



ALBUQUERQUE GEM & MINERAL CLUB News Nuggets

January 2024
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Bob Regner

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V.P. Programs



January Meeting - Thursday, Jan. 25

Igneous Rock Types: A Primer by Paul Hlava

Most people only know a few rock names and often confuse the situation by using one name for a wide variety of rock types. For example, sellers of stone tile and countertops use the term GRANITE for any coarse grained, silicate rock. That's OK for them but I figure that members of gem and mineral clubs should know a bit more than that.

This presentation will introduce you to the names of the common (and some uncommon) igneous rock types. The discussions will proceed along the path that nature has assigned to them - from high temperature, dark-colored rocks, rich in iron, magnesium, and calcium, to low temperature, light-colored rocks, rich in sodium, potassium and aluminum.

Along the way you will learn a bunch of great geologic terms (with which you can amaze folks at cocktail parties), meet rock types that we have here in New Mexico, and learn a few cultural things that make life interesting and spice up this dull, boring talk!

AGMC Anniversary Celebrations begin this month!

Biography:

From 1974 to 2007, Paul Hlava worked in the electron microprobe laboratory (as staff member in charge of the lab from 1980 on) at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Because the EMP lab is part of the Materials Characterization Department, a centralized analytical facility for Sandia, Paul got to work on a wide variety of (prosaic to exotic) materials and projects. He normally analyzed many alloys and joins (welds, brazes, solders, metal to ceramic, glass/metal seals, etc.) but also did work on high tech ceramics, low-temperature superconductors, electronic materials, phosphors, contamination, corrosion, failure analyses, nuclear waste simulants, et hoc genus omne. As a result, he has written, co-authored, and/or presented about a hundred papers on a wide variety of materials.

Paul graduated from the University of New Mexico with a geology MS in 1974. At UNM he worked as a research graduate doing probe research under Klaus Keil in the Institute of Meteoritics. He worked on moon rocks, Hawaiian basalts, ultramafic rocks, meteorites, and inclusions in diamonds. Paul occasionally used his geological and mineralogical expertise on Sandia projects but also did some personal research on minerals. He has been co-discoverer and co-author on the descriptions of several new mineral species.

Paul stays active in the area of geology, mineralogy, crystallography, and gemology. He was president of the Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club, and he is the geological/mineralogical expert for the New Mexico Faceters Guild, and often gives talks on geological/mineralogical/ crystallographic subjects. In 1988, Paul started a side business, Access to Gems and Minerals, Inc., dealing in gemstones, jewelry, and related items. This has not only given him access to wholesale rooms full of gemstones but it has piqued his interest in the research side of this field. He has given several well-received talks on gem related subjects.



Dean Klassy, President
President@agmc.info
262-749-9008

President's Message

I would like to start my first message of 2024 with a hope that everyone had a great holiday and a safe start to the New Year. I would also like to thank all our members for your support of me and the club in 2023.

The second thing I would like to say is Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club will be 80 years old on Jan 22, the club started on that date in 1944. So Happy Anniversary to the Club. As the year goes on, we will be having special activities to celebrate the club and all our members past and present.

We have made some pretty good moves on filling in all the positions on the Board of Directors for the Club. I would like to thank the following for stepping up and helping in the following positions:

Refreshments:	Margie Mock
Web Manager:	Greg Peretti
Social Media Coordinator:	Megan Lindstrom

But I am sorry to say we still have not filled the position for the Junior Club Chair/s because of that we will not be having a Junior Club Meeting in January and won't be able to until we have someone to volunteer. I am hoping that someone in the Club, a parent or someone interested in helping the next generation of Rockhounds, will become active. We are currently planning on having some activities for the Junior Club at the TOTE show in March like we have in the past, but we really need someone to be able to help and coordinate those activities.

If you want to see who our current AGMC Board of Directors are please see the last page of the Nuggets. Please feel free to reach out to them if you have questions as well.

At our Board Meeting on Jan 4, we heard about the new and exciting Field Trips that are coming for the club in 2024, so please watch for those announcements.

