

Rocky Reader

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The Monthly Newsletter of the
Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club



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THE METALCRAFTER SILENT AUCTION IS FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM

Every February the metalcrafters have a silent auction. If you have never done this before - here is the protocol:

If you are bringing a donation: PLEASE Fill out a silent auction slip for each donation. List your name as the donor, and **set a minimum price** and minimum bid raise (we recommend that the bid raise be 5% of the minimum price, for example if the minimum bid is \$10, a bid raise of 5% is 50 cents). Price things at what you think they are worth. **If the item does not sell, we will return it to you.** If you need bid sheets in advance, e-mail Debby and she will send them to you.

If you wish to purchase an item that is on display: First: Look at the bid sheet and note the MINIMUM BID and any other bids that have been made. Next write your name and your bid (this must be MORE than the highest of the minimum bid and the preceding bid) on the bid sheet. If you really, really want something, go back frequently to up your bid OR bid extravagantly. We will announce the end of bidding (usually around 7:30). If you have the highest bid, at the end, take your items to Shirley and pay. Please note: if you have bid less than the minimum bid, you will be charged the minimum. Also, if you have bid less than the previous bids, the item will be given to the person whose bid was highest even if your bid is the last one on the sheet.

Finally: Bring all your bid sheets to Debby Hoffmaster or Bill Leslie to be tallied. They will add up all your purchases and send you off to the treasurer to pay. This removes some of the burden from Shirley and hastens the process.

WHY ANOTHER AUCTION? Most of our classes are staffed by unpaid volunteers. The metalcrafter auction allows us to learn new skills by financing workshops with non-local, non-volunteer metalsmiths and/or to buy tools and equipment. We accept donations of metals, tools, jewelry, gemstones, beads, and other jewelry components for this auction.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone,

February brings us another month closer to the Annual Show in September. I'm sure Suzanne will be contacting you for Chair positions and cross training. While this year may be a little easier logistically, because we do not have to juggle the MWF convention at the same time, the help is not less needed. Thank you in advance to those that volunteer in every way to bring our show to a successful start and end.

Also February brings us the Metalcrafters silent auction. The Metalcrafters is just one of the many groups that makes up our club. I hope you'll join us during the February meeting for this fun and laid back silent auction. Participation in the Metalcrafters group is open to all current members provided they follow some basic guidelines geared towards tranquility and safety. This includes the "introductory Pendant" to learn or showcase basic skills along with deadlines to ensure ease of class registrations. Remember, if you don't know it is always easy to ask. Deb Hoffmaster is our moderator for Metalcrafters and can be contacted easily via email: debhoffmaster@gmail.com.

I would also like to welcome Fred Jones on as our Membership Secretary. While it may seem like a simple job, there is a lot to keep track of and deliver to the treasurer and also our illustrious Editor. Thank you Fred, for seeing the need and stepping up to fill it.

Steve Shimatzki, President

TG&RC MEETING MINUTES -- January 18, 2012

Program: Presented by Jim Harrell from UT on his trip to Egypt and to the ancient mine on Zabargad Island in the Red Sea where peridot was mined. Very interesting and then \$508 checks were presented to Tim Fisher from UT and to Sheila Roberts from BG.

President Steve Shimatzki called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report: Motion carried. Approved by Tom Marok and Jerri Heer

Treasurer's Report: approval by Tom Marok and Jerri Heer.

