

Volume 42 Number 01

January 2024

LEAVERITE NEWS

Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club
2328 Monument Road P.O. Box 953
Grand Junction, CO 81502

President's Message

Hello to the GJGMC! And Happy New Year!

I want to be sure to thank our outgoing President, Jeff Southern, for leading us so well over the last 2 years. In case you don't remember, we had barely started meeting again after the Covid lockdown when several members were infected, and we stopped meeting again for a few more months just before Jeff became our President in 2021. Jeff did a good job of getting our club meeting again. He led several field trips. And he recruited sponsors for our scholarships. And LOTS more things. You might tell him thank you the next time you see him.

December was a good month for the club. We had a great Christmas Banquet. The Board recently recommended some updates to the Bylaws, and the club approved those unanimously before we started eating - Thank you. There was lots of yummy food. The Sweet Adelines sang to us. I thought they were good last year and even better this year. Their songs about Grandma's Feather Bed, and The Twelve Days AFTER Christmas seemed especially fun to me. Also in December, JoAnn taught a Silversmithing class. Again. (Previously this year she taught Silversmithing in September, May, and April. And she taught 3 classes in 2023 about other things too.) We have a lot of members who want to learn about Silversmithing, and our great instructors are very kind to volunteer so much of their time to teach us things.

Next year we will continue our regular schedule of club meetings on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. In January, Grete plans to teach Fast Start Lapidary. While that class appears to be full, you can get on her waiting list if you are interested in attending a future class

Save the date for our Feb 22nd meeting when we will have a chili cookoff. We won't be having a potluck every month next year, but we can have more than two, and that will be one of them.

Volunteer Opportunity: We need an Advertising Director for the fall rock show. That would be a huge help to the club. It is a behind-the-scenes position and vitally important. People won't come to the show if they don't know about it. Scott Warren has been doing it for 7 years. He knows the contacts that we work with, and he has a proven program of success. There is a lot of flexibility in the different activities that are involved, and Scott would be here for help and mentoring, so you would have a lot of support. Exercise your creativity! No public speaking is required! If you could help the club with advertising our fall rock show, thank you.

I recently learned of a full-length movie called Unconformity about a geologist. You can view it for free on YouTube with a few ads. "An ambitious, rock-climbing geology student defies her imperious advisor to travel to the Nevada high desert, where a career-defining discovery and an unexpected friendship with a young cattle rancher force her to make life-altering decisions."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DiUYieJDFk>. There are no special effects or exploding aliens, but it makes geology look dramatic. You might like it.

It's been 6 months since I joined the gym to improve my fitness, and still no progress. Tomorrow I'm going there in person to ask them to explain why not! :-)

Thank you for letting me be your President in the coming year. Last year was a good year for the club, but I'm ready for next year to get started too. There are new adventures ahead. I admit not being able to foresee everything that will happen in 2024, and who could? I am sure of this though: I am glad to be going into the coming year with you!

Steve Cable.
GJGMC President 2024

Officers			Directors		
President	Steve Cable	970-312-1005	1 Year	Sylvester Spaeth	970-846-2973
Vice President	Open Position		2 Year	Scott Warren	303-668-5743
Secretary	Kimber Johnson	970-589-4091	3 Year	Bruce Johnson	970-589-4091
Treasurer	June Steely	801-540-0488	Finance	Ken Kloska	303-915-9318
			Past President	Jeff Southern	243-0953
Committee Chairpersons					
Audit	Bev O'Neal	623-2522	Leaverite Editor	Susan McChesney	970-589-9358
Building Maint	Dave McCollough	549-7352	Librarian	Open Position	
Compliance	Bev O'Neal	261-5890	Meet-Up	Steve Cable	970-312-1005
Correspondence	Kathy Ericson	623-2522	Membership/Badges	Melissa Moroni	303-807-9864
Decorating	Linda Dunham	623-3610	Nominating	JoAnn Piburn	970-778-5333
Display Cases	Dave McCollough	549-7352	Publicity	Scott Warren	303-668-5743
Education	JoAnn Piburn	778-5333	Scholarships	Dave McCollough	549-7352
Web Based Media	Grete Raymond	970-433-0016	Shop Foremen	JoAnn & Ed	970-778-5333
Field Trips	Melissa Moroni	303-807-9864	Show Co-Chair	Deidre O'Callaghan	303-324-5559
Hospitality	Jan McCollum	245-9749	Supplies	Kathy Ericson	623-2522
Inventory	Pat Martinez	434-9270	Grab Bags	Judy Nason	250-9128
Vests	Linda Sims	314-2970			

SECRETARY'S CORNER

This section is dedicated to our new members. Welcome aboard!!

