



ARROWHEAD NEWS

Wyoming, Michigan



Happy New Year 2011!!!



**Gordon Spalenda and Cliff Lynnes
Long time Rockhounds**

Photos by Bryan Brewer

**January 2011
Volume 48 #1**

www.IndianMoundsRockClub.com



Arrowhead News

Visitors are welcome at all Meetings!

When & Where

Club Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday, September through May, and take place in the fellowship hall located in the basement of the Wesley Park United Methodist Church. The church is on the corner of Michael and 32nd Street, south of 28th Street, in Wyoming.

At 6:30 PM, on the third Tuesday, June through August, our club has a **picnic** at Pinery Park in Wyoming, which is on DeHoop just north of 28th St. Our usual spot is behind the north parking lot on the west side of DeHoop. Bring a dish to share, your own drinks, and table service.

Board Meetings are held right after the club meeting, or by special announcement on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Club Membership dues are \$15 per family, \$10 per individual and \$5 per junior. Payment is due by the third Tuesday of September and is for the following January – December. **New** members that join at or after the annual show, pay only one-half of the yearly dues for the current year. Membership includes 9 issues of the Arrowhead News.

Who's Who

Our Executive Committee

<p><u>President</u> Jim Elliott 7475 Parsonage Saranac MI 48881 616-642-0442 jimboell@iserv.net</p>	<p><u>Vice President/Program</u> Nancy Spalenka 2119 Waldron St SW Wyoming MI 49519 616-249-0513 gnsपालका@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p><u>Secretary/ Membership</u> Rhonda Leep 11199 Gun Lake Rd Middleville MI 49333 269-795-7629 rsleep@chartermi.net</p>	<p><u>Treasurer</u> Dave Lenker 1716 Lotus SE Grand Rapids MI 49506 616-243-1257 lehkerd@gvsu.edu</p>
<p><u>Board Member</u> Orville(Skip) Schipper 269-795-9121 goschipper@sbcglobal.net</p> <p><u>Show Publicity Chairperson</u> Julia Donker</p>	<p><u>Web</u> Brenda Van Dyke 616-735-1235 brenick@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Board Member</u> Bob Beauvais 616-534-3871 rebeau@juno.com</p>	<p><u>Sunshine/Kitchen</u> Eleanor Brummel 616-453-1658</p> <p><u>Show Chair</u> John Kuipers 616-534-9298</p>
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The **subscription rate** for the **Arrowhead News** is just \$8.00 per year. Article submission is due to the Editor **before** the 25th of the month. Recent back issues of the Arrowhead News are available on our website.
<http://www.indianmoundsrockclub.com/Arrowhead%20News.htm>

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Corrections:

I noticed that in the December newsletter that the captions under the picture of Jim Splane and Don Van Dyke are incorrect. Both of them are holding/displaying **agates, not geodes**. Geodes are hollow spheres of rock that may or may not have agate as part of their composition, and may or may not include quartz (Si O₂). Agates are always composed of Quartz (Si O₂). Some agates may be hollow and be a geode. None of the agates that Don or Jim (as far as I noted) had along were geodes.

This just goes to say that I am still a beginner at rocks. I appreciate that everyone helps finding errors that need to be corrected. This is your newsletter. As you are able to notice there are a few articles missing this month. My goal is to bring this newsletter to you at a timely time way before the next monthly meeting. Because of this, I hold a timeline and if you miss it, oh well, there is next month. Donna L Griseto

Gem Mining by Graham Krauss.

Our grandson graduated from Infantry School at Fort Benning, GA. On the 8th of May 2010. We made the trip there to be a part of this celebration.

I had researched Gem Mining in North Carolina and found that Franklin, NC. had several public mining operations. So, I convinced my wife that this would be a great side trip for me on our way back. Although she is not a Rockhound she does enjoy the jewel pieces I make.