Old Business: Electronic lock installed and moderators have codes

TBG Liaison: No business to report this month

Gemcrafters: New 18" saw and a lot of work on reorganizing the equipment and electrical. Special thanks to all who helped: Steve Shimatzki, Elie Ghanime, Fred Jones, Sean Jones, Jeff Wheeler, Jeff Erdman, Harold Burleson, John Capuano, Chet King

Metalcrafters: see calendar, auction in February

Beaders: will start up the 3rd Monday in February

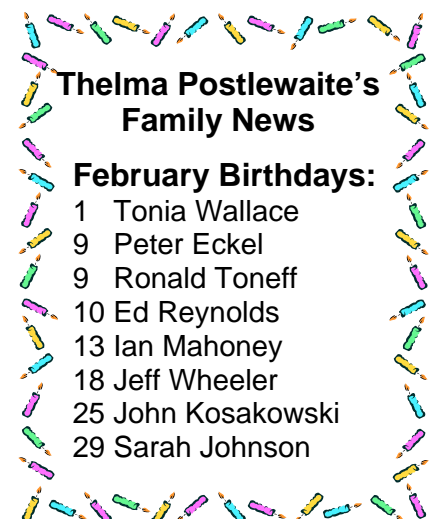
Extreme Beaders: see calendar – meeting every week 9 am to 4 pm

Faceteers: meeting once per month and cutting in the craft center

Juniors: meeting Sunday January 22nd

Rocky Reader: Deadline Monday of week after the meeting

Membership: 32 members



Sunshine: We remember Mike Burcewicz

Field Trips: Joel Vicary will have an Ohio and Kentucky trip in March 29 to April 3rd
A MSHA class is being planned – if interested email Elie or Harold

Show: Please consider chairing one of the areas and let Suzanne Shimatzki know

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm
Respectfully submitted by Mike Mayers



CLASSES

The following schedule is a listing of upcoming classes. To enroll, please send fees to the instructor three weeks prior to the class.

February 18, 2012 10AM. Clasps, Clasps, Clasps. (FULL) Instructor Debra Hoffmaster. Fee \$20.00. Not all clasps are hard to make. Learn to make a variety of simple hook and eye or toggle clasps for bracelets and necklaces. A list of the necessary materials will be available upon registration.

March 17, 2012 10AM. Chainmaille. (4 spots open) Instructor Kathy Petersen. Fee \$20.00 to be sent to Kathy and RECEIVED (not postmarked) by Feb 25. The chainmaille project for March 17, 2012, is a variation on the Backbone bracelet that we did a few years ago. It can be seen on the Blue Buddha Boutique website, <http://www.bluebuddhaboutique.com/supplies/instruction/view.php?id=tunnel> where materials can also be purchased. It is referred to as Illuminated Tunnel. Depending on your choice of materials, the cost is quite variable. If you want to make a larger version, information regarding sizes to order and sources can be obtained from the instructor, Kathy Petersen. Remember, you are responsible for purchasing and bringing your own materials, clasp and hand tools.

April 21, 2012 10AM. Fold Forming. Instructor Debra Hoffmaster. (2 spots open) Fee \$20.00 to be sent to Debby and RECEIVED (not postmarked) by Mar 31. Learn to fold metal to create surface texture and volume. A list of the necessary materials will be available upon registration.

April 28, 2012 10AM. Enameling. (FULL) Instructor Harriet Nearing. Fee \$40.00 - payable to Debra Hoffmaster. Learn to enamel on flat and fold-formed copper. You do not have to have taken the fold forming class to register for this one.

May 5, 10-5. Wire Knotting Techniques, Session One - The Prolong Knot Bracelet. Instructor Loren Damewood. (4 spots open) To register send \$55 to Shirley Stieb by March 17. After March 17 cost is \$110. For details see <http://www.golden-knots.com/workshop.html>

May 5, 10-5. Wire Knotting Techniques, Session One - The Turk's-head Ring/cabochon setting. Instructor Loren Damewood. (4 spots open) To register send \$67.50 to Shirley Stieb by March 17. After March 17 cost is \$135. For details see: <http://www.golden-knots.com/workshop.html>

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GEMCRAFTERS

All new members or existing members that need to work in the Gem-craft center to cut and polish cabochon **for the first time**, please call or email Elie or Chet to schedule a meeting slot for your training to complete your first cabochon AND PLEASE LEAVE YOUR FULL NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION.