An update on the Lapidary Studio, I am behind on getting some students in because of the Holidays and the cold. We have had a couple of the Stewards go out to the studio and have made sure the flow and the machines are all working as needed. We are still working on getting the Studio heated so everyone doesn't freeze and to get the water at least a little warm. The next step is to get a couple of the new stewards out to the Studio so that we can get them up to speed and then making arrangements to get the students out is next. It has taken a bit longer than I had hoped and I know a lot longer than some of you have wanted but this isn't as easy as it was in the past.

It takes all the Members of the Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club to work together to continue our legacy as a Club.

Thank you and if you have any questions please let me know.

Dean

***Don't get left out in the cold! If you have not paid your 2024 dues,
this is the last newsletter you will receive.***

NEXT AGMC MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 2024 AT 7:30 P.M.

MONTE VISTA CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

3501 CAMPUS BLVD. NE, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87123

PUBLIC AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME.

The Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club meets on the
4th Thursday of the month.

The meeting begins at 7:30 P.M.

There is a short business meeting prior to the evening's presentation.

There will be no Junior Club meeting this month.

Door prize drawings begin after the presentation.

Be sure to get a ticket as you enter the room.

Get extra tickets for wearing your name badge and/or club vest!

Attend club meetings for all the latest details.

FAMILIES WITH JUNIOR MEMBERS

Please note that no one has volunteered to lead the Junior Group, so there will be no special activities for Juniors until someone steps up to volunteer. You don't have to be a rock expert for this job, but be willing to learn and share with the next generation.

Contact President Dean Klassy for more information.

Next Board Meeting -- Thursday, Feb. 1st, 6:30 p.m.

At Monte Vista Christian Church

All members are welcome to attend.



Grant Kuck, VP, Field Trips
vp-field-trips@agmc.info
 505-323-1520

First Field Trip Report

The quota for the first field trip of the year was filled, and 19 intrepid members visited the lower mines of Socorro Peaks on January 6. However, another trip is being put together for those who were not able to attend the first one. As soon as it has been secured an email “blast” will go out with all the pertinent information you need to know. So keep watching your email for news on the second trip of 2024.

Field trips are usually on the third Saturday of the month, but may change due to locality restrictions.

Potential Field 2024 Trip Schedule

January	Socorro Peaks / ??	July	???
February	Pecos diamonds near Roswell	August	Jones Camp
March	Paradise, Arizona	September	Nacimiento Mining District
April	Petrified Wood, Arizona	October	Blanchard Mine
May	Battleship Rock, Jemez Mtns.	November	Apache Mine
June	Last Chance Mine, Creede, CO	December	Rockhounding at the Holiday Party

January Field Trip Report

by Fred Parker

On Saturday January 6 2024, nineteen AGMC members drove from the cold gray morning weather of Albuquerque to to to the relatively balmy (mid-40’s) sunny weather of Socorro. Perfect weather for mineral collecting at the lower mines of Socorro Peak. These mines are century old silver mines on the private and secure property of EMRTC/ New Mexico Tech. However, AGMC was able to arrange special permission to mineral collect at the mines. Our helpful host was Mr. Michael Stanley, who represented EMRTC.

The collectable minerals are predominantly micros of high quality, requiring magnification for full appreciation. Members working the dumps of the Merritt-Silver Bar mines were rewarded with large amounts of micro minerals including barite, jarosite, goethite, aurichalcite, willemite, bromargyrite, and hemimorphite. Scott Braley, Pat Haynes, Jim Hill, and other micro collectors were seen filling up beer flats and cloth bags with vuggy barite-calcite rock full of micro crystals. We all know what they will be doing this winter! In addition, Pat Haynes and I each collected vuggy rock containing green crystallized and waxy globular bromargyrite (silver ore mineral), in amounts easily visible to the naked eye, which is unusual for the locality.

Overall, a fun and rewarding collecting day was had by all, and hopefully AGMC will be able to re-visit this classic location again next winter.

AGMC Mini Library

Regina Aumente

Last year I decided to compile a list of the many mineral- gem- and fossil-related publications that were languishing on my shelves, with the intention of offering these for club members to read and enjoy. I have brought a selection of these to most of the meetings this year, and some people have borrowed them. Because I don’t care to take the time to keep track of who is taking what, I have no idea of what is currently out there. If you borrowed a book, please return it when finished. Meanwhile, if you want to see a particular publication, please request a copy of the list that I have in Excel. I have quite a few mineral monographs from Lithographie, that feature topics like Gold, Diamonds, Opal, etc. Lots of beautiful photos even if the text is over your skill level.

