



Rock Chips

Deming Gem and Mineral Society P.O. Box 1459, Deming, NM 88031 thedgms@gmail.com

March, 2020



Message from the Prez:

We are almost there! New banner is up, street signs are up, T-shirts ordered, 330 grab bags full of tumbled rocks from the club for the spinning wheel completed, advertising and donations in process, raffle tickets ready, vendors secured, auction items prepared, metal-detecting site prepared, and rock saws are repaired and ready to rumble! Our 55th Roundup (Double Nickel) will be the best yet!

Board Meeting Minutes, February 5, 2020

The DGMS Board Meeting was called to order by President, Marilyn Page at 2:00 pm.

Old Business:

- Secretary report: Bill Gallagher- The minutes from all meetings will be kept in a folder in the office.
- Carolyn Abbey's name needs to be listed as a Board Member as she has one more year left of her term of office.
- The club will discontinue the current attorney handling the change from club current status of social club (501 C-7) to non-profit (501 C-3). Our treasurer, Donna George, attorney, will handle the change.
- There was discussion whether to add the chairman of the DGMS Craft and Gift Fair as a board member and the decision was made that it is not necessary at this time.
- Joe Morone reported that the new grinder has arrived but is not yet operational. He still has to assemble it. The 18" saw is being worked on and will be ready to be used at the Roundup. Both chop saws are operational.

- The field trip to Round Mountain scheduled for Sat. 2/22 will be restricted to 8 vehicles with 4WD and high clearance. Sign up at the club if you would like to go. We can carpool.

New Business:

- Roundup discussion:
 1. Roundup Committee meetings are scheduled for Wed. Feb. 12, Wed. Feb 26, and Wed. Mar.4.
 2. Big Diggins- regarding the claim, all paperwork has been completed and is in order.
 3. Joe is to contact Heime about getting the backhoe.
 4. Four people are scheduled to take CPR. BLM requires one person onsite to be certified in CPR while on Roundup field trips
 5. People may sign up early for the Roundup field trips beginning Wed. March 11 at noon.
 6. Art and Nancy reported we have had a few health-related vendor cancellations and have 5 outdoor spots open.
 7. Next year's Roundup flyers have been prepared.
 8. Both the silent auctions and the Friday night auction need donations, PLEASE! On the silent auctions you get 50% of the sale price. Do the paperwork and get with Joe.
 9. NO USE OF DUMPSTERS DURING ROUNDUP. We will look into having them removed. Jim Paddock is to get with Fair Board.
 10. Jan Hayes, Roundup chair: The banner has been picked up and a meeting is scheduled with Mary Mackey to determine its location and installation.
 11. Carolyn Abbey reported that the ABQ Journal article has been completed.
 12. The Google channel is being worked on by Bill and Joe, the link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2uMHYi0QIA> so subscribe and enjoy soon! The dates are still wrong, but soon to be corrected. Take a look. It's really great!
 13. On Thursday and Friday of Roundup, the Santa Fe tourism department will be taking videos for future advertising.
 14. Jan and Marilyn are going to check out radio ads for future events, public radio, Las Cruces, and others.
 15. Liability waivers for Roundup field trips and the metal detecting event are used for all entrants.
 16. Jim Paddock, our Fair Board rep. said the partitions in buildings 1 and 2 will be taken care of prior to the shows. He will oversee it.
- A motion was made to update and change the fluorescent lights in the meeting room and some shop areas to LEDs. Motion carried.
- The Board considered whether to invest in a banner for the November DGMS Craft and Gift Fair. The fee would be around \$900.00. The Board determined not to invest in a banner at this time. Improved street signage was discussed/suggested.
- A suggestion was discussed regarding the acquisition of a Sams Club card for the club. The Board agreed not to acquire one as credit cards have not worked out well in the past.
- Joe announced that Ed Edwards' wife is very ill and would like to set up a fund for him at the club for medical expenses. If anyone could donate, please do. Joe will match the donations

Meeting adjourned at 3:20.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Gallagher, Secretary



General Meeting Minutes, February 27, 2020

The DGMS General Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Marilyn Page, President

