg. 10*

We collected there for two days. We collected individual cubes, cubes in matrix, groupings, and also specimens suitable for micro-mounting. The first day we were there with the five Frenchmen and the two Austrians. On the second day we had the place to ourselves. The weather was perfect. We were there in early April, just before the killer hot weather. We ended up filling up the little car that we had, barely leaving room for our suitcases.

As I reflect on my collecting adventures, collecting pyrite at Navajun, Spain has to be at the very top. I would highly recommend collecting there if you ever have to opportunity.

Submitted by Bill Gilbert
Email billis4rox@comcast.net



Bill's favorite piece of pyrite that he collected at Navajun, Spain. 



Pyrite is a common mineral (FeS_2) mined all over the world. It is collected by all kinds of rock enthusiasts, crystal and mineral collectors. Pyrite from the Navajun Mine in Spain is unique. It is the only known place in the world where pyrite forms in perfect cubic crystal shapes.

The Mine utilizes loading equipment to remove barren rock between the pyrite mineralized horizons. No explosives are used for the extraction of the samples, as this would destroy the fragile structure of the crystals.

Due to the delicate nature of the Pyrite (this mineral is hard but fragile), the extraction work is conducted by hand and each sample is prepared as an individual sculpture.



The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.

Natalie Darling, Editor

211 Chesterfield Rd.

Lynchburg, VA 24502 www.lynchburgrockclub.org

The purpose of the Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, INC. is to promote education in The Earth Sciences including: Mineralogy, Geology, Gemology, Paleontology, and Crystallography



Lynchburg Rock Raiders is the official FRA association of The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA INC



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Websites to visit: Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society:

www.lynchburgrockclub.org

The SFMS Newsletter, the Eastern Federation Newsletter, and the AFMS Newsletters are available for all members to read on line at the Federation Websites:

www.amfed.org/sfms, www.amfed.org and www.amfed.org/efmsl

Hobby Related Newsletters are available free of charge by emailing the editors below. Both are great sources of information and worth checking out.

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