When we arrived I discovered that on the weekend we visited Franklin there was a three day "Gemboree" put on by the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society. There were three different areas around the town for Rockhound shopping. I made several wonderful purchases and visited with many venders and rock lovers. The Gemboree is held three times throughout the year. The web site to check things out is www.visitfranklinnc.com or you may call 800-336-7829. The town also had several Gem shops for retail sale and Gem cutting as well as a large Gen & Mineral Museum.

Well, that was the bonus I happened upon. My research on Gem Mining listed ten mines in the area open to the public. The cost of admission and for mining varied but they were all reasonable. At some the admission fee was all you needed for mining the whole day. At others you got a pail or two with the fee and then paid a small fee for more. Some mines were "dig your own" and others provided the full pails for you. The soil in several places was all native and in others you could choose from native to salted earth buckets; pair of rubber gloves and an apron are good items to bring. The sluice boxes with screens are provided. Most of the mines near Franklin have Sapphires and Rubies but as usual many other materials are present.

My gem mining experience was at the "Mason Mine" which was about 12 miles from town on a winding road. It was easy to find as there were signs all along the way. I arrived at 7:45 a.m. and visited with two of the associates that were in charge and viewed several examples of gems in the rough state.

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An admission charge of \$3.00, (editor note: I am not very sure if the entry fee was \$3.00 or \$30.00- I will correct this next month, sorry Graham) was required for the whole day and you could dig as many pails as you could work. The mine was an open pit with digging spots to the left and the right of the bridge that crossed a creek. Recent finds of good size at the right side pit led me to dig there.

Screening was observed by the workers so that you wouldn't miss anything and to help identify any minerals you found. There was abundance at Quartz, Mica and just plain gravel. I also had some Kyanite in several screen loads. Kyanite is made of the same material as Sapphire but has not had the pressure to crystallize it. I worked for 2-1/2 carat piece.

Another miner named Ken was next to me and had dug some pails on the left side from which he got the first "Bell Ringer" at 11.5 carats. Any gem over 10 carats was a Bell Ringer. So, I then went to the left side and got some pails of earth but found nothing in them, I returned to the right side. All of the other miners had found some various sized gems for small up to 6 carats except Ken had the biggest one.

At 2:00 p.m. I found a 5.75 carat gem and several smaller ones. By late afternoon I was quite tired and the best I had found were two nice gems. I was near to giving up and then in my screen I found a large gem! The workers said it was a Bell Ringer and immediately weighed it. It was a 13.15 carat and the biggest one of the day. As I examined it I found that it looked like it had three conjoined crystals and the color looked good. When I ended the day it was 5:00 p.m. and everyone else had left, so they inspected my finds with a black light to sort the gems from the plain rocks. I had found 12 Sapphires of varying size that added up to a total of 28.35 carats. I asked the owners what the prices were for Sapphires and the quote was for cut gem stones of good color and clarity. The range of prices goes from \$90.00 /carat to \$1,200.00/carat.

I had a great time experiencing gem mining and may have some great gem stones when I get them cut. I would enjoy doing more mining in North Carolina as there are many other mines to visit in Franklin plus several other places nearby.

GLOSSARY OF ROCKHOUND TERMS

"Pickin's & Diggins" 2/03 via G I Nugget 3/05 via the Tulip City Conglomerate 4/08, via the Facets 6/08

GEOLOGIST - Person who learned about rocks in school

ROCKHOUND - Person who learned about rocks the hard way

PEBBLEPUP - Smart-mouthed kid who knows more about rocks than you

FIELD TRIP - Impossible trek to inaccessible places for non-existent specimens

GEOLOGIST'S PICK - Handy gadget that you always have with you when you don't need it and always leave at home when you do

FIELD POLISH - Spit

FIELD KIT - Paper bag Cont. page 5

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ROCK SHOW - Bunch of people displaying their best specimens; another bunch trying to sell their worst

SWAP - Mutual swindle

STATION WAGON - Vehicle designed to satisfy the colossal greed of rockhounds

TUMBLER - Piece of equipment costing at least \$25, which makes \$250 worth of stones saleable at 25 cents each



You are able to know it was polished by Jim Splane.
He knows how to bring out the best in every agate.
Photo by Bryan Brewer

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Crocodiles- Julia Donker

Crocodiles have a total of 48 teeth. They have a bite pressure up to 5,000 pounds which can break bones, skulls, and cast iron. If a rubber band is placed over a closed jaw, the crocodile cannot open its mouth.

