

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

Official Bulletin
Of
Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

A schedule of our monthly meetings is on the back cover of *The Mountain Gem* as well as on the Society's webpage. Meetings are held at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, Highway 441 South, Franklin, N.C. Visitors are always welcome.

Forms for membership can be obtained by attending a meeting of the Society.

Dues are \$20 for first family member with \$10 for each additional member. Members under 18 years of age dues are \$5. Membership is from September to September. Non-member subscriptions to *The Mountain Gem* are \$25 per year.

Membership privileges include newsletter and attending Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips.

The objectives of this society shall be to effect a close association of those persons who are interested in the study of gems, rocks and minerals and the arts and sciences related to them. We are a working organization that operates and maintains the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum.

The Society and Museum are self-supporting on a 100% volunteer basis.

School tours are always available by contacting our Education Chairman, Diane Aiello at 828-371-2436 or 828-524-3307.

Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, is a 501 (c)(3) organization and donations may be tax deductible. Please remember us when planning your estate.



**Franklin Gem and Mineral
Museum**

25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734

Phone: 828-369-7831

In the Old Jail House

FREE ADMISSION

May 1 – October 31

Monday Thru Saturday: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

November 1 – April 30

Saturdays: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Open Year Round For Tours

And Special Requests

www.fgmm.org

Society email: franklingemsociety@gmail.com

Editor: editor.themountaingem@gmail.com

Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin,
North Carolina, is a founding member
of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

2016 - 2017 Officers And Board Of Directors

President	Tom Sterrett	349-3774
Past President	Al Pribble	369-2548
Vice President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Secretary	Susan L Fritz	524-4936
Treasurer	Lake Holland	369-5421
Assistant Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Director (2016)	Norm Holbert	364-0350
Director (2016)	Jane Morgan	342-8703
Director (2017)	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2017)	Diane Mason	706-379-1718

Museum Managers

Museum Manager	Tom Marsh	369-8915
Museum Ass't. Mgr.	TBD / OPEN	
Curator Emeritus	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Curator	Ralph Crawford	524-3279
Gift Shop	Elena Marsh	369-8915
Ass't. Gift Shop	Anamay Rossomando	349-2807 or 727-367-9196
Museum Workshop	John Hayes (Temp)	524-8062
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	Cy Amrich	356-7816

Committee Chairmen

Budget & Finance	Lake Holland	369-5421
	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Calendar Chairman	TBD / OPEN	
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Diane Aiello	371-2436
Field Trips	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Field Trips Ass't.	Lake Holland	369-5421
Gemboree		
Gemboree Ass't.	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Historian	Ron Rossomando	727-367-9196 or 349-2807
Librarian	Ellen Williams	774-203-8017
Membership	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publications	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publicity	George Fritz	524-4936
Programs	Jane Morgan	342-8703
Refreshments	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Scholarships	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271



American Federation

Bulletin Awards

1994 (7th), 1995 (2nd),

1996 (2nd), 1997 (5th),

1998 (5th), 1999 (3rd),

2000 (5th), 2004 (7th),

2005 (2nd) 2006 (10th)

2008 (5th) 2010(3rd)

2014 (3rd)



Southeast Federation

Bulletin Awards

1976, 77, 78, 79, 92, 94, 95

1996-99 (1st)

2003 2nd New Editor

2004 (2nd), 2005 (2nd)

2006 (1st), 2008 (2nd),

2010(1st) 2014 (1st)

American Federation (AFMS): www.amfed.org

Southeast Federation (SFMS): www.amfed.org/sfms

Franklin Gem Museum and Society:

www.fgmm.org

www.facebook.com/franklingems

February Meeting

Date: February 23, 2017

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: **Masonic Lodge at 50 Church Street**

Program: **45th Anniversary Celebration**



February Birthdays

- 12 - Diane Mason
- 13 - Steve Fox
- 15 - Louise Maney
- 17 - Rex Larkin
- 19 - Chloe Tsacrios
- 20 - Vicki Knisley
- 22 - Tom Sterrett
- 28 - Darcel Green
- 28 - Sherry Newton



February Anniversaries

- 6 - Wally & Doris Smith
- 11 - Tom & Elena Marsh
- 15 - John Hagdorn & Sande Lolli



45th Anniversary Issue



***Newsletter DEADLINE
Tuesday, March 7th***

Tom Sterrett, President

Happy New Year!

