

# Tar Heel Tailings

## Special Interest Articles:

- Prez Sez
- February Birthstone – Jasper

## Individual Highlights:

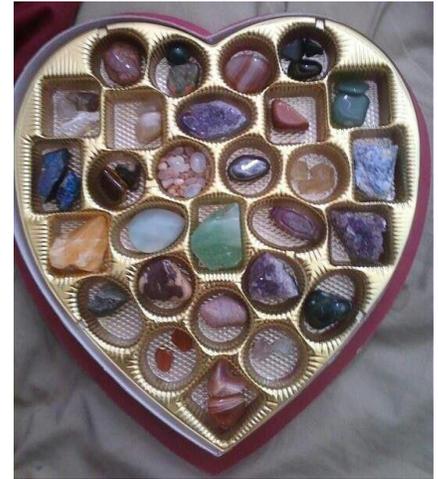
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A newsletter for Gem and Mineral enthusiasts in and around the Raleigh, North Carolina area.

## Prez Sez By Beverly House

Greetings Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club. It's February and we know what that means- love is in the air! With Valentines Day this month, I know there are a lot of people that would love to receive a rock, mineral or fossil. Whether it's a piece of quartz out of the creek bed, a shark's tooth found washed up on the beach, or a shiny piece of carbon (you know I mean) you got from someone special, getting a new rock always makes a rockhound's heart beat a little faster.

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## February Birthstone – Jasper

Jasper is the alternate Birthstone for February

### What is Jasper?

Jasper, opaque, fine-grained or dense variety of the silica mineral chert that exhibits various colours. Chiefly brick red to brownish red, it owes its colour to admixed hematite; but when it occurs with clay admixed, the colour is a yellowish white or gray, or with goethite a brown or yellow. Jasper, long used for jewelry and ornamentation, has a dull lustre but takes a fine polish; its hardness and other physical properties are those of quartz.

The name jasper is from the Greek iaspis, of Semitic origin; in ancient writings the term was chiefly applied to translucent and brightly coloured stones,

particularly chalcedony, but also was applied to the opaque jasper. Medicinal values were long attributed to jasper, including a belief that wearing it strengthened the stomach.

Jasper is common and

widely distributed, occurring chiefly as veinlets, concretions, and replacements in sedimentary and metamorphic rocks, as in the Urals, North Africa, Sicily, Germany, and elsewhere.

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**Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.**

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**We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

**www.tarheelclub.org**

**Program & Refreshments**

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:

Coordinator: Open

February TBD

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

February TBD

Remember, the club will reimburse you for up to \$85 (bring your receipts to the treasurer).

**February  
B-Day Members**

- Danielle Cozart
- Greg Dillon
- Tom Gallian
- Becky Hill
- James Jin
- Jim Jones
- Susan Korn
- Victor Krynicki
- Nancy Lappenbusch
- Fletcher MacDonald
- Susan Montana
- Richard Murray
- Richard Turcotte



Membership applications may be mailed to:

Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.  
Attention: Treasurer  
P. O. Box 33783  
Raleigh, NC 27536-3783

## Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. - January Meeting Minutes

There was no meeting in January, so there were no minutes.

Respectfully Submitted  
Cyndy Hummel,  
Secretary, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

## Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. - February Meeting Information

The Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting for the February Monthly Meeting.

Our Meeting ID: 712 323 1013  
This meetings Passcode: THGMC

Topic: Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club February 2021 Monthly Meeting  
Time: Feb 16, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

We look forward to "seeing" everyone there. If you experience any issues getting into the meeting, you can call or text me at (919) 389-1821. Thanks,

To join the Zoom Meeting, use the following link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7123231013?pwd=RzBmeGdqL3YwcXdWdFp3NjFyY3E4Zz09>

Beverly House  
President  
Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

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## February Treasurer's Report

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TGMC Treasurer Report - January 2021			
<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	1/1/21		2,923.21
<b>Income:</b>			
	Membership Dues	70.00	
	Show Dealer Fees	4,134.00	
	<b>Total Income:</b>		4,204.00
<b>Expense:</b>			
	January Newsletter	98.32	
	Storage Rentals	503.00	
	USPS PO Box Rental	288.00	
	Stripe Fees	2.94	
	<b>Total Expenses:</b>		892.26
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	1/31/21		6,234.95
<b>CDs</b>	91-181 day		5,705.21
			-
	<b>Total CDs</b>		5,705.21
	<b>Uncashed Vendor Refunds</b>		
	Randy Dixon (\$695) chk returned		
	Jacob Stephens (\$380)		
	Wholesale Rocks (\$380)		

Linda Searcy  
Treasurer, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

## Prez Sez

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Field Trips: I know COVID 19 and all the restrictions that came with it has been hard on everyone- brutal and life altering for some, but hopefully, we are getting close to seeing the light at the end of this long, dark tunnel. The quarries are still closed to us and the news is it may be late spring or summer before we see any of them opening to our club. I can assure you that as soon as we can, we will set up field trips, as fast and as frequent, to help offset the month's we could not go.