Their eggs closely resemble goose eggs and will hatch in 90-100 days. The environmental temperature determines the gender. A female needs a temperature either higher or lower than the male. When they are ready to hatch, the babies will tap the shell from the inside. It is believed that they are communicating to the other babies nearby.



Opening Christmas presents and checking out our new rocks.
Photo by Bryan Brewer

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November Treasure's Report

Dave Lehker

Beginning Balance: \$5283.74

Expenses:

Newsletter: \$202.09

Lunch: \$40.00

Books Reimbursement \$206.92

Total Expenses: \$449.01

Income:

Dues: \$230.00

Lunch: \$32.00

Sales: \$1,970.30

Dealer Deposit: \$450.00

Total Deposit: \$2,682.30

Ending Balance: \$7516.73

Wanted: Vibrating tumbler. Call Dave at 616-243-1257

BACK ISSUES WANTED

Steve Crabbs is interested in purchasing the following back issues:
All of 1976 Mineral Digest, The Journal of Mineralogy, especially Volume 8, Winter Issue, September 1971 and 1987 issues of The Lapidary Journal. If you have these magazines and are willing to part with them, please contact

Steve Crabbs, 236 Bellevue, SE, Wyoming, MI 49548 (616)530-7092

The imagination is man's power over nature. – Wallace Stevens

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Singing Christmas carols at the December meeting.

HISTORICAL NOTES

One of our new members asked at the Christmas party how many years the club has been in existence. Time goes fast as does memory so no one remembered that at our April 20, 2010 Banquet we celebrated our **45th Anniversary**. The club was organized in 1965 with Jack Cramer as club president. The meetings were held at Rogers High School. The Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club joined the Midwest Federation on April 14 of that same year.

A Bit of Family History

By Don Van Dyke Published in the "Bulletin of the New York Mineralogical Club," February 2003 (I am typing this from an article given to me over the web from Don Van Dyke. If there are any errors, it is my fault.) Cont. page 10

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Nancy Spalenka leads our Christmas songs at our Potluck Christmas meeting.

COMING PROGRAMS:

February 15th, 2011: "Thompsonites", with Steve Crabbs

March 15th, 2011: "Agates around the World" with Bobbie and Terry House

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Seeing that genealogies are all the rage nowadays, I decided to research a bit of our family history. After all we, as part of the Quartz Family, are members of an illustrious tribe.

To start with, I checked way back to the earliest ancestors that I could find, great-great grandfather Silicon (S) and great-great grandmother Oxygen (O). Both are famous members of the element family. When they married, they formed the Silicate Family, our forebears. They had six children, each with a different characteristic, based on their three-dimensional atomic structure. Right now, we are interested only in our part of the family, the Silica's. We, the Quartz Family, have only a few close relatives: Tridymite, Crisobalite, Coesite and Opal.

Did you know that way back then there was already a "split" in our (Quartz) family? You surely have heard of the "uppity" Crystal family (Great-Uncle Rock Crystal), but did you know that they are not all so clean and pure either? After all, those snobby Amethysts actually have some lowly iron "genes" and so do the Citrines. And do I even dare mention the dark side of that tribe. Morion and Smoky? Why they area supposed have snuggled up to some really hot stuff that was actually radioactive!