This year in February will be the 45th Anniversary of our Society and Museum. It's hard to believe! I want to thank all the volunteers and members who have made our club great over the years. Please continue to help out in any capacity so we can continue our mission of education and spreading the "Rock Gospel" to all.

Our budget is being set for 2017 so please try to attend our January and February Meetings. Your input on how and where we spend our money is important.

This year in January, February and possibly March, our General Meeting will be held at the Masonic Lodge at 50 Church Street in Franklin. The community building is being renovated. Please make a note on your calendar of the new location.

Also new this year, the Chamber of Commerce is moving to Holly Springs Plaza. They have secured a large location for a new visitors center and chamber office with lots of room. We have a display area for our Society. Be thinking of how we can best convey our message and attract new visitors to our museum. Contact a board member with any ideas.

This year we will be kicking off a 3-year campaign to replace aging display cases and update our museum. Details to follow at our General Meeting.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting!

And as always: Rock on!



Minutes – November 17, 2016 – General Meeting

Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Arlon Eldridge in the absence of President, Tom Sterrett, on Thursday, November 17, 2016, at 6:35 p.m. in the Robert C. Carpenter Community Center meeting room.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 26 members and 5 guests present this evening. We welcome the following new members: Peter Bermke, Darcel Green, Isaiah Simpson, Morgan Simpson, Carl Seaman, Jonathan Seaman, Parker Seaman and Will Seaman. Ellen reminded everyone that *it is now past time for annual membership dues to be paid*. She stated that the next newsletter will be combined January/February and the deadline for any submissions will be January 12.

Minutes – Arlon Eldridge asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes printed in the last newsletter and there were none.

Vice President – Arlon Eldridge had nothing new to report.

Treasurer – Lake Holland gave the treasurer's report indicating excellent gift shop sales.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh reported that he has changed the lock on the museum door and will be restricting key issuance. If anyone is hosting and needs a key, please see Tom in advance. The sign-up sheet for hosting on Saturdays was passed around to the members.

Curator – Ralph Crawford stated that Fred Plesner took specimens out to the Rickman store to be used this spring in a display.

Publicity – George Fritz did not have anything new to report.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh reported October sales were great. She emphasized the fact that December 24 is Christmas Eve but is also a Saturday and that the museum would be open. The same is true for December 31 being New Year's Eve. Elena thanked Cy Amrich for his hard work in keeping up our online sources.

Education – Diane Aiello did not have anything new to report.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon reported on the last field trip to Summerville, Georgia (lace agate). There is another field trip coming soon scheduled for November 19 to Diamond Hill Mine (crystals). Participants will meet and leave at 7 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Arlon Eldridge stated that we are still in need of a Calendar Chairperson. Please contact Al Pribble if you can volunteer for this important position.

It was mentioned that we have many people who have volunteered to host at the museum with extended hours for the two Saturday nights of Winter Wonderland but any member is welcome to come and help out.

NEW BUSINESS:

Our December meeting will be the annual Christmas gathering on Saturday, December 17. Jane Morgan has the sign-up sheet for food. The set-up committee will arrive at noon. Please bring food no earlier than 12:45 p.m. so that hot food will stay hot. We will have a very brief business meeting and then eat at 1:00 p.m.

Arlon Eldridge wanted to mention that there are never any political or religious topics printed in our newsletter, *The Mountain Gem*.

Arlon also wished to thank everyone who came to visit him while he was in the hospital recently.

Garrett Morgan drew tickets for door prizes that were donated by Arlon Eldridge.

