

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

VOLUME 54
ISSUE XII
DECEMBER 2014

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2014 Officers and Directors

President: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000
Vice President: Sherman Kardatzke, 517 673-5487
Secretary: Patricia Baier-Hay, 517 263-8585
Treasurer: Doris Brzezicki, 517 263-1669
Past President: Richard Brzezicki, 517 263-1669
First Year Director: Kelly Cleveland, 419 882-8515
Second Year Director: Charles Swanson, 517 759-0337
Third Year Director: Frank Kramic, 517 458-7191
Show Chairman: Doris Brzezicki, 517 263-1669
Publicity: Edmund Jarzembki, 419 237-2000
Sunshine: Catherine Choske, 517 423-3572
Education & Lapidary:
Henry Porter, 313 694-7642
Richard Brzezicki, 517 263-1669
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Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month
at 2:00 PM

at 201 W. Main St., Morenci, MI 49256



Treasurer's Statement

As the year draws to a close, we need to look at our plans for the next year so that I can prepare a budget outlining our anticipated income and expenses. Because we have a few more funds to work with this year, we should consider carefully how to use them in accordance with our mission statement. Actually, the club needs everyone to look at possibilities that interest them within the club and step forward. It really won't be that hard and I have complete confidence that YOU can do it.



2015 Dues are due. The amount will be determined at the December meeting. Consideration will be given to the additional expense if membership decides to join the Federation.

Our December meeting will be fun with a cookie exchange. We will be voting for our 2015 officers and discussing club plans for the upcoming years. Think about what you would like to see happen within the club in the future and bring your ideas for discussion. Bill Foster, Mayor of Morenci, will join us and draw the winning ticket in our Raffle.

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Shirley McGovern	PO Box 766	Fayette, OH	43521

Doris Brzezicki, Treasurer



Secretary's Scoop



President Ed Jarzembksi called the State Line Gem and Mineral Society meeting to order at 2:20 with Richard B. giving the invocation followed by the pledge of allegiance. Ed welcomed everyone and recognized our newest member Shirley, who will also be taking Frank's class on cabochon making for three consecutive Saturdays. Richard B. made a motion to accept the secretary's report as printed in last month's *Rock Trails* newsletter. Walt seconded and the motion passed with all in favor. There was some discussion regarding the fact that we had members with the same first names, so it was suggested that last name initials be used in future reports. I will endeavor to add those initials when appropriate.

Treasurer's Report: Doris reported our approximate balance as the funds from proceeds at the Mason show still need to be deposited. The November bills have been paid including Consumers Energy and the rent for the clubhouse. Doris reported that members of the Mason club suggested our club consider making a donation to their club if we were happy about our participation in their show. Once our expenses vs. earnings have been determined, we can make a decision. Sherm made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Frank, and the motion passed with all in favor.

Old Business: A raffle for the quilt donated by Linda S. is still under way. We need to sell \$800.00 worth of tickets to approximate the value of the quilt. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Members are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to purchase tickets or sell them before the drawing at our December "cookie exchange" meeting. Doris will check into trying to get the mayor of Morenci do the actual drawing at our meeting. If we do not sell the minimum amount of tickets, the raffle will revert to a 50/50 drawing instead of the quilt. A picture of the quilt is at the end of this report.

Doris has been researching the organization which makes fossils available to clubs for a small fee, but she has been unable to find a mailing address to send a check, which had been authorized at a previous meeting.

Sherm and Doris are sending out contracts to dealers for our show in May. So far most of the dealers plan to return.

Sherm mentioned that he has been asked by members of the Toledo club and Mason club why the State Line club does not belong to the Midwest Federation. Sherm received an email 19 pages long describing how the Federation helps promote member clubs by providing many resources which individual clubs may not be able to access. Doris made a motion to have State Line join the Midwest Federation, seconded by Walt. A somewhat heated discussion evolved as Ed has some real concerns about committing to a membership without knowing all that would be involved. Sherm did not have a chance to print out his 19 page email and it was not reasonable to try to have all members present to read it off of his iPhone. Walt suggested we try a membership for a year and if we didn't think it was worth the additional cost for membership we could always quit. There were pros and cons to membership but there were still many unknowns. Since no vote had been taken, Walt suggested that we table the open motion until next month's meeting and that was acceptable to all, so the

motion was tabled until the December meeting. That should give all members time to familiarize themselves with the email Sherm plans to send to all members. Members can also check out the Federation on the internet.

