

The Deming Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

ROCK CHIPS

VOLUME

55

NUMBER

12



President's Message

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Holiday Potluck. Good turnout and everything was great. Thanks to those who did the beautiful table decorations.

Also want to thank those who brought a child's gift to be donated to those in need.

The Roundup meetings have begun. The next one will be held on Saturday, January 6th at 10 a.m.

The Silversmith classes will start back up in January on Mondays from 9 a.m. until noon.

If you have any ideas on where you'd like to go on a Field Trip, please let Marilyn know.

Just a reminder. . . your Club dues are now due. Please send to DGMS at 4200 Raymond Reed Blvd, Deming, NM 88030. Thank you.

We need people to sign up to bring refreshments for one or more meetings in 2024.

Looking forward to the arrival soon of the Snowbirds.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Kaye



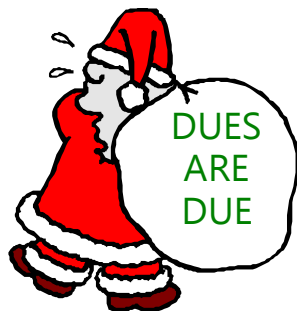
Sunshine Greetings

If you know of someone who can use a little sunshine greeting, please call Pauline Ott at 979-618-3432

a little reminder. . .

Mail your payment to

DGMS at
4200 Raymond Reed Blvd.
Deming, NM 88030.
Or you can pay them at the
general meeting.



Be sure to attend the next
Roundup meeting
on January 6th at 10 a.m.
We need your help
to make this a great show.
Many hands make light work.



DGMS Board Meeting — December 6th

The meeting was brought to order at 1:13 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Kaye Green. There were seven Board members present.

The minutes were approved as published in the Bulletin.

Treasurer announced that all the bills are paid-up to date.

Roundup: Things are progressing well. The next Roundup meeting will be on January 6th at 10:00 a.m.

Craft Show: Set up will be this coming Friday and the show will be Saturday 10 a.m. til 5 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. til 3 p.m.

Larry will put up the Craft Fair Banners.

Shop: Larry and Al will be purchasing G codes for Roundup. Benches have been completed, by Dave, to accommodate wheel chairs or just sitting at machines.

Claims: Up to date.

Bulletin: Nothing to report. It will be published early this month.

Field Trips: There will be none in December.

Library: Dave has been working on updating the information.

No Old Business.

New Business: Rosemary Townsend has been appointed as temporary Secretary due to the unexpected passing of Judy Murphy.

Meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rosemary Townsend, DGMS Secretary

Shop Notes

After the Holidays, the Shop will
be open Monday, Wednesday, &
Friday from 9 a.m. til Noon
**THE SHOP WILL BE CLOSED
ON ALL HOLIDAYS**





Happy December Birthdays to:

Gina Connelly, Maria Costa, Doug Douglasson, Erich Bretschneider, Jim Frederick, Alice Martinez, Pamm Reynolds, Susan Schiffner, Robert Clements, Wayne Long, Keevin Lujan, Judy Murphy, Tony Sibet, and Easton Smith



Gentle Thoughts for Today -

Birds of a feather flock together . . And then poop on your car
A penny saved is a government oversight.

The older you get, the tougher It is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement ...

Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are 'XL'.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

Did you ever notice: When you put the 2 words 'The' and 'IRS' together it spells 'Theirs....'

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth, think of Algebra.

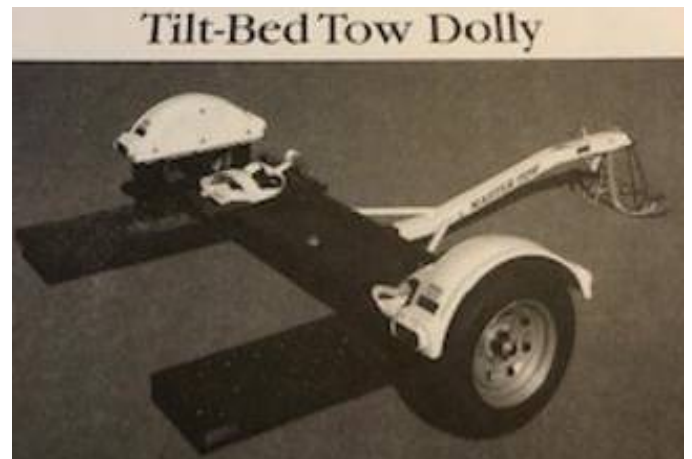
You know you are getting Old when everything either dries up or leaks.