November Meeting Minutes cont'd from Page 4

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. by Vice President, Arlon Eldridge. The meeting was then followed by refreshments and a very interesting program on Brazilian amethyst presented by Arlon Eldridge. He brought many specimens for us to enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



Minutes – December 17, 2016 – General Meeting

Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.

The meeting was called to order by President, Tom Sterrett, at 1:00 p.m., on Saturday, December 17, 2016, in the Robert C. Carpenter Community Center meeting room.

Membership: Ellen Crawford reported 38 members and 2 guests present this afternoon.

Minutes – Tom Sterrett asked if there were any corrections or additions to the last minutes and there were none. Al Pribble moved that the minutes be accepted as printed and Joyce Jacques seconded the motion. Voted and carried.

Treasurer – Marie Tsacrios stated that the treasury was in good shape.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh reported that everything is good; he had nothing new to report. However, he did circulate the sign-up sheet for hosting on Saturdays for the month of January.

Workshop Manager – John Hayes asked that we give a round of applause to our museum manager, Tom Marsh, who is always there for us!

Publications – Ellen Crawford reminded us that the newsletter will be combined for January and February. Deadline for submissions is January 12. She reported many members are in arrears with their annual dues.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon had nothing new to report.

Education – Diane Aiello reported that the museum had two different groups that came from Rabun Gap Nacoochee School. Fred Plesner and Virginia Bennis helped with hosting the students.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tom Sterrett stated that we still need someone to volunteer as Calendar Chairperson.

NEW BUSINESS:

Diane Mason, instructor, presented certificates for the Beginning Wire Wrap class to: Lake Holland, Bobby Bland, Tom Parker, Winn Henderson and Diane Aiello. Samples of their work are on display on the back table. Congratulations to all and thank you to Diane for her great instruction and unending patience!!

Tom Sterrett stated that the Board of Directors will be working on the budget for the new year and this should be ready for a vote in February.

Garrett Morgan drew the tickets for William Holland (members with an exceptional number of volunteer hours). The first ticket drawn was Tom Marsh, who respectfully declined. The second ticket was Vicki Knisley and then the next was Ron Rossamondo. A big thank you was given to Jane Morgan, Elena Marsh, Marsha Harmon and Linda Sterrett who polled all the volunteer hours.

Another big thank you to Jane Morgan and her committee for the hard work in coordinating all the food, drinks and decorations for our annual Christmas gathering today. Very special thanks to Barbara Rizzo and Arlon Eldridge.

Tom Sterrett reminded us that due to the Robert C. Carpenter building undergoing refurbishing, our next general meeting on January 26 will be held at the Masonic Lodge, 50 Church Street, at 6:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President, Tom Sterrett at 1:07 p.m. followed by an afternoon of good food, socializing and playing rock bingo.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



March Birthdays

- 2- Shirley Burley
- 8- Diane Aiello
- 12 - Elyse Haber Freedman
- 14 - John Speer
- 20 - Tom Marsh
- 24 - Gary Gaetano



March Anniversaries

- 8 - Tom & Diane Aiello
- 22 - Gary & Charlene Galbrecht
- 27 - John & Nancy Speer
- 28 - Pete & Barbara Rizzo



March Birthstones

The two birthstones for March are aquamarine and bloodstone.

Aquamarine - The name *aquamarine* is derived from the Latin word *aqua*, meaning water, and *marina*, meaning *the sea*. This gemstone was believed to protect sailors, as well as to guarantee a safe voyage. The serene color of aquamarine is said to cool the temper, allowing the wearer to remain calm and levelheaded. Aquamarine is most often light in tone and ranges from greenish blue to blue-green; the color usually is more intense in larger stones.

Bloodstone - The second birthstone for March is *bloodstone*, a dark-green jasper flecked with vivid red spots of iron oxide. This ancient stone was used by the Babylonians to make seals and amulets and was believed to have healing powers — especially for blood disorders. Generally, found embedded in rocks or in riverbeds as pebbles.

www.americangemsociety.org/march-birthstones

Field Trip

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator
Lake Holland - Assistant



It has been **very cold**, to state the obvious and so available trip locations are chosen mostly in southern directions this time of year.

