

# Tar Heel Tailings

## Special Interest Articles:

- Prez Sez
- History of Feldspar and Mica in North Carolina
- Important Field Trip Notice
- Proposed Addition to Club Rules and Bylaws

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

## Prez Sez

**By Anthony Andreoli**

I am starting this month's newsletter with a very important announcement. Our annual Gem and Mineral Show dates have changed! Originally the show was scheduled for March 29-31. The new show dates are now April 5-7, so mark your calendars!

This month's speaker is Dr. Mike. He will be talking about "the importance of Zinc in humans." Beverly has volunteered to bring refreshments, and Renny has volunteered to bring beverages. Remember we are always looking for volunteers to bring food and beverages to our monthly meetings.

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## History of Feldspar and Mica in North Carolina

Rock hounds in North Carolina may dream of emeralds and rubies, but more familiar minerals like feldspar and mica are often the bread and butter of field trips. These humble minerals can produce some fascinating specimens and have deep roots in North Carolina's mining history.

As many as 2,000 years ago, Native Americans in the spruce pine area were mining mica to use as currency and decorate grave sites. More recently, around 1744, the local tribes found a market for the feldspar that was a by-product of their mica and aquamarine mines. They loaded up carts of feldspar for English colonists for use in ceramics. Scotch-Irish farmers in Mitchell County also mined their land for mica, considering **continued on page 4**



Chinese Labradorite  
<https://www.brettonrocks.com>

## Important Field Trip Notice

**By Anthony Andreoli**

As many of you know, our club offers many excellent field trip opportunities to our members. We visit many of the quarries located right here in North Carolina. Our field trip coordinator Katelyn works very hard to get us into these quarries. Most quarries allow clubs to come in and surface collect mineral specimens. Mostly on weekends at specified times, mostly when the quarry is not in operation to prevent any contact with heavy equipment. It is very important to have the proper safety gear when going on one of these trips. Any gear required is listed on the trip invite on the website. Club members are responsible for bringing all their equipment. Any member missing any safety equipment will not be allowed into the quarry. Also, it is very important we follow the safety **continued on page 5**

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

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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

[www.tarheelclub.org](http://www.tarheelclub.org)

**Program & Refreshments**

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:

Coordinator: Open

February: Beverly House  
Beverages: Renny Young

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

January - Tom Todaro- Safety Briefing  
February - Michael Frankilin  
March - Grab Bags / Postcards  
April - Post-show Discussion  
May - Jeff Schlottman  
June - TBA  
July - TBA  
August - Cathy Young  
September - Paul Byrne  
October - Grab Bags  
November - Election

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

**January Treasurer's Report**

Beginning Balance:	1/1/19	17,063.62
Income:		
Membership Dues	1,067.66	
Total Income:		1,067.66
Expense:		
Club Meeting - Refreshments	75.58	
Field Trip Gift Cards	45.00	
Newsletter Printing	85.37	
PO Box Rental	250.00	
EFMLS Fee, Insurance	332.50	
Show - Tucson purchases	775.00	
Show Venue Rental Deposit	2,200.00	
Show Dealer Refunds	1,502.50	
Total Expenses:		5,265.95
Ending Balance:	1/31/19	12,865.33
CDS		
32-90 day		5,376.98
91-181 day		5,699.26
Total CDS		11,076.24

**February B-Day Members**

- William "Chese" Davis
- Greg Dillon
- John DuBois
- Oliver "Tom" Gallian
- Liz Garrett
- Michael Guerriero
- James Jin
- Susan Korn
- Victor Krynicky
- Memphis Neyland
- John E. Palmer
- Kathy Williams



Membership applications may be mailed to:

Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.  
Attention: Treasurer  
PO Box 33783,  
Raleigh, NC 27636-3783

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

Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Attendees (Members): 29  
 Visitors: 4  
 TOTAL Attending: 33

Birthdays: Marion Broadway, Ken Carlson, Cyndy Hummel, Suzanne Love, Jason Jin, James Markarian, John Nigro, Greg Shay, Connie Shay, John Sheuring, Jacob Stephens

Membership table was staffed by Linda Searcy, Treasurer and Karen Santala, Membership

