



# Arkansas Rockhound News



Official Newsletter of the  
Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society

November 2009

Next Meeting: November 24, 2009, 6:30 PM - Terry Library

Call James or Dave to find out about the November 7 field trip to collect quartz crystals.

## CAGMAGS

The Arkansas Rockhound News is Published monthly by the **Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral, and Geology Society**

**Colors: Blue and White**

**Website:** [www.centralarrockhound.org](http://www.centralarrockhound.org)

**Member of:** American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies

### Time and Location of Meetings:

4th Tuesday of the month (January-November) 6:30 PM Terry Library, 2015 Napa Valley Drive, Little Rock, AR 72212, (Non-smoking) **Visitors are always Welcome Membership Dues \$15 Individual \$25 Family (Yearly)**

### Mission Statement:

The Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society is dedicated to promoting interest in mineralogy and the related sciences, interest in lapidary and the related arts; to encourage field trips and the enjoyment of collecting and preserving minerals as they occur in nature, and the study of geological formations, especially those of our Natural State of Arkansas. We are a small group of people that enjoy getting together to share our common interests.

### 2009 Officers:

**President:** Jim Schenebeck 501-223-3668 [jsjimstone@yahoo.com](mailto:jsjimstone@yahoo.com)

**Vice President:** Mike Austen [steelpony@aol.com](mailto:steelpony@aol.com)

**Past President:** David Murray 870-255-3679 [davidmur99@hotmail.com](mailto:davidmur99@hotmail.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Pat Kissire, 4900 Sparks Rd., Little Rock, AR 72210, 501-821-2346, [pkissire@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pkissire@sbcglobal.net)

**Committees / Chairs Programs:** TBA **Library:** Ann Austen **Membership:** TBA

**Field Trips:** James Burns 501-568-0315 **Show Chair:** TBA

**Editor/Webmaster:** Barbara & Phillip Nierstheimer [phillspa@hotmail.com](mailto:phillspa@hotmail.com)

## 2010 Meeting Schedule

January 26  
April 27  
July 27  
October 26

February 23  
May 25  
August 24  
November 23

March 23  
June 22  
September 28



November Birthstone: Topaz

**Topaz** is a [silicate mineral](#) of [aluminium](#) and [fluorine](#) with the [chemical formula](#)  $Al_2SiO_4(F,OH)_2$ . Topaz crystallizes in the [orthorhombic](#) system and its [crystals](#) are mostly prismatic terminated by pyramidal and other faces.

Pure topaz is colorless and transparent but is usually tinted by impurities; typical topaz is wine, yellow, pale gray or reddish-orange, blue brown. It can also be made white, pale green, blue, gold, pink (rare), reddish-yellow or opaque to transparent/translucent.

*Orange topaz*, also known as precious topaz, is the traditional November [birthstone](#), the symbol of friendship, and the [state gemstone](#) for the US State of Utah. [5]

*Imperial topaz* is yellow, pink (rare, if natural) or pink-orange. Brazilian Imperial Topaz can often have a bright yellow to deep golden brown hue, sometimes even violet. Many brown or pale topazes are treated to make them bright yellow, gold, pink or violet colored. Some imperial topaz stones can fade on exposure to sunlight for an extended period of time. [6][7] *Blue topaz* is the [Texas](#) state gemstone. [8] Naturally occurring Blue Topaz is quite rare. Typically, colorless, gray or pale yellow and blue material is heat treated and [irradiated](#) in order to produce a more desired darker blue. [7]

*Mystic topaz* is colorless topaz which has been artificially coated giving it the desired rainbow effect. [9]

Topaz is commonly associated with [silicic](#) igneous rocks of the [granite](#) and [rhyolite](#) type. It typically crystallizes in granitic [pegmatites](#) or in vapor cavities in rhyolite lava flows like those at Topaz Mountain in western Utah. It can be found with [fluorite](#) and [cassiterite](#) in various areas including [Ural](#) and Ilmen mountains of [Russia](#), in [Afghanistan](#), [Sri Lanka](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Germany](#), [Norway](#), [Pakistan](#), [Italy](#), [Sweden](#), [Japan](#), [Brazil](#), [Mexico](#), [Flinders Island](#) and the [United States](#).