On January 28, the DMC program has scheduled a trip to Diamond Hill. This trip will be sponsored by the Columbia Gem and Mineral Club. Distance to the mine is 2 1/2 hours and our last trip there did yield some varied crystals, a couple of which were yellow beryl. Entry fee \$15.

On February 18, the DMC program has a Brookwood site listed near Birmingham, AL. This location is known for oligocene and eocene fossils. As you look through past trips to this area you might be more familiar with pudding stone, indian paint pots, agates, petrified wood, druse calcite and flint. This trip is being sponsored by Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society. This trip is about 5 hours away but warmer weather amen.

On March 4, I will be heading to the Hogg Mine near LaGrange, GA which has recently been showing pretty nice crystals of various colors. This trip is some 4 hours away and a \$35 entry but it is a dig weekend. This is not a sponsored trip but if you are a current club member, you would be welcomed along.

Good news: despite the recent fires that plagued WNC, Corundum Knob or Chunky Gal Mountain has survived and should be ready for a field trip once it warms up some! This location is 30 minutes away and has corundum that sometimes occurs in a beautiful green matrix. This area is within the Nantahala National Forest and therefore no charge for collecting. Near there is Buck Creek with several old mines and prospects. The date(s) will be February 25th and/or March 18th depending on weather and interest.

Any of these locations are available to current members as well as helpful information if needed. Some equipment can be borrowed and occasionally car pooling to help with gas. Some trips have special requirement so please let us know if you are going/interested!

Marsha Harmon [828 369-7262](tel:8283697262) or Lake Holland [828 369-5421](tel:8283695421) - Your friendly Field Trip Coordinators

Gift Shop

Elena Marsh - Gift Shop Manager



Winter continues to move along although we never know if we need our snow shovels or our sun tan lotion! This time of year, we try to take stock of our inventory and also spruce up displays. And of course, we're always looking for new items to purchase and sell. Anamay was here briefly during the holidays and we managed to get a lot of projects started and finished. She made numerous earrings, bracelets and several necklaces. Those are on display and for sale already.

We continue to get donations from club members and those are greatly appreciated. Most are quickly identified, priced and put out for sale. This not only helps keep stock and items fresh and new, it also allows any sales to be complete profit for the gift shop and the museum.

Saturdays have been busy and we continue to look forward to a productive and great new year.

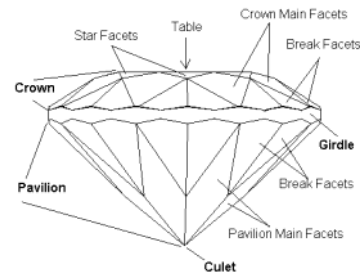
Thank you for any and all efforts, donations, and volunteering which includes hosting – in my mind these actions show that our society is strong and eager to keep the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum one of the top tourist attractions in Western North Carolina.

Franklin Faceters

Norm Holbert

If my memory is correct (it's not always), ten of our club members met on January 22nd at the museum for the inaugural meeting of the Franklin Faceters. This is a group of experienced faceters and hopefully will meet monthly. Our first meeting was mainly concerned with several aspects of the computer program called Gem Cad for Windows written by Robert Strickland. Using this program for tangent ratio conversion for varying refractive indexes was shown, and how L/W ratio is used in selecting facet rough.

If you are a faceter, but were not contacted about this meeting, please let us know. All experienced faceters are welcome to the group.



History of The Gem and Mineral Society

Al Pribble

On November 10, 1971, a group of rockhounds met together in the basement of the Macon Savings & Loan building on West Main Street in Franklin to discuss the formation of a club dedicated to promotion of rockhounding and associated geological education. Mr. Dick Chmelick was the driving force with the help of Mr. M. R. Doster, Director of the Chamber of Commerce.

A charter of incorporation was applied for in the name of THE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF FRANKLIN, NC and issued for that name by the State on February 28, 1972. This is the official date of commencement for the Society.