Food: Domino's Pizza (Beverly House) Drinks Renny Young

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Anthony Andreoli, President

### Meeting theme: Safety Presentation by Tom Todaro

- When we go on fieldtrips, we are visitors
- At the quarries, we must abide by the MSHA safety rules
- Each site has their own rules
  - All participants meet collectively at the site
  - Take part in safety briefing
  - Ensure proper safety clothing are worn by everyone: hard hat, steel toe boots, high visibility shirt/vest and others as noted by the field trip coordinator for each site
- THGMC members are considered surface collectors
- Age restrictions are spelled out by the field trip coordinator when the trip is posted

### Website

- Will be active this week
- Field trips will be posted on webpage and members will be able to sign up through the website
- Email alerts will still continue to go to members when a field trip is posted

### Membership

- New and existing members will be able to register/pay membership dues this week

### THGMC Show- March 29-31, 2019

- Melissa- Silent Auction
- Karen- Hospitality co-chair- still need second co-chair
- Cyndy- sign-up sheets and flyers will be available at the meeting next month
- Grab bags- members will work on grab bags at the March 2019 meeting
- Display cases are available at the show- will material for them

### Social media presence

- Anthony has appointed his daughter to take the reins on getting THGMC fully active on social media- Facebook, Instagram, etc.
- Add "Follow us on Facebook" in newsletters and on website

### Future meetings/events

- Proposed ideas: Kids night, Ice Cream Social
- Need to line up other months

Door prize winner: Renny Young

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 7:30 pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly L. House,  
 Secretary of Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

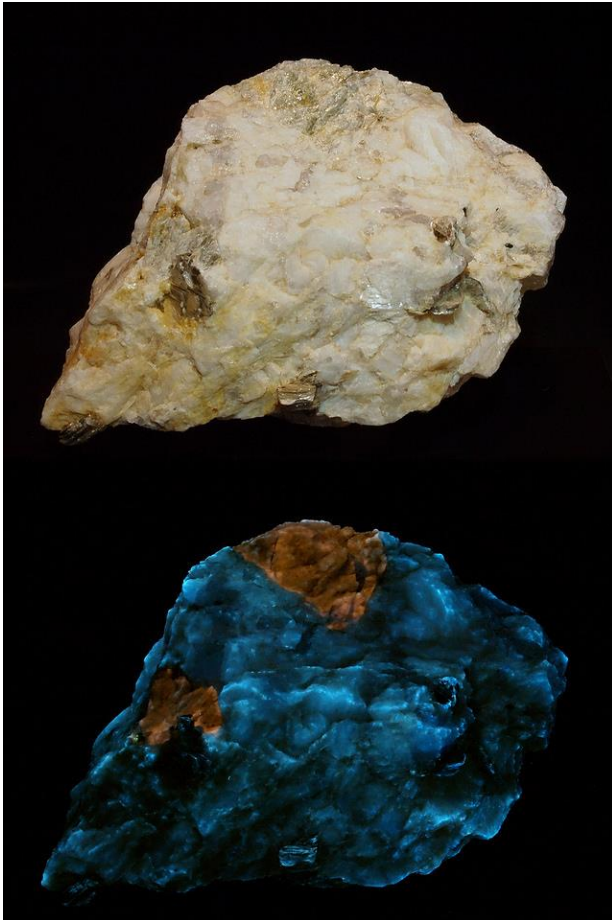


Renny Young with his prize of Dolomite with Malachite



**Feldspar and Mica: Continued from Page 1**

It wasn't until the 1850's that large scale (non-Native American) operations started to mine mica. Miners found such large volumes of mica that researchers searched for new uses. Previously used for only for decoration, mica was found to have a high resistance to heat. It was made into windows for furnaces and used as "an insulator in Thomas Edison's electronic motor," as well as insulating toasters and vacuum tubes. It wasn't until the 1960's that technology progressed beyond mica insulation.



Yancey County Manganapatite on Feldspar, in white light and in UVa light.