DAYTIME GEMCRAFTERS

Meeting every Thursday from Noon to 4 PM at the Craft Center. If your daytime hours are free, come join us!

METALCRAFTERS

The Metalcrafters will meet on February 5, 9, 19 and 23. Sunday meetings are from 1:30 - 3:30 and Thursday meetings are from 6:30-8:30. If you HAVE NEVER ATTENDED, please call or e-mail me (debhoffmaster@gmail.com) to schedule a three meeting slot to complete the instructional pendant. When you do so, please LEAVE YOUR FULL NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION.

PLEASE REMEMBER - our auction is scheduled for February. You may contribute finished jewelry or metalwork, any metals, tools, supplies or jewelry components (faceted or cabochon stones, beads, etc). Using the proceeds of this, and past auctions, we are hoping to bring Loren Damewood (<http://www.golden-knots.com/>) to Toledo to teach his technique for creating woven bracelets, rings and cabochon mountings with a single piece of wire (=minimal soldering).



Finally: if bad weather is forecast or actually happening, please check your e-mail an hour before the scheduled starting time to see if the meeting is cancelled.

Deb Hoffmaster, Metalcraft moderator

Need Gem Tree Supplies?

Viking Knitters & Gem Tree makers needing wire, gem stones, or agate slices, please contact Kerry Myers at kemyers@buckeye-express.com or 419-349-7462.

COMING EVENTS from Chetty King's Flyer Table

March 3-4, 2012: LIVONIA, MI. 40th Annual Silent & Verbal Auctions, Roamin Club, Schoolcraft College, Visatech Center Bldg, 18600 Haggerty Road, Sat 11:00-6:00, Sun 12:00-6:00, Contact Don Brown (734) 421-8159 or Todd Gall (248) 348-5093

March 2-4, 2012: RICHMOND, INDIANA. Annual show; Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society; Wayne County Fairgrounds; 861 N. Salisbury Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; contact John LaMont, (765) 647-4894

April 20-22, 2012: ROSEVILLE, MI. Macomb County/Mt. Clemens Gem & Lapidary Society, Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show, Roseville Recreation Center, 18185 Sycamore, Fri 9-7, Sat 10-7, 11-4, Contact Jacquie Swain (313) 469-7868, E-mail jacsSwain018@aol.com

April 20-21, 2012: Benton Harbor, MI. The Blossomland Gem and Mineral Society - Rock and Gem Show at Orchard's Mall, 1800 Pipestone Rd., (near I-94) Sat. 10 - 7, Sun. 11 - 4 Contact: Andrew Green, rock_club@comcast.net

May 5 & 6, 2012: GEOFAIR 2012. 47th Annual Show. www.geofair.com Geofair 2012, the 47th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show cosponsored by the Cincinnati Mineral Society and the Dry Dredgers, will be held at the Cincinnati Gardens

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN WIN \$ FOR CREATING A NEW ROCK, MINERAL OR FOSSIL PROGRAM?

2012 AFMS Program Competition

by Marge Collins, Program Competition Chair

The purpose of this Competition is to Recognize and Reward authors of presentations about the Earth Sciences and to make winning programs available to affiliated Clubs across the country. Video, digital presentations or slides, relating to the Earth Sciences are eligible. Submit entries in one of the four amateur classes.

* Each program is judged on its own merits.

* Entrants in amateur categories will receive a composite score sheet with comments / score.

Winners may be asked to make some changes based on judges comments before final version is produced for duplication. (contact Coordinator for details)

* Judging Form and "Tips for Good Programs" are available on AFMS website (www.amfed.org), from AFMS Coordinator or your Regional Program Librarian.

WHO MAY ENTER

Any Club, Society, or members thereof, with 2012 dues paid to a Federation affiliated with AFMS may enter.

DEADLINE for entry: April 15, 2012

CLASSES FOR ENTRIES

Class 1 -Educational - about geology, minerals, gems, fossils, etc.