Some clear topaz crystals from Brazilian pegmatites can reach boulder size and weigh hundreds of pounds. Crystals of this size may be seen in museum collections. The Topaz of Aurungzebe, observed by [Jean Baptiste Tavernier](#) measured 157.75 carats. [10]

Colorless and light-blue varieties of topaz are found in [Precambrian](#) granite in [Mason County, Texas](#) [11] within the [Llano Uplift](#). There is no commercial mining of topaz in that area. [12]

(Birthstone and mineral of the month courtesy of [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com).)

### President's Message

Rock Club Members:

November is on us and the weather is finally doing what it is suppose to do, get cold.

I was sorry to miss the last meeting but I had a cold and I did not want to give it to any of you so I choose to miss the meeting. I understand it was a great meeting and I look forward to the November meeting. I looked over the list of possible candidates for office and it looks to be a great group. We will be holding the final vote for your new officials for 2010 so I encourage everyone to be there and vote for your candidate. 2009 has been a great year with new members coming on board, several great shows, a lot of nice field trips and meetings that have provided lots of information and entertainment for our members. I just want to say that I have enjoyed being your President and I look forward to working with the club and the new officers in 2010 and the years to come. I thank you for your support and help and hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving and a wonderful Christmas.

**Jim Schenebeck, President.**

### Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society Minutes for October 27, 2009

Vice President Mike Austen called the meeting to order. There were 19 members present including our newest member Crease Athy.

The Minutes and Treasury's report were approved as posted.

Weldon announced that October Show had 111 tables and 23 dealers. With the rain the sales were down a little but the dealers reported they were better than their other shows. We are set for next year and the building has been reserved. Thanks to all who helped it was a busy time. Plan to volunteer next year we need more help.

The October field trip was to Razor Rock. Mike Austen and Dave Murray had specimens found on the trip. Our next trip will be Nov 7<sup>th</sup> to join the Memphis club at Fiddler's Ridge on Bear Mountain. Memphis will be there both Saturday and Sunday. We will need a count since it will be cheaper if we have 10 members go. Call James (501-568-0315) or Dave Murray (870-568-0315).

Dues are due. Please pay at the November meeting or send your check to Pat Kissire - 4900 Sparks Road, Little Rock, AR 72210.

A motion to pay for 2 magazine subscriptions, the website, Mid-West Federation dues and insurance, and the rent for the Jacksonville community Center by Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>. Was approved,

Phillip Nierstheimer and Lenora Murray will audit the books by January 15, 2010.

Lenora Murray presented the Nominating Committee's slate of officers for 2010 as: President - Mike Austen, Vice President Tom Sharp and Sec/Tres Pat Kissire. Election will be at the November meeting and those elected will take office in January. (thanks to Spud Frost for being co-chair of Nominating Committee)

(continued next page)

**Minutes for October 27, 2009 (continued)**

2010 chairman for the following committees are: Weldon Kissire - October Show, Ann Austen - Librarian, Angelee Peeler - Historian, James Burns & David Murray - Field Trips, and Phillip & Barbara Nierstheimer and Ann Austen – April Show. There are open chairmanships for Program, Phone Tree, Sunshine, and Membership so come and volunteer.

A discussion was held concerning the make up of the April Show. It will be a Saturday only swap/show/picnic in Burns Park open to general public with other clubs invited to attend. If you have suggestions see the committee. The date will be announced as soon as possible.

Phillip Nierstheimer passed a sheet for suggestion for the newsletter. If you want to contribute or have suggestions see Phillip. Efforts will be made to get the paper out close to the first of the month and before the field trips.

