

Maplewood Rock and Gem Club

November 20, 2023
General Meeting Notes

7:01 meeting began

Introductions

- Marion Underwood (name?)
- Tamara Allison
- Name? – new member
- Lisa and Cory – new members
- Mike Roth?
- Woman's name? new since July
- Diane Marie – new in August

Announcements from members

none

Committees

- Treasurer report \$27,638
- Shows:
 - Dec 9-10: Volunteer sheets are in the back of the room.
 - Heather has sign up lists for volunteers. Needs people to sign up today.
 - Flyers available to take and hand out to friends
- Community show in November : \$2727 (to date, not all silent income is in yet); The total income includes \$666 from the auction and \$1688 from the Ways and Means sales table.
 - Marion had fun talking about rocks and meeting people. Well attended; 5 demos; over 150 people voted for People's Choice vote for displays; 14 new members; happy attendees; Juniors' displayed their collections.
 - People's Choice winner: Linda declared the three displays with the most votes to be the winners:
 - Juniors display
 - Ashok – "What you see and what you get"
 - Gary Kurshberger - opals
- Building maintenance: Randy
 - Putting lights in shed
 - Asks people to let him know if they see something that needs to be done

- Shop –.Reported by Ashley: Everything is running smoothly. All 5 saws are working. If you sign up and then can't make it, please cancel so someone else can sign up.
- Rentals –Craig – new rental for Saturday. Reminder to everyone that the clubhouse is available for members to rent for private parties.
- Membership: 216
- Sunshine – Dereld Borth has passed away. Long time member.

2024 Board

Members voted to elect this Board for 2024:

- Pres: Chris Huffines
- VP:
- Treasurer: Bruce Samuels through 2024
- Secretary: Nancy Samuels through 2024
- Mem at Large: Linda Willemarck through 2024
- Mem at large: Paul Newby through 2026
- Mem at Large: Marion through 2026
- Mem at Large: Randy Peterson through 2026

Michele invited all members to come to the Board meetings on the first Thursdays of each month.

Rock of the Month

- Mike Collins gave a presentation about tumbling rocks
 - Has 5 tumblers of various sizes
 - Fill the barrel with rocks of similar hardness. If the MOHs rating is similar, you can tumble slabs and more bulky rocks together.
 - For the four grits, Mike tumbles for 10 days, 10 days, 7 days, and 7 days.
 - Mike has Lortone rock tumblers and likes this brand.
 - Mike has tons of rocks in his driveway; when people ask him where a rock came from, he says "my driveway".
 - At home he has rocks everywhere. Tables, bookshelves, and other horizontal surfaces feature rocks. Rock bookends hold up books on rocks.
 - Start with rocks as smooth as you can get.
 - ¼" slabs polish better than a lumpy shape.
 - Get the tumbler started and let it go until it's time to change the grit.
 - He fills the tumbler to 1 ½" from the top and the water to the top of the rocks.
 - Cleans out the tumbler barrel after every tumbling session with a grit.
 - After the final grit you can put the rocks in the tumbler with Ivory snow soap to clean them of all the residue.

- After each session with a grit, remove the rocks and throw the grit away. Remove lid.
- Sometimes gas can build up as you tumble with the first two grits. To release the gas, Mike stops the tumbler about halfway through the tumbling session and momentarily opens the lid to vent the gas.
- Plastic pellets cushion the rocks so they are less likely to break as they tumble.
- You can clean the pellets and reuse them.
- You cannot reuse grit.
- Has polished Apache tears. He doesn't polish obsidian larger than Apache tears.
- He has a box of free rocks that were polished in the last couple weeks. After the meeting, each member is invited to take one.
- The gravel bars in the Yellowstone River have a lot of black agates.
- Mike feels the worst tumblers are at Harbor Freight and National Geographic.

Prize drawing for attendance:

- A random number was chosen to select the winner among the list of adults at this meeting. The winner was Marion Richards.
- Guests and kids got to choose a rock to keep.

Show and Tell for adults

- Nancy R shared samples of wire wrapping. She would like the club to offer another class on wire wrapping, and she'd like the library to have one or more books on wire wrapping.
- A woman told about a 2000 mile RV trip she took that included rockhounding. The best rock hounding location on that trip was Challis, Idaho.
- A boy brought part of his collection of petrified wood.
- A woman found a rock on Fidalgo Island near LaConner. The rock is strontian and celestite. Here is a link to more about this site:

http://www.minsocam.org/ammin/AM14/AM14_408.pdf



Linda's agatized coconut

- Linda Willemarck – got a rock at the Marysville show: agatized coconut from Mexico. It is surprisingly heavy.
- Michael – met someone at swift Creek for baby blues, and they told him about our club. This is his first meeting. He found Jade. Heather and Amber talked to him at the November show. Heather did a wire wrap on one of his rocks at the show.

- A man shared some agates and jasper he collected and polished from S Dakota. Fairburn agates are found there.



South Dakota agates

December meeting is a party!

- It is a potluck dinner and social event. Please bring a dish to share.
- Gift exchange: please bring a rock related gift valued at \$10 or less.
- Silent auction for members only.
- Carla needs help in the kitchen,
 - set up and decorations at 5:30 pm
 - clean up afterwards
- The party starts at 6 pm
- Let Carla know what you are bringing and if you have food allergies.

Dues

- Dues are due on January 1.
- New members who just paid, don't need to pay in January.
- Nancy R. announced that for many years we said that if you paid in August or later, you don't need to pay in the new year. Michele told us that our bylaws say we are to follow a different process in which everyone's dues are owed in January, and we are returning to that model to simplify the membership recordkeeping. However, those who joined in November and December, will be considered to have already paid for 2024.
- The bylaws are available in the Member section of the website.

Recent donation

- Many of the items are being auctioned tonight. They were wrapped in newspapers from 1982-85. You can't find some of these specimens any more. Linda encouraged people to stop by the auction table when the meeting ends to bid on a piece or two.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm

Corrections to these Minutes