Class 2 -Field Collecting - showing site(s), specimens, with some geology, collecting methods and other aspects of interest.

Class 3 –"How To Do It" - techniques/equipment for fossil prep. jewelry, metal work, carving, faceting, other lapidary, etc.

Class 4 -_Just for Juniors_ - any of the above for/ by youngsters.

"Excellence in Education" entries are judged separately.

AWARDS

A \$200 cash prize for the highest scoring program (for 95+ points), \$100 if score is 94 – 90 points, in Classes 1 - 4. In addition, Winners receive national recognition. A copy of each winning program is given to each Regional Program Library; thus winning programs are available to Clubs across the country.

Interested:? e-mail: margaret@qtm.net

-AFMS Newsletter, Dec. 2011-Jan. 2012



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Popular Mineralogy

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The Universe's First Minerals

by Andrew A. Sicree, Ph.D.

Before the minerals

In the beginning, the universe was devoid of minerals. And for quite some time after the Big Bang that got everything started (about 13.7 billion years ago last Friday), the universe stayed mineral-free.

At first, the universe was mostly quark soup. Then the quarks condensed to form vast quantities of atoms of the lightest elements – mostly hydrogen, helium, and lithium, not much for a mineralogist to work with. In fact, these atoms were too hot to form any solids at all. They existed as gases. The universe expanded, meaning all of both space and time got bigger (I know it sounds weird – but it wouldn't be physics if it didn't sound weird), and cooled. Hydrogen and helium atoms, pulled together by their own gravity, condensed and ignited as the first stars.

Making the elements

These early stars were powered by the fusion (i.e., joining together) of various light elements (i.e., hydrogen and helium) to form heavier elements. Fusion reactions produced energy and kept the stars lit, and while they burned, these early stars manufactured lithium, carbon, oxygen, silicon, and other heavier elements. Fusion processes, however, can't easily form elements heavier than iron and nickel so the universe's first minerals had to be drawn from the lighter, first quarter of the Periodic Table of Elements. In those days, the heaviest elements were iron and nickel, but carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, aluminum, and silicon were plentiful. The creation of the elements between nickel and uranium is mostly a function of supernova explosions – a topic for another discussion.

Ur minerals

As the first generation of stars burned out, some exploded and the elements created inside these stars were spewed out into the void of space as clouds of gas. As these gases cooled, some atoms joined together into simple molecules. Likewise, some atoms joined together into a fine dust of solid materials – some as glasses and some as crystals: the first minerals. What were these early minerals, which some authors call “Ur minerals”? (The prefix “ur-“ means “proto-“ or “primitive.”) And how can we know anything about them?

Carbon is formed in copious quantities in present-day stars and would have likewise been formed in the earliest stars. As carbon atoms cooled in the clouds of gas leftover from the explosion of an early star, they would condense into the various forms of elemental carbon – in other words, the carbon minerals graphite (C, hexagonal), diamond (C, cubic), and lonsdaleite (C, hexagonal) would be among the first minerals to form.

Silicon, oxygen, nitrogen, and aluminum are also among the elements formed in large quantities in stars. These elements can react with carbon to form minerals. Thus, one might predict that the list of Ur minerals should include carbide, nitride, and oxide minerals such as moissanite (SiC, hexagonal), nierite (α -Si₃N₄, trigonal), and corundum (Al₂O₃, hexagonal).

Samples of the first minerals

So far, our list of Ur minerals comes from speculation based on the history of the universe during the couple of billion years or so after the Big Bang. It sure would be nice if we could find an old mineral collection from those early days. That

sounds impossible, but it just so happens that Mother Nature did provide us with just such a collection.

Meteorites constantly fall on the Earth and many thousands of meteorites have been collected. Some of these meteorites are fragments of asteroids and have compositions similar to those of the rocky planets (Mercury, Venus, Mars, and the Earth). But many meteorites contain unusual spherical structures we call *chondrules*. We call meteorites containing chondrules *chondrites*. Chondrules are spherical bodies generally less than 1 mm in diameter; they are typically composed of olivine and pyroxene minerals. Chondrules are thought to have formed during the early days of our Solar System – thus, although they are older than any minerals found on the Earth, their minerals do not qualify as Ur minerals.