Credit: Cran Cowan

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/28617364@N04/15851407992>

According to Joseph Hyde Pratt's article in the 1933 edition of the Journal Mineralogical Society of America, feldspar has been discovered in a few different semi-precious gem forms in North Carolina. Mica mines in Mitchell and Avery Counties have produced a variety of oligoclase we know as moonstone. A mine in Mitchell County produced a notable piece of clear moonstone "which measured

1x2x3 inches." Sunstone, another variety of oligoclase feldspar, was found in Iredell and Rowan Counties. Pratt also notes that amazonstone, a green microcline feldspar, was found in Yancey County. Even a type of labradorite was found in Mecklenburg and Mitchell Counties, though apparently it only showed "a slight blue chatoyancy" and was "not nearly as beautiful as the labradorite from Labrador" (a province in Canada).

Today, mica and feldspar can still be found in the Spruce Pine area. Sites in Alexander County such as Emerald Hollow Mine in Hiddenite, NC are also rich with mica. Fluorescent feldspars are still found in Yancey County.

Sources:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=OhgtAAAIAAJ&pg=PA226&hl=en#v=onepage&q&f=false>

<https://www.ourstate.com/mineral-city/>

<http://www.smliv.com/features/digging-deep-into-western-north-carolinas-mining-history/>

**Prez Sez: continued from page 1**

You will be reimbursed up to \$85 combined for both food and beverages just keep you receipts. See myself or one of your fellow officers to volunteer.

The show volunteer sheets for each club area (Hospitality, Geode, Silent Auction, and Demonstration) will be available at the February and March meetings. We need all the volunteers we can get to make our show a success!

Important reminder: Dig through your gem, mineral and fossil stash to bring to the March meeting where we will be making grab bags for the show. We have a long way to go to reach our goal of 1000 bags, so we will need all the goodies you can bring (the more colorful the better!).

Lastly, please bring any questions you have about the show, and we will discuss following Dr. Mike's presentation.

See you all February 19th!!

## Important Field Trip Announcement: Continued from Page 1

instructions given to us at the safety briefing before the trip begins at the quarry office. Here the quarry operator goes over all safety hazards we may come across and areas to avoid. All safety guidelines must be followed. This is very important because any safety issue could result in the club not being allowed back into the quarry for future trips.

When we are invited into a quarry as a club, all Tarheel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. members are covered under our club insurance, in case of injuries that may occur. There are also quarries that allow individuals to come in and collect specimens. There are two important things to know about individual collecting sites:

1. Anyone who contacts a quarry to collect individually cannot use the Tarheel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. name to gain access to the quarry.
2. Those individuals will not be covered under the Tarheel Gem and Mineral Club Inc. insurance, therefore are collecting at their own risk.

The only trips that may use the club name are those organized by our field trip coordinator. A new club field trip authorization form is being drafted to give to the quarries in order designate a club trip. It is more beneficial for us as a club that the only person contacting quarries is our club field trip coordinator. The quarry operators are very busy, and it looks bad for the club if one person calls to ask about collecting and then a few days later our field trip coordinator calls. That being said, we encourage anyone interested in a particular collecting site to contact our trip coordinator Katelyn with as much info about the site as you can provide, and she will do her best to get us in.

These trips are a great way for members to get out and meet some members they may not see at the monthly meetings, as well as expand their mineral collections. I really hope everyone enjoys these trips as much as I do. Let's continue to be safe and have fun!

## Proposed Addition to the Club Rules/By-Laws

By: Katelyn Hennessey (and the other Officers/Volunteer Chairs)

After having some repeated issues with field trips and club business, it was determined by the board that the best course of action would be to update the Rules/By-Laws. Below is the final list of Proposed Rules/By-Laws, that has the full backing of the Officers and Volunteer Chairs. We would like to vote on these at our next meeting in March, where we can open the floor to any questions.

### General

1. In regards to any club business (Club business being meetings, field trips, the Gem Show or any time that you are acting as a club member), any of the following:

- Misconduct
- Harassment
- Inappropriate comment
- Breaking of any club rules/by-laws
- Being intoxicated or under the influence of illegal substances
- Or anything unbecoming of a club member

Can result in disciplinary actions, up to and including being banned from field trips and/or the club. This is to be determined by the current board of Elected and Volunteer Officers, in a fair and reasonable manner. All club members have the right to feel safe and comfortable as a part of the club.

