



The Prez Sez

The 59th Annual Rockhound Roundup is now in the history book.

Thank you everyone for all your help to make it a great success.

*Now we can start planning for the big one...
our 60th year.*

Hope to see you at the General meeting on March 27th at 1 p.m.

Thanks again, Kaye

What a BLAST . . .

We had a great SHOW. Many new members pitched right in and helped make it successful. I want to thank everyone who did anything to make this easier on all of us.

We had successful Friday night and Saturday night auctions which had surpassed any recent shows.

Thanks to all the vendors for the gifts they gave us and a real big Thank You to all the businesses that gave great gifts for the hourly drawings.

Everyone who worked should give themselves a big pat on the back. I enjoyed working with all of you and really appreciate all you did for my chairmen and myself.

Love ya all, Marilyn

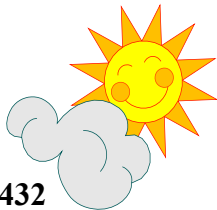
Shop Hours

The Shop will re-open Monday, March 21st.
Monday, Wednesday & Fridays
9 a.m. til noon.



Sunshine Greetings

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



General Meeting February 28, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 29 members present.

New members present were Eric & Debbie Rothburg from Oxford, Michigan, and Cassandra from Las Cruces.

Secretary: Minutes accepted as published in the Chips.

Treasurer: Maria gave a yearly account of our finances.

Roundup: Marilyn said Peppers is very supportive of DGMS and gives us a 50% discount on Roundup supplies. We are getting ready to set up Roundup on Monday.

Looking for someone to shadow Marilyn and to take over the Roundup as Chairperson.

Shop: Al Krause is retiring and moving out of State. Larry reported all is running good. Maria thanked Al on behalf of the Club for all his hard work for our Club.

Claims: Jim Brown's resignation was accepted.

Property: Larry dragged the lot, and Art disposed of old wood.

Membership: Kaye reported there are currently 130 members.

Field Trips: We are looking for someone to take over the planning of Field Trips, due to the passing of Judy Murphy.

Library: Dave has it open and ready to check out books at the meetings.

Sunshine: Pauline to send card to Kristine Robbins who is in the hospital.

Bulletin: Carolyn needs someone to become the Bulletin Editor. *(Beka Sternhagen has volunteered to take the position. Thank You Beka)*

Old Business: Nominations closed for officers.

Kaye Green and Rose Baros Townsend are running for the office of President. You can vote at the General meeting on the 27th or by replying to the email that will be sent right after this bulletin.

There is only one person running for each of the next offices:

Dave Bleicher, Vice Pres; Carolyn Abbey, Secretary; Maria Costa, Treasurer; Marilyn Page, Rockhound Roundup Chair; Larry Baros, Shop Foreman; Claims, Andy Taylor; Bulletin Editor, Beka Sternhagen; Directors: 1yr Kathy Townsend; 2 yr, Jim Paddock; 3 yr, Darlene Bleicher.

New member Ron Kuharski has updated the website, and will continue doing this. He has done an excellent job.

New Business: Larry looking for a small shed, possibly donated for shop storage.

Our new T-Shirts will be sold at the Show for \$12 and \$15.

There was a discussion on perhaps buying some new Claims.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rose Baros Townsend, Secretary



Our new sign outside the Clubhouse. Made for us by JR Jones



This case was dedicated at the Roundup to those members who passed away recently. The items contained were either made by or part of a collection of theirs.

The Original Sin. . . .



"I've decided to teach her to talk, what harm can it do?"



Dues are PAST Due
Renew Now!
NO DUES... NO BULLETIN



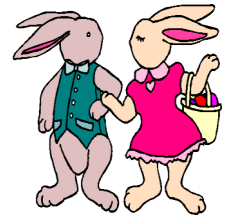
Happy March Birthdays

Mary Barry, Bud Daily, Cole Beaver, Frank Bevacqua, Lorinda Fairweather, Brenda Hamilton, Laurie Johnson, Meghan Massey, Thomas Ver Hage, Elaine Schmidt, Joyce Vander Molen, Tony Schroeder, and Mary Margaret Soule.