Please join our club Meetup group for the most current announcements. Go to Meetup.com. Search for Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club. There are two groups. The group with our logo (the blue pickax) is the one for paid members only. This is where Field Trip RSVPs are registered, classes are announced, and club speakers are scheduled with the details for how to connect remotely from Zoom (if preferred). For help joining Meetup, call Steve Cable, our current president. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact any board member or instructor. We are excited to have you in our club and look forward to seeing

you at our events, classes, and trips. <https://www.meetup.com/Grand-Junction-Gem-and-Mineral-Club-Members/>

Recent Events:

Christmas Party Potluck - December 14th Featuring the Sweet Adelines with some wonderful Christmas songs sung by beautiful voices.

Cookie Meeting – Next is January 11th

General Meeting – Next is January 25th

Check the posted calendars and MeetUp to see other coming attractions, classes, and events.

Do you have items to buy, sell, or trade related to GJGMC? You can post and read notices on the bulletin board to your left as you come in the main door of the clubhouse. Please make sure your notices contain your name and contact information as well as the date posted. And make sure to pull the notice once your item is bought, sold, or traded. Thanks!

If you would like to contribute a story of interest to the club via this newsletter, please have it to me via email: smcchesney64@gmail.com no later than the 15th of the month, please.



Junior Science Rock Club News

Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 9th, 5:00 - 6:30 pm at the clubhouse. (Note the start time change to 5:00 pm!) Activities will center around methods of rock and mineral identification.

At our December meeting, 13 members transformed river rocks into imaginative desert cacti using pots, paints, foam, glue, and artificial flowers. The results were as varied as our members. Projects were topped off with desert sand for that final touch of authenticity and stability.

Opportunities for GJGMC members to contribute:

The focus in 2024 is on increasing our ability to accurately identify specimens. Developing an eye for what to look for when out hounding on a hillside comes from looking at a lot of rock. Please consider your collections and how we might benefit from seeing what you felt moved to bring home.

JSRC utilizes the AFMS curriculum and badge program as its foundation. There is no fee for participation. Parents or adults interested in enrolling children or grandchildren into the program please find enrollment forms and information on the GJGMC website.

JSRC Summary Report 2023

JSRC held a total of 11 regular meetings during 2023. 7 units from the AFMS curriculum were utilized for meeting programming. Seven field trips were offered including a tour of CMU Geology Department, GJGMC lab, and the Harmon "Fluorescent Minerals" closet.

We had participation by 5 adult club members and one community member as presenters in addition to co-leaders Pam Bersch and Bev O'Neil. Mary Kay Hughes, a retired science teacher, volunteered during meeting activities in addition to those parents/grandparents present. Bambi Harmon in addition to presenting helped out numerous times over the year.

Over 150 badges were handed out representing the past two years of participation by our membership. Seven members reached their Rock Hounder status and are listed on the AFMS Junior website.

Membership increased from 34 at the beginning of the year to 49 by year's end. Meeting attendance ranged from a low of 8 to a high of 22 members at regular meetings. The average attendance for the year was 14 members per monthly meeting with their parent/grandparent.

Multiple donations of rocks and fossils were made by several club members. These donations were passed on to JSRC members for inclusion in their personal rock collections.

This year we marked special opportunities for the membership including the following notable items.