2. If you have been in an elected or volunteer position in the past, the:

- Responsibilities
- Special permissions
- Title
- Keys
- Logins, accounts, passwords, admin access, binders, etc.
- Ability to speak on behalf of the club (Contacting Vendors, Quarries, etc.)

Must all be relinquished/ceased at the time that a new person is elected or volunteered to that position.

3. Please do not call or text Club Officers/Volunteers unless it is the day before or the day of a club event. Any other time, they should only be contacted via email.

## Field Trips

1. When attending field trips, you agree to:

- be reasonably on time
- have all of your gear
- sign in on the club's sign in sheet when you arrive
- sign any forms required by the quarry (printed and signed ahead of time, if they were provided)

2. Serious safety violations could result in MSHA fines for the quarry. For this reason, serious safety violations could result in being banned from attending any future club field trips.

3. If you are asked 2 times to stop doing anything against the rules and are becoming a safety hazard, you will be asked to wait in your car until the end of the trip and/or not invited to attend future trips.

4. Stay at least 10 feet from any highwall that is 15 ft - 20 ft high, and 15 feet from highwalls that are 20 feet or higher, unless it is otherwise stated to be a farther distance, by the field trip coordinator or quarry.

- The start of the highwall in which to measure from, would be the part that sticks out the furthest, which sometimes is very high up and called an "overhang".
- Keep in mind that the chance of falling rocks increases if there is water or ice involved.

5. Stay on the safe side of the berms and never cross to the other side.

6. Do not climb any large rock piles.

On small piles, when it looks safe, it is okay to step a few feet from the ground, and reach for something, so long as you are using common sense and being safe.

7. You must not go near any bodies of water bigger than puddles, even if they don't look deep.

8. If you are using a hammer, make sure your safety glasses are in place, but also notify everyone around you that you will be hammering and verify that they all have their glasses on.

9. If you have any problems, you must go to the Club's Field Trip Coordinator and not the quarry guide. This includes needing to leave because of an urgent unavoidable matter, or if you need to use the bathroom and can't wait.

10. If you sign up for a trip, you are signing up for the whole trip, not just part of it, so you need to stay for the whole time.

11. Bathrooms are usually available before we head down into the pit, so you need to use them beforehand and avoid asking to go once we are in the pit. (People have emergencies, and that is understandable, but they need to be just that...emergencies)

12. If you sign up for a trip, you need to show up for a trip.

13. If you sign up for a trip and need to cancel, please give as much notice as possible, but at least cancel before the "Sign Up/Cancel By" Date (Usually 24 hours to 1 week prior to the trip) The website will not allow changes after this.

14. If there is a genuine emergency/urgency to cancel, after the "Sign Up/Cancel By" Date, you will need to contact the Field Trip Coordinator directly.

15. If you, or a family member, are feeling sick the night before a trip, and feel there might be even a chance you won't make it, let the field trip coordinator know of the situation as soon as possible, do not wait to see if it gets better.

16. If you repeatedly sign up for trips and cancel at the last minute, or even worse, not show up at all, you will not be invited to attend future field trips.

17. Club members are not permitted to contact (call, text, email, etc.) quarries/mines.

The only member that may contact quarries on behalf of the club or as a Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. member, is the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.'s current designated Field Trip Coordinator. Calling a quarry and mentioning that you are a club member, implies that you have the club's insurance if you go to their quarry. You are only covered by the club's insurance if it is a trip set up by the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club Inc.'s current designated Field Trip Coordinator.

## 18. REQUIRED EQUIPMENT at any quarry:

- Hard Hat
- Steel toe or composite toe boots/shoes
- Safety Goggles (ANSI Z87.1-1979)
- Pants (No shorts or Capris)
- Gloves
- Reflective Vest

You are required to bring all of the above listed equipment to any quarry, both for yourself and anyone under 18 that you are bringing with you, and to wear all of the above listed gear the entire time that you are out of a vehicle (excluding the main office). Some quarries are okay with you hooking your safety glasses on your vest if you are only ground hunting (no hammers), but this is up to each individual quarry. If you do not have all required equipment, you will not be permitted to enter the quarry and will have to leave.

19. Show respect to the quarry and their representative(s), your Club Field Trip Coordinator and your fellow club members.

