



# THE GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

JULY 2017

## THE PREZ SAYZ

We have a busy few weeks coming up. Matthews Alive is September 2-4 and we have a lot of preparation to do before that weekend comes. Volunteers will be needed to man the sluice, cut and wrap geodes, setup and take down the Site itself.

There will be signup sheets at the Club Picnic as well as the next meeting in August.

Kim Gwyn  
President  
Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

### I'LL BE HAPPY WHEN...

When you define happiness by what you don't have, then you can never be happy. If you feel you need more in order to be complete, then when you get it you'll still feel like you are lacking. Happiness is what you are, not what you have.



## JULY HAPPENINGS

July 1, 1963 – ZIP Codes go into use

July 4, 1776 – The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress



July 17, 1902 – The air conditioner was invented.

July 20, 1969 – Astronaut Neil Armstrong took his first step on the moon

July 30, 1975 – Former teamsters Union leader James Hoffa was last seen



### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 Prez Sayz
- 2 Workshop Schedule
- 3 Meeting schedule
- 4-5 Gem of the Month
- 6 Upcoming Shows
- 7 Art in the Dairy Open House
- 8 Matthews Alive Volunteers



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## WORKSHOPS AT THE DAIRY

This is home to our workshops.

### Art in The Dairy



**7701 Tuckaseegee Rd.**

**Charlotte, NC 28214**

### Currently scheduled classes:

(Classes are from 9:00 am to Approx 4:00 pm)

#### Please Note:

For insurance purposes, 2017 CGMC dues must be paid or be current before taking class. Non-members must join.

(\$20/yr single membership, \$25 family membership)

Faceting Classes are available on an “as available” basis. If you are interested in learning to facet, contact Kim at [gwynkim@gmail.com](mailto:gwynkim@gmail.com) to arrange a time(s).

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Anyone who wishes to sign up for any of our classes should contact

**Martha Rogers at :**

**[charlottegemclub@gmail.com](mailto:charlottegemclub@gmail.com)**

**Aug 5 Bordered Cabochon (2 openings) with Murray Simon**

**\$40.00 Class Fee (2 cabs)**

**Class starts at 9 am, breaks for lunch around noon,  
(Bring a sandwich & Beverage)**

**This class is for experienced cabbers**

**August 12 Beginning Wirewrap (0 opening) with Martha Rogers**

**\$30.00 Class Fee**

**Materials and tools provided**

**Class starts at 9 am, breaks for lunch around noon,  
(Bring a sandwich & Beverage)**

# ***Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Meeting***

***There is no monthly  
meeting in July because of  
the annual picnic.***

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**Saturday, July 22 (Rain or Shine!)  
11:00-2:00**

**Location: Art in The Dairy  
7701 Tuckaseegee Rd. Charlotte, NC 28214  
Make reservations by contacting Martha  
Rogers at: - martha4854@gmail.com**

**Bring your own chairs • Children and spouses  
are welcome • Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and  
drinks will be provided. Anyone wanting to  
bring deserts or sides are encouraged to do so.  
Come out and play a round of corn hole, eat  
some good food and talk about our favorite  
subject, ROCKS**



## GEM OF THE MONTH

# Ruby

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **ruby** is a pink to blood-red colored gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum (aluminium oxide). Other varieties of gem-quality corundum are called sapphires. Ruby is one of the traditional cardinal gems, together with amethyst, sapphire, emerald, and diamond. The word *ruby* comes from *ruber*, Latin for red. The color of a ruby is due to the element chromium.

The quality of a ruby is determined by its color, cut, and clarity, which, along with carat weight, affect its value. The brightest and most valuable shade of red called blood-red or pigeon blood, commands a large premium over other rubies of similar quality. After color follows clarity: similar to diamonds, a clear stone will command a premium, but a ruby without any needle-like rutile inclusions may indicate that the stone has been treated. Ruby is the traditional birthstone for July and is usually more pink than garnet, although some rhodolite garnets have a similar pinkish hue to most rubies. The world's most expensive ruby is the Sunrise Ruby.

## Ruby vs. pink sapphire

Generally, gemstone-quality corundum in all shades of red, including pink, are called rubies. However, in the United States, a minimum color saturation must be met to be called a ruby; otherwise, the stone will be called a pink sapphire. Drawing a distinction between rubies and pink sapphires is relatively new, having arisen sometime in the 20th century. Often, the distinction between ruby and pink sapphire is not clear and can be debated. As a result of the difficulty and subjectiveness of such distinctions, trade organizations such as the International Colored Gemstone Association (ICGA) have adopted the broader definition for ruby which encompasses its lighter shades, including pink<sup>l</sup>

## Natural occurrence

The Mogok Valley in Upper Myanmar (Burma) was for centuries the world's main source for rubies. That region has produced some very fine rubies, but in recent years few good rubies have been found there. In central Myanmar, the area of Mong Hsu began producing rubies during the 1990s and rapidly became the world's main ruby mining area. The most recently found ruby deposit in Myanmar is in Namya (Namyazeik) located in the northern state of Kachin.