By December, 1972 membership included 102 adults and 15 Junior members with a balance of \$231.59 in the treasury. Publication of a newsletter began and in March, 1973 Herb Coe assumed editorship from Mrs. Harriet Chmelick. In April of that year it officially became THE MOUNTAIN GEM.

Two ladies, Mrs. Ruth Davis and Mrs. Betty Linder, later to become Presidents of the Society, obtained permission from the County Commissioners to occupy the Old Macon County Jail which was sitting vacant. They then began a fund-raising campaign to secure funds needed to renovate the old building, which by that time was in pretty sad shape, by asking local merchants and individuals to contribute \$50 and \$100. In return their names were engraved on brass plates and added to the Founding Members Plaque located in the Meeting Room today. After additional bake sales, antique sales and donations of materials, the physical labor of cleaning and remodeling began in July 1973. With help from the Job Corps members on the wiring and painting the Museum opened on May 25, 1974.



Water

Fred Plesner, Curator Emeritus



Yes - Water is a mineral and I spent most of my working life working with Water. We were all told that it had 3 states (liquid, solid and gas) when in reality it has 4 states, the fourth being Plasma.

I have spent a fair amount of time lately cooped up and looking at snow and ice, the solid forms of water and it has given me time to think about it. So, let's look at what we may or may not know about it.

Water - Strictly speaking refers to the liquid state although ice and water vapor are certainly water. It weighs in at 62.43 pounds per cubic foot and loses density when it freezes. The density loss is caused by expansion which is approximately 9% so ice weighs 57.25 pounds per cubic foot. Therefore, it floats and causes pipes to burst and rocks to crack.

Water is tasteless and odorless. Yes - Almost all water has dissolved substances in it and consequently may have either taste or odor. Our mouths do have sensors or receptors that feel the presence of water in our mouths.

It is transparent and nearly colorless and is necessary for all life forms that we are aware of yet it contains no calories and no nutrients.

It freezes at 32 degrees F. and boils at 212 degrees F. at sea level. Atmospheric pressure affects its boiling point. The lower the atmospheric pressure the lower the boiling point. At the top of Mount Everest, the atmospheric pressure is 0.34 of that at sea level so water will boil at 154 degrees F. If you lower the atmospheric pressure to 0.006 liquid water cannot exist it simply turns to gas.

Water is said to be non-compressible and it is under normal circumstances but under extreme pressure (400 Atmospheres it is slightly compressible).

Sound travels long distances under water, especially low frequency sound and is important for communication. It is very important for cetaceans (whales, dolphins, etc.) and for maritime applications (sonar). Water is not a very good conductor of electrical current but when a strong electrical current does pass through it we get Hydrogen gas and Ozone which explains why the air has that distinct odor when there is a lightning strike close by.

Water covers 71% of the earth's surface and 96.5% of that water is in our seas, oceans and rivers, 1.7% of our water is ground water and another 1.7% is ice in our ice caps and glaciers and less and less than 1.5 % is in the form of water vapor (Clouds).

Only 2.5 % of our water is freshwater and 98.85 % of that is in ice or groundwater. The amount of salt in our seas varies from 0.7% in the Baltic Sea to 4% in the Red Sea.

The human body contains from 55% to 78% water depending on body size. We need c. 2 liters (6 - 7 glasses) of water a day to maintain hydration. This may be as little as 1 liter or more than 2 liters depending on the weather and your exercise level as well as your body size. Under normal circumstances we get c. 25% of our water from the food that we eat. Can you drink too much water? Yes, you can. It is called water intoxication and it can be fatal.

Plasma - all minerals have a plasma state. How do you explain this state without getting into plasma physics? I shall try by over simplifying the process.

Plasma occurs when the positive and negative bonds in a molecule become disassociated yet remain in a close enough state that they can influence one another. With water the oxygen atom is slightly negative and the hydrogen atoms are slightly positive. The gas is then subjected to extreme heat or to a strong electromagnetic field as with a laser or microwave generator at temperatures above 5,000 degrees centigrade. Plasma contains no definite volume or shape unless it is contained. A useful example is either a neon or fluorescent light. Nature's examples are lightning or the Aurora Borealis.