But within the fine-grained matrix that cements the chondrules together, we find minerals that are isotopically-distinct from the minerals in the chondrules. These mineral grains are called *presolar grains* because they are thought to have formed after early supernova explosions or from the output of Red Giant stars that contributed to the nebula from which our Solar System formed. For instance, in these matrix minerals the ratio of carbon-12 to carbon-13 varies much more widely than does the same ratio in the chondrules. This supports the idea that the presolar grains have distinctly different galactic sources than do the chondrules. Thus, presolar grains in meteorites such as the type-3 chondrites (these are chondrule-bearing meteorites that have not seen any post-formation alteration) are our best bet for collecting Ur minerals.

Listing the Ur minerals

What minerals are found as presolar grains in Type 3 chondrites? In addition to the predicted graphite, diamond, lonsdaleite, moissanite, nierite, and corundum, meteoriticists have also found osbornite (TiN), rutile (TiO₂), spinel (MgAl₂O₄), hibonite (CaAl₁₂O₁₉), forsterite (MgSiO₄), and minerals with the perovskite structure (MgSiO₃). Our list of the Ur minerals – the first minerals in the universe – is thus only twelve species long.

Today, we know of more than about 4400 mineral species that have been found in the crust

of the Earth or in meteorites. The universe has changed appreciably since the days when there were only about a dozen or so minerals to be found.

Ref.: Hazen, R. M., et al., 2008, "Mineral evolution" *American Mineralogist*, vol. 93, p. 1693-1720.

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The Glint of Gold

Gold was perhaps the first metal found and worked by early Man. He pulled nuggets and grains of the yellow metal from stream bank deposits and valued the glittering metal for the ease with which he could hammer it into shape. But these early miners of alluvial gold soon discovered that there were also other glittering minerals among the stream-worn pebbles. Mica and pyrite proved to be glittering counterfeits of gold and the proverb "Not all that glitters is gold" was born. Shakespeare, in *The Merchant of Venice* (II, vii), gives the proverb as "All that glisters is not gold; often you have heard that told," thus giving a nod to the fact that it was well-established before he used it in his play. (If you say "all that glitters is not gold" often enough, sooner or later someone will correct you, telling you that the correct word is "glisters" – but you can correct them by informing them that the proverb has had many different wordings and is much older than Shakespeare. It may be even older than Aesop.) The proverb continues to be used today. In *The Lord of the Rings*, J. R. R. Tolkien turns the proverb on its head in Frodo's poem about Strider (Aragorn) with the line: "All that is gold does not glitter, Not all those who wander are lost".

The Mineral-Changing Dwarfs of Switzerland

Folklore from many European countries features tales of Dwarfs. Depicted as a solid and almost magical people, the Dwarfs are skilled and successful miners. Naturally, some of tales of the Dwarfs record their mineral treasures. One suspects that the Dwarfs were also great mineral collectors. At least, they mined and collected

gemstones. From Switzerland comes “The Tale of the Rejected Gift”:

One night, long ago, a Dwarf climbed down from the mountains to the village of Walchwyl, searching for a midwife. One midwife, a woman of the village, consented to accompany the Dwarf. Bearing a light, he led her high up the mountain, whereupon they passed into a cleft in the rock. Upon entering the mountain, the midwife was surprised to find herself in a magnificent hall, cleft from the living rock. After passing through several opulent rooms, she was brought to the Queen of the Dwarfs, who was in labor. The midwife performed her duties well, and a new young prince was born to the Dwarf Queen. The Dwarfs thanked her, and her guide appeared one more to lead her home. After bringing her down the mountain, the Dwarf filled her apron with something, telling her that, under no circumstances, should she look at the gifts until she got back to her house. But after the Dwarf departed, she could not restrain her curiosity. She opened her apron and beheld close to one hundred chunks of coal. Disappointed and disgusted, she flung the coal to the ground. But she kept two fragments of the coal, carrying them home to Walchwyl to attest to the ingratitude of the Dwarfs. At home, she told her story and cast the pieces of coal on the ground in front of her husband. He looked at them in amazement, for they shown like carbuncles. The midwife insisted that the Dwarf had given her only coal. But her husband carried the stones to a jeweler, who pronounced them gems of great value. The midwife then raced back to where she had discarded the bulk of the coals. But all had disappeared.

