



THE GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

NOVEMBER 2015

THE PREZ SAYZ

The Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club is about to end a very long-standing relationship with an old friend . . . a relationship that started over forty years ago.

In the early 1970s the club was actively involved in putting together and running an annual gem and mineral show. One of the requirements for such an event was display cabinets for exhibits such as members' collections, unique items on loan from dealers or institutions, etc. At that time appropriate cabinets that could be locked and had good internal lighting were not readily available from rental companies. The club



had to buy custom made units. After doing so, a new problem evolved – where to store them after the show. Club members' basements and garages did not work out very well and self-storage warehouses had not been invented yet, so a decision was made to purchase a trailer to be used as storage.

In 1974 a 38-foot trailer (manufactured in 1959) was purchased for \$1500. In those days one of the most popular venues for shows and exhibits in Charlotte was the Merchandise Mart (currently called The Park) on Independence Boulevard. Exhibitors were allowed to park storage trailers in a field adjacent to the building. Our trailer remained at that site for a number of years until a decision was made to upgrade the Merchandise Mart and the land around it. This led to another problem. In 1984 the club was ordered to move the trailer but

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it has lived in retirement among a large group of aging trailer relics. It has been kept busy storing the stony belongings of the CG&MC but with the acquisition of the extensive Orchard collection, it became obvious we needed more storage space. About a month ago a newer, larger trailer was moved into a door-to-door position with Old Faithful and a dedicated crew of members, led by Brad and Kim (the Trailer Whisperers) has been busy moving old shelves, creating new shelves and moving inventory from the old to the new. The work is almost done and the results are impressive as well as gratifying. In a few weeks the old trailer will be taken to a scrap yard where it will be dismantled for its metal content. It is a sad day. Farewell old friend.

*Murray Simon: President
Charlotte Gem and Mineral
Club*

we had no tractor to pull it; and even if we did, the trailer was in no condition to pass a registration inspection. With old bald tires and no working lights - what to do / what to do? A team of resourceful (and slightly crazy) members (Jimmy Strickland, take a bow) came up with an idea.

If you happened to be driving down Independence Boulevard at about 2AM one night in 1984, you might have been surprised to come upon a large dark object being towed by a borrowed tractor/truck. Somehow it held together long enough (with the police nowhere to be seen) to be deposited in the field of a local trucking company where



**Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club
Monthly Meeting**

Thursday November 19, 2015

Auction will begin at 6:00

Location:

Tyvola Senior Center

2225 Tyvola Rd. Charlotte, NC 28210 (704) 522-6222

Annual Auction

Bring your cash, checkbook, and any rock related items to the CGMC Annual Auction! There will be all kinds of great items up for bid from rough to tools to supplies and tons of stuff in between.

*****There will not be a Jewelry Workshop before the meeting.*****

*****Auction Will Begin At 6:00!*****

Charlotte Junior Rockhounds

Saturday November 21, 2015

Topic: Jewelry Making

Location: Matthews Community Center

100 McDowell St. Matthews, NC 28105

Contact Mary Fisher to sign up for the class.

Email: mefisher@att.net

2016 CG&MC

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS:

President:	<i>Murray Simon</i>
Vice President:	<i>Kim Gwyn</i>
Secretary:	<i>Vickie Glover</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Vivian Philson</i>
Newsletter Editor:	<i>Zachery Blackburn</i>
Web Master:	<i>Kim Gwyn</i>
Special Events Chairman:	<i>Carl Lockwood</i>
Member at Large:	<i>Brad Glover</i>
Member at Large	<i>Martha Rodgers</i>

Elections will be held during the November general meeting.



ROCK OF THE MONTH

PSILOMELANE

Psilomelane, erroneously, and uncommonly known as black hematite (but not related to true hematite, which is an iron ore), is a group name for hard black manganese oxides such as hollandite and romanechite. Psilomelane consists of hydrous manganese oxide with variable amounts of barium and potassium.

Formula

Generalized formula may be represented as $\text{Ba}(\text{Mn}^{2+})$
 $(\text{Mn}^{4+})_8\text{O}_{16}(\text{OH})_4$ or as
 $(\text{Ba}, \text{H}_2\text{O})_2\text{Mn}_5\text{O}_{10}$. It

is sometimes considered
to be a hydrous

manganese manganate, but of

doubtful composition. The amount of manganese present corresponds to
70-80% of manganous oxide with 10-15% of available oxygen.

