

# GOLDRUSH LEDGER



Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

Jan - Feb 2009

## Prez Sez ...

By the time that you read this, many of you may have seen the news on TV and The Observer telling of the closing of Camera World. I am sure that some are wondering about what will happen to our clubhouse. Even though my time in January is going to be extremely stressful and busy, I see no reason why the scheduled classes and junior's program cannot continue.

I am not sure if my time will let me do a cabochon class that I had planned unless we do it on a Sunday. As to long term future of the clubhouse, it is difficult to project at this time. It would be my greatest hope that down the road, when I begin to negotiate a lease on my building that I can convince the tenant to do their community service and allow the club to stay.

I cannot express in words the incredible sadness of having to tell

employees who have been loyal for decades that they have no job. Kathy and I thank you for your friendship, support and prayers during these difficult times. Hopefully the dust will have settled=2 Oby the time for our next meeting at our new location at The Nature Museum and I look forward to seeing you there.

*Jack King, President,  
Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club*

## Meeting Topic - January Meeting 2009

*“The Identification of Mesosaurus -  
Prehistoric Marine Reptiles”*

by **Brittany Tyler**  
(previous club scholarship winner)



*After this meeting picking  
out the fake will be trivial!*

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## **CLUB CHAIRPERSONS**

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### **Points Scholarship Chair**

open

### **Geode Chair**

Jimmy Strickland

### **Hospitality Chair**

open

### **Refreshments Chair**

open

### **Workshop Chair**

open

### **WebMaster**

Ron Gibbs

### **Librarian**

Pat Walker

### **Picnic Chair**

open

### **Christmas Party Chair**

Pat Walker

## Junior Rockhound - Pre-Christmas Cabochon Class

A great success and everyone managed to create a gem and take it home.



A picture is sometimes worth a 1,000 words.

# **Charlotte Junior Rockhounds**

## **Saturday, January 31, 2009**

**10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

CGAM Clubhouse  
At the Camera World on Commonwealth Ave.

Show & Tell  
Bring a favorite Gem or Mineral to show the group!

**Topic for January:**  
**Fossils**

Meeting is limited to 12 students.  
Parents are encouraged to attend with students.

In order for materials to be ready, you must sign up ahead of time:  
Contact Mary Fisher at [mefisher@att.net](mailto:mefisher@att.net)

# **Charlotte Junior Rockhounds**

## **Saturday, February 28, 2009**

**10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

CGAM Clubhouse  
At the Camera World on Commonwealth Ave.

Show & Tell  
Bring a favorite Gem or Mineral to show the group!

**Topic for February:**  
**Crystals**

Meeting is limited to 12 students.  
Parents are encouraged to attend with students.

## Christmas Party - Scholarship Awards

The annual Christmas party was held at Amity Presbyterian Church and well attended by between 30 and 40 participants. It provided an opportunity for club members to sit back and relax for an evening of good food, and congenial conversation.

Each year our club sponsors one or more scholarships to the Earth Sciences/Geology department of the University of North Carolina as Charlotte. This year three scholarships were given and the three students attended the party and received their awards. Also in attendance were faculty member from the school. Scholarships were given to, Michael Hunt, John Lopez, and Theresa Triftshouser.

The club also awarded internal scholarships to the William Holland Lapidary School or Wildacres Retreat for a week long class sponsored by the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies. These awards are chosen at random each year from those qualifying members that donate their time and energy to making our club function. This year Gale Blevins and Harrell Suggs were the two members selected.

**Please bring your stamps to Pat Walker to help in the stamp collection project.**

*Thanks!*

## OPPS!

In the December newsletter, I pointed out that we had a new meeting place starting in January, and I provided the address and a tiny map of how to get there.

The only thing I forgot was to identify was the name of the place! OPPS!

We will begin meeting at the Charlotte Nature Museum in January. It is actually part of Discovery Place (our old meeting location). Discovery Place is undergoing some remodeling for the next several months so we decided to move.