It’s never too late to learn something new!

TOTE* SHOW -- March 15-17

Tom Katonak and Doug Johns

silentauction@agmc.info

*TOTE = Treasures of the Earth, for you newbies!

TOTE Silent Auction – How You Can Help

Thank you to all the club members who volunteered and made last year's silent auction a success! Let's do it again in 2024. During our TOTE show, the silent auction is where mineral donations are prepped and sold to raise funds for the AGMC. With the show a few months away, we need your help with the following:

- **Donations!** Please consider donating quality specimens to be auctioned. Do you know someone who has a collection they would like to donate? Contact us to arrange pick up.
- **Volunteers to prepare for the auctions.** In February, you can help with our Bid Sheet Party where club donations are identified, boxed, and labelled for sale. Assistance with silent auction set up and tear down is also needed.
- **Volunteers during the auctions.** During the TOTE show, we need help minding the club tables and making sure the auctions run smoothly. No prior experience required! Working an auction shift is a terrific way to meet fellow club members and learn about rocks and minerals.



If you would like to **donate** or **volunteer**, contact the silent auction co-leads Tom Katonak and Doug Johns at silent-auction@agmc.info.

TOTE Silent Auction – How to Rent a Table

Interested in auctioning your extra rocks and minerals? Here's how the TOTE silent auction works:

- There are a dozen tables at the auction, divided into **club** and **private** tables.
- At **club** tables, donated specimens are auctioned off with proceeds going to the club.
- At **private** tables, club members pay a fee to rent the table per auction. Members auction their own specimens with proceeds going directly to them.
- During the three days of the show, there are three auctions per day, making nine total auctions.
- The charge to rent a private table is \$20 per auction. Club members can rent a table(s) at any number of auctions, based on availability. Auction co-leaders will have final say on rentals.
- As a silent auction, buyers write bids on bid sheets while the auction period is open. The winner is the highest bidder when the table is closed.

If you would like to rent a table during an auction, contact the auction co-leads Doug or Tom at silent-auction@agmc.info. Rentals will be first-come, first-served. An acknowledgement email secures your spot. Rental fees are paid on the day of the auction.

Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Expo

Vanadinite on Mottramite
Red Cloud Copper Mine
Lincoln Co., NM
Photo by Scott Braley
FOV 8mm



Albuquerque, NM
March 15-17, 2024

**Treasures of the Earth
TotE - 2024, 53rd Annual
Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Expo**

March 15 - 17, 2024

Friday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Sunday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

**Creative Arts Center
Expo New Mexico
(State Fair Grounds)**

Admission \$5.00

Friday is \$2 day

Free for kids under 13



**Door prizes, raffle, silent auction,
kids table, displays, and more!**

www.agmc.info

Our biggest event of the year is coming up in just two months. Dealer booths are all filled, the silent auction team is preparing for their sales, as you read on the previous page, and advertising is in progress. Lots of help is needed from club members to make this great show happen. Here are some ways to join the fun.

- ◆ Sign up to help with set-up, breakdown, and during the show. No special knowledge is needed to sell tickets and many other jobs, so even newcomers can take part.
- ◆ Show off your collection in a club-provided display case. Contact Mike Sanders sandstonem@gmail.com for details.
- ◆ Take a supply of postcards to share with friends, co-workers, and anywhere folks gather.
- ◆ Workers get free admission to the show, and a free parking pass.
- ◆ Join the Thursday night potluck and meet the dealers.
- ◆ READ your News Nuggets in February and March for more information.

Tucson Show News:

Regina Aumente

The largest show in America, and possibly the world, will be starting in Tucson Arizona later this month. Many of you are regular visitors to this event, but I will share some information for the rest of the club.

The "Tucson Gem, Mineral & Fossil Showcase" is made up of 47 different sales locations with about 4000 companies represented. Published dates are January 24 - February 11, but each location sets its own dates. (These numbers come from XPoPress, which publishes an annual guide to all the shows.)