One of the many things no one tells you about aging Is that it is such a nice change from being young. Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

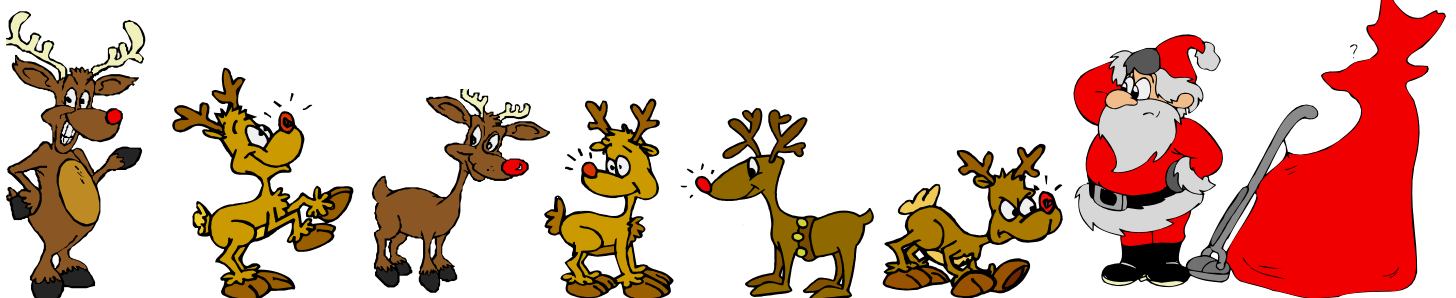


MASTER TOW

FOR SALE - Used three times - \$1500
Includes all paperwork.
Call Marilyn 575-545-9019



**PLEASE REMEMBER
THAT THE SHOP WILL BE CLOSED
ON ALL HOLIDAYS.**



DGMS General Meeting - Nov.15th

The meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 21 members in attendance.

Treasurer Report: All bills paid.

Minutes: Approved.

Roundup: The next Rockhound Roundup meeting will be January 6th at 10 am. There are a few spaces still available.

Sound system: Some people are needed to help Al Krause during the Roundup.

The Craft Fair will be December 9th, 10 to 5 and the 10th, 10 to 3. Set up will be Friday the 8th 1 to 7 pm. Baked foods may be sold by vendors.

Claims: Jim Brown said everything is in order.

Shop: Al, Dave and Larry are working on setting up a handicap area to work in. There needs to be an inventory done in the shop. Anyone who can help please let Al know. It was voted and approved that Al Krause may spend \$2,000 - \$3,000 on Geodes for the Roundup.

Library: Dave Bleicher will be working on the books and update the library for the coming year.

Post Office: The Box is in the process of being changed to the new location. Our mailing address is now 4200 Raymond Reed Blvd., Deming, NM 88030

Membership: Dues are due in December of 2023 please remember to pay Kaye Green as soon as possible.

Jim Brown made a motion for Al and Diane Krause to be awarded Life memberships in the Club. It was seconded by Marilyn Page and passed unanimously.

The nominating Committee for 2024 officers will be Marilyn Page, Larry Baros, and Dave Bleicher.

Silversmith Class Contact: Nancy Jimerson.

Property: Looking very good. Thank you.

Field Trips: There will not be any for November or December. Call Judy Murphy 575-544-7453 If you could help with a location suggestion or would like to lead a trip.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:18 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Judy Murphy, DGMS Secretary



Man to his wife: The bad news is that we owe \$100,000 in college loans for the kids, a month's salary in back taxes, and our retirement fund is tanking.

Wife: What's the good news?

Husband: Our identity has been stolen.