According to this and other legends, coal was the usual form under which the Dwarfs disguised their treasures.

Ref.: Keightley, Thomas, “The World Guide to Gnomes, Fairies, Elves, and Other Little People”, (1978, Gramercy Books, New York), p. 275.

*Dr. Andrew A. Sicree is a professional mineralogist and geochemist residing in Boalsburg, PA. This **Popular Mineralogy** newsletter supplement may not be copied in part or full without express permission of Andrew Sicree. **Popular Mineralogy** newsletter supplements are available on a subscription basis to help mineral clubs produce better newsletters. Write to Andrew A. Sicree, Ph.D., P. O. Box 10664, State College PA 16805, or call (814) 867-6263 or email sicree@verizon.net for more info.*

Color Changes in Tanzanite

Few purple gemstone species exist. Amethyst, of course, is a rather common variety of quartz, and it can be cut to yield flawless purple gems and has been used since the days of the ancient Greeks. In recent decades, a new purple gemstone has entered the market. Called “tanzanite,” this stone is a variety of the mineral zoisite, orthorhombic $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_3(\text{SiO}_4)_3(\text{OH})$. Zoisite is more commonly known as the massive, bright green matrix in which sets off hexagonal crystals of ruby in specimens labeled “ruby in zoisite”. Tanzanite is the purple to blue variety of zoisite. Interestingly, when found, tanzanite crystals are strongly trichroic – meaning they have three different colors. A tanzanite will appear to be violet, deep blue, or reddish brown depending upon the direction from which you are looking at the crystal. Most tanzanite crystals are reddish brown when found. All gem tanzanites are then heat-treated to yield a deep blue to purple color. Your jeweler won’t mention this heat-treatment – if he even knows about it – because it is done to all tanzanites, it is considered a generally accepted practice. You can detect a heat-treated tanzanite because it is dichroic (it shows only two colors: blue and purple).

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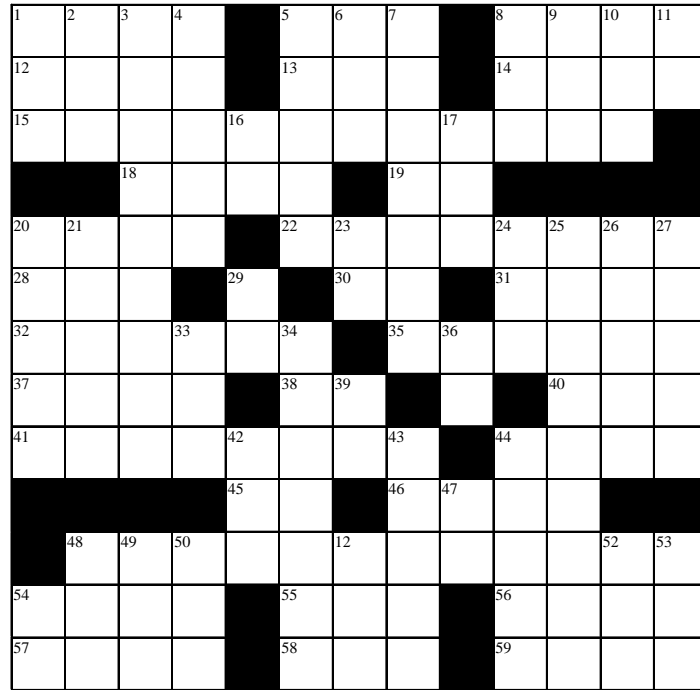
Minerals