- Seven members reached their Rock Hounder status and are now listed on the AFMS Junior website.
- We received a special invitation from Cassandra Fenton and the CMU Geology Department to tour their classrooms and lab.
- Jim Barkley submitted a fossil sample on behalf of JSRC which was accepted into the University of Florida carbon fossil collection at the Florida Museum of Natural History.
- 4 students created displays for the annual rock show in September. Professor Fenton from CMU's geology department evaluated their exhibits.
- JSRC contributed 46 volunteer hours to the annual rock show. 13 members and 10 parents worked two-hour shifts to cover activities at Kids Korner including grab bags and the kid's bingo game.
- Our first 14-year-old member began the "Introduction to Lapidary" class to qualify to work in an open shop.

Challenges for 2024

Providing programming that is active and engaging in addition to informational. Increasing the number of field trips offered to JSRC. Creating a structure for meetings that require more involvement by the membership itself rather than the adults exclusively running the "show". Increasing the number of members entering displays at the annual rock show. Making connections with Mesa County Fair to open up member participation with displays.



Lee's Tidbits

Coal Mines and Fossils in Mesa County

Almost as soon as Grand Junction was a town, coal mining started nearby. Remnants of old mines can be found where trails cross coal beds, and several places where little bits of smoke still come out of mines. The coal mines are mostly in layers in the more than 65-million-year-old Mancos Formation and the more sandstone layers above the Mesa Verde Formation. These are the grayish slopes and sandstone ledges on top that make up the Book Cliffs north of town as well as slopes east of Palisade.

Mines operated starting in the late 1880s and included gravity-powered tramways to haul the coal down, mine workers, and even a "town" of Carpenter atop the Book Cliffs. At first, the mines were surface mines, but then tunneling had to be used. A few years before the Depression, several things happened to result in the closing of the mines. First, a fire started that couldn't be extinguished. Then the United States started switching to oil and natural gas.

Sadly, three area teenagers suffocated to death in 1989 while exploring one of the old mines, and the area was subsequently closed. It's never safe to go into a coal mine, and risky to go into any mine, due to everything from carbon monoxide to radon to mine collapse.

Since layers of coal were formed at the bottom of a deep sea, along with swamps and deltas alongside it, there are lots of fossils to be found. People find fossils of baculites, clams, ammonites, vegetation imprints, sharks, fossil tracks made by various animals, fish, and reptiles. Several drainages come off of the Book Cliffs, where fossils can often be found. The Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club have done field trips to the area in the past.

The best times to look for these fossils is anytime the roads are NOT wet, and NOT in the heat of summer! Mancos soils are extremely slippery when wet! Otherwise, it's a close-by and fun place to hunt!

BOARD MEETING – Second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM

COOKIE MEETING – Second Thursday of the month, cookies at 6:30, Meeting at 7:00 PM.

***GENERAL MEETING – Fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM
B.Y.O.S. (bring your own snacks)***

January 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2 Bracelet Making 10-4	3 Open Shop 12-3	4	5	6 Open Shop 9-12
7	8	9 Bracelet Making 10-4	10 Open Shop 12-3 Board Meeting 6pm	11 Cookie Meeting 7pm	12	13 Open Shop 9-12
14	15	16	17 Open Shop 12-3	18	19 Fast Lapidary 9-5	20 Open Shop 9-12 Fast Lapidary 1-4
21	22	23	24 Open Shop 12-3	25 General Meeting 7pm	26	27 Open Shop 9-12
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	Notes BE SURE TO SIGN UP AND PAY FOR CLASSES VIA MEETUP APP. PLEASE CONTACT THE INSTRUCTORS WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS: Ed & Grete: 250-2967 or 433-0016; Karen 402-960-7370; Cindy 462-6806; Thom TEXT ONLY: 623-2522; Karen 402-960-7370.				

February 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31 Open Shop 12-3	1	2 Fast Lapidary 9-5	3 Open Shop 9-12 Fast Lapidary 1-4
4	5 Basic Silversmithing 6-9 pm	6 Basic Silversmithing 6-9 pm	7 Open Shop 12-3 Board Meeting 7pm	8 Cookie Meeting 7pm	9	10 Open Shop 9-12
11	12 Basic Silversmithing 6-9 pm	13 Basic Silversmithing 6-9 pm	14 Open Shop 12-3	15	16	17 Open Shop 9-12
18	19 Basic Silversmithing 6-9 pm	20 Basic Silversmithing 6-9 pm	21 Open Shop 12-3	22 General Meeting 7pm Chili Cookoff	23	24 Open Shop 9-12
25	26	27	28 Open Shop 12-3	29	1	2
3	4	Notes BE SURE TO SIGN UP AND PAY FOR CLASSES VIA MEETUP APP. PLEASE CONTACT THE INSTRUCTORS WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS: JoAnn: 778-5333;				

