

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 64, Issue 1, January, 2023

P.O. Box 8811, Waco, TX 76714-8811

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Next meeting, January 7th.

January program by Bob Boyd, Agates of the Big Bend.

We hope everyone has a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Contacts

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Waco Gem and Mineral Club Minutes, 12-3-22

Call to Order: by Roy Cooper, President, at 11.41 am

Minutes: The minutes, as typed by the Secretary and sent to the Club members, were corrected. Bob moved to accept as corrected; Harry Second, Motion passed

Treasures Report: Jackie gave the report. We're doing ok. Once she gets the final sales amount from the 2022 Show she will pay the Sales Tax.

The Guests were welcomed.

Reports: none

Update: Scott will be making the purchase for the new Club TV soon.

Harry, Karl and Scott are still working on a security system.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Announcements: John, Scott, and Roy will create and send out the "Invitation to Vendors" for the upcoming Gem Show.

Dues need to be paid for the 2022-2023 year.

Adjourn: 11:52

After the meeting, the Club members had a wonderful pot luck Christmas dinner. Bob Boyd supplied the meat. Next, the members participated in their Annual Christmas Gift sharing.

Notes

The editor requests news items from any member to be included in the Gritty Greetings.

Deadline for submissions is the 20th day of the month. Contributions to the newsletter are encouraged.

Name Tags:

It is great that we feed the pig at our meetings because we don't have or have lost or forgotten our nametags to drop a quartering the pig. The money from the pig goes toward our Scholarship program, and we really do appreciate every 2 bits, 4 bits, 6 bits or more. However, if you need a nametag you can purchase them at the businesses below!

Waco Gem & Mineral Club nametags are available at **Print Mart**, 202 Deb (behind AutoNation Chevrolet). Cost with a pin back is \$8.00 (with tax \$8.66), and with a magnet back is \$11.00 (\$11.91). or at Award Specialties at 431 Lake Air Dr.

Club Dues:

Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Club dues are \$12.00 for an individual membership or \$20.00 for a family membership. Please check with Jackie if you aren't sure whether you've paid your Dues!

Shop Fees:

Lapidary Workshop fee is \$2.00 per hour. Slab Saw fee is an additional \$2.00 per hour. Class fees are always dependent upon class and instructor.

The Waco Gem and Mineral Club is a member of the South-Central Federation of Mineral Societies; and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month (except July and September) at 10:00 a.m. at the Waco Gem and Mineral Club Clubhouse, 187 South McLennan Drive in Elm Mott, Texas. The lapidary workshop is in the clubhouse.

Our website is www.wacogemandmineral.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WacoGemAndMineralClub>

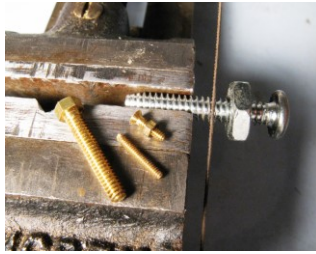
January Birthstone Garnet

The name "garnet" originates from the medieval Latin *granatus*, meaning "pomegranate," in reference to the similarity of the red color. Garnets have been used since the Bronze Age as gemstones and abrasives. Necklaces studded with red garnets adorned the pharaohs of ancient Egypt. Signet rings in ancient Rome featured garnet intaglios that were used to stamp the wax that secured important documents. The clergy and nobility of the Middle Ages had a preference for red garnets.

Garnet is actually a group of several minerals. Five of these – pyrope, almandine, spessartine, grossular and andradite – are important as gems. Pyrope and almandine range from purple to red. Spessartine is found in exciting oranges and yellows, while andradite is mostly yellow to green (the gem variety demantoid). Grossular may have the widest range, from colorless through yellow to reddish orange and orangy red, as well as a strong vibrant green called tsavorite.

See more at: <https://www.gia.edu/birthstones>

Bench Tips



CUTTING A BOLT

Whenever you have to cut a threaded bolt shorter, it's often difficult to get the nut to thread back onto it. And the smaller the bolt, the more difficult it is to restore any distorted threads. The problem is easily solved with the use of a nut. Here's how I do it.

First, screw a nut onto the bolt before cutting it. Grip the bolt by the threaded section that is to be sawed off. Then saw the bolt to the desired length, taper the end with sandpaper or file, and unscrew the nut from the bolt.

Unscrewing the nut over the freshly cut end of the bolt will straighten out any damage that sawing and filing did to the threads. Gripping the bolt by the piece to be sawed off localizes any crushing damage to the piece that will be thrown away.



DEPTH GAUGE FOR DRILLING

Sometimes you need to drill a number of holes all to the same depth. One quick and easy way to do this is to wind some tape around the drill bit so that the tape just touches the part surface when the hole is deep enough.

You can set the depth either by measuring from the tip of the drill to the tape or by drilling to the correct depth, leaving the bit in the hole, and wrapping tape around the bit at the surface level.

Note that a little extra tape left free on the end will blow away debris from the drilling.

If you enjoy these tips on jewelry making, see many more in the sample chapters from these two books:

- > Bench Tips 1 - <http://amzn.to/1Z6hQ06>
- > Bench Tips 2 - <http://amzn.to/2KCygh4>

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems



Club Purpose

- to bring about a close association of those persons interested in earth science and lapidary arts
- to increase and disseminate knowledge about rocks, minerals, fossils, Indian artifacts and other geological materials
- to encourage lapidary art and the collection and exhibition of rocks, minerals, fossils and artifacts
- to conduct field trips, meetings, lectures, displays and an annual show for the edification of the public
- to cooperate with educational and scientific institutions and other groups in increasing knowledge and popular interest.