- New member introductions: Ernie and Debbie Leshner, the Douglas family, Mr. and Mrs. Lubenschtick, Mike Taylor, and Mark Ridgeway. Welcome to the club!
- Last board meeting and general meeting minutes approved.
- We continue to need items for our two cases at the Mimbres Museum display.
- Secretary's report: Bill Gallagher read a thank you letter from Ed Edwards.
- Treasurer's report given by Donna George.
- Marvin Clary will be reimbursed for mileage from the club to BLM functions.
- Reclamation on our claim is required every 5 years.
- All field trip leaders need to carry a first aid kit but are unable to dispense items. The persons needing the medicine must dispense themselves.
- No field trips in March except Volunteers Trip on March 21.
- Joe Morone gave shop report:
 1. All equipment in good working order.
 2. Saw fees are kept intentionally low to benefit members
 3. Propane is due again, need to reorder
 4. The Titan has been taken out of commission and will be sold at the Roundup.
- Roundup:
 1. New banner and signs are up.
 2. There will be no access to the cash room during Roundup. See Darryl Johnson for change.
 3. If you have volunteered for the show, be sure to sign in every day to be eligible for the field trip.
 4. Bill Gallagher doing trash at Roundup. He will load trailer and take the dump run at the end of every day. There was an incorrect name on past mailing.
- Need a volunteer for Historian.
- Need a Sunshine volunteer. If you know anyone needing cheering-up contact Marilyn Page.
- Library still being worked on, over 500 new books since last year.
- Need email addresses for all members who are not in our system so we can send electronically.
- By popular vote, members' classified ads will be included in Rock Chips.
- Lynn Edwards gave the program
- 50/50 drawings are being revived at the general meetings. You buy a ticket and half the proceeds go the club and half go to the drawing conducted at the end of the meeting. Darryl Johnson is this month's winner
- Art Gutierrez was unanimously voted to be awarded Life Membership.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Gallagher, Secretary

Life Membership



Congratulations to our newest Life Member, Art Gutiérrez!

Image credit- Joe Morone

Art, a quiet man with a vast knowledge, is a long-time DGMS member and can generally be found in the saw room where he has faithfully volunteered for many years. A deserving award! Thank you, Art, for serving the members of the DGMS!

Edwards Black Jade

Our program for the February meeting was a fascinating presentation by Lynn Edwards on Wyoming Black Jade. Lynn is a Montana native whose grandfather, James Newton “Newt” Edwards, discovered the rare black jade in 1958. Named ‘Edwards Black Jade’, a specimen is in the Smithsonian today. Lynn is past president of the Billings Rock and Gem Club, a BLM volunteer, and member of our club. Lynn brought many and varied specimens to view! Thanks you, Mr. Edwards for sharing with us this month!

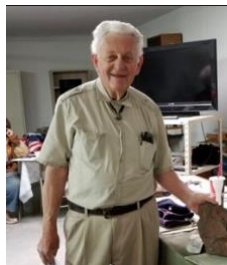


Image credits to Judy Murphy

Laser Engraved

Club Shop Hours

Monday – 9 a.m.- noon

Wednesday- Noon – 3 p.m.; 6 p.m.- 9 p.m.

Friday – 9 a.m. - noon

Saturday – 9 a.m.-noon

Hours subject to change-check the board at the club

*******IMPORTANT NOTICE: The Shop will be closed at 9pm March 4th and will reopen Monday, March 23. *******



Rockhound Roundup News

Roundup dates: March 12-15

Jan Hayes, Chairman

Plans are underway for another outstanding show. If you haven't volunteered at the show before, you would be amazed at the number of activities going on and the amount of coordination and pre-planning required. This is a four-day event! We have 120+ vendors, ongoing auctions, numerous activities for adults and kids and of course, concessions! Geodes will be cut, exhibits on view, and 3 days of field trips provided for the public. Additionally, we will host our second year of the metal detecting contest. An important note to remember: the Rockhound Roundup is our big event for the year and our primary fundraiser. All members are encouraged to volunteer. As you can see there are many opportunities to volunteer in areas that may interest you. The sign-up sheets are located at the club and involve a two-hour block. We are still in need of items for the Metal Detecting competition so talk to Bill Gallagher!

