

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

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

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Next meeting, Saturday August 1st, 10AM at
new clubhouse, 800 Lake Air Dr., Suite C

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No business meeting was held in July, but the ice cream social was fun, however many members were ill and attendance was low. Now for the good new:.

Roy and his crew have been working tirelessly, and the new clubhouse will be available for our August 1st meeting!

Our new building is/will be ready for our meeting on Saturday, August 1st, at 10AM! Join us there at 800 Lake Air Dr., Suite C. We thank Visiting Angels for the use for the use of their conference room!

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 dollar in 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 name tag 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 John 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, 800 Lake Air Dr., Suite C. The lapidary workshop is in the clubhouse. **NEW LOCATION!**

Our website is www.wacogemandmineral.org

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



Our Treasurer John Hillman visits Owner Dagmara at the Caledonian Rock Shop in Glasgow!



Peridot

Though peridot is widely recognized by its brilliant lime green glow, the origin of this gemstone's name is unclear.



Sardonyx

Sardonyx combines alternating layers of sard and onyx—two types of the layered mineral chalcedony—to create a reddish zebra-striped gemstone with white bands.



Spinel

The spinel is often assumed to be other gemstones because it tends to resemble either a ruby or sapphire. In fact, some of the most famous rubies in history have turned out to be spinel.

<http://www.americangemsociety.org>

Bench Tips



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LAYOUT TOOLS

Dimensions on some features of a design can be fluid while others must be accurate for the design to work. When precision on a piece is important, good layout techniques are essential.

These are the tools that I rely upon to get holes in the right place, to achieve correct angles, and to cut pieces the correct length.

SHINING UP YOUR CHAINS

After a usual polish, the best way to give your silver chains a great shine is to tumble them with steel shot.

In my classes, we used a mixture of different shapes of stainless steel shot in a rotary tumbler along with a half cup of water and a drop of soap. 30-45 minutes gives a great shine.

DRILL BREAKAGE

Using a small drill is difficult for a beginner, especially if it's handheld in a flexshaft or a Dremel. Bits can easily break with too much pressure or if they tilt a little while in the hole.

Most problems, however, are the result of buying cheap drills that suffer from poor quality steel

and/or inaccurately ground cutting edges. A good drill from jewelry supply companies is well worth the price.



Remember that drilling always goes easier with lubrication. A little wax or oil is all you need. Almost anything will work - Three and One, beeswax, mineral oil, injection wax, car oil, olive oil, or one of the commercial cutting waxes. The lubricant helps to move chips out of the hole and reduces friction of the drill against the side of the hole, keeping the drill cooler.

FIND THE BALANCE POINT

With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it's often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight. A quick way to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers.

Any set of tweezers will work. Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point towards each other. To use the tool, suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see if it hangs straight.



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.



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