

Southern Utah Rock Club meeting 09.06.2018

Eric Vogt presided.

Visitors & new members:

Joe - surveyor from Alton Coal Mine

Reid Kukowski from Hurricane - new member

Jim & Martha Bayer from Cedar City - new members

Thanks to Grant Nielsen & Mike Welsh for donating fans to the club.

Thanks to Glenn Pearson for cleaning up the shop & sorting through the rocks we've collected over the years.

We now have a "Rock Commissary" where you can purchase rocks anytime the shop is open. Prices range from 50 cents to more than \$10.

There are many slabs of agate, jasper, petrified wood & other materials that can be cut & shaped into cabs.

We even have free rocks for use by members when learning to make cabochons.

We also have some lapidary equipment for sale:

Highland Park combination 9" trim saw & 8" grinding/polishing arbor - \$300.

27" Highland Park vibrating flat lap - \$450.

Several arbors, most with 8" wheels. See them during shop hours or at the next meeting.

We had lots of great presentations:

John Miller showed us how he knaps Obsidian into arrowheads & knives. He likes to knap material he has collected around Southern Utah. He showed tools he makes for the process - copper boppers, Ishi sticks, & percussion flakers. He like Obsidian because it doesn't have to be heat-treated like agate does.

Lynn Dalton discussed the use of 3 glues - Super Glue (Cyano Acrylate) for dopping. Epoxy mixed with crushed rock to back thin material or to fill in gaps. Water Glass to adhere odd-shaped rocks to a block for better grip in the slab saw vise.

Joe the surveyor from the Alton Coal Mine showed us some Ammonites that were found close to the coal layer that is being mined. One example was about 18" diameter. He found an Ammonite in a huge boulder. It took him months to extract. His co-worker, Drew Christensen will speak to use next month & we will visit the mine as our October trip.

Roger Flick showed jade that he has collected at Jade Cove on the California coast. He showed knife blades that he has shaped with diamond & silicon carbide abrasive wheels. He has soaked Jade nodules in iron oxide rich water to create a reddish stain.

The Sept rockhounding trip will be Sat the 29th. We're going to Holt Canyon, near Enterprise, UT. We'll be finding agate & jasper in lots of colors. Lynn showed samples of cabs cut from material found at Holt Canyon.

Meet at the Market Grill west of Cedar City on Hwy 56 at 8am. We'll leave at 8:15.

People coming from the St. George area will meet us 9am at the gas station on the corner of Hwy 18 & Main Street in Enterprise. We'll leave at 9:15. It's a 15-minute drive from there.

Non-club members are invited on our outings & will pay \$3 each & sign a liability form.

Our Oct field trip will be Sat the 13th to the Alton Coal Mine off Hwy 89 east of Cedar City. We will see many Ammonites found in & around the mine.

We'll meet at 8:00am at the Cedar City Library 303 N 100 E & leave by 9:15.

Sharing Time:

Jay Guymon showed some cabs he made by grinding to shape on the 80-grit grinding wheel and finished in a vibe tumbler.

Treasurers report:

From our participation in the Washington County Fair, we brought in \$520 from rock sales & \$130 from new

memberships.

We took in \$520 from the rock sale at the August meeting.

Joe Jenson acquired a rotary flat lap for the club. it's used to smooth & polish large slabs, specimens, or geode halves. It has been cleaned up & ready for use. If you want to use it, bring your own grit. Contact Joe for details - 435 327-0242.

Eric Vogt & Lynn Dalton are willing to work in the lapidary shop on days other than the regularly scheduled Wed & Thurs if there is interest.

The Young Rock hounds went rockhounding recently. On the 3rd Thurs. (Sep 20) at 5pm they will polish a face on rocks found last trip.

STEAM is Oct 15-16, Mon & Tues. This is to educate school students. We need volunteers & rocks. If you would like to help, call Joe - 435 327-0242.

Cab contest at the Oct meeting. There are 2 categories - beginner - less than 10 cabs, advanced - more than that. Everyone present will vote on the best cabs. The prizes will be "Rock Commissary" credit.

We will announce a jewelry contest at the Nov meeting

We need any & all club members to tumble polish some of the beautiful stones they have collected. We need them donated for fund raising events such as the county fair we recently participated in.

Oct food assignments:  
Savory - Reid Kukowsk  
Sweet - Linda Reeves  
BYO Drinks

A club member asked if we have something to advertise the club. Eric has a flyer that you can take & photocopy to hand out whenever you have the occasion.

Hope to see you on the 29th & at the Oct meeting