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# Littleton Gem and Mineral Club

## December 2017 Newsletter.



**Christmas Party!** Our next chapter meeting will be Friday, Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30PM. See the next page for a complete description about that. Always a good time – hope to see you there.

**Also!** Voting for officers for the coming year. Thank you for your rock club citizenship!

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## Grab Bag News Update

Although we will mostly be partying at the December meeting, I can take any grab bag donation items you or Santa wishes to pass on to the club. I should also have specimens for stuffing if you think you will have time for that over the holidays.

I have not received any offers of grab bag storage space I outlined in last month's update, so I have just rented a small unit for grab bag items to see if that will work for me and ease my garage storage problems.

See you at the party.

~**John Kleber**, The Bag Begger

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## Letter from the President

Happy Holidays everyone!

If you are looking for another excuse to mingle, open presents, and enjoy Holiday food then be sure to come to the LGMC Holiday Party on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Just remember that we start earlier than usual, 6:30 PM. Personally, I am looking forward to the brisket for dinner. I am hoping that we get a visit from Santa as well.

We will be voting in some new members to the Club Board at this meeting. Please look closely at the list of board positions in this edition of Highlites that require voting. And take a look at the volunteer list too. There are a lot of people that make the club work and they all deserve recognition. Lend a hand if/when you can.

This month wraps up my term as President of the Littleton Gem and Mineral Club. For me, it has been a good run. I have learned more about the Gem and Mineral community than I even knew existed. I've made a number of new friends, and I managed to have a lot of fun in the process. The help and guidance from all the board members made it all very easy. I particularly enjoy seeing new members come in to the club. But it has been painful to see a number of long time members pass away. My favorite talk was by Joe Dorris on the Smoky Hawk mine. My favorite task as President was going to the BLM to register our Queen Bee and Honey Bee claims. It was an interesting process. And my favorite and most supporting club member was my wife Shelley. I look forward to having more time at the meetings to visit with club members. I wish the best of luck to all that venture out into field in search of beautiful rocks and minerals. Educate yourself, and most of all enjoy yourself. After all, that is why we are members of the Littleton Gem and Mineral club!

~**Charlie Wall**, LGMC President 2017

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# Christmas Party!

Friday Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30PM

**Where:** Columbine Hills Church, 9700 Old Coal Mine Ave. Littleton, CO 80123-4006, in the gym

**People with last names beginning A-N are requested to bring a nutritious side dish.  
Those whose names begin with O-Z are asked to bring a decadent dessert.  
The club will provide two entrees – chicken and brisket**

If you can arrive a few minutes early to help set up the tables and chairs, thank you.

Santa's many helpers at the club make this holiday event extra special for everyone.

## Santa's Schedule:



Santa will be at our December party. If you want to bring a gift for Santa to give to a child or grandchild that you are bringing, call **Maxine**, [720-532-0784](tel:720-532-0784) with the pertinent information. While the club does not provide gifts for the children, you may bring your own gift for your child if you wish. Make sure the name is on the package, and give it to an elf at the table when you sign in and they will see that it gets in Santa's bag. Please don't forget to call as we don't want to have a child disappointed by not having a gift from Santa. No one can forget Santa's grand entrance. Children always enjoy meeting Santa.

**AND!**

If you have any gifts for any others, including gag gifts, for Santa to distribute, by all means, bring those, and call Maxine, [720-532-0784](tel:720-532-0784), to let her know too.

If you want to share something funny that someone has done on a field trip, at a meeting, at a show or anytime this will be a time to laugh **OR** get even!!!

**(Be sure your gift is wrapped, name is printed legible and secure on your gifts)**

Not to be forgotten, adults have a shot at some amazing door prizes. Maybe you will be among the many winners?

The Odiorne award will be presented at the party.

\* **Drawing** \* There will be a drawing this year - a beautiful ametrine stone, about 5ct., cut by John Ake in honor of Dave Weller. John is a master faceter and was active in the Faceters and Cabbers group until he and his wife moved to Casper, WY.

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# Volunteer Opportunities

Of course it takes many helpers for a club as good as the LGMC to continue to succeed. Fortunately we have many members who are glad to help. We are all thankful to them.

In the list of volunteer opportunities below, we will vote at the December meeting on the candidates for the nominated positions.

Many roles have volunteers who have confirmed their willingness to help in the coming year.

Some roles are searching for a person who would be willing to help with that in the coming year. If you are available and would be willing to help the club in one of those roles, please consider it. The other volunteers would be glad for your help, and every role is important for the club to keep going. A bundle of many sticks is stronger than any stick by itself. Thank you for considering how you might help in the coming year.