Now Rose, she is kind of pretty, but did you know that she has a bit of Titanium (Ts), or maybe Rutile (TiO₂) in her veins, and is kind of outcast? Why she's usually not even a crystal! Milky is a lot like her sister, except instead of Titanium, she has water, or CO₂ bubbles, to make her white and opaque. I've heard tell that there are a few other members of that clan, but they are so rare I won't even mention them. After all, we have to get to the members of our side of the family.

Now we come to some true blue, tough and honorable family members, all part of the crypto-crystalline (our) side of the family. Don't let that big word bother you. It just means that all our crystals are microscopic and all inter-grown. This makes us tougher than those "fancy" crystal kin. First, there is cousin Chalcedony. He's not as beautiful, often blue-gray, and sometimes, like some of our other cousins, translucent (that means that light will shine through) and often is found with a botryoidal (smooth and bumpy, like bunch of grapes) surface. Then there is Sard and Carnelian. Now here are some pretty cousins. They have some real brown or red coloration due to some iron ions. You have other beautiful cousins called Plasma, Prase and Bloodstone, all with some sort of opaque green color (opaque means that light will not shine through). We can't forget Chrysoprase, colored by nickel, so green, so translucent! Now, she is upper crust. Why she even sells by the gram! Then there are you close kin, the ones with pretty stripes. The black and white striped ones are called Onyx, and the red and white striped ones, Sardonyx. Cont. next month

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PROGRAM NOTES REVIEW

Beautiful golden/copper colored ribbons were entwined around lovely copper specimens down the center of the tables at the Christmas Banquet. Our thanks to Skip and Gladys Shipper for the arrangement and Don and Lois Van Dyke for the use of their copper specimens. The copper theme was carried out in the napkins and punch table decoration. Our thanks, also, to La Donna Siebelink for the delicious punch and to Roger Hovarter for preparing the tasty loin of pork with an apple sauce topping. Nancy Spalenka filled the nut cups with Christmas M&Ms and Hershey's "Hugs".

Fifty-six children, youth, and adults made a record attendance for a Christmas party. Singing Christmas carols and sharing rock-hunting experiences took place before the exchange of gifts.

PREVIEW

The New Crystal Hunters Smoky Hawk DVD will be shown at our January 18, 2011. New Crystal Hunters is a film series where young collectors are taken out into the field and given some first-hand experience in collecting their very own mineral treasures. In this program three young ladies go in search of amazonite and smoky quartz in the Smoky Hawk claim in the Crystal Peak Mining District about two hours southwest of Denver, Colorado. The video is a little long, about an hour, but really gives you the feel for what is involved in hunting minerals. You can almost feel your hands getting dirty as you wonder what will be recovered when the girls reach into the pockets to pull out specimens.

The club is looking into providing activities for junior member during the business portion of the club meeting. Please give LaDonna Siebelink, 532-9359, the names and ages of children and youth who would be interested.

VESTS, PATCHES, AND T-SHIRTS

At the November meeting the club was polled as to who would be interested in having a Club vest, patch, and/or a Club T-Shirt. At the Christmas party some indicated their preference on a sign-up sheet. We will have this sheet available at the January meeting. At present the prices for these items are not available. As interest is compiled we will let you know.

Thank you to all that contributed: Graham Krauss, Bryan Brewer, Glossary of Rockhound terms (Pickin's & Diggins 2/03 via G I Nugget 3/05 via the Tulip City Conglomerate 4/08, via the Facets 6/08), Julia Donker, Dave Lehker, Nancy Spalenka, and Don Van Dyke.

Well, it seems wrong to start this newsletter the same day that I e-mail our November edition. As we start a new year I am hoping that you will be able to finish some of your projects. We had a warm ending in 2010, Valentine and St. Patrick items are in the stores, and we are now into our new year 2011.

Until next month...



The Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club is a nonprofit organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan.

This club's objective is to develop and encourage interest in, and to further the study of minerals, gems, fossils, rocks, lapidary arts, and earth science.



Affiliated With the Midwest and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies

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ARROWHEADNEWS

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