



# Goldrush Ledger

Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter

January 2020

## Prez Sez.....

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays! We had fun at the December party! Thanks to all of the members who brought delicious treats and desserts for us to enjoy!

We are looking forward to a fun and active calendar this year, with the excitement of hosting a DMC Field Trip in April, an event that we host just once every 3 years. We are also hoping to open a new workshop space for classes and activities. Volunteers are needed for both activities - see me if you would like to help.

Dues are Due! Please renew your membership in January /February. Sam Baker will be collecting dues at the meeting, or you can use the online membership form to mail a check. The form is available at [charlottegem.org](http://charlottegem.org).

Congratulations to the newly elected 2020 Board of Directors! The new Board Members are listed on the next page. I would like to extend a special thanks to all of our volunteers past and present, who continually work behind the scenes to keep the club running smoothly. Your ongoing dedication to our club is appreciated.

Please join us for our next meeting on January 16. In late Fall 2019, club members Kristie and Xavier Bulla attended a one-week class at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, GA. At our next meeting they will be sharing their experiences of learning new skills and making new friends in the beautiful north Georgia mountains. Kristie and Xavier completed Wire 1 with Diane Mason and learned how to make wire bracelets, rings, wire-wrapped cabbed earrings and pendants.

Each year the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club has a drawing from our members who are active with the club. In most years, 2 or 3 lucky members will win a week of paid tuition to a class of their choice at William Holland. Kristie and Xavier were two of the scholarship winners in 2019. We look forward to hearing about what they learned, as well as their immersion into the William Holland culture, at our upcoming January 16 meeting.

See you at the next meeting!

**Kim Gwyn**

**Club President**

**Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club**

*You might be a  
rockhound if...*

*-- Your rock collection  
weighs more than you do!*



## In This Issue

- Dues are Due!
- Famous Finds
- Upcoming Digs



## 2020 CGMC Officers & Board

### **President**

Kim Gwyn  
gwynkim@gmail.com  
(803) 370-0244

### **Vice President**

Bob Black

### **Secretary**

Vickie Glover

### **Treasurer**

Sam Baker

### **Directors at Large**

Theresa Hudson  
Anne Lockwood  
Martha Rogers

## Club Chairpersons

### **Web Master**

Kim Gwyn  
gwynkim@gmail.com

### **Newsletter Editor**

Mary Fisher

### **Geode Chair**

Jimmy Strickland

### **Speakers/Special Events**

Anne Lockwood

### **Contact Info:**

Charlotte@gem@yahoo.com

## Pride of Australia / Red Emperor Opal

Excerpt from [opalsdownunder.com.au/learn/famous-opals/](http://opalsdownunder.com.au/learn/famous-opals/)  
picture from [www.resources.nsw.gov.au](http://www.resources.nsw.gov.au)

The 'Pride of Australia', also known as 'Red Emperor', was found in 1915 by Tom Urwin and Snowy Brown at Phone Line (off Fred Reece Way). The Pride of Australia is shaped like the continent. The 2" x 3" opal has black and blue veins interlaced with brilliant red streaks. By 1954, it had toured at least five World Fairs as "the greatest opal of Australia, and therefore the greatest opal in the world."



This double-sided gem cut to a 225 carat stone that just fit into a tobacco tin. There were two distinct color bars. The one on the back was much lighter and almost harlequin, totally different to the main bar of dark, rich flashes of color. Ernie Sherman bought 'Pride' plus another three stones from the miners for £2000 around 1920. It was the highest price ever paid for four black opals. The 'Pride of Australia' was valued in 1931 at £2000 on its own, and was sold in the 1950s from the Percy Marks Collection, Sydney.



## Next Club Meeting

Thursday, January 16, 2020  
Social Time begins at 6:30 PM  
**MEETING BEGINS at 7:00 PM**



Tyvola Senior Center  
2225 Tyvola Road, Charlotte

# Dues are Due!

Please renew your membership by the end of February! A membership form is available on our website at [www.charlottegem.org](http://www.charlottegem.org). Membership fees are still just \$20 for individuals, and \$25 for families. Your annual membership fees help to cover club costs such as meeting space, refreshments, and club insurance. Membership gives you discounts on classes, and access to sponsored field trips like the DMC digs listed below.

## Charlotte Junior Rockhounds

The Junior Rockhounds program is still taking a break.  
Only two members responded with interest in Saturday meetings for January to April timeframe.

## Upcoming Field Trips

### Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

Note: DMC Field Trips are for club members of DMC-affiliated clubs and their families only. Liability issues mean that these trips cannot be attended by the general public unless otherwise noted. Because this dig is not open to the public, full details are not published in our newsletter. As a benefit of membership, our club is a DMC-affiliated club and CGMC members who are current on their 2020 dues may attend.

**January 11, 2020 - Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club**

Limestone Mine with Fossil Specimens near Tampa, Florida

***Looking ahead.....***

**February 2020 - Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society (Birmingham, AL)**

**March 2020 - Mobile Rock & Gem Society, Inc. (Mobile, AL)**

**April 2020 - Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club**

**May 2020 - Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (Jackson, MS)**

**June 2020 - Gaston Gem, Mineral & Faceter's Club**

For more information about these digs, please contact [charlottegem@yahoo.com](mailto:charlottegem@yahoo.com).

