

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 64, Issue 7, July, 2023

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

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Next meeting, July 1st, 11 AM!

Ice Cream Social



Gritty Greetings: Waco Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter

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Minutes 2023.06.03

Waco Gem and Mineral Club

President Roy Cooper **called the meeting to order** 10:06 am.

Roy then **welcomed the visitors**.

Roy explained about the **Scholarship Fund** and how we collect \$0.25 for those members who forgot to bring and wear their name tags at the meeting. From the floor, John Langston moved to raise the Name Tag Donation from \$0.25 to \$1.00. Bob Boyd gave a second to the motion. Without objection the motion passed.

There were no **Minutes from the last meeting** because our Club was hosting the 2023 Gem and Mineral Show at the Waco Convention Center. Members and visitors were urged to read the monthly Newsletter (Gritty Greetings) online at the wacogemandmineral.org website.

Dorothy gave the **Treasurers Report**. As a group we agreed that our CDs (and future CDs) need to be drawing more interest than where they are now. Roy said he will look into this.

Committee Reports:

Program Committee: By group consensus it was agreed that the next Club Meeting (normally postponed by July 4 happening close to the same date as our monthly Club Meeting) will be held on July 1 because the 4th would be taking place days later.

The **Program for July 1, 2023** will be an **ICE CREAM SOCIAL!**

→ Because this involves food, the **meeting will start at 11:00 am.** ←

- Bob will bring the ice cream.
- Everyone else is welcome to bring something that goes with ice cream (sweets, toppings, etc.)

The **October program** will be a trip to **New Rock Shop** in Mexia. It is owned by John Zuniga, one of our 2023 Show vendors. Our plans are to have a brief meeting, then board a van for transportation.

2023 Show Committee: There were close to 900 who attended the show. Roy reported that we are looking for a new **Show Chair** for 2024.

Old Business:

- There has been no action on getting security cameras for the Clubhouse. There have been no problems, though.
- The 14" saw in the shop needs to be rebuilt.

The meeting was **Adjourned** at 10:26 am.

Bob Boyd then collected the members and visitors to the shop for the Annual Safety Program. He covered shop-use protocols and the many safety concerns related to the equipment.

Bench Tips for June

See Other Tips in my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making Problems

<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>



ONE PART DIE FORMING

An easy way to make large and strong components for your jewelry designs while keeping the weight of precious metal to a minimum is done with simple tools in a process called one-part die forming. Complex 3-D shapes can be made quickly from thin gauge sheet with just a piece of plastic and a dapping ball.

I make a forming die by sketching the shape I need on a piece of thick plastic. Then drill a hole and saw out the shape with a jeweler's saw and a coarse blade. When sawing, try to keep edges straight up and down. Refine the cut as needed with a sanding drum or file. Select a thickness of plastic that is just a little more than the amount of doming you want.

> Note: I tend to use 1/4 inch or 3/8 inch plastic that I get as scraps from a local plastics shop.

To use the die, cut a piece of sheet about 3/8 inch wider than the hole in the die on all sides. Anneal the sheet and tape it down on the plastic. Use a dapping ball and hammer to create the domed shape. When the taped down edges begin to warp, planish them flat on the top of the die. Finally, if the sheet is to be domed deeply, you will need to anneal the metal occasionally.

One nice feature of this technique can be seen in the top and left of the picture. If the sawed walls are straight up and down, the hole on the bottom is a mirror image of the hole on the top. This allows you to produce a mirror image shape as needed to make left and right earrings or both sides of an irregular shaped bead as shown.

Gritty Greetings: Waco Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter



OCHRE APPLICATOR

Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder won't flow on an area of your piece while you're soldering another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it.

I use recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush applicator. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.

*Smart Solutions
For Your Jewelry Making Problems*

Bench Tips for Jewelry Making
101 Good Tips for Jewelry Making
Bradford M. Smith

24 Easy Metal Textures
Bradford M. Smith

Making Design Stamps for Jewelry
Bradford M. Smith

More Bench Tips for Jewelry Making
Bradford M. Smith

Appreciation for the Foreword & Prequel for Jewelry
Bradford M. Smith

Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry and Metal Work
Bradford M. Smith

Pick Up Your Copy on Amazon
BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com

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 dollar 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 Dorothy if you aren't sure whether you've paid your Dues!

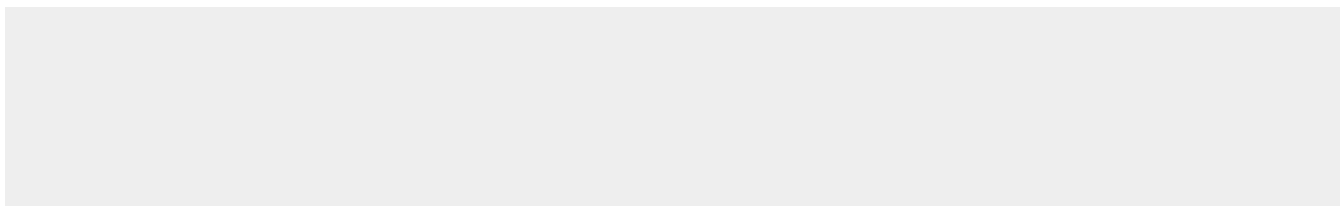
Shop Fees:

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>





July birthstone: Ruby

Ruby is the red variety of the mineral corundum, colored by the element chromium. All other colors of gem-quality corundum are called sapphire, which means color is key for this royal gemstone.

Accordingly, the name “ruby” comes from rubeus, the Latin word for red. In ancient Sanskrit, ruby translated to ratnaraj, which meant “king of precious stones.” These fiery gems have been treasured throughout history for their color and vitality.

The chromium that gives ruby its red color also causes fluorescence, which makes rubies glow like a fire from within. Paradoxically, chromium is also what makes this gem scarce because it can cause cracks and fissures. Few rubies actually grow large enough to crystallize into fine quality gems, and these can bring even higher prices than diamonds.

Burma’s Mogok Valley historically produced the finest ruby material, famous for its deep blood-red color with purplish hues. These Burmese Rubies, also called Pigeon’s Blood Rubies, command a premium over brownish or orange-tinged varieties from other regions.

The Mong Hsu region of Myanmar began producing rubies in the ‘90s after discovering that heat treatment improved the color saturation. Other ruby deposits exist in Vietnam, Thailand, India, parts of the Middle East, East Africa, and even the United States.

Tough and durable, ruby measures 9 on the Mohs scale. **Diamond** is the only natural gemstone harder than ruby.

Ruby’s strength and red fluorescence make it valuable for applications beyond jewelry. Both natural and synthetic rubies are used in watchmaking, medical instruments, and lasers.

Courtesy American Gem Society

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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.