Happy Anniversaries

*Ted & Laura Phillips,
 Matt & Patty Quinn,
 and Rick & Christina Riggs*



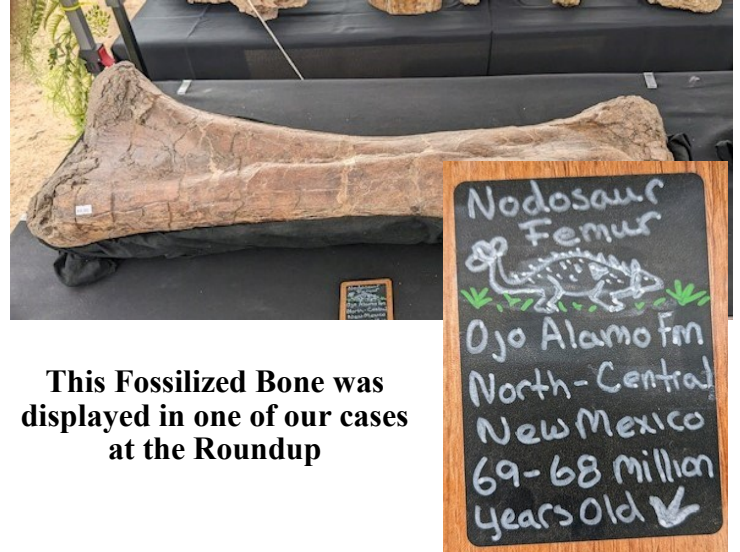
The secret of happiness is to make others believe they are the cause of it.

AT DAYS
 END
 ...
 JUST
 A FEW
 OF
 THE
 ROUNDUP
 WORKERS





Some Bldg. 1 Dealers



This Fossilized Bone was displayed in one of our cases at the Roundup

Nodosaur
Femur
Ojo Alamo Fm
North-Central
New Mexico
69-68 million
Years Old

LIVE AUCTION - SATURDAY Night



BIG DIGGINS Field Trip



This is your **LAST ISSUE OF THE 'CHIPS'** if your dues are not postmarked by March 31st





Obsidian In The Past and Present by Jan Baumeister

Obsidian is an igneous rock that forms when molten rock material cools so rapidly that atoms are unable to arrange themselves into a crystalline structure. The result is a volcanic glass with a smooth uniform texture that breaks with a conchoidal fracture (see above photo: *in the rough*). Obsidian is usually an extrusive rock, one that solidifies above Earth's surface. However, it can form in a variety of cooling environments such as along edges of a lava flow, a sill or dike, where lava contacts water and lava can cool while airborne! When lava cools off, usually as a result of coming into contact with water, it causes many sharp shards of crystals, which can easily be broken off and used as knives, blades, mirrors and jewelry.

When lava cools off, usually as a result of coming into contact with water, it causes many sharp shards of crystals, which can easily be broken off and used as knives, blades, mirrors and jewelry. In the United States Obsidian is not found east of the Mississippi River as there is no geologically recent volcanic activity there. In the western US it is found at many locations in Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. Most obsidian used in the jewelry trade is produced in the US.

Snowflake obsidian is a semi-precious gemstone known for its black background and snowflake-like white spots. Obsidian is made from silicon and oxygen. It is scientifically written as SiO₂, most Obsidian is caused by lava cooling off extremely quickly, which is usually the result of obsidian coming into contact with water. The effect is a very glossy sheen and crystals that can be sharp and beautiful. There needs to be a large amount of silica in the environment (this accounts for 70% of obsidian's composition). Lava must cool rapidly, freezing before it has time for crystal growth. Pure obsidian is dark, but impurities usually result in dark green, brown, black, and gray coloring. Other impurities result in stones known as golden obsidian, apache tears, mahogany and rainbow obsidian, ribbon and snowflake obsidian. Blue obsidian has been found at Lassen Creek, CA depth about 6 foot. The crystals found within snowflake obsidian are a type of quartz crystal.

Obsidian is a very useful material and natives in North America, Italy, Armenia, Mexico, South America, Italy, Armenia, Greece, and Scotland and other countries. It is highly valued in ancient times and was often used as points for blades and weapons. Because it has no crystal structure, obsidian blades can reach molecular thinness, making it a great asset in making to both modern and ancient times. Pliny the Elder wrote about obsidian stone two thousand years ago. It has been mined and used for jewelry and sculptures by many cultures since then. In earlier civilizations, obsidian was highly valued and traded across great distances. It's amazing ability to fracture into sharp edges made it perfect for hunting weapons such as arrowheads, and spear heads. It also came in handy for weapons of war, and used obsidian tools and weapons, both in the "Clovis" (mainly North America) and "Fishtail" (mainly South America) styles. Widely used throughout the western hemisphere and the rest of the world as well) obsidian blades, when freshly struck from the core represent the sharpest cutting edge known, several times sharper than a surgical steel scalpel. In fact obsidian blades are currently in use in some U.S. hospitals for heart bypass surgery. It seems that they cut cleaner, thereby promoting more rapid healing with less scar tissue.

