

A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 43

JANUARY 2017

NUMBER 1



**NEXT MEETING:** January 16, 2017  
**TIME:** 7:30 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Clear Lake Park Building  
 5001 Nasa Parkway  
 Seabrook, Texas

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

January Meeting How to Cut Fire Agate Dues are Due	1-2	<p><b><u>JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING</u></b></p> <p>The Arithmetic of Earthquakes – Dr. Larry Barrows,</p> <p>The understanding of gravity and earthquakes can be had by a study of the mathematics. Dr. Barrows discovered the Gravity – collapse earthquake mechanism through the use of computer modeling. Dr. Barrows shows the history behind earthquake mechanics, and will speak about seismic zone earthquakes, rocks that don't fit within themselves, and Plate tectonics.</p>
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## HOW TO CUT FIRE AGATE



The “fire” in fire agate is actually a very thin layer of limonite. When obtaining fire agate, look for thick brown areas because that’s where the fire is. If there is white under a thin layer of brown, the piece is not good; however, if white is on top and the brown underneath, there’s a good chance of fire. If you grind too deeply, there will probably be more fire under the layer you ground away. It’s easy to grind or sand through the fire, so carefully orient the fire. Look for the tops of bubbles on the top of the stone. The bottom of the stone should be the area where it was attached to the host

rock. Once you have oriented the fire and the top has been determined, carefully grind away colorless or white agate to expose the fire. When the excess material has been ground away and the fire exposed, establish the base and perimeter of the fire. The base should be parallel to the top of the cab. After size and shape have been established, work the same as any stone except that fire agate is very heat sensitive. Use lots of water, grind a little, and look a lot. You can polish with cerium, tin, chrome oxide, or diamond.

# Pay Dues

Membership dues are due at the beginning of each year and delinquent March 31, 2017.

Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2017: Adult \$15:00, \$5.00 per additional adult at same address, Junior \$5.00, \$5.00 per member with adult at same address, Family Dues \$20.00 (4+) at same address. Send Dues to CLGMS, PO BOX 891533, Houston, TX, 77289

## MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2016, MONTHLY MEETING

The December meeting was called to order at 6:30 on December 19<sup>th</sup>.

- Christmas dinner was held
- Officer nominations were announced and the election was approved. New officers for 2017 are
  - o President – Raul Montelongo
  - o Vice President – Davit Tjiok
  - o Secretary – Pam Dudley
  - o Treasurer – Jerry Newberry
  - o Membership – Victoria Faulkner
  - o Program Director – Vince Barrows
  - o Refreshments – Doug Dann
  - o Board members
    - § Mary Wells
    - § Shannon Oliver
    - § John Caldyne
    - § Jim Edwards
- Advertising for the show was discussed.

Respectfully submitted:

Trina Willoughby, Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2, 2017, BOARD MEETING



January board meeting was called to order by Raul. Five members were in attendance. The meeting was primarily about our upcoming show.

Trina has secured advertising on the radio station 104.1. She is still waiting to hear back from 93Q. Trina has also put in a call to see if we can get an astronaut appearance.

Raul will put in a request for the Space Suit. If we get approval we will need someone with a trailer to transport it and arrangements will need to be made with the convention center for the fork lift.

Walt, who did Dinosaurs Rock last year, will be doing his Gems Rock program for us.

Sarah is taking care of printing for the show including postcards.

It's been suggested we have three weeks advance notice for the booth set-up diagram for the show.

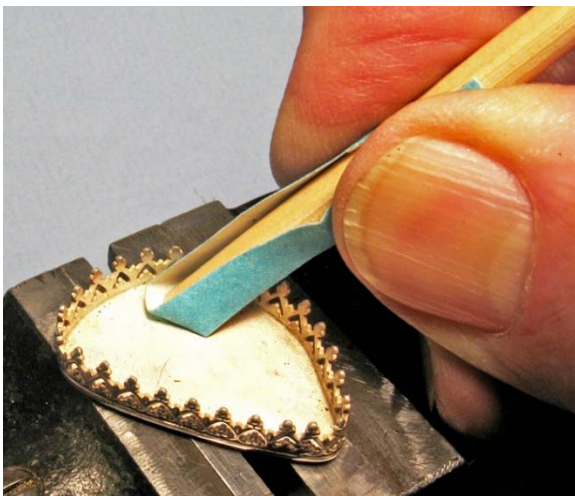
Kelly, who usually takes care of the gem mine, will help set up but will be unable to be there for the entire show. We need help manning it and it would be greatly appreciated if our members who are good at rock identification could spend some time there too.