This year's Rockhound Roundup field trips have been announced. They will be conducted on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. There will be daily trips to Big Diggings, Fluorite Ridge/Greenleaf mine, and Hatch Barite mine at 8:00 am. All trips will be limited to the first 35 cars or 50 people. The Big Diggings trip fee will be \$20.00 per person ages 8 and up. The other sites will be \$5.00 per person. No restrooms are available. Be prepared to bring water, snacks, lunch, sunscreen, etc. All persons will need to be off the sites by 2:00 pm. Instructions will be given by the field trip leaders the morning of the hunts. *Field trip sites are always subject to change depending on weather, road conditions, etc.*

Set-up begins Monday, March 9 at 8:00 a.m. for outside vendors and 9:00 a.m. for inside vendors. We need all the help we can get to make the task go more quickly. Vendor set-up is Wednesday morning, March 11, at 8:00 a.m. Help if you can. Remember, your hours count toward the Volunteers' Field trip to Big Diggings on the 21st!

Mystery Solved! Missing Rocks Found!!!

Remember the story last month that rocks were missing from the table in the lapidary room? Well, the club received a call from a man who had left town and was two states away. He had looked under the seat of his truck and found a bag of rocks, many of which were not his and called the club to report it. Said his wife told him to go get her rocks that had been cut and he must have picked them up by accident. He said he was mailing them right back to us. Right kind of him to call and send them. Thank you, Sir!

That being said, if you are having rocks cut please be careful in what you collect. There are a lot of rocks on the tables.



Image credit-Linda Moore

Monthly Member Highlight: Judy Murphy

Judy started working with rocks at the age of 14, focusing on cutting rocks and silversmithing while her parents took night classes. She was a Girl Scout for 13 years where she learned and enjoyed many crafts including beadwork. Her troop from Richmond, Virginia was the first troop to take and complete the BSA's God and Country badge. Now there is a badge for the Girl Scouts to do!

She and her husband, an electronic engineer, both worked for the U.S. Air Force where she was lucky enough to acquire the tools that didn't meet specs anymore when they were replaced. They were wonderful for her silversmithing! After many transfers, the couple decided to retire, and in 1990 they began selling rocks wholesale. They worked the Quartzite show for 20 years and worked for Western Woods at the Tucson Show for 15 years. They also worked their own shows in the summer.

Retiring in 2015 from wholesaling and working for others, Judy has focused mostly on working shows as a vendor and on beadwork mastery. She says it is less poundage and more intriguing working with the patterns.

Judy rejoined DGMS in 2019 and says she enjoys being Vice-President of the club this year. You can find Judy at the club volunteering for many activities, especially field trips. She is always willing to lend a hand or offer advice from her vast area of experience. Thank you, Judy for all you do!



Field Trips:

The following dates and times are for the March Field trips:

- Thursday, March 12, 13, 14. Field trips during Roundup will leave the fairgrounds for the following sites: Hatch, NM (\$5.00 fee) for barite, fossils, rhyolite, and other minerals; Greenleaf/Cooke's area (\$5.00 fee) for fluorite and rhyolite, carnelian, etc.; and also our Big Diggings claim (\$20.00 fee). Keep in mind, the fees are per person ages 8- adult.
 - There is a free private Volunteers Field Trip to Big Diggings following the show for those who volunteered and worked the show. This trip is scheduled for Sat. March 21. Set up counts. If you would like to attend this free hunt, sign up at the club to volunteer for the show! We still have spots open!
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Member News

Judy Murphy, Donna George and new member Jackie Jones recently attended the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show where they were able to view amazing specimens on display. Thank you, Judy, for sharing these wonderful photos!



Image credits Judy Murphy

- Judy standing in front of a lovely tree of carved agate birds
- Silver nuggets found NE of Globe, AZ @18 mo. Ago. The center piece weighs 400# and two side pieces are 100# each.
- Lapis inlaid tabletop



Image credits- Judy Murphy

Collection of geodes for sale at Western Woods wholesaler

- Slice of stalactite with malachite and azurite
- Citrine geode with calcite crystals
- 14" tall emerald

Community Participation:

Our club supports a number of community projects and activities. Some of these include:

- Collection of cancelled stamps for dialysis and cancer patients.
- Collection of plastic bottle caps for Special Education class for the Buddy Bench at Bell Elementary in Deming.
- Aluminum can collecting for donation to the Scouts, 4-H, and underprivileged.
- Earth Science Scholarship/Donation of \$1000.00 to schools to buy materials.
- Donation of \$500.00 to kindergarten, first grade, and Special Education classes at Bell Elementary to buy school supplies.