ACROSS

- 1 European source for adularia
- 5 Greek letter
- 8 soft silicate mineral
- 12 found in Scottish voice
- 13 Chinese group
- 14 ____ 51 where the UFOs are
- 15 occurs when electrons return
- 18 done by a horse
- 19 Rhenium
- 20 a double reed woodwind
- 22 mixtures of Au and Hg
- 28 huge mythical bird
- 30 found in sperrylite
- 31 variant for enough
- 32 in ulexite and colesmanite
- 35 niche in building exterior
- 37 feeling of strong eagerness
- 38 where Amelia pegmatite is
- 40 color matching system
- 41 a calcium borate silicate
- 44 actor named Danny
- 45 found in roquesite and indite
- 46 drink of Beowulf
- 48 principal ore mineral of copper
- 54 makes calcite fizz
- 55 done with halite
- 56 beginning of most tin compounds
- 57 a name you can trust
- 58 mine change house
- 59 the scratch ____ tells you the hardness of a mineral

DOWN

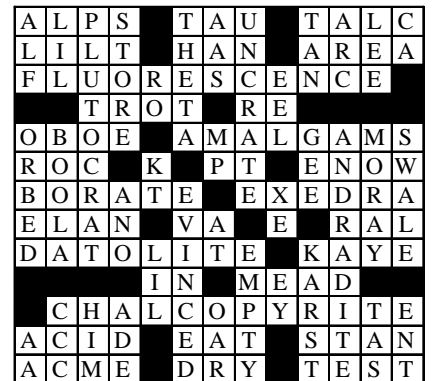
- 1 Danish elf
- 2 short for Lilian
- 3 very rich dude
- 4 what your club does with excess minerals
- 5 X-ray reflection angle
- 6 puzzle author's initials
- 7 what you do with minerals shipped to you



- 8 color of desert sand
- 9 part of a circle
- 10 opposite the windward side of a sand dune
- 11 found in bassanite, minrecordite and lime
- 16 title used by Fiji chief
- 17 slippery fish
- 20 encircled, enclosed
- 21 in Yale fight song
- 23 member of Parliament
- 24 ____ Whiz!
- 25 forms series with grossular
- 26 another slippery fish
- 27 marshy lowland
- 29 Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary
- 33 year
- 34 indicated
- 36 a noble gas, element 54
- 39 astatine
- 42 slang for little
- 43 what a vug can be
- 44 holey land
- 47 short for hey
- 48 the Civilian Conservation Corps
- 49 not her

- 50 beverage suffix
- 51 rows a boat
- 52 Tasmania (ab)
- 53 Tolkien's tree man
- 54 Alcoholics Anonymous

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION:



February

2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Gemcraft 6:30p	2 Gemcraft 12-4p	3	4
5 Metalcraft 1:30p	6	7 Extreme Beaders 9a-4p	8 Gemcraft 6:30p	9 Gemcraft 12-4p Metalcraft 6:30p	10	11
12	13	14 Extreme Beaders 9a-4p Faceteers 6:30p	15 Club Mtg 7:00p AUCTION!!	16 Gemcraft 12-4p	17	18 Clasps Class 10a
19 Metalcraft 1:30p	20 Beaders 6-8p Rocky Reader Deadline	21 Extreme Beaders 9a-4p	22 Gemcraft 6:30p	23 Gemcraft 12-4p Metalcraft 6:30p	24	25
26 Juniors 12-2p	27	28 Extreme Beaders 9a-4p	29 Gemcraft 6:30p			

Group meetings and classes are for members only. Our club meetings are open to the public on the third Wednesday of every month. To learn more about our club, visit us during our Open House held every May and November.



**Rocky Reader Editor
Suzanne Shmatzki
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