Frank mentioned that he had three new students for his cabochon class. One of the new members, Shirley, was present at the meeting. Frank ordered ads in newspapers and sent the bills for advertisements to our treasurer, Doris, who paid the bills. She did mention that Mr. Green from the State Line Observer was considering giving us a better deal with his newspaper.

Richard B. chaired the nomination committee and reported the following recommendations for officers:

Sherm Kardatzke	President
Glenda Gafner	Vice-President
First Year Director	Karl Mulholland
Second Year Director	Kelly Cleveland
Third Year Director	Charles Swanson
Treasurer	Doris Brzezicki
Secretary	Pat Baier-Hay

The club members will be voting for officers at the December meeting. Write in candidates or nominations from the floor are encouraged.

Our landlord, Larry Sines, told Doris he was willing to make some changes in the clubhouse. He was willing to remove some inside (non-load bearing) walls or he would rent us his exercise room for an additional \$50.00 a month. Richard suggested that the members present take a look at the exercise room before making any decisions. The whole club went into the room and the general consensus was that we probable did not need the extra room at this time.

Richard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Frank and the meeting ended with all in favor.



Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

TAKE BETTER PHOTOS

Most digital cameras these days have the ability to take a good picture of your small jewelry items, but set-up is important. There are four major items to control - background, lighting, camera motion and focus control.

Lightly colored papers from an art store make reasonable starter backgrounds. Try experimenting with other products later like glass or colored plastics. Avoid fabrics because the weave can often be distracting at high magnification.

Outside lighting is the easiest. In fact for close-ups, flash never works well. Turn off your camera's flash. Choose a bright but overcast day or a lightly shaded area when the sun is full. For inside use, two gooseneck desk lamps can be used with 75 watt bulbs. Whatever you use, be sure to set the camera to match the type of lighting you use or else the color will be off.

You'll be shooting up close, so turn on the Macro mode. Now at this range, if the camera moves even a little bit during the shot, the picture will be blurry, so it's essential to use a tripod. Used ones are available inexpensively from eBay, yard sales or some camera shops. And even with a tripod, I put the camera on the self-timer mode so that any vibration from when you click the button settles down before the camera takes a picture.

In order to get the largest part of your jewelry in focus, you have to close the lens down to the minimum aperture (highest F-Stop number). This is done by taking the camera off of "Auto" mode and selecting Aperture Priority, usually denoted by "Av" and then setting the aperture to the largest number, which is F-8 on my camera. You'll probably have to get out the book or go back to the store to ask about this, but it's really worth it.

That's it. In recap, here are the camera settings I use:

Set the lens to Macro for a close-up shot.

Move the camera in close enough for the item to cover at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the frame.

Look for adverse reflections from the jewelry surface.

Try to minimize reflections with changes of light position, camera angle or white background paper.

Carefully check for any fingerprints or dust that might be on the piece.

Make any final tweaks with light and arrangement.

Bench Tips, continued from page 5

Turn the camera's flash off.

Select "Av" for aperture priority mode.

Set the lens opening to the highest number for max depth of field.

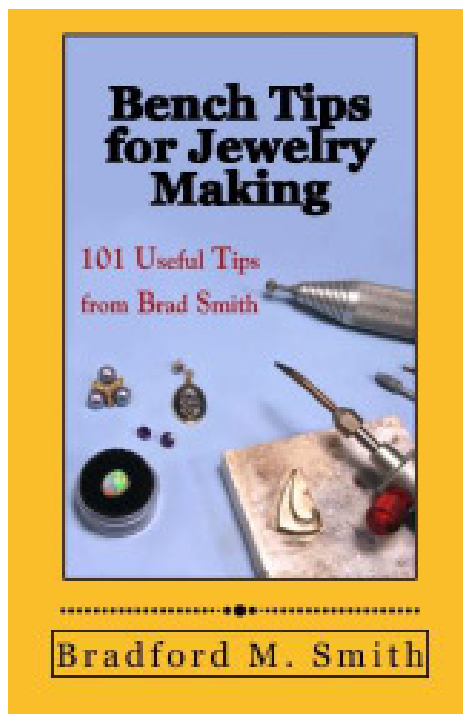
Set the lighting to match what you're using (daylight, overcast, lightbulb, fluorescent, etc).

Set the timer to delayed shooting, either 2 seconds or 10 seconds, to avoid camera movement. The delay also gives you time to hold up a piece of white paper to reduce any final reflections.

Take the shot.

GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

It's often difficult to find a nice gift for a friend who makes jewelry. The Bench Tips book has earned over 25 Five Star reviews, was ranked Number One in Amazon's Top 100 list for Jewelry, and named by Amazon as one of the Best Books in 2014. Get a copy at www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/



Monument Valley, AZ/UT

Monument Valley provides perhaps the most enduring and definitive images of the American West. The isolated red mesas and buttes surrounded by empty, sandy desert have been filmed and photographed countless times over the years for movies, adverts and holiday brochures. Because of this, the area may seem quite familiar, even on a first visit, but it is soon evident that the natural colors really are as bright and deep as those in all the pictures. The valley is not a valley in the conventional sense, but rather a wide flat, sometimes desolate landscape, interrupted by the crumbling formations rising hundreds of feet into the air, the last remnants of the sandstone layers that once covered the entire region.

The area lies entirely within the Navajo Indian Reservation on the Utah/Arizona border; the state line passes through the most famous landmarks, which are concentrated around the border near the small settlement of Goulding - this was established in 1923 as a trading post, and provides basic visitor services. A paved side road heads past the village to the northwest beneath Oljeto Mesa and has views of other less-visited parts of the valley, then another route (the unpaved [Piute Farms Road](#)) continues all the way to the shores of the San Juan branch of Lake Powell.



There is only one main road through Monument Valley, US 163, which links Kayenta, AZ with US 191 in Utah. The stretch approaching the AZ/UT border from the north gives the most famous image of the valley, and possibly of the whole Southwest - a long straight empty road leads across flat desert towards the 1,000 foot high stark red cliffs on the horizon, curving away just in front. The highway cuts through the mesas at Monument Pass, near which several dirt tracks leave both east and west and criss-cross the red sandy landscape, offering a more close up appreciation of the rock formations, although these roads lead to Navajo residences so some discretion is necessary when visiting. This is also a good area for [hiking](#), though there are no official trails. One possible route is around the group of formations on the southeast side of Monument Pass - a cross country trip of about 4 miles that involves traversing various small washes, cliffs and mesas.

Although much can be appreciated from the main road, a lot more of the landscape is hidden from view behind long straight cliffs (the Mitchell and Wetherill Mesas), east of the road on the Arizona side. This is contained within the Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park (entrance fees increased to \$20 per vehicle in 2014), reached along a short side road directly opposite the turn-off to Goulding. From the visitor center at Lookout Point there are good views across three of the valley's most photographed peaks - East and West Mitten Buttes, and Merrick Butte. The park has only one hiking path, the 3.2 mile [Wildcat Trail](#) which starts just south of the visitor center and loops around West Mitten Butte.

Monument Valley, AZ/UT

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The view from Lookout Point is spectacular enough, but most of the Navajo Tribal Park can only be seen from the [Valley Drive](#), a 17 mile dirt road which starts at the visitor center and heads southeast among the towering cliffs and mesas. The road is dusty, steep in a couple of places and rather uneven, but does not need 4WD - unless after recent heavy rain. The journey is suitable for the majority of family cars, and small to medium sized RVs, though the surface is perhaps not improved too much in order to increase

business for the many Navajo guides and 4WD jeep rental outfits, which wait expectantly by the visitor center - typical prices are around \$75 for a 2 hour trip (though cheaper tours are available from Gouldings Lodge). As well as eroded rocks, this area also has ancient cave and cliff dwellings, natural arches and petroglyphs, all generally away from the Valley Drive at more isolated locations and viewable only as part of guided tours. The Valley Drive passes 11 numbered stops at the most scenic places, and a typical journey around the loop takes at least 2 hours. Tourists are not allowed to hike away from the road closer towards any of the formations, but even so the trip is very enjoyable



Upcoming Events

Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014

State Line Gem & Mineral Society

monthly meeting

2:00 p.m.

201 W. Main St.
Morenci, MI 49256

Christmas

December 25, 2014

March 20 - 22, 2015

Jackson, MI

Michigan Gem & Mineral Society presents

It's a Hard Rock Life!

Jackson County Fairgrounds

American One Event Center

200 West Ganson

April 11-12, 2015

Columbus, OH

Frozen: Ohio's Ice Age

41st Annual Central Ohio

Mineral, Fossil, Gem & Jewelry Show

Sponsored by

Columbus Rock and Mineral Society

Northland Performing Arts Center

4411 Tamarack Blvd.

May 1-3, 2015

Kalamazoo, MI

Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society

Rock, Gem, Fossil, Jewelry & Mineral Show

Kalamazoo County Expo Center

2900 Lake St





Rock Trails

Sandy Gerhart, Editor
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Adrian, MI 49221

Meetings are held the
first Sunday of each month
at 2:00 PM
at 201 W. Main St.,
Morenci, MI 49256