Critter of the Month

Roadrunner

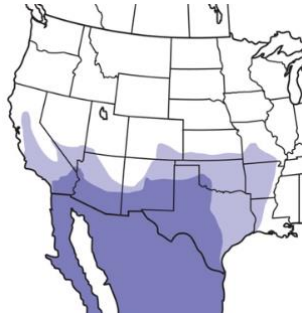


Image credits: Audubon Field Guide

The most famous bird in the southwest, featured in folklore and cartoons, known by its long tail and expressive crest. The Roadrunner walks and runs on the ground, flying only when necessary. It can run 15 miles per hour, probably with much faster spurts when chasing a fast-running lizard or other prey. Its prowess as a rattlesnake fighter has been much exaggerated, but it does eat a remarkable variety of smaller creatures.

Habitat

Deserts, open country with scattered brush. Most common in Sonoran Desert and in other kinds of brushy country, including chaparral and Texas brushlands, in areas with a mix of open ground and dense low cover. At limits of range, found in dry grassland, forest edges, and limestone hills with scattered junipers.

Feeding Behavior

Usually hunts by walking rapidly, looking for prey, then making very rapid dash forward to catch prey in its bill. May leap straight up from ground to catch insects or birds flying over (has been seen catching hummingbirds this way).

Eggs

3-5, sometimes 2-6. White to pale yellowish. Incubation is by both parents (male does more), about 20 days. Young: Fed by both parents; leave the nest after about 18-21 days. May begin catching own food soon after leaving nest, but still fed by parents up to another 30-40 days.

Diet

Includes insects, reptiles, rodents, birds. Feeds on many large insects, plus other arthropods including scorpions, tarantulas, and centipedes. Also catches many lizards, snakes, mice, young ground squirrels, small birds (including baby quail and adult sparrows), sometimes snails. Eats some fruits (especially cactus fruit) and seeds.

Nesting

May mate for life, pairs defending territory all year. Courtship includes chases on foot, with frequent pauses to rest. One bird (either sex) approaches the other with stick or blade of grass, and drops it on the ground or gives it to other bird. In other displays, male runs away

from female with tail and wings raised over back, gradually lowers wings; male wags tail from side to side while slowly bowing. Nest site is in dense bush, low tree, or cactus, usually 2-12' above ground, rarely on ground. Nest is platform of sticks, lined with grass, leaves, feathers, sometimes with snakeskin or pieces of cow manure.

Article credit to Audubon Field Guide

These creatures are the clowns of the Southwest desert! I know every one of you has spotted one at some point and probably have funny stories to tell. Upon moving here, we were regaled with roadrunner tales. Our first experience was in Las Cruces at the mattress store. The sales assistant helping us had befriended a family over the years, fed them a little every morning out back of the store and the female brought her babies to the store every year. The birds would stand at the back door and whenever it opened they would rush in and jump from mattress to mattress all around the store.

They are tenacious birds. Smart too. One morning I happened to see the man who lives behind us throw some meat out of his camper door to a waiting bird. It gobbled it up and hopped on his four-wheeler and sat there for 2 hours waiting for more- that never came. The following day he was there at the same time-waiting for another handout that never came. He waited for the requisite 2 hours and left. The third day, he hopped up on the 4-wheeler and sat on the seat to wait- for 2 hours. The fourth day, he hopped up the camper stairs and pecked on the door. The fifth day, he hopped up on the handrail to look into the window. Day 6 he was on OUR porch handrail waiting for us to come up with the goods. To no avail. The following day he solicited another camper. It was crazy!

Curious, they are, as well. One afternoon, my husband was knelt down doing some construction repair on our stairs and the tool he was using was making a squeaking sound in the wood. A movement caused him to look to his side and standing right next to him was Mr. Roadrunner. Derrall kept on working and the bird kept on watching for about 5 min. Then he meandered off.

Probably not a good idea to feed them or befriend them, mites etc. But they are lots of fun to watch. Most of the time they stay camouflaged but can be seen streaking across the road. If you have a birdfeeder or birdbath they have been known to lie in wait for smaller birds- so watch out.

Recycled Roadrunner- Las Cruces, NM



Image credit internet



Crutches



Ironing boards and boom boxes



Athletic shoes

Image credit - Linda Moore

This giant recycled roadrunner – 20 feet tall and 40 feet long – has been an icon of Las Cruces ever since artist Olin Calk built it in 1993. Back then it stood at the city landfill, and was made exclusively of items salvaged from it: Olin’s way to call attention to what he called, “consumption, recycling, and just looking at stuff we throw away.”