The meeting date will remain the same, the third Thursday of the month (January 15th this time), and the time is the same, 7:00 pm.

Third Thursdays to come ...  
February 19th, 2009  
March 19th, 2009  
April 16th, 2009  
May 21st, 2009  
June 18th, 2009  
July 16th, 2009  
August 20th, 2009  
September, 17th, 2009  
October, 22nd, 2009  
November 19th, 2009  
December Time for another party!

### Meeting Topic for February Meeting

**February 19, 2009  
7:00 pm  
Nature Museum**

***“Rock Collecting Sites in North Carolina”***

**by David Goode  
( from Winston Salem)**



<http://carolinageologicalsociety.org/cgsource.htm>

Since you newsletter editor is on the road to Quartzsite and Tucson for the rest of January and much of February here is the advance notice for the February Meeting as there will be NO February Newsletter.



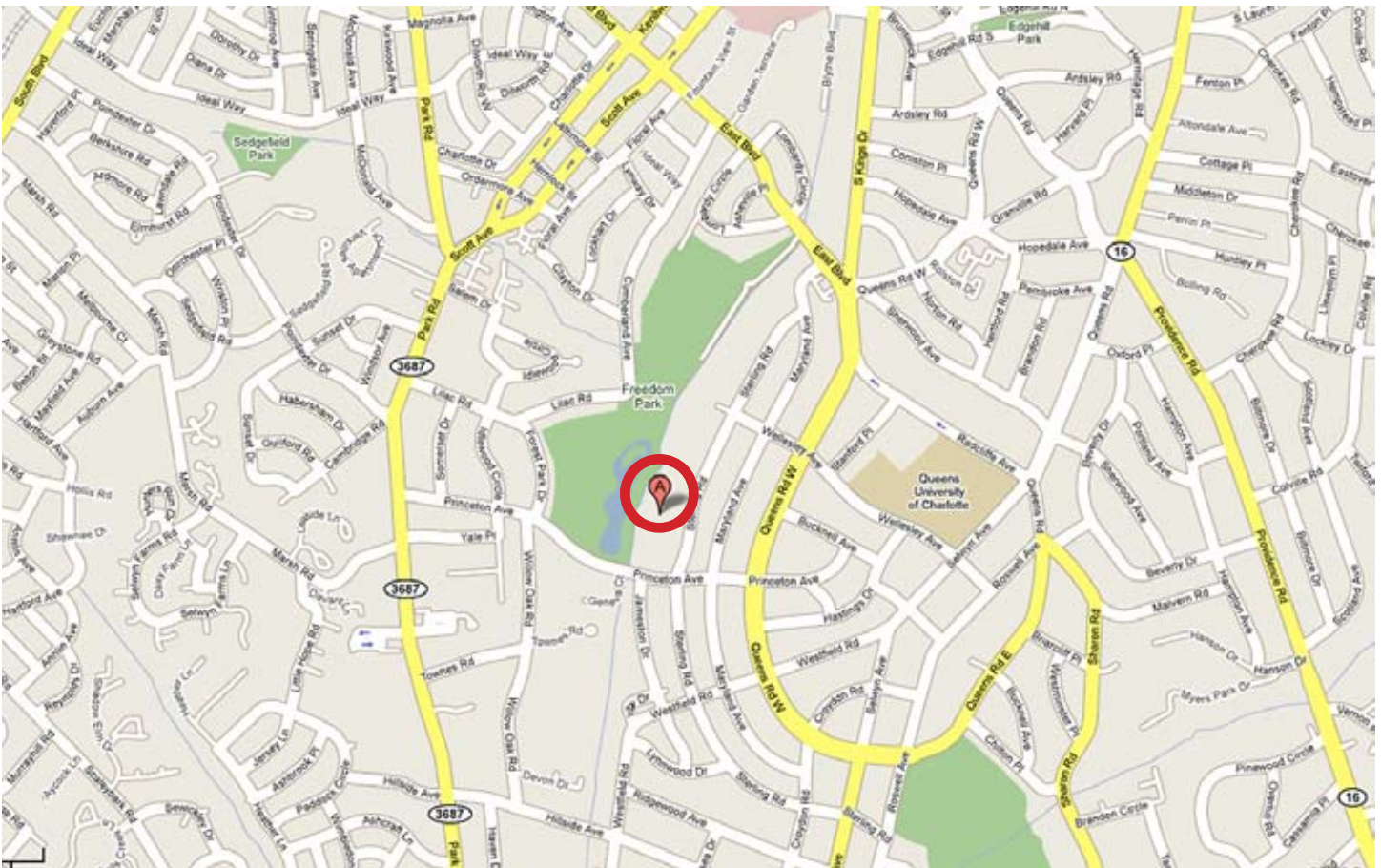




**1658 Sterling Road  
Charlotte, NC 28209  
(704) 372 - 61261**

**NEW MEETING LOCATION**

**Same Time: 7:00 pm**





## Rock & Gem now our “Official” Magazine!

*from Shirley Leeson, AFMS Past President  
(Taken from Dec issue of AMFED newsletter)*

I'm delighted to share some exciting news with all of you. The AFMS Officers and Directors have selected Rock & Gem Magazine as the official magazine of the American Federation!

Rock & Gem is published by Miller Magazines and our own International Relations Chair, Bob Jones is its Senior Editor. He and his “boss” Lynne Varon, Managing Editor of the magazine have been actively promoting the AFMS and several of its activities for the past year and plan to continue doing so in years to come.

Rock & Gem is the last of the true “rockhound” magazine now that Lapidary Journal has been morphed into Jewelry Arts/Lapidary Journal. Mineralogical Record and Rocks & Minerals of course continue as outstanding publications, but their focus is on minerals, not on rockhounds. Each issue of R & G contains articles on field trips, minerals, projects and a series of kids activities.

The November issue includes an editorial by Lynne Varon entitled “Find Your Voice” touting the