Best of raffle went to Reese Watson – egg and Phillip Nierstheimer – geode.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Kissire, Sec/Tres

**WRAP – UP for the 2009 ROCK SHOW**

We finished another Great Rock Show for the Central Arkansas Area, and our Rock Club. Everyone seemed to have had a good time with lots of Rocks and Minerals to look at. We ended up with 111 tables and 23 dealers. The weather was good Saturday but the rain came in Sunday, it makes you think back to the good OLD days of Burns Park. The dealers seemed content with the attendance; several said sales were down some from last year but better than most shows they had attended recently. Eight dealers have already paid for there tables for the 2010 show.

Special thanks to all those who helped at the show, some went way beyond what was anticipated. As always we need more of these workers, there is always something else that needs to be done for a show of this size.

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f you run across some really good dealers, ask them if they would be interested in our show. We need to build up our waiting list, it seems something always comes up unexpected and we need good dealers interested in our show.

If anyone has ideas to improve our show, lets hear about it, we want to make our show better each year.

Looking forward to the 2010 Show.

Thanks,

Weldon  
Show Chair



MINERAL of the Month: **Cinnabar**

**Cinnabar**, sometimes written **cinnabarite**, is a name applied to red [mercury\(II\) sulfide \(HgS\)](#), or native [vermillion](#), the common [ore](#) of [mercury](#). The name comes from the [Greek](#) - "kinnabari" - used by [Theophrastus](#), and was probably applied to several distinct substances. Other sources say the word comes from the [Persian](#) *zinjifrah*, a word of uncertain origin. In Latin it was sometimes known as *minium*, meaning also "red lead", though both of these terms now refer uniquely to [lead tetroxide](#).

Cinnabar is generally found in a massive, granular or earthy form and is bright scarlet to brick-red in color.<sup>[6]</sup> It occasionally occurs, however, in crystals with a non-metallic [adamantine](#) luster. Cinnabar has a rhombohedral [bravais lattice](#), and belongs to the [hexagonal crystal system](#), trigonal division. Its crystals grow usually in a massive habit, though they are sometimes [twinned](#). The twinning in cinnabar is distinctive and forms a penetration twin that is ridged with six ridges surrounding the point of a pyramid. It could be thought of as two scalahedral crystals grown together with one crystal going the opposite way of the other crystal. The [hardness](#) of cinnabar is 2 - 2.5, and its [specific gravity](#) 8.1.

Cinnabar resembles [quartz](#) in its symmetry and certain of its optical characteristics. Like quartz, it exhibits [birefringence](#). It has the highest [refractive](#) power of any [mineral](#). Its mean [index](#) for [sodium](#) light is 3.08,<sup>[7]</sup> whereas the index for diamond—a substance of remarkable refraction—is 2.42 and that for gallium (III) arsenide (GaAs) is 3.93.

Generally cinnabar occurs as a vein-filling [mineral](#) associated with recent [volcanic activity](#) and alkaline [hot springs](#).

Cinnabar is found in all localities that yield mercury, notably [Puerto Princesa \(Philippines\)](#); [Almadén \(Spain\)](#); [New Almaden \(California\)](#); [Hastings Mine](#) and [St. John's Mine, Vallejo, California](#);<sup>[8]</sup> [Idrija \(Slovenia\)](#); [New Idria \(California\)](#); Giza, Egypt; [Landsberg, near Obermoschel in the Palatinate](#); [Ripa, at the foot of the Apuan Alps \(Tuscany\)](#); the mountain Avala (Serbia); Laaren, the Netherlands<sup>[citation needed]</sup>; [Huancavelica \(Peru\)](#); Murfreesboro, Arkansas [Terlingua \(Texas\)](#); and the province of [Guizhou](#) in [China](#), where fine crystals have been obtained.

Cinnabar is still being deposited at the present day from the hot waters of [Sulphur Bank Mine](#), in California, and [Steamboat Springs, Nevada](#).

Cinnabar was mined by the [Roman Empire](#) both as a pigment (Vitruvius, DA VII; IV-V) (Pliny, HN; XXXIII, XXXVI-XLII) and for its mercury content (Pliny HN; XXXIII, XLI), and it has been the main source of mercury throughout the centuries.