Sarah will send an e-mail for our show security and she will also check on an ATM. We need to see what type of concessions the convention center will be providing and Mary will secure our insurance papers. Meeting adjourned at 8:36.

Respectfully submitted:  
Pam Dudley, Secretary

## **BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH**

### SANDING/POLISHING IN TIGHT PLACES



Often you'll need to sand or polish an area that's impossible to reach with even a small wheel on a flexshaft. Other times it might be the bottom of a pocket or inside bottom corner of a box that needs to be finished. One trick for these nit-picky jobs may be left over from your last Chinese dinner - a chopstick.

I've found quite a few uses for these in the shop. Prepare the tip by simply sawing it off at a 45 degree angle. Then apply whatever abrasive grit you will need for the job or hold a strip of

sandpaper around the end. Loose grit can be held onto the tip with a bit of vaseline or oil. Tripoli or rouge can be just rubbed onto the end of the chopstick.

## 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.

See all Brad's jewelry books at [Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith)

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## WHAT IS RUTILE? WHAT IS RUTILATED?

Compiled by Karen Leibold

### Rutile the mineral



Rutile is the most common mineral composed of titanium dioxide. Rarer polymorphs include Brookite and Anatase, both which also form unique and distinctive crystals. The name Rutile is derived from the Latin "Rutilus", in reference to a common color habit of this mineral in dark red but lustrous crystals.

Densely Reticulated Rutile, Brazil

Forms as long and slender, straight prismatic crystals, often deeply striated and with steep complex terminations. Also forms in short prismatic and thick stubby crystals. Twinning is very common, with various forms including sixlings, eightlings (both in the form of endemic rutile twins), knee-shaped twins, and v-shaped twins.

## Rutile needles



Rutile is well known for its habit of forming needle-like inclusions within other minerals, thus the term “rutilated.” This occurs especially in Quartz, in the form of long and slender yellow straw-like crystals. These inclusions can range from scattered needles to dense parallel fibers within a host mineral. Possible colors include dark-red, metallic-gray, brownish-red, orange-red, reddish-black, golden-yellow, straw yellow and dark green.

## Chatoyancy



Rutile inclusions are also responsible for the asterism or chatoyancy effects on some gemstones, such as Star Sapphire and Mogok Sapphire.

Information from:

<http://www.minerals.net/mineral/rutile.aspx>, From Glacial Driffer, December, 2016

## HOW DO YOU BECOME A ROCKHOUND?

from The Slate, 12/2016. From The Backbender’s Gazette, January, 2017

Buy a large bag of marbles and carry it with you whenever you go looking for rocks. Every time you pick up a rock and put it in your pocket, take out one of the marbles from the bag and throw it over your left shoulder.

Any time you see one of your marbles, pick it up along with the rock nearest to it—the rock goes in your pocket, the marble into the marble bag.

When you have finally lost all of your marbles, you are a rockhound!



STONEY STATEMENTS  
 Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc  
 PO BOX 891533  
 Houston, Texas 77289

(Postage)

Meeting 3rd Monday of the Month  
 7:30 P.M.  
 Clear Lake Park Building  
 5001 NASA Parkway, Seabrook, Texas



Member of:

**Next Annual Show**  
 February 25-26, 2017  
 Pasadena Convention Center

CLGMS is on the Web:  
<http://www.clgms.org>



American Federation of Mineral Societies

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

**Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc**

MEMBER: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

PURPOSE: To promote education and popular interest in the various earth sciences; in particular in those hobbies dealing with the art of lapidaries and the earth sciences of minerals, fossils and their associated fields.

2015 OFFICERS:	President	Raul Montelongo	832-341-0416	
	Vice President	David Tjiok	281-423-4802	
	Secretary	Trina Willoughby	713-815-0275	
	Treasurer	Mike Flannigan	281-286-6869	
	Program Director	vacant		
	Board of Directors:	Shannon Oliver	Sara Chelette	
		Bob Brock	Jim Edwards	
		Sandra Christiansen	vacant	
Newsletter Editor	Annabel Brownfield			

Annual Show 2016 .....	Sara Chelette	Library .....	Vacant
Constitution & Bylaws.....	Sara Chelette	Membership.....	Victoria Faulkner
Community Benefits.....	Vacant	WWW System Admin..	Mike Flannigan
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Refreshments.....	David Tjiok
Publicity.....	Eddie Dove	Education/Field Trips.....	Annabel Brownfield

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