

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

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

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2024 Upcoming events

June 28-30, International Gem and Jewelry Show Dallas, Dallas Market Hall

July 13, 10 AM. Club Ice Cream Social, Elm Mott Clubhouse.

Contacts

President	Roy Cooper 254-749-9961 coopersfarmstore@yahoo.com	Treasurer	John Hillman hillmanjohn316@gmail.com
Vice-President	Scott Halvorson 254-424-8829 Baylordad312@gmail.com	Secretary	Harry Senn senn.harry@yahoo.com
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		Club email	wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com

Minutes for June 1, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 10:14 am.

MINUTES: Amendment to previous meeting (show) - names corrected for Adrienne McElwain, Ron GARZA, and XINGI FENG. Motion to accept - Harry, Second - John Hillman. Motion passed.

TREASURERS REPORT: given by John Hillman.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

June - Z87 Eye Safety Glasses Standards.

July - Ice Cream Social: MOTION: to reschedule meeting to **JULY 13** because the first Saturday of July falls too close to July 4th. Motion - Scott; Second - John Hillman.

The meeting START TIME will still be 10:00 am.

August - Bob is working on a program about agates to be given by a member of the Arlington Club.
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September - John Hillman will give a program on the Czech Republic and Ireland.

FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE:

Suggestions: trip to Coryell Creek; Local trip to hunt for ammonites and hematite when creek is dry.

SHOW COMMITTEE:

1. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make the show a huge success. Roy Cooper, "Small club, but all backbones."
(Reference to "Four Bones" - *see article below*)
2. John Hillman gave a real good breakdown of income and attendance from the Show.
It seems that we had a larger number of youth. Hopefully the flyers placed in the schools helped with that.
3. Roy will contract next week for the 2025 Show on the provision that the Library does not increase rates too much.
4. Any problems, any improvements, any complaints that need to be corrected for next year's Show?
Insurance is important. One vendor almost had an accident while bring in their stuff.
Silent Auction needs table lighting to bring out the quality of the auction items. Maybe the Library will supply ceiling drop-down electric cords. Maybe run extension cord to close outlet.
Questionnaire: "How did you hear about the show?"
Maybe sign-in sheets for name and email (but not phone number).

OLD BUSINESS: none.

ADJOURN: 10:58 am.



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 - See more at: <http://www.americangemsociety.org/>

Four Bones

The Waco Gem and Mineral (WGM) Club meets monthly in a quaint little clubhouse on the northbound access road off Interstate 35 in Elm Mott just before you get to Leroy Parkway. During our monthly business meetings the WGM officers sit behind two tables facing the members and guests. On the table in front of the President, Roy Cooper, as he presides, sits this framed “Four Bones” statement:

FOUR BONES

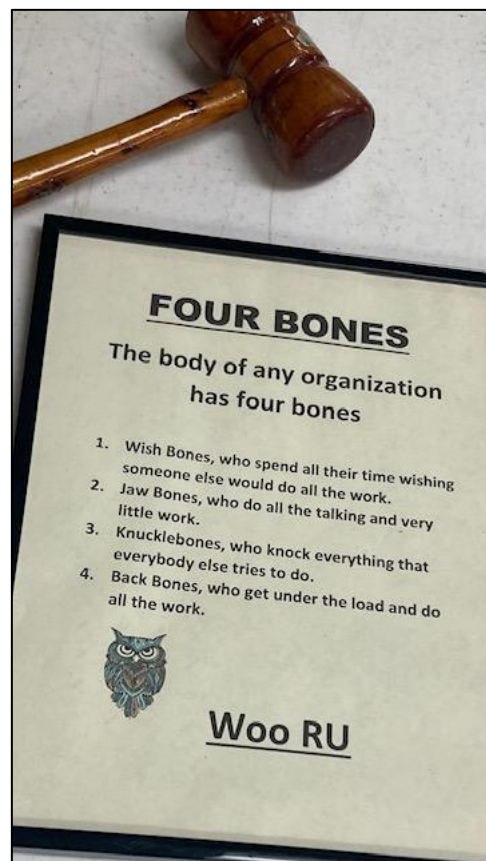
The body of any organization has four bones

1. *Wish Bones, who spend all their time wishing someone else would do all the work.*
2. *Jaw Bones, who do all the talking and very little work.*
3. *Knucklebones, who knock everything that everybody else tries to do.*
4. *Back Bones, who get under the load and do all the work.*

(...with the Owl who asks) *Whoo RU*

During our June 1 Business Meeting Roy made the statement that we had “a small club, but all backbones.” He was referring to our 2024 Show and how our club members worked hard setting up the show. Once tables were set up and positioned throughout the two Show floor areas for all the vendors, then those same members set up their own booths. Then, two days later, at the Show’s end, our club members were there helping close down the Show. And these members were the last ones out after everyone was gone and before the venue doors were locked. Roy thanked our club members for being the “backbones” for working hard to make our Show a success.

When I asked Roy how long he has been with the WGM Club his immediate answer was, “Forever!” His more precise answer was that he was a member before he retired and that he has been retired for over eight years. He and his wife Nelda can be seen at gem shows in their “Coopers Cabs and Slabs Booth.”



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 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 Hillman 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>

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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