



**OLATHE
GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
MONTHLY BULLETIN
JANUARY 3, 2017**

**A non-profit group, organized to educate the general public and members' knowledge of Mineralogy, Gems, Jewelry Making, Fossils and related earth sciences.
Founded March 1956**

MEETINGS:

The meetings are the first Tuesday of each month (except June, July, August and December).

The meetings will be at the Indian Creek Community Church, 12480 Blackbob Road in Olathe.

**We will have a meeting room from 6:30 to 9 pm.
We will be meeting downstairs in room 018.**

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

DUES: \$10.00 per year for individuals / \$5.00 per year for minors.

(Due by May meeting, and delinquent by Sept. meeting.)

Officers for 2016-2017

President: Norman Onnen – (816) 331-4862

President Elect:

Vice President: Larry Wells - (913) 787-5138

Vice President Elect:

Secretary: Spring Wittmeir – (913) 945-0878

Secretary Elect:

Treasurer: Barbara Crompton – (913) 492-6783

Treasurer Elect:

Bulletin and Website Editor: M John Robinson – (913) 669-8284

Membership Chairman: M John Robinson

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

G&M Club Members: This combines a Nov. and Dec. memo as the holiday season quickly overtook us.

We as a club enjoyed our annual holiday party at the Olathe Hy-Vee on Sat. evening Dec. 10. Near 50 attended (a record) and

while some presents were “captured” (some multiple times) it appeared all had a great time and left as still friends in mutual rock hounding and gem interests.

The Nov. club meeting saw great attendance and interest in gold panning of gravel/sand concentrate from of all places – Missouri!!!! Vince Martini led and instructed the session, explaining he collected the gold bearing concentrate from stream beds some distance North of KC. This material was transported into the area by past glacial activity and in addition to flour gold, several members found garnets and sapphires – and I also found a sharks tooth. The session went so well, and received such numerous positive comments, that we plan on doing this again next year. Thanks Vince – and thanks Larry Wells for arranging this.

Also in Nov., three of our members attended a four session cabbing class sponsored by the Independence Gem and Mineral Society (IGAM). The class, limited to 8 participants, was well done and clearly worthwhile. They (IGAM) intend to host the class again – probably 3-4 times in 2017.

Since our Oct. meeting, several members attended the 60th Topeka Gem & Mineral (TGMS) show. Reports are that the show was very well done and attended – particularly for such a small venue. The TGMS is a very active and well organized club, and their next show is already scheduled for Oct. 14-15, 2017. Also, on Nov. 4-6, several of our members attended the KC Gem show at the KC Expo Center. Mike Purduski and Larry Wells manned sales tables on their behalf. This is not the show our club is officially involved in (that being the March spring show), and some comments were received that this smaller fall show was “slow” – but at the same time reports were that vendors indicated that sales were up. So all’s well that ends well. I personally thought the smaller crowds while I was there made this particular show more enjoyable and easier to visit the vendors and their booths

casually.

See Larry Wells piece below concerning plans our Jan. 3 club meeting. The presentation by both Tom Tivol and Larry is eagerly anticipated and sure to be quite insightful. Tentatively the Feb. 7 club meeting will be a presentation by Mark Sherwood entitled “Earth Science Fakes, Frauds and Scams”. Mark gave this presentation in early Dec. to the Independence G&M Society, to rave reviews. For those who attend the March gem and mineral shows, you will recognize Mark as being the individual set up with all of his equipment at these shows to identify rocks for attendees. (At the most recent Nov. gem and mineral show it was found that some vendors had suspect items – and Mark’s presentation will also discuss this aspect of our hobby/interests).

Please again note that our monthly meetings now begin at 6:30 pm to allow our members and visitors more time to visit and share their knowledge and rock/gem experiences – however our actual business meeting will continue to begin at 7 pm and we will end our sessions at 9 pm. We will try to minimize the time allotted to the business portion of our meetings giving more time allotted to presentations, etc. . We appreciate the church allowing us to expand on the time.

We hope each of you and your families continue to have a safe and happy holiday season – and we look forward to seeing all of you in Jan. and throughout the new year.

Norm Onnen

**FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROGRAM
CHAIRMAN**

Program for January Meeting
Custom Jewelry Design and Fabrication - from start to finish.

During November Tom Tivol and I custom designed 2 rings and 2 pendants. Then I took pictures during the fabricating process from start to finish. We will be reviewing the design and fabrication process and viewing the pictures on an overhead projector. Also, the 4 finished jewelry pieces will be there for everyone to examine. Tom said he may bring some additional pieces of interest.

Larry Wells

CLUB WEBSITE

The website is in the process of being updated. It is still in creation mode, but a rudimentary version is available and will be continually updated as we go forward using a new web site software package.

www.olathegemclub.com

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Our membership is now at 41.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS FOR 2016-2017:

Refreshments: To be determined.

Raffle: To be determined.

Association Delegates: Tom Lorenz & Norman Onnen

Alternate Association Delegates: Jane McLaughlin

Field Trips: Earl Newland

Librarian and Historian: Norman Onnen

Programs: Larry Wells

Membership: M John Robinson

Bulletin Editor: M John Robinson

Show Chairman: Tom Lorenz

Webmaster: M John Robinson

MEMBERSHIP LIST

The current membership information is contained on a separate attachment. Please provide the membership chairman with any updates or corrections. M John Robinson at mjohnrob100@gmail.com