Nominated Ron Wankner for president elect

Nominated Dan Lovitt for two year trustee. (Replacing Bill Jones)

Confirmed Travis Leach President

Confirmed Lesley Sebol Treasurer

Confirmed Secretary Larry Havens

Confirmed Jim Hooten Field Trip Chairman

Confirmed Ian Duncanson Vice President and Membership Chairman

Confirmed Nick North Two Year Trustee, (ending 12-2018)

Confirmed Charlie Wall One year trustee

[Searching Highlites Newsletter Editor](#)

[Searching Program Chairman](#)

Confirmed Trustee at Large Dale Gann

Confirmed Web Administrator Gus Hansen

Confirmed Cabbers and Faceters Group Chairman Keith Sheel

Confirmed Mineral Study Group Co-Chair Bob Zartman and Nick North

Confirmed Hospitality Chairman Nick North

Confirmed Refreshments Anne Jenkins, (searching for help)

Confirmed Sunshine Chairperson Lynette Warren

Confirmed Historian Maxine Sheel

Confirmed Librarian Mary Davis

Confirmed Denver Council Representative Nick North

[Searching Trustee at Large for Lou Conti Replacement](#)

[Searching Trustee at Large for Jim Hurlbut Replacement](#)

[Searching Grab Bag Chairman](#)

[Searching RMFMS & AFMS Representative](#)

[Searching Show committee representative](#)

# Selected upcoming LGMC and Earth Science Events

The Faceters and Cabber's will not meet in December

"MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

## FACETERS AND CABBERS



**NO MEETING** in the month of **DECEMBER**  
Hope to see you all at **LITTLETON CHRISTMAS** pot luck  
Keith and Maxine

- Dec. 8-10 **Flatirons Mineral Club annual Gem and Mineral Show, "Rocks and Rails"**. Boulder County Fairgrounds, Main Exhibit Building, [9595 Nelson Rd., Longmont, CO](https://www.flatironsmineralclub.org/about/annual-fmc-gem-and-mineral-show/). Combined Gem and Mineral Show + Boulder Model Railroad Club Exposition; 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day. See: <https://flatironsmineralclub.org/about/annual-fmc-gem-and-mineral-show/> .
- Fri Dec 15 **LGMC Christmas Party, 6:30pm (starting earlier, for the potluck dinner.)**
- Fri Jan 19 **LGMC Chapter Meeting**. Speaker, Dan Wray, Meteorites. 7:30pm, Columbine Hills Church, 9700 Old Coal Mine Ave, Littleton CO
- Jan 20<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.
- Wed Jan 24 Mineral Study. (Not meeting in December.)
- Jun 20-22 Regional Convention of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Rapid City, SD

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# Telling Meteorites from Wrongs

"Is this a meteorite?" is probably the most common rock identification questions I get. Many people not only find meteorites fascinating, and would love to find one, but also they are aware of their value and hope for a windfall. Here are my clues from telling meteor-rights from -wrongs.

First, is it magnetic? Most meteorites contain at least some iron-nickel alloy so will respond to a magnet.

Those that don't are so rare, weather rapidly and usually have such drab appearances that they aren't normally recognizable. We find these rare ones when they've been seen to fall from the sky, or they are found in areas where few other rocks accumulate such as on top of glaciers or on the deep sea floor.

Unfortunately, there are a number of earth rocks that also will respond to a magnet, so the magnetic test is not enough. Where I live, the landscape is covered by debris from glaciers that scrapped across magnetic iron formation and gabbros to the north. People picking through this material find lots of magnetic "meteorwrongs", bring them excitedly into my office and come away bitterly disappointed. I'm sorry - but they are what they are.

Second, does the rock show layering? Meteorites don't show layers or bands but earth rocks often do. This includes veins, particularly ones with openings containing crystals. These are not signs of a meteorite.

Third, what does the rock look like on a freshly broken surface? Many weathered surfaces contain dark iron and manganese oxides, which make them look dark. Dark is "burned" to many people, who conclude that weathered surface "must" be a fusion crust formed when the sample roasted during passage through the air.

Nature is, unfortunately, good at making dark crusts through oxidation, hydration, microbial action and so forth at room temperature. A fresh surface will reveal a lot about the rock. Fresh surfaces will often reveal the details of a rock's composition and texture and allow its identification - usually as a meteor-wrong.

Also, holes are not a good indicator of a meteorite. Many people assume rocks with holes have "boiled", thus must have hurtled through the air at high speed. Some meteorites may contain pits, called regmaglypts, but not holes. Holes are from earth processes of weathering, erosion or volcanic activity.

On a fresh surface a true iron-nickel meteorite will be steely and not very brittle. Stony meteorites will often have small spherical objects known as chondrules. Beware, though, as earth processes also can make spherical objects in rocks, such as oolites in sedimentary rocks and spherulites in volcanic ones.

My fourth test is this: are there minerals present that are known NOT to occur in meteorites. Quartz and feldspars are common minerals found in many earth rocks but not in meteorites. If any of these are present, the sample is not a meteorite.

Fifth, if there is metallic iron present under the altered crust, does it have significant nickel in it? You want to make sure you haven't found a rusted chunk of Uncle Ned's old Model T. Meteoritic iron always has several percent nickel in it. Iron we find, smelt and use on earth does not. There are fairly simple wet chemical or spectroscopic tests that can be done at most universities to determine if nickel is present in any significant amount.

Some excellent books and web sites are out there to help. My favorite book for budding meteorite hunters is **Rocks From Space** by O. Richard Norton (1998 Mountain Press). Some good web sites are maintained by: Aerolite Meteorite Men <http://www.aerolite.org/found-a-meteorite.htm> and Washington University in St. Louis <http://meteorites.wustl.edu/meteorwrongs/meteorwrongs.htm> The Washington University site has many pictures of meteor-wrongs.

If you are only finding meteor-wrongs, don't despair