A Sight Before Christmas

By James Van Germeten

'Twas the eve before Christmas and there in the night
The desert was quiet, not a rockhound in sight.
Our socks were all hung where the bright fire glows
In hopes that our Mama would sew up the toes.
The kids were all stacked in their warm little bunks
With visions of agate, slabs, boulders, and chunks.
And me in my long johns and Ma in her sack
Had jumped into bed; it was cold in the shack.
From out in the sagebrush 'rose a hullaballoo
And I sprung to the window to throw out a shoe.
The moon shining down on the still silver sand
Confirmed that the desert was my kind of land.
I strained my eyes 'til my brow was a furrow;
Along came a geezer, a-leadin' his burro.
By the size of his belly and face full of hair
I knew it was Santa or a big grizzly bear.
"Go Rudolph, go Rudolph, you stubborn ol' mule"
Get moving there Rudolph you lop eared ol' fool"
Then quick as a polecat I heard up on top
That darn red nosed burro go clippity clop.
Santa's trip down the chimney was somethin' uncanny
The fire was a burnin' and scorched his poor fanny.
He was dressed all in denim from his hat to his shoes
And his nose was all red,
Like he'd drunk too much booze
He had a middle age spread that just wouldn't fit
And a rock bag so big it was ready to split.
He spied my old trim saw, the one that was broke;
"By golly, you're rockhounds, you're my kind of folk".
He sat down at the table, we both had some java
And he threw bull about agate and opal and lava.
He told me of old times, of Horse Canyon agate,
Of good times at Boron, of jasper from Dagget.
He told of old pals from a mine in ghost city
Of Bullfrog and Bodic, there're dead, what a pity.
Then out of his pack for me and for Maw
What else did he pull but a big slabbing saw.
There was a hammer for Nels and a black light for Della
And he winked as he sat there, a jolly good fella.
Then lookin' at the fire and feelin' a bit sore'
He thought it was best to leave through the door.
Then I heard him exclaim as he fell in the mine
"Merry Christmas you rockhounds
and to all Auld Lang Syne!"



SHOP STUFF

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The source of these tips and hints are other club bulletins. Be careful when trying out any new idea. They have not all been tried by this editor.*

Also note that the hints in this issue are copied from 1980's vintage Deming rock Chips. Methods may have changed since then.

Cleaning Minerals with Oxalic Acid

Here are a few guidelines for using oxalic acid to remove iron stains from minerals like smoky quartz and microcline. First, soak and scrub the mineral thoroughly in water and detergent to remove as much surface dirt as possible. Oxalic acid is a white solid chemical; it dissolves in water to form a solution that is particularly effective at dissolving iron oxides because it forms a soluble iron oxalate complex. The acid is only weakly corrosive but it is a poison if ingested, so handle both the powder and solution with care.

One can either soak minerals in oxalic acid at room temperature, or heat them in hot (not quite boiling) acid. The room temperature treatment usually requires several days, but heated acid will clean specimens in a few hours. I have found that the hot acid seems to do a better job.

Richard M. Pearl, in *Cleaning and Preserving minerals*, recommends using about two tablespoons of oxalic acid crystals per gallon of water, and twice as much for heavily stained material. According to Pearl, wood, aluminum, or enamel containers are all suitable for use with the cold acid. An enamel pan must be free of cracks or holes, or the acid will eat a hole through the iron pan. Pyrex glass is probably the best container for hot acid; I have also used a plastic container held within a metal pot as a "double boiler" for heating specimens in acid. Here is a suggested procedure. Place specimen in cold acid initially (the thermal shock may crack crystals if they are placed in hot acid.)

Heat for an hour or more as required to remove the stain. The acid will turn yellow as it dissolves iron.

Do not allow specimens to cool down in the acid; acid will be drawn into cracks in the specimens and be difficult to remove. Instead, remove specimens into a hot (same temperature to reduce thermal shock) pan of water containing a little baking soda to neutralize the acid on the specimens. Allow this to cool, and brush off any remaining iron oxide which has been loosened but not dissolved.

Finally, rinse in clean water. It may be necessary to repeat the entire procedure for heavily coated specimens.

Some Pitfalls: In general, the oxalic removes fine grained, powdery limonite or hematite deposits easily, but thick solid iron oxide crusts dissolve very slowly, Crystalline hematite patches become bright and shiny and dissolve very slowly. Oxalic acid is not good for cleaning specimens containing calcite or some other calcium minerals, as it dissolves these. Fluorite is not cleaned very well by oxalic acid and seems to be etched by it. Yellow stains can result if specimens are left in oxalic acid as it evaporates. (they should always remain completely covered by the acid.) Also, using too much baking soda to neutralize the acid can result in yellow staining.

Before grinding and sanding, put cold cream on your hands and rub them together until they are dry. This fills the pores and cracks in your fingers. When grinding, sawing or sanding is completed, the dirt can be washed off easily.

When grinding and sanding obsidian, always grind from the center out. Otherwise the wheel and sanding belts will pick up tiny chips of glass that will scratch your stone.

Purple Glass

If you wish to know if a clear glass bottle will turn purple without exposing it to desert sunlight, place it under a Black Light. If it fluoresces green, it will turn purple when it is exposed long to the sunlight. This is due to small amounts of manganese. Manufacturers stopped using manganese some time before the twenties, so that you know that this glass most likely was made before World War I.