Classes	Instructors	Phone #	Open Shop
Chain Making	JoAnn Piburn	778-5333	Shop Chairmen: JoAnn Piburn & Ed Raymond
Faceting	Thom Ericson	623-2522-text	Shop Supervisors: JoAnn Piburn & Ed Raymond
Filigree	Pam Bersch	242-3134	* Previous Instruction in use of equipment in
Intarsia	Sue Smith	245-5602	is required before using any tools or machines
Wire Wrapping	Joyce Trump	255-8045	in the shop.
Begin Lapidary	Ed Raymond	250-2967	* Sign in each time you use the shop.
	Grete Raymond	433-0016	* Help with the clean up before leaving.
Cuttlebone Cast	Judy Nason	250-9128	*Shop fee is \$5/session for EVERYONE.
Adv. Lapidary	Thom Ericson	623-2522	*Slab saw fee is \$.25 per square inch.
Silversmith	JoAnn Piburn	778-5333	
Silversmith	Cindy Teare	462-6806	
Stone Setting	Theresa Pytell	639-2903	
Enameling	Karen Sayre	402-960-7370	

Club Information

The Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. is affiliated with the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The clubhouse is at 2328 Monument Road, Grand Junction, CO. Our mailing address is P. O. Box 953, Grand Junction, CO 81502. We are a nonprofit, 501(c3) tax-exempt, educational organization. Our purpose is exclusively educational and social: To increase and disseminate knowledge of the earth sciences, specifically minerals, gems, rocks, artifacts, fossils, and similar subjects; To promote and perpetuate knowledge of the lapidary arts; To encourage field trips; To encourage greater public interest and education in gems, fossils, and minerals, cooperating with established institutions in such matters. The Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month in our club building. November and December meetings will be on the second Thursday only. Our Annual Rock Show is held on at the Mesa County Fairgrounds in September. Classes and workshops are offered throughout the year. Upcoming events are listed on MeetUp and posted in the newsletter.

The Facetors' Group

The Facetors' Group meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 9:30 am. They have a Project of the Month and a People's Choice. They also have teachers available for one-on-one classes. Contact Thom Ericson at 623-2522 for information about the group or classes.

Dues

Dues are paid by calendar year and are due by Jan 1st. Please pay your dues at the meeting or send a check made out to Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club, P. O. Box 953 Grand Junction, CO 81502. Prospective members should attend one general meeting to obtain a membership application. New members joining after July 1 will pay half for the remainder of the year.

Adult Member - \$40.00 (18+), 2nd Adult, same household - \$10.00 Children under 18 years, same household - No Cost

The Leaverite News is your newsletter. Articles, ideas, and news should come from club members. If you are an officer, teacher, director, or committee chairperson, plan to **submit monthly updates by the 15th of each month to smcchesney64@gmail.com**. *Leaverite News is published by the Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. Articles printed in this newsletter are the experiences and/or opinions of the individuals submitting them. They do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club, or the editors. We are not responsible for the authenticity, safety, or reliability of publications. All articles/photos are included in accordance with fair use for research and education. Caution and safety should always be practiced when trying out any new idea, venture, or exploration in the field. We request corrections and/or additions to articles.*

Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Website and Meetup

Our website, www.grandjunctionrockclub.org, contains our meeting information, the Leaverite Newsletter, Classes, Field Trips, and Photo Gallery. The Club is also registered as the Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club on **Meetup**. Meetup is an online application that brings people of common interests together. Our meetings and field trips are posted on MeetUp at: <https://www.meetup.com/Grand-Junction-Gem-and-Mineral-Club-Members/> Paid Members should click "Join this group" in red and answer the questions that pop up. Once your status is confirmed as a paid member, you will be given access to our other private Meetup which includes specific field trip information, and other information needed by paid members. If you have any problems call Steve Cable at 970-312-1005.

