

June 2026

TAR HEEL TAILINGS

A Newsletter For Gem & Mineral Enthusiasts of Raleigh, NC and Surrounding Areas



1974-2026

Prez Sez

Greetings, I hope we all are off to a safe start for the summer. Keep finding those rocks and who knows your new favorite one could be just around that hill or creek bend.

Thomas Beach, President

June 16, 2026, Meeting Agenda

6:30 -7:00 pm Meeting and greeting, set up room, purchase opportunity (parking lot)- Ken Carlson- miscellaneous materials

7:00-7:15 pm Welcome, new members, visitors, and birthdays

7:15 -7:20 Updates

7:20-8:30 Wire wrapping labradorite cabochon

8:30-8:55 Clean up and out of building 9:00 pm

THGMC Club is excited to offer a hands-on opportunity to learn how to wire wrap a teardrop-shaped labradorite cabochon! This workshop will be available to members attending the June meeting, with space for up to 40 participants.

We will provide all the materials needed for the project, including wire and a beautiful labradorite cabochon. We have a limited number of wire-wrapping tools available, so if you have your own tools, please bring them to help reduce sharing.

Instructions will begin promptly, and we kindly ask that there be no late arrivals so we can complete the project within the allotted time.



Monthly Mineral: **BARITE**

By Editor: Patrick Luhr



Barite From Alexander County, NC Credit: Patrick Luhr (2026)

June's mineral of the month is Barite! Barite is a soft, often light colored or colorless mineral rich in Barium. Its first use of interest was by 16th century alchemists who found samples of the radiating crystals and it also was used in the first isolation of the element Barium in 1808. Barite is a sulphate mineral, related to Celestite and Gypsum. Usually it forms in hydrothermal settings (hot mineral rich fluids), especially alongside zinc-lead ores in limestones, hot spring deposits and iron ores. It's found in several different forms, including as tabular crystals in pockets and as brilliant sand filled clusters known as "Desert Roses".

North Carolina hosts several Barite occurrences, some of which were economically important. It was mined in Madison County around the town of Hot Springs, and around Crowder's Mountain in Gaston County, where several mines were worked from 1880-1920. Production was never particularly significant but nonetheless provided a source for the material. Additionally, high quality specimens are occasionally found at the mines around Hiddenite.



*Barite Ore From The King's Mountain Belt
Credit: Patrick Luhr (2026)*

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2026

Board Members in Attendance:

- Thomas Beach, President
- Adam Hogan, Vice President
- Kelly Roney, Secretary
- Beverly House, Treasurer
- Lynne Kuzeff, Member-at-Large
- Craig Downes, Technology Lead

Meeting called to order at 7:01

Number of Attendees: 43

Visitors: 1

New Members: 3

Birthday Attendees: 3

Topics of Discussion:

- **General club announcements-** Thomas Beach
 - Welcome and birthdays.
- **Change in bylaws:** (Tom) Proposals were announced originally at the 21 April 2026 club meeting. Suggestions by members during the 21 April 2026 meeting were noted and subsequently considered by the board. The updated proposals are as follows:
 - **Proposed Change 1:** Require a visitor or someone wishing to join the club to attend a meeting or volunteer at the annual show prior to being able to join the club.
 - **Decision:** Proposal 1 has been tabled indefinitely due to complexity of implementation.
 - **Proposed Change 2:** To be eligible to register for a field trip, a member must be in good standing (defined as paid their dues)

with the club and have either volunteered at the annual show or attended a club meeting in the last 12 months.

- Member discussion/comments:

- Other clubs use paper sign-up sheets. For THGMC, this is not possible for as field trips often have a short period of time between signup date and event date.

- **Decision:** By a show of hands vote the proposed Change 2 passed.

- **Annual Show 2026 announcements/awards:**

- 62 volunteers. Over 1000 hours of volunteer time.
- A \$15 gift card was awarded to all youth volunteers.
- Volunteers that worked at least 4 hours were entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card. Names drawn: Cindy Sanchez (not present), Adam Phelps, Katy Tomlinson, Darsen Sowers (not present), Jerry Miller, and Cyndy Hummel
- Silent auction did great this year.
- Thanks to all volunteers!

- **Field trips:**

- **Discussion of potential trips (Beverly):**

- Portis mine- would be a Friday in June 2026. 13 club members showed interest. **Decision:** Field trip will proceed.
- Emerald Hollow Mine. 20+ club members were interested. **Decision:** Field trip will proceed.

- **Report (Adam):** Portis mine- Members in attendance learned to pan for gold and most found some gold. Some found historical items were also found by members.

- **June 2026 club meeting (Beverly):** A wire wrapping class will be held for the members at no cost. 40+ members showed interest by show of hands. Bring your own tools if you have them.

- **Presentation:** Mark Winston presented on Rockhounding Travel and how to identify areas of potential collection for rocks and minerals of interest.

- **Door Prize Winners and prizes:** Three door prizes were awarded: Jerry-bismuth; Nicosia-fluorite cabochon; Susan-hematite cabochon.

The meeting concluded at 8:30 PM.