Now these locations range from small buildings with just a handful of dealers to massive outdoor and indoor locations. Most shows specialize - minerals only, fossils only, gems and jewelry, beads, equipment and of course a few flea markets. Each location has their own qualifications for entry, many are open to the public, but some do require a sales tax license for wholesale purchases. Most offer free admission, with the exception of the club-sponsored show that takes place from Thursday to Sunday of the final weekend.

All this means that if you are planning to attend for the first time, you will want to do some research before you head west. You can find information sources online. XPoPress.com is a great place to start, and provides links to each of the shows, as well as comprehensive dealer lists. Be prepared for parking problems and elevated prices in hotels and restaurants.

I intend to visit this year for the first time since 2019, and I am excited to see all the changes that have occurred since then. Will you be going?

2023 Holiday Party

Regina Aumente

Ex-Special Events

The night was clear, the mood was festive, and the food was awesome. Close to 100 members attended the club's annual Holiday Party and Installation on December 18th. Beef brisket and smoked turkey from Rudy's provided the main course, but dozens of homemade casseroles, side dishes and delicacies provided treats for all.

The silent and vocal auctions raised over \$3000, which more than covered party expenses.

Outgoing officers were thanked for their service and the 2024 Board was introduced and installed. A one-year honorary membership was awarded to Moses and Kim Chatellier for all their help and active participation during recent years. Life members present at the dinner (Ray DeMark, Gwen Poe and Jim Hill) were recognized with certificates.

A special thanks to all of you who helped make this dinner a success. Set-up and breakdown went fast! Special praise for Bob and Donna Regner, who spent many hours preparing items for the auction, but then were unable to attend to due to illness. I can't begin to name everyone who went above and beyond

Special thanks to Caroline Trespel for stepping up for this job for 2024!





Pamela Costello, Membership Chairperson

membership@agmc.info

505-710-0794

MEMBERS AND MEMBERSHIP

To 2024 AGMC Members,

Your continued commitment and support of AGMC is very much appreciated and valued. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by email. I will do my best to resolve or enlist help from other AGMC members.

Together we create a great team.

Pamela Costello

Your club dues for 2024 were payable as of December 31, 2023. Many members have not yet renewed for 2024, and we hope you will take this opportunity to download and fill in the membership form this is included with this newsletter. Dues are only \$30/year for the household, and you must be paid up to attend the field trips. (A household includes 1-2 adults and minor children.) Instructions are on the membership form.

Regina Aumente, Editor

editor@agmc.info

505-604-9585

From the Editor

I would like to start off by thanking Caroline Trespel for the great job she has done on News Nuggets for the last several years. She also did a great job of preparing things for me to take over. She will be a hard act to follow.

As some of you know, I served as editor for this club from 1973 to 1979. At that time, I was typing mimeo sheets, cranking off copies on a mimeo machine, collating, folding, and mailing the copies. Thankfully, the club was much smaller then. After I moved to Colorado, I served as editor for the Littleton Gem & Mineral Club for many years, and later for the Denver Gem & Mineral Guild for another 4 or 5 years. I got my first home computer in 1984 (an Apple IIe) and thus began a steady stream of advances in technology. At the beginning, anything other than plain text required physical cutting and pasting. I am grateful to no longer have to stuff and mail envelopes.

This first issue has been kept fairly simple, as I am re-learning how to make all this happen. Please feel free to offer comments and suggestions (keep it polite please). I would especially welcome your submission of articles.

Advertising space will still be available, free to club members and at nominal cost for businesses. Contact me for details. Thank you all for your support.

The Club Newsletter, The News Nuggets, exists to assist the membership in communications and to provide information on club activities. Contributions from all members are welcome for any information that will promote club activities or that would be of interest to club members.

The News Nuggets is scheduled to be sent approximately 7-8 days after the monthly Board meeting (not the general meeting).

You are invited to send news, pictures, articles, or comments to Regina at editor@agmc.info



Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club

Membership Form

Please include all the names to be included in your Household Membership as this is required annually for insurance purposes. Please make checks and money orders out to AGMC or Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club

Annual dues are **\$30.00** per household. **New** members joining **after July 1st** pay dues of **\$15.00** for the rest of the year. All memberships expire midnight December 31st. All household members must reside at the same address. Only 2 Adult members per family. All junior members **MUST** be under 18. Additional adults must have their own membership.