Bright colored tape wrapped around your hammer handles, other tools, and rock toting bag handles will make them easier to spot in the field.

Remove Algae and Lichen from rocks by soaking them in ammonia water followed by the use of a stiff brush. Some minerals, like calcite, will dissolve in ammonia, so check your chemistry before you do it.

Treat Dop Sticks with a light coat of shellac. This prevents wood from absorbing water which causes wood to swell and eventually cracking the dop wax, thus loosening the stone.



**“You desperately need more roughage in your diet!
Eat two large rocks and call me in the morning!”**



THE DEMING GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. BOX 1459, DEMING, N.M. 88031
FOUNDED - JANUARY 1965

DUES ARE DUE & PAYABLE ON DECEMBER 1st EACH YEAR
Membership Dues: \$15.00 per person and \$25.00 per family

THE OFFICIAL SHOW OF THE SOCIETY

Held every year on the second weekend in March
(Thursday through Sunday) at the SW New Mexico
State Fairgrounds in Deming.



OFFICERS

President	Kaye Green	575-545-3906
Vice President	Tom Rodrigues	575-494-3402
Secretary	Rose Baros	719-341-5699
Treasurer	Maria Costa	603-738-1921
Bulletin Editor	Carolyn Abbey	575-543-8916
Roundup Chair ('24)	Marilyn Page	575-544-9019
1 Yr. Director	Jim Paddock	575-494-8522
2 Yr. Director	Kathy Townsend	575-546-6982
3 Yr. Director	Diane Krause	719-371-4168
Claims	James Brown	575-494-8906

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

1:00 p.m. - Wednesday, November 15th

BOARD MEETING

10:00 a.m. - Wednesday, January 6th

NEXT ROUNDUP MEETING

January 6th—10 a.m.



Change your address, or phone or email address?

Please let us know!

Send the changes to DGMS Membership,
4200 Raymond Reed Blvd.
Deming, NM 88030

All meetings are held at the Deming Gem
& Mineral Society, Inc. building
4200 Raymond Reed Blvd., Deming, NM
Clubhouse phone: (575) 546-2554
*Visitors are invited and welcome
at membership meetings.*

“ROCK CHIPS” is the official bulletin of the Society

Email: theDGMS@gmail.com

OFFICIAL WEB SITE www.thedgmsclub.com

THE DEMING GEM and MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. *an incorporated, non-profit organization shall be dedicated to the knowledge, advancement and enjoyment of the earth sciences and associated subjects. The Society's primary purpose is the dissemination and furtherance of knowledge of mineralogy, gem cutting and geology, and to stimulate interest in the development of these studies. It is composed of individuals who have chosen gems and the aforementioned studies as a major interest in their lives.*

Deming Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

4200 Raymond Reed Blvd., Deming, New Mexico

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Field Trips: There will be none in December.

Library: Dave has been working on updating the information.

No Old Business.

New Business: Rosemary Townsend has been appointed as temporary Secretary due to the unexpected passing of Judy Murphy. Judy Murphy's name is to be removed from all accounts associated with First New Mexico Bank and, Rosemary Townsend shall be added to all three checking accounts and the Safe Deposit box.

Tom Rodriguez shall be removed from all the DGMS Bank accounts with First New Mexico Bank as he is no longer an active officer.

Also, the DGMS requests that Rosemary shall verify all names associated with all of the DGMS accounts.

Meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rosemary Townsend, DGMS Secretary

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 6th	Board Meeting	1 p.m.
Sat. & Sun. December 9 & 10	Holiday Craft Fair	
Wednesday, December 13	General Meeting	1 p.m.
Monday, December 25th	Christmas Day	
Sunday, December 31st	New Years Eve	

JANUARY

Sunday, January 1, 2024	<i>Happy New Year</i>	
Wednesday, January 3rd	Board Meeting	1 p.m.
Saturday, January 6th	Roundup Meeting	10 a.m.
Wednesday, January 24th	General Meeting	1 p.m.

All meetings are held at the Clubhouse (4200 Raymond Reed Blvd.)
Unless otherwise noted.

Visitors and guests are welcome at membership meetings



Time to Deck the Halls



Deming Gem & Mineral Society
Carolyn Abbey, Editor
4200 Raymond Reed Blvd.
Deming, New Mexico 88030

Ho! Ho! Ho! *It's the Season to be Jolly. . .*