In Oregon, the most well known area having obsidian fields is around Glass Butte. Few people realize that it extends between 40 and 50 square miles and different types of good gem grade obsidian can be found anywhere. One of the early explorers, P.L. Forbes who knew this area as a gem hunter found something unusual in the flow of liquid lava and called it "double flow" in an outcrop at the top of a ridge. Apparently two flows of obsidian came together in almost a straight line, one side flowing black lava and the other side, the lava was bright red and contact made at top of this ridge. When the flows met the obsidian was cool enough so the colors did not intermix, but fused and chilled on contact leaving a sharp line of color demarcation. Two other locations is the Walnut Creek area in northern California and Yellowstone Park, Wyoming. Indians had central meeting places and obsidian was traded for buffalo robe from the Plains Indians. The first piece of obsidian I ever found was lying on the dirt road going into an area of pink limb cast diggings in northern Nevada. I found a previously worked obsidian piece after a backhoe dug out a carport area in a creek bank at end of our property 30 years ago which had to have been traded and transported and in this western area in South Dakota years ago

Working Obsidian by Clarence Bratt

IRIDESCENT - There are two types of iridescent obsidian. In cutting both correctly, the orientation of the color is most important. One type is banded and the color lies in the bands. **On the unbanded type of obsidian**, the surface has to be chipped to find the color. **The banded obsidian** –cut it parallel to the bands to get an eye effect. **To get a rainbow effect**, cut the stone approximately at a 15 degree angle across the bands. The Glass Butte obsidian is banded. **In the Golden Sheen obsidian-** To get the most out of mahogany golden sheen type, saw the bands as if they were stack of plates and you wished to unstuck them. Watch for "fire" spots in the gold sheen. It is not plentiful, but opal-like colors sometimes occur in this type of obsidian. **The Midnight Lace variety-**Lace patterned obsidian should be cut across the surface pattern that you desire to reproduce.

Source: *the Ammonite*



THE DEMING GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.
4200 Raymond Reed Blvd, DEMING, N.M. 88030
FOUNDED - JANUARY 1965



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

All meetings are held at the Deming Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. building

OFFICERS

President	Kaye Green	575-545-3906	1 Yr. Director	Jim Paddock	575-494-8522
Vice President	Tom Rodrigues	575-494-3402	2 Yr. Director	Kathy Townsend	575-546-6982
Secretary	Rose Baros	719-242-6460	3 Yr. Director	Diane Krause	719-371-4168
Treasurer	Maria Costa	603-738-1921	Claims	James Brown	575-494-8906
Bulletin Editor	Carolyn Abbey	575-543-8916	Shop	Al Krause	719-371-4168
Roundup Chair ('24) ...	Marilyn Page	575-544-9019			

**ROUNDUP MEETINGS
AS NEEDED**

**NEXT
BOARD MEETING
April 3, 2024**

**NEXT
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
March 27, 2024**

All meetings are held at the Deming Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. building
4200 Raymond Reed Blvd., Deming, NM

Visitors are invited and welcome at membership meetings.

THE OFFICIAL SHOW OF THE SOCIETY

**NEXT
ROCKHOUND
ROUNDUP
March 6-9, 2025**

**“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.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MARCH

No Board Meeting Due to Roundup

Thursday, March 7 – 10th Rockhound Roundup 9a.m. – 5p.m.
Tuesday, March 12th Tear down Rockhound Roundup
Saturday, March 16th Special Big Diggins trip for Roundup workers
Sunday, March 17th **St Patricks Day**
Wednesday, March 27th General meeting 1 p.m.
Sunday, March 31st **EASTER**

APRIL

Wednesday, April 5th Board meeting 1 p.m.
Wednesday, April 26th General Meeting 1 p.m.

This is your LAST ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN

If we do not receive your dues by April 10th – Renew Now!

Deming Gem & Mineral Society

Carolyn Abbey, Editor
4200 Raymond Reed Blvd.
Deming, New Mexico 88030