To produce liquid (quicksilver) mercury, crushed cinnabar ore is roasted in rotary furnaces. Pure mercury separates from sulfur in this process and easily evaporates. A condensing column is used to collect the liquid metal, which is most often shipped in iron flasks.

Cinnabar has been used for its color in the new world since the [Olmec](#) culture.<sup>[9]</sup> Cinnabar was often used in royal burial chambers during the peak of Mayan civilization. The red stone was inserted into limestone sarcophagi, both as a decoration and, more importantly, to deter vandals and thieves with its well-known toxicity.<sup>[10]</sup>

### Club T-shirts

They are a Royal Blue with a large Club logo and the established club date.

Sizes are Medium, Large, X-Large, and XX-Large Price is \$8 each.

Contact George-916-221-1568

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Carl Hill has for sale the following items, tumbling grit, oxalic acid, vibrating lap 15 " Lorotone with new motor and 2 pans \$350, and a 1/3 HP motor with 1/2" shaft 115/230V \$50. Call 501-889-5260  
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### 2009 Show Dates

#### NOVEMBER 2009:

13-15--HUMBLE, TEXAS: 56th annual show; Houston Gem & Mineral Society; Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7, seniors and students \$6, children under 12 free; displays, gems, minerals, fossils, fluorescent rocks display; demonstrations, jewelry making, beading, lapidary, children's activities, Scout Merit badge program, famous "Dino Dig", jewelry, minerals, fossils; contact Patty Scott, 14906

Summerland Circle, Cypress, TX 77429, (281) 373-1578; e-mail: nigels\_mom@sbcglobal.net; Web site: [www.hgms.org](http://www.hgms.org)

13-15--JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA: Show; AKS Gem Shows; Morocco Shrine Center, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5; classes in beading, PMC, chain maille, and more; contact Kay Schabillon, (504) 455-6101; e-mail: [info@aksshow.com](mailto:info@aksshow.com); Web site: [www.aksshow.com](http://www.aksshow.com)

13-15--LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY: Show; KYANA Geological Society; Resurrection Lutheran Church Gym, 4205 Gardiner View Ave.; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 8-7, Sun. 12-6; free admission; contact Mike Whitehouse, 4304 Winter Park Dr., Louisville, KY 40218, (502) 905-4988; e-mail: [rockhoundmike@insightbb.com](mailto:rockhoundmike@insightbb.com); Web site: [www.kyanageo.org](http://www.kyanageo.org)

13-15--MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA: Holiday show; Morganton Parks and Recreation Department; Collett Street Recreation Center, 300 Collett St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; adults \$3, students and children \$2; dealers, exhibits, minerals, gems, jewelry, door prizes, free gem mining interactive booth for students; contact Gary W. Leonhardt, P.O. Box 3448, Morganton, NC 28680, (828) 439-1866; e-mail: [gleonhardt@ci.morganton.nc.us](mailto:gleonhardt@ci.morganton.nc.us)

13-15--ORLANDO, FLORIDA: Fall show; Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society; Central Florida Fairgrounds, 4603 W. Colonial Dr.; Fri. 1-8, Sat. 10-8, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, student \$2, children under 12 free with paying adult; custom jewelry, mineral specimens, beads, fossils, sluice mining, mineral identification, faceting demonstrations, silent auctions, hourly door prizes, grand prize; contact James Johnstone, (407) 625-6336; e-mail: [jj030@msn.com](mailto:jj030@msn.com); Web site: [www.thumblicker.com](http://www.thumblicker.com)

13-15--PASCAGOULA, MISSISSIPPI: 19th annual show, "Magnolia State Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show"; Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society; Civic Center Bldg., Jackson County Fairgrounds; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission, children accompanied by adults welcome; educational, artistic and scientific exhibits, lapidary demonstrations, 20 dealers, jewelry, gemstones, beads, slabs, lapidary tools and supplies; contact John M. Wright, 3304 Nottingham Rd., Ocean Springs, MS 39564, (228) 875-9192; e-mail: [osjw@datasync.com](mailto:osjw@datasync.com)