Characteristics

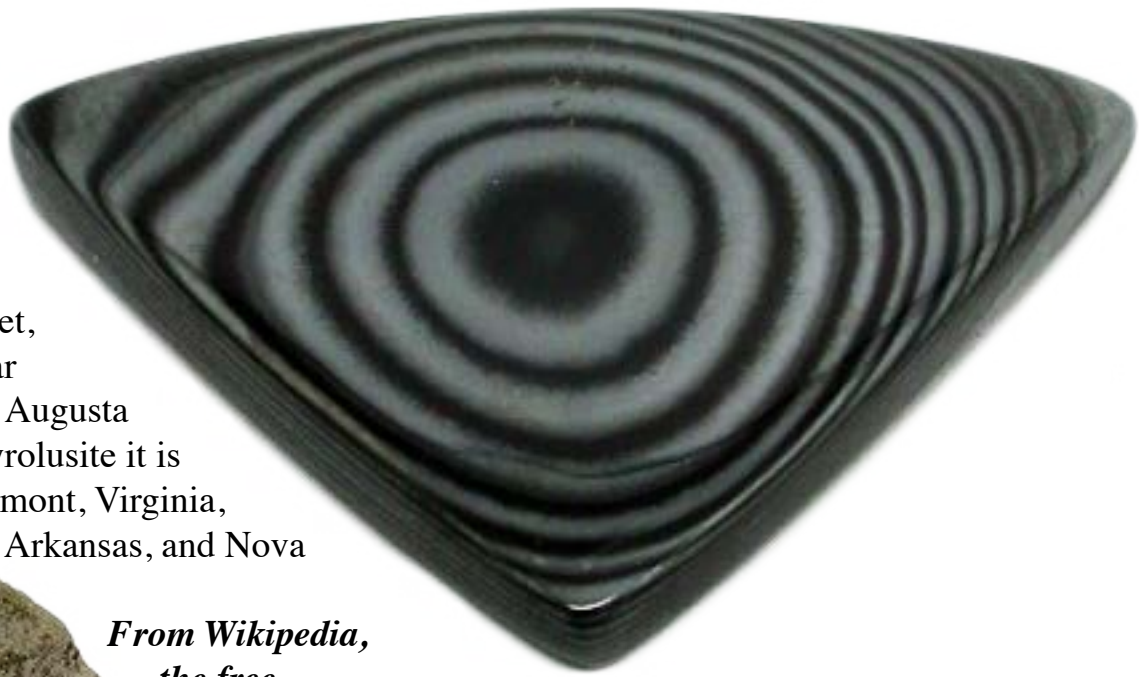
Psilomelane is amorphous and occurs as botryoidal and stalactitic masses with a smooth shining surface and submetallic lustre. The mineral is readily distinguished from other hydrous manganese oxides (manganite and wad) by its greater hardness 5 to 6; the specific gravity varies from 3.7 to 4.7. The streak is brownish black and the fracture smooth. Owing to its amorphous nature, the mineral often contains admixed impurities, such as iron hydroxides. It is soluble in hydrochloric acid with evolution of chlorine gas.

History and occurrence

The name has reference to this characteristic appearance, from the Greek for (naked, smooth) and (black); a Latinized form is calvonigrite, and a German name with the same meaning is Schwarzer Glaskopf.

It is a common and important ore of manganese, occurring under the same conditions and having the same commercial applications as pyrolusite. It is found at many localities;

amongst those which have yielded typical botryoidal specimens may be mentioned the Restormel iron mine at Lostwithiel in Cornwall, Brendon Hills in Somerset, Hoy in Orkney, Sayn near Coblenz, and Crimora in Augusta county, Virginia. With pyrolusite it is extensively mined in Vermont, Virginia, Arkansas, and Nova



*From Wikipedia,
the free
encyclopedia*



UPCOMING SHOWS

Nov. 20-22—COLUMBIA 29210, SOUTH CAROLINA: Annual show; The Columbia, SC Gem & Mineral Society, Jamil Temple; 206 Jamil Rd; Fri. 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sat. 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sun. 12:00 Noon-5:00 pm; Admission is \$5.00, Children 16 & under Free; Jewelry, beads, loose stones, fossils, minerals, gold, silver, & tools for sale Geodes sold & cut Club member's rock collections on exhibit & lapidary demonstrations. Lots of fun for the whole family. South Carolina amethyst on display. All military & their dependents are free. ; contact Sue Shrader, PO Box 6333, Columbia, SC 29260, (803) 736-9317; e-mail: ashrader@mindspring.com; Web site: www.cgams.org

21-22—FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA: Annual show; Northern Virginia Mineral club, GMU Fairfax / the HUB; 4400 University Drive; Sat. 10 am-6 pm, Sun. 10 am-4 pm; Adults \$6, Seniors \$4, Students \$3, Children, 12 and under are free!; More than 20 dealers, minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, meteorites, crystals, demonstrations, exhibits, door prizes, kids\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\' mini-mines, learning activities, Cub Scout activities, silent auction on Sunday; (sorry vendor space is full); contact Jim Kostka, 906 North St NE, Leesburg, VA 20176, (202) 207-5437; e-mail: jkostka@juno.com; Web site: www.novamineralclub.org

27-29—SALEM, VIRGINIA: Annual show; Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society, Salem Civic Center; 1001 Boulevard; Fri. 2:00 pm-7:00 pm, Sat. 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sun. 12:00 pm-5:00 pm; Adults \$4.00, Children are Free!; Ticket good for all 3 days. Hobby related exhibitors, Fluorescent Mineral Display, Geode Cutting; contact Carol Messimer, VA; e-mail: ckwlt@aol.com

4-6—MARIETTA, GEORGIA: Annual show; Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society, Jim Miller Park ; 2245 Callaway Rd. SW, ; Fri. 10:00 am-6:00 pm; ; Free admission and Free parking. We have over 35 of the top dealers in the southeast exhibiting this year. ; contact Michael Perrine, , 30062, (805) 636-4670; e-mail: mrperrine@gmail.com

11-13—NORCROSS,, GEORGIA: Annual show; Mammoth Rock Shows LLc., Norcross, Georgia; North Atlanta Trade Center, 1700 Jeurgens Court; Fri. 10 am-6 pm, Sat. 10 am-6 pm, Sun. 10 am-5 pm; Adults + Seniors \$5., Students + Children under 16 are Free!; 22nd Year of the Largest Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry show in GA *Very high quality specimens of minerals & fossils for hobbyists, collectors and museums in all price ranges.. *Rough rock, gold and silver findings, tools and lapidary equipment for the hobbyists. *Beads, both finished and in do-it-yourself strands. *Distinctive and unusual jewelry creations plus all types of precious stones loose and mounted. *On the premises jewelry repairs. *One admission fee covers all three days. & Free parking; contact Richard Hightower, (800) 720-9624; e-mail: staff@mammothrock.com; Web site: www.mammothrock.com