AFMS Conservation & Legislation program, plus information about our efforts to get the U.S. Postal Service to produce a series of commemorative stamps featuring birthstones and an early plug for the AFMS 2009 Convention in Billings, MT by Bob Jones.

If you're not already a subscriber, and thus a supporter of the magazine, you can easily get information by visiting their website <[www.rockngem.com](http://www.rockngem.com)> or by calling them at 760-291-1549.

Not yet had the opportunity of meeting our International Relations Chair Bob Jones? He's always at the club show in Tucson each February, the Denver Show each September, the Springfield show each August in W. Springfield, MA and many, many local club shows. He's also scheduled to be the speaker at the EFMLS Wildacres Workshop in 2010.

Our association with Rock & Gem can truly be a symbiotic relationship - we subscribe and the magazine supports the efforts of the American Federation and our local clubs.

## Lapidary WEB forums

*by ron gibbs*

So what grit do you use to start cutting opal? What's a good polish for green jade? Does anyone know what this material is?

These are just a sample of the types of questions you can get answers to on internet forums related to lapidary. There are several forums on the internet which provide a place to either discuss, or ask and answer questions about our hobby.

Use your browser to link to one of the following WEB addresses and then either “lurk” (lurk = watch the action while maintaining anonymity) or better yet “participate” in one of the forum discussions.

Lapidary/Gemstone Community Forum: (<http://gemstone.smffor-free4.com/index.php>)

Rock Tumbling Hobby: (<http://andy321.proboards48.com/index.cgi>)

The forums are free to sign up and there are many topics of general interest related to our hobby. People from all of the United States (and even well beyond) communicate and share information.

They are friendly places to hang out with others that share common interests in virtually all aspects of Lapidary Work. Cabbbing, carving, sawing, tumbling, tools, jewelry making, designing, slabbing, polishing, faceting, and more ... who knows you might even have some fun!