20. You may bring a family member under the age of 18, from your membership, on trips where “Under 18” is allowed and when you and they have been signed up.

You are responsible for:

- that person
- making sure that person is following the club and quarry rules
- bringing all of their safety gear

21. You must listen to the Quarry Guide and your Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Field Trip Coordinator while on a trip.

22. No Videos are to be taken while at a quarry. Photos may be taken with the quarry’s permission, but may not be posted online with any information that identifies the quarry.

23. If you post photos online or elsewhere of what you got on a field trip, take the photos of your items after you leave the quarry, since the photos have metadata that often include the gps location, and also do not post the name of the quarry or the location.

24. The Field Trip Coordinator may use appropriate judgement to take and/or choose photos to add to the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. website, but will leave off information about the quarry.

25. If you sell any specimens from trips, you need to leave off the quarry information, including the town and may only include county information.

26. You agree to abide by any and all rules set forth by the quarry that we are visiting, including MSHA regulations.

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**April 5-7, 2019: Raleigh, NC – 43<sup>rd</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 29 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: Free and Free Parking. Contact: Cyndy Hummel; 919-779-6220; [mchummel@mindspring.com](mailto:mchummel@mindspring.com); [www.tarheelclub.org](http://www.tarheelclub.org);

**March 8-10, 2019: Augusta, GA - 30th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show.** Sponsored by the nonprofit organizations: Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society; Augusta Gem and Mineral Society. Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad St. Augusta, GA. Diamonds, sapphires, tanzanites, emeralds and other fine jewelry. Gorgeous everyday jewelry, mineral lamps, art objects, and beads. Fabulous fossils and minerals from around the world. Jewelry making and cabochon cutting demos. Kid’s Treasure Dig, Grab Bags, Geode cutting, Member case displays, Educational resources. FREE “Adopt-a-Rock” to every child. Hours: Fri & Sat 10–6 / Sun 10–5. Concessions benefit Relay for Life. Admission: Kids under 12 FREE with one Adult admission: \$3/day or \$5 weekend pass; 50¢-off admission coupon on our websites. Contact: Show Chair: Chris Glass 706-284-9239; <http://www.aikengmfs.org>; <http://aqams.club>



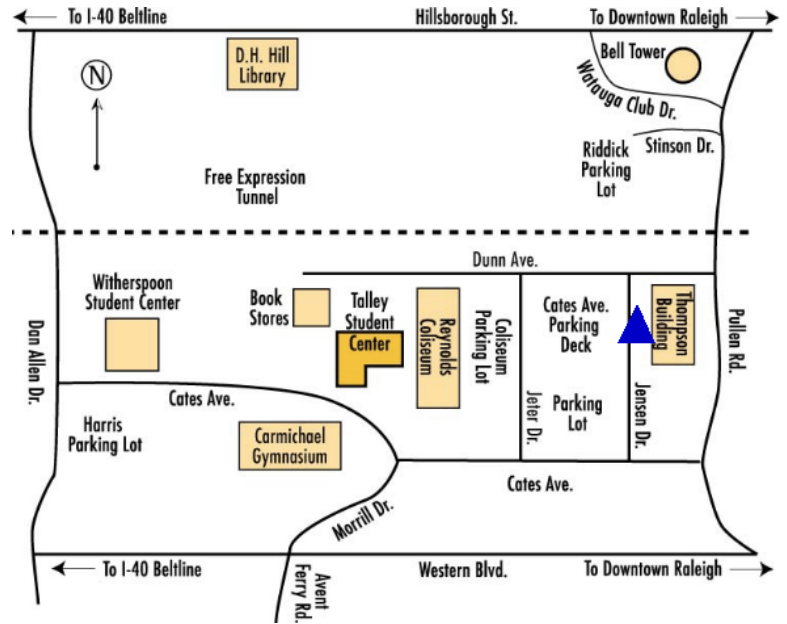
Park in the Cates Ave. Parking Deck off Jensen Dr. Enter Thompson Building directly across from the parking lot.

**Our Next Meeting is  
February 19, 2019 @ 7:30PM  
Thompson Building / NCSU Campus.**

***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**  
PO Box 33783,  
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