A simple way to do it (NOT RECOMMENDED) is to spray a very fine mist of cold water into the arc of a welding machine.

**From the Southeast Federation of Mineral
Societies Gem and Mineral Shows**



March 3, 4 &-5, 2017, St. Petersburg, FL

47th Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show and Sale; THE SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY; Fri & Sat 10 AM to 6 PM; 10 AM to 5 PM; The Minnreg Hall at 6340 126th Ave. N., Largo, FL 33773; FREE PARKING; 12+ Dealers; Refreshments available; Show contact Bill Schmidt, Show Chair, 727 822-8279; Email contact SGAMSGemshow@gmail.com; <http://www.sgams.com/Shows/show.htm>

March 10, 11 & 12, Augusta, GA

29th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show; Fri & Sat 10AM-6PM; Sun 11AM-5PM; Julian Smith Casino; 2200 Broad St.; Augusta GA; Admission: \$3 per adult or \$5 Weekend pass-Children under 12 Free with an Adult; Sponsoring Clubs: Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society www.aikengmfs.org and the Augusta Gem and Mineral Society www.agam.club; Show Contact: Richard McNutt 706-650-8280

March 18 & 19, Dothan, AL

Dothan Gem and Mineral Club; Sat 10 AM to 5 PM & Sun 9 AM to 4 PM; Houston County Farm Center; 1701 East Cottonwood Road, Dothan, AL; family friendly event, which includes hourly door prizes and silent auction; Free admission and parking; For more information contact Jeff De Roche, show chair, 334-673-3554; E-mail contact: arlambert@comcast.net; website <http://www.wiregrassrockhounds.com>

March 25 & 26, Lexington, KY

Lexington Rock Gem & Jewelry Annual Show; Sponsored by Blue Grass Gem & Mineral Club; Clarion Hotel, 1950 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY., Near Exit 115 off I-75/I-64; Sat 9 AM to 6 PM & Sun 11 AM to 5 PM; Show includes minerals, jewelry, equipment dealers, exhibits, KY Agate, fluorescent displays, hourly prizes; Admission \$2 Adults, \$1 Children, \$5 Max Family; Scouts in uniform free; Contact Info Jane Volk - lexgemshow@outlook.com; Allen Ferrell - kyrock2010kentucky@yahoo.com, or www.bggamc.homestead.com

May 12, 13 & 14, Franklin, NC

Mother's Day Annual Gemboree; The Franklin Gem & Mineral Society; FREE; www.fgmm.org

May 12, 13 & 14, Marietta, GA

49th Annual Gem & Mineral Show & Auction; The Georgia Mineral Society



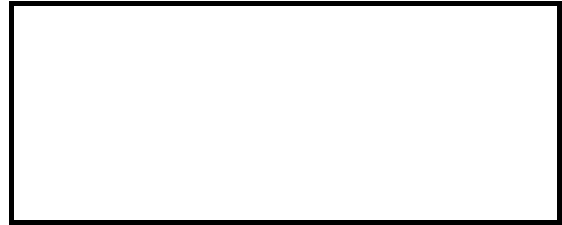
THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Ellen Crawford, Editor

25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734



First Class Mail



Month	Board Meeting	General Meeting
January 2017	24	26
February	21	23 **
March	28	30
April	25	27
May	23	25
June	27	29
July	25	27 Ice Cream Social
August	29	31 Elections
September	26	28 Banquet
October	24	26
November	14	16
December	12	16 End of Year Party Saturday

**** General Meeting at Masonic Lodge
50 Church Street, Franklin, NC**

Monthly General Meetings: 6:30 PM the last Thursday of the month in the West Large Meeting Room of the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building; 1288 Georgia Road Hwy 441 South

Meeting changes will be posted in the monthly newsletter.

Board Meetings: 6:30 PM
At the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum
All Board Meetings are open to the members

If you wish to submit something before the Board, contact the President prior to meeting.