By 2011 the Roadrunner had deteriorated, partly from the elements, partly from grabby visitors. Olin stripped it down and brought it back to his house. It sat there for three years, waiting for the city to decide its fate. Cool heads prevailed, and the Roadrunner was returned to the rest stop in June 2014. By then the landfill had closed, so Olin re-feathered it using thrift store rejects and scrap metal salvaged from the Las Cruces recycling center. It now has eyes made from Volkswagen headlights.

If you have never stopped to visit this site, you are missing an icon! It’s a beautiful and unique piece of art and one you should enjoy up close and personal. It’s amazing! The statue is located just west of Las Cruces on I-10.

Paisano Pete- Ft. Stockton, TX



Image credit - Linda Moore



Image credit- Flickr

Perhaps you’ve stopped for gas off of I-10 in Ft. Stockton, TX, and had the distinct surprise of discovering the town’s mascot, Paisano Pete, the **SECOND** largest roadrunner in the world. Built in 1979, Pete stands 11 feet tall, 22 feet long and reigned the **LARGEST** roadrunner until 1993, losing his title to Las Cruces. Pete is made of fiberglass and was purchased for \$6250. Occasionally, Pete dresses for success and for the season. He celebrated his 40th birthday in November and a Birthday Bash was held in his honor. He is much loved.

Communication

WEBPAGE and FACEBOOK Administrator: Pamm Reynolds: nmpamm@gmail.com.

If you have information for the webpage please email it to Pamm. If you have information for Facebook please post on our page. We need items that pertain to our club or member activities to be posted including pictures of rocks found, experiences, reminders of meetings, suggestions of where to hunt, class info., etc. It's OUR page!

Website	www.thedgmsclub.com
Facebook	Deming Gem and Mineral Society

Help us keep in touch with you.

If your email has changed, please contact:

Linda Moore at: thelindamoore1@gmail.com

If your membership information has changed you can mail changes to DGMS Membership, P.O. Box 1459, Deming, NM 88031 or email thedgms@gmail.com

If you are seasonal, come by the clubhouse as soon as you get in to let us know you are back and see what's going on. Looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones!

Housekeeping

It has been requested that we remind club members to please clean up the clubhouse prior to leaving. Empty soda cans are to be placed in the recycle can, coffee cups and glasses should be washed, dried, and put away. Cookies and snacks need to be put back in cabinet. Don't forget the coffee pot. Please push in your chairs after meetings and straighten tables. Empty trash cans as needed. We do not have a cleaning services for the clubhouse so these tasks end up being performed by members who have not made the mess. Be kind to one another and be responsible.

Just a reminder: the club computer and the office area are limited to board members.

Upcoming Area Events:

**** 55th Annual Rockhound Round-up Gem and Mineral Show **March 12-15**, 2020 at the SWNM State Fairgrounds in Deming, NM.****

****Treasures of the Earth 2020, Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Expo at the NM State Fair Grounds, **March 20-22** Albuquerque, NM. www.agmc.info****

****Sierra County Rock and Gem Society (SCRAGS) First Annual Rock and Gem show **March 28-29**, 2020 at the Civic Center in Truth or Consequences, NM. For vendor information call Trudie at 928.916.1299. (Facebook)****

Buena Vista Contin-tail, August 6-9, 2020, Colorado Rodeo Grounds, Buena Vista, Colorado.
www.bvrockshow.com

Woodland Park Rock, Gem, and Jewelry Show, August 13-16, 2020, 19250 E. US 24, Woodland Park, Colorado. www.woodlandparkrockandgemshow.com or wpgemshow@outlook.com

Albuquerque Fall Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show 2020, October 2-4, Expo New Mexico, State Fairgrounds. (www.abqfallshow.wixite.com/fairplay)

 **Meeting Reminders**  

March Board Meeting is Wednesday, March 4 at 2:00

All members are invited

March General Meeting is Thursday, March 26, at 2:00 pm

Our meetings are an opportunity to network about rocks, gems and minerals, to make some new acquaintance and friends and to find out which areas in which you can be involved. Please make others welcome. Some people need the friendship only you can provide. We need everyone to make an effort this year to attend and participate. We don't want to be just a "field-trip" club or a "lapidary club." We have an important mission with important activities that depends on everyone's attendance and participation.

DGMS 2020 Officers:

President: Marilyn Page

Vice President: Judy Murphy

Secretary: Bill Gallagher

Treasurer: Donna George

Board Members: Marvin Clary, Cathy Burnett, Carolyn Abbey