Meeting minutes by Kelly Roney, Secretary



Door Prizes won at the May 2026 Meetin

Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. 2026 Board

P.O. Box 33783

Raleigh, NC 27536

Thomas Beach – President

Adam Hogan – Vice President

Beverly House– Treasurer

Kelly Roney – Secretary

Lynne Kuzeff – Member At Large

Cyndy Hummel – Member At Large

Craig Downes – Technology Lead

Please contact any member of the board through:

tarheelgemmineralclub@yahoo.com

MOONSTONE IN NORTH CAROLINA AND BEYOND

Written by Patrick Lahr for the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club



Moonstone is a fascinating gem variety of Feldspar which is defined by its light color and rich blue flash when observed at certain angles. It's also one of several minerals, alongside Alexandrite and Pearls, that are listed by the GIA as June's birthstone. Moonstone's blue flash is the result of two minerals, Orthoclase and

Albite, stacking on top of each other in microscopic layers.

The best quality Moonstone is found in Sri Lanka, where completely transparent samples are found frequently enough that commercial mines have been established. It has been found at several sites in North Carolina, especially within the pegmatites in and around the town of Spruce Pine. The most consistent locality which is publicly accessible is the Ray Mica Mine, where it occurs alongside the more popular target minerals like Aquamarine and Tourmaline. During a visit in 2022 I personally watched a man pull a fist sized sample of transparent Moonstone out of the tailings piles which possessed an incredible schiller, the technical name for that blue flash. It's been found at other mines as well, including the Sinkhole and Crabtree mines which are in the same area. Most NC Moonstone is more of a milky color, and large samples are fairly rare, but it's still a treat to find, and a great addition to any collection.



*Ray Mica Mine, a notable source of Moonstone in North Carolina
Credit: Patrick Lahr (2026)*

Tar Heel Updates

Treasurer report: We are in good standing and all our bills are paid and paid on time.

Beverly House, Treasurer

Field trips:

TBD

Upcoming July 2026 meeting:

🍦 **Ice Cream Social**-Cool off and connect with friends while enjoying a delicious variety of ice cream treats.

💎 **Geode Cracking Experience**-Discover the beauty hidden inside! Watch (or participate in) the cracking of geodes to reveal stunning natural crystals.

🛒 **Parking Lot Trunk Sale**-Members are invited to set up outside in their trunks or tables- rocks ,artisan items, anything related to our hobby- and allow one another to browse and shop unique treasures and handcrafted items—perfect for collectors and gift seekers alike.

☀️ **Special Recognition**

We will also take a moment to celebrate and express our sincere appreciation for **Cyndy Hummel** and her outstanding service and dedication as Show Chairperson. Her leadership and commitment have made a lasting impact, and we are truly grateful for her excellence.

Come for the fun, stay for the community, and help us celebrate together!

Vug Sites

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club- These are the official sites for the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club.

<https://www.facebook.com/tarheelgemandmineralclub>

<https://www.tarheelclub.org/>

The Southeastern Federal Mineral Society (SFMS) Lodestar Newsletter- The Southeast Federation includes clubs and societies mostly in the region east of the Mississippi River and South of a line following the northern borders of Tennessee and North Carolina. <https://www.southeastfed.org/newsletter>

Carolina Geological Society- This site provides numerous downloadable field trip guidebooks, maps, and charts of the Carolinas. It will prove to keep any avid rockhound busy for years. <https://www.carolinageologicalsociety.org/>

Rock and Gem Magazine -Leading magazine for lapidary and mineral hobbyists. <https://www.rockngem.com/>

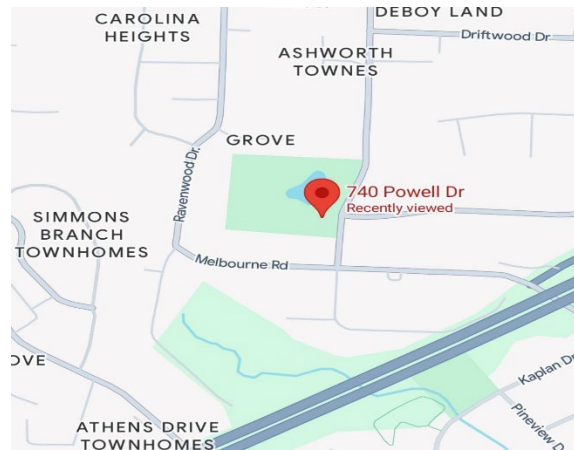
Geological Trial Guide for Falls Lake Area- Covers the area between Falls Lake Dam to the Eno River, created by Phil Bradley with the North Carolina Geological Survey (NCGS).
http://www.ncgeology.com/falls_lake_geology/pages/TrailGuide_FallsLake_home.html

Geological Trial Guide for Eno River Area -created by Phil Bradley with the North Carolina Geological Survey (NCGS).
http://www.ncgeology.com/pages/Index_eno.html

Interactive geology maps - published by the NCGS, include detailed maps of North Carolina and a rock survey of downtown Raleigh buildings.
<https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-and-land-resources/ncgs-publications/interactive-geologic-maps>

MinDat - Open database for rocks, minerals, and mines from around the world.
<https://www.mindat.org/>

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 public. The club pursues these goals through publications, meetings, lectures, field trips, exhibits, demonstrations, and other activities.



NEXT MEETING

Tuesday June 16, 2026 7:00-9:00 PM

Powell Drive Community Center

740 Powell Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606



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