Dues can be turned in at the monthly meeting or mailed to:
Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club, PO Box 13718, Albuquerque, NM 87192-3718

The requirements for attending field trips were changed at the December 6, 2021 Board meeting.

If you are inviting family and friends to join the AGMC and they are planning on going on a field trip, their dues and membership application **MUST** be in by the **1st of that month.**

If their membership application and dues are not in by the 1st or before, they will not be permitted to attend that month's trip. Dues WILL NOT be accepted at the field trip.

Please complete all the information below. All membership information is for Club use only.

Last Name: _____ Date: _____

Adult Member Names 1. _____
2. _____

Junior Member Names 1. _____ Age: _____
2. _____ Age: _____
3. _____ Age: _____
4. _____ Age: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Apt. #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

All newsletters will be sent electronically to the above email.

(please check one below)

- New Member - joining between (Jan 1 – Jun 30) - **\$30**
- New Member - joining between (Jul 1 – Dec 31) - **\$15**
- Existing Member Renewal - **\$30**

Internal Use Only

Payment \$: _____ Date Received: _____ Date of Check: _____

Cash Ck #: _____ Money Order #: _____

The Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club was organized on January 22, 1944. The club is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement and enjoyment of the Earth Sciences and associated subjects.

Its primary purpose is the exchange of information and the furtherance of knowledge of Mineralogy, Fossils, Geology, Rock Cutting and Gem Faceting and to stimulate interest in the development of these studies.

The general meeting is held at [Monte Vista Christian Church, 3501 Campus Blvd. NE, ABQ, NM 87123](#) on the 4th

Thursday of the month (unless otherwise noted) at 7:30 p.m. The Junior Club meets at 6:30 p.m. prior to the general meeting. (No Junior Club until further notice.)


The public is welcome at both meetings.

Board of Directors meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month via Zoom. All club members are welcome.

Annual dues are \$30.00 per household.


New members joining after July 1 pay dues of \$15.00 for the rest of the year. All household members must reside at the same address. Only 2 adult members per family. Additional adults must have their own membership. All junior members MUST be under 18.

Send checks to:
 AGMC, P.O. Box 13718, Albuquerque, NM 87192
 or pay the Membership Chair at the monthly meeting.
 All memberships expire on December 31st.



Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club
 P.O. Box 13718
 Albuquerque, NM 87192

www.agmc.info



AGMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CONTACTS

Position	Name	Email	Phone
President	Dean Klassy	president@agmc.info	262-749-9008
VP/Programs	Bob Regner	vp-programs@agmc.info	505-288-8835
VP/Field Trips	Grant Kuck	vp-field-trips@agmc.info	505-323-1520
Secretary	Joan Karrie	secretary@agmc.info	571-438-2833
Treasurer	Denise Barrett	treasurer@agmc.info	602-909-2049
Membership	Pamela Costello	membership@agmc.info	505-710-0794
TotE Show Chair	Paul Hlava	show-chair@agmc.info	505-850-7524
Editor	Regina Aumente	editor@agmc.info	505-604-9585
Junior Club Chair	OPEN	junior-club@agmc.info	
Lapidary Chair	Dean Klassy	lapidary@agmc.info	262-749-9008
Historian	Tom Katonak	historian@agmc.info	505-933-0297
Director At Large	Helen Wolfe	ad-hoc@agmc.info	505-242-9029
Web Manager	Greg Peretti	webmanager@agmc.info	575-418-8937
Education/Outreach	Bob Regner	education@agmc.info	505-288-8835
Inventory Manager	Bob Regner	inventory-manager@agmc.info	505-288-8835
Refreshments Coordinator	Margie Mock	refreshments@agmc.info	505-366-7675
Special Events:	Caroline Trespel	specialevents@agmc.info	505-977-6089
Social Media Coordinator	Megan Lindstrom	social-media@agmc.info	612-810-1096

All official club communications are sent from communications@agmc.info, including newsletters. If you are not receiving your newsletter, check your spam/junk folder and make certain communications@agmc.info is in your contacts / safe senders list. Messages to a board member not being delivered? **Make sure you are sending to @agmc.info and not to @agmc.com** and that everything is spelled correctly.