

# GRITTY GREETINGS



## Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 67, Issue 7, July, 2026

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

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**Next meeting, July 11<sup>th</sup>,**

**Ice Cream Social, at new meeting place,**

**1514 Austin Ave. Visiting Angels!**

**We hope everyone has a safe and happy Independence Day!**

## Contacts

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### **Waco Gem and Mineral Club Minutes, 6-6-2026**

**Call to Order:** by Roy Cooper, President, at 11.10 am

**Minutes:** No meeting was held in May due to the show.

**Treasures Report:** John gave the report, including financials from the show.

No guests, but 9 members were in attendance..

Affirmative vote on having the Ice Cream Social on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 10AM, due to the Independence Day Holiday.

We need a cleanup/decoration day Friday, July 10, at 10AM.

**Field Trip:** Bob is working on a trip to Dallas to see a mineral dealer and rock shop.

**Show report:**

Kids attendance was WAY up!

Kids area was great! Hands on participation!

Food was good.

Boy/Girl Scout activities did not succeed.

**Arlington Gem and Mineral Show** at Grapevine is June 13,14

We are still looking for a new clubhouse location in Waco/Robinson area to help attract Temple folks.

We don't need to exceed \$1000 per month including utilities. We need 700 square feet for the shop equipment.

**Adjourned**

**We agreed and voted to have the July ice cream social at the Visiting Angels conference room at 1514 Austin Ave. at 10AM on Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>,**

Bob gave a very impressive presentation on field trip safety and courtesy.

Gritty Greetings: Waco Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter

## Notes

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

Deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> 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. **(subject to change)**

Our website is [www.wacogemandmineral.org](http://www.wacogemandmineral.org)

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



There's no better way to demonstrate your love than by giving a ruby in celebration of a July birthday. Rubies arouse the senses, stir the imagination, and are said to guarantee health, wisdom, wealth and success in love. Ruby is a variety of the gem species corundum. It is harder than any natural gemstone except diamond, which means a ruby is durable enough for everyday wear. Fine-quality ruby is extremely rare, and the color of the gem is most important to its value. The most prized color is a medium or medium dark vivid red or slightly purplish red. If the gem is too light or has too much purple or orange, it will be called a fancy-color sapphire. See more at:

<http://www.americangemsociety.org> \_\_\_\_\_

## Bench Tips



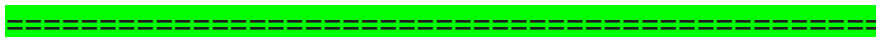
### FANCY RIVET HEADS



For a nice looking rivet head, use brass escutcheon pins. You'll have perfectly rounded heads that are all the same size and shape. The pins are a little hard to find, so try the best hardware stores first. Be sure to get solid brass pins, not brass plated steel. If unsure, test them with a magnet.

The pins are readily available online. Lee Valley Tools has them in 14 - 18 gauge and lengths from 1/4 inch to 1 inch. Go to <http://www.LeeValley.com> and do an item search on "brass escutcheon pin"

For best results, select a drill that gives you a hole with a close fit to the rivet. Trim the rivet to leave a little less than one diameter sticking out the back side. Place the head on a scrap of hard plastic on the anvil so as to not flatten the head. I prefer a ball peen hammer (with a small 3/8 inch ball) for setting the rivet.



## EASIER PRONG SETTING

When setting stones in a prong mount, the tool is less likely to slip off the prong if you grind a shallow groove into its face or rough up the face a bit with sandpaper. Some folks prefer a prong pusher for doing this, and others like a set of pliers with a slight groove on one jaw.

The easiest way to create a slot on the pusher is with a file, and the quickest way to create a slot on one jaw of your pliers is with a separating disc. Then do a rough polish on the slot with a medium grit, knife-edge silicone wheel.

### **.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.