I will be setting up another Senter Quarry Field in Lillington, NC trip for Sunday, February 28, 2021 from 10:00 am-3:00 pm. (Weather permitting) This will be for ages 6 and up and we will be planning something special for those who attend. Watch for an email to alert you to the field trip.

Monthly Meetings: NC State's Craft Center was still unavailable for our February meeting, but we are having our monthly meeting via Zoom on February 16, 2021 at 7:30 pm- everyone should have received a meeting invite, but in case you did not, here is the information:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7123231013?pwd=RzBmeGdqL3YwcXdWdFp3NjFyY3E4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 712 323 1013

Passcode: THGMC

\*\*If you experience problems getting into the meeting, please call or text me at (919) 389-1821.

We will send an email with details of the March's meeting, whether it is in person or via Zoom, as soon as we have the information to share it with you.

THGMC Annual Show: We will provide updates during the meeting on February 16th.

Lastly, I want to wish a Happy Birthday to those who have February birthdays, Happy Anniversary to those celebrating anniversaries this month, and a BIG THANK YOU to those who continue to be a part of the Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club. Your board really appreciates all its members and followers and we look forward to seeing you all in person soon. Take care!

Be safe and everyone-Rock On in 2021!

Thank you,  
Beverly House  
President

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

## February Birthstone – Jasper

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Some varieties are colour-banded, and beautiful examples of jasperized fossil wood are found in Arizona, U.S. Jasper is also common as detrital pebbles.



For thousands of years, black jasper (and also black slate) was used to test gold-silver alloys for their gold content. Rubbing the alloys on the stone, called a touchstone, produces a streak the colour of which determines the gold content within one part in one hundred.

Jasper is an opaque form of Chalcedony, which is a microcrystalline variety of the mineral Quartz. It often contains an abundance of impurities, and therefore some regard it as a rock instead of a mineral. Jasper is usually associated with brown, yellow, or reddish colors, but may be used to describe other opaque colors of Chalcedony such as dark or mottled green and orange. Some forms of Jasper are banded, and these banded Jaspers may appear similar to Agate, but unlike Agate they are opaque. When Jasper is dull and lacking interesting colors or patterns, it is not Jasper but rather Chert.

Geologically the name has long been used for an opaque to slightly translucent, generally red or brown to variably coloured, impure chalcedony or microcrystalline chert, usually containing abundant fine inclusions of hematite, iron hydroxides and other

minerals. It is typically associated with banded iron formations.

It has also been used informally by lapidarists for many other opaque lapidary materials, including some igneous and sedimentary rocks.



**Uses** - Jasper is a well-know ornamental stone. It is carved into ornamental objects, and is used as an inexpensive gemstone in jewelry, most commonly as beads in necklaces, bracelets, and earrings. It is a favorite among amateur gem cutters, as it is very diverse and fairly inexpensive.



**Noteworthy Localities** - Jasper is very common and is found worldwide.

<b>Chemical Formula</b>	SiO <sub>2</sub>
<b>Composition</b>	Silicon dioxide, usually with <b>impurities</b> of iron <b>oxides</b> or <b>organic</b> substances.
<b>Color</b>	Brown, yellow, orange, red, green, or blue. May also refer to any form of <b>opaque</b> Chalcedony in all colors. Jasper is usually multicolored or <b>banded</b> .
<b>Streak</b>	White
<b>Hardness</b>	6.5 - 7
<b>Crystal System</b>	<b>Hexagonal</b>
<b>Crystal Forms and Aggregates</b>	Jasper is a <b>microcrystalline</b> form of the mineral <b>Quartz</b> , and does not occur in visible crystals. It most often is in <b>massive</b> form, but may also be <b>botryoidal</b> , <b>mammillary</b> , and <b>stalactitic</b> formations, as smooth rounded pebbles, and as <b>nodules</b> .
<b>Transparency</b>	<b>Opaque</b>
<b>Specific Gravity</b>	2.7 - 2.7
<b>Luster</b>	<b>Vitreous</b>
<b>Cleavage</b>	None
<b>Fracture</b>	<b>Conchoidal</b>
<b>Tenacity</b>	<b>Brittle</b>
<b>Other ID Marks</b>	1) Sometimes <b>fluorescent</b> . 2) <b>Triboluminescent</b> 3) <b>Piezoelectric</b>
<b>Complex Tests</b>	Dissolves in <b>hydrofluoric acid</b> .
<b>In Group</b>	<b>Silicates; Tectosilicates; Silica Group</b>
<b>Striking Features</b>	Color habits and hardness
<b>Environment</b>	Occurs in all mineral <b>environments</b> .
<b>Rock Type</b>	<b>Igneous, Sedimentary, Metamorphic</b>
<b>Popularity (1-4)</b>	1
<b>Prevalence (1-3)</b>	1
<b>Demand (1-3)</b>	1



## Jasper Gemstones



Resources:

<https://www.britannica.com/science/jasper-mineral>

<https://www.minerals.net/mineral/jasper.aspx>

<https://www.mindat.org/min-2082.html>

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**April 9 - 11, 2021: Raleigh, NC – 45<sup>nd</sup> Annual Capital Area Gem & Mineral Show.** Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC. The show is sponsored by the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club and includes dealers. The Hospitality area sells grab bags with mineral specimens. Buy a rock at the Geode booth and be the first to see what is inside. The on-going Silent Auction has new items every hour. Dealers provide minerals, fossils, finished jewelry, gemstones, findings and beads for sale. Hours: Fri 3-8; Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5. Admission: TBD and Free Parking. Contact: Cyndy Hummel; 919-779-6220; [mchummel@mindspring.com](mailto:mchummel@mindspring.com); [www.tarheelclub.org](http://www.tarheelclub.org);

**Vugsites** The following are some links to Web-Sites that may interest some of our members:

<http://www.tarheelclub.org> / <https://www.facebook.com/tarheelgemandmineralclub/> These are the official sites for the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club. I would strongly urge all members to check them out on a regular basis.

<http://www.amfed.org> / <http://www.amfed.org/sfms> These are the official sites for the organizing body that the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club is founded under. I would strongly urge all members to check them out on a regular basis.

[http://www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar\\_newsletter.html](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar_newsletter.html) The SFMS Lodestar Newsletter

<http://www.carolinageologicalsociety.org/CGS/Home.htm> This site provides numerous downloadable field-trip guide books, maps, and charts of the Carolinas. It will prove to keep any avid rock hound busy for years. Great Site!

[http://www.ncminerals.com/ncmineralswebsite\\_files/page0011.htm](http://www.ncminerals.com/ncmineralswebsite_files/page0011.htm) And while we are on the subject, try this link. Its titled: Links of Interest to Rock hounds in NC. It will take you to a list of links for North Carolina gems and minerals.

<http://www.rocksforkids.com/> Just like the name says, a nice place to steer the younger members.

Information & photographs of over 6300 specimens from the Glenn & Martha Vargas Gem & Mineral Collection.

<http://www.rockhoundlounge.com> Scott Laborde, a club member maintains his own web site that might be of interest to people collecting in and around Wake County.

[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29726500/ns/technology\\_and\\_science-science](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29726500/ns/technology_and_science-science) This site highlights a half dozen of the most recent significant fossil finds.

<http://appmodo.com/13971/mole-quest-for-the-terracore-gem-app-review-for-the-iphone-and-ipod-touch/> If you have an iphone or an ipod touch, this rock-hounding may be the game for you.

[http://diamonddanpublications.net/index\\_files/page0009.html](http://diamonddanpublications.net/index_files/page0009.html) Diamond Dan's Mini Miner's Monthly

I would like to encourage all members of the THG&MC that maintain their own presence on the internet to send me a link to their site to be published in future Vugsites so that other club members may learn and enjoy the craft, the art, the interests that many of us have in common.

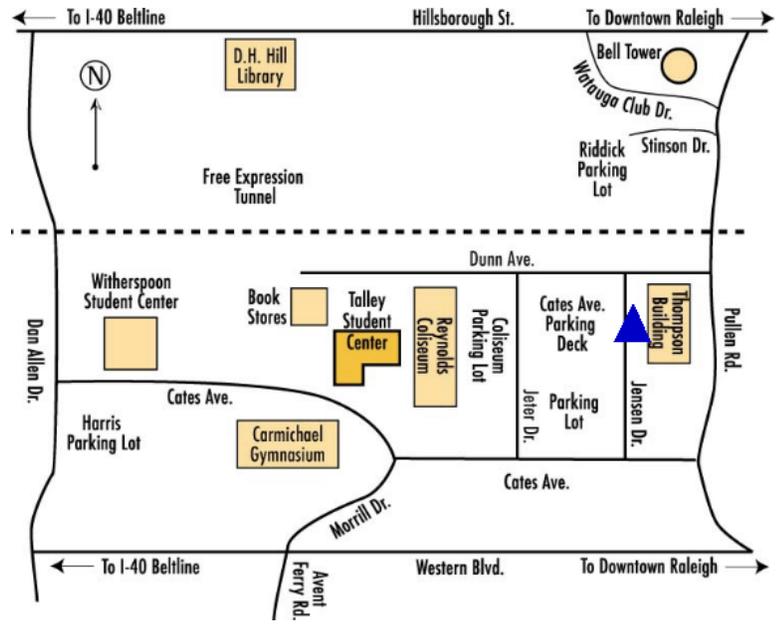
Park in the Cates Ave. Parking Deck off Jensen Dr. Enter Thompson Building directly across from the parking lot.

**Our Next Meeting is  
February 16, 2021  
See Inside for Meeting Details**

***About Our Organization...***

The Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. was formed in 1974 as a nonprofit educational organization for people who enjoy the lapidary arts, earth sciences, and related subjects. The main objectives of the club are to investigate, preserve, and share knowledge of rocks, minerals, and precious stones, and to promote interest in mineralogy, paleontology, earth sciences, and lapidary techniques, among club members and among the general public. The club pursues these goals through publications, meetings, lectures, field trips, exhibits, demonstrations, and other activities.

**Come and be a part of the Fun!**



**TAR HEEL GEM & MINERAL CLUB**  
10609 Chelsea Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27603