Historically, rubies have also been mined in Thailand, in the Pailin and Samlout District of Cambodia, as well as in Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, India, Namibia, Japan, and Scotland; after the Second World War ruby deposits were found in Madagascar, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, and Vietnam. In Sri Lanka, lighter shades of rubies (often "pink sapphires") are more commonly found. Republic of Macedonia is the only country in mainland Europe to have naturally occurring rubies. They can mainly be found around the city of Prilep. Macedonian ruby has a unique raspberry color. The ruby is also included on the Macedonian Coat of Arms. A few rubies have been found in the U.S. states of Montana, North Carolina, South Carolina and Wyoming.

Spinel, another red gemstone, is sometimes found along with rubies in the same gem gravel or marble. Red spinel may be mistaken for ruby by those lacking experience with gems. However, the finest red spinels can have a value approaching that of the average ruby.



A naturally occurring ruby crystal



Natural ruby with inclusions



Rubies set in jewelry



A cut pink ruby

The finest ruby is described as being a vivid medium-dark toned red. Secondary hues add an additional complication. Pink, orange, and purple are the normal secondary hues in ruby. Of the three, purple is preferred because it reinforces the red, making it appear richer. Purple also occupies a position on the color wheel halfway between red and blue. When a purplish-red ruby is set in yellow, the yellow neutralizes its complement blue, leaving the stone appearing to be pure red in the setting.

## Records and famous rubies



Rubies at the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., USA

- The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. has some of the world's largest and finest ruby gemstones. The 23.1 carats (4.62 g) Burmese ruby, set in a platinum ring with diamonds, was donated by businessman and philanthropist Peter Buck in memory of his late wife Carmen Lúcia. This gemstone displays a richly saturated red color combined with an exceptional transparency. The finely proportioned cut provides vivid red reflections. The stone was mined from the Mogok region of Burma (now Myanmar) in the 1930s
- In 2007 the London jeweler Garrard & Co featured on their website a heart-shaped 40.63-carat ruby.
- On December 13/14, 2011 Elizabeth Taylor's complete jewellery collection was auctioned by Christie's. Several ruby-set pieces were included in the sale, notably a ring set with an 8.24 ct gem that broke the 'price-per-carat' record for rubies (\$512,925 per carat, i.e. over \$4.2 million in total)<sup>4</sup> and a necklace that sold for over \$3.7 million.
- The Liberty Bell Ruby is the largest mined ruby in the world. It was stolen in a heist in 2011
- The Sunrise Ruby is the world's most expensive ruby, most expensive coloured gemstone, and most expensive gemstone other than a diamond. In May 2015, it sold at auction in Switzerland to an anonymous buyer for US\$30 million.
- A synthetic ruby crystal became the gain medium in the world's first optical laser, conceived, designed and constructed by Theodore H. "Ted" Maiman, on the 16th of May, 1961 at Hughes Research Laboratories. The concept of electromagnetic radiation amplification through the mechanism of Stimulated Emission had already been successfully demonstrated in the laboratory by way of the Maser, using other materials such as ammonia and indeed, later, ruby, but the Ruby Laser was the first device to work at optical (694.3 nm) wavelengths. Maiman's prototype laser is still in working order.

# UPCOMING NORTH CAROLINA SHOWS

## **Macon County Gemboree**

**July 27 - 30, 2017**

**Macon County Community Building - Franklin, NC 28734**

**Days/Hours Open:** Thursday 10am-5pm, Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 11am-4pm

**Admission:** \$1 - \$2

Second oldest gem & mineral show in the Southeast. Show features dealers from across the U.S. displaying and selling fine jewelry, gems & minerals, lapidary equipment and more. Show also features demonstrations.

## **The Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club**

**The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Jewelry, Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show and Sale  
September 8-10, 2017**

**Educational Building, The Fairgrounds, Winston-Salem**

**Days/Hours Open:** September 8 and 9 – 10 am to 7 pm  
September 10 – 12 noon to 5 pm

**Admission:** Adults \$3.00

Children through Grade 12 – Free when accompanied by an adult

The show is a combination of various rock and jewelry-related displays, plus numerous vendors selling mineral samples, jewelry components, completed jewelry, tools and various other items,



# Free admission, art activities, music and food at Art in the Dairy



Art in the Dairy at 7701 Tuckaseegee Road, is holding a free open house Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 10 am to 3 pm both days.

At the event, visit with Glass Artist Rose Hawley, Silversmith Dan Haga, Chainsaw Carver Frankie Flowers, and Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club. View their techniques, and discuss their methods and inspirations.

There will be free lunch, free kids' activities and free glass art projects.

The Dairy is the former 1940 dairy processing plant of Black's Dairy, a home delivery company, specializing in milk and ice cream. Today, the Dairy houses art studios of glass, metal, silver, and clay.

Also, the grounds are home to two goats, one miniature donkey, and many chickens, which you can feed fruit, vegetables and bread to. Please feel free to bring food to feed them if you'd like.





This is the current list of members who have volunteered their time to help work our both at

## **Matthews Alive 2017**

Please contact [msimonnc@gmail.com](mailto:msimonnc@gmail.com)  
to have your name added to the list

### *Saturday – September 2*

**11:00 – 3:00**  
Archie Graham

**3:00-7:00**

### *Sunday – September 3*

**11:00 – 3:00**  
Archie Graham

**3:00-7:00**

### *Monday – September 4*

**11:00 – 3:00**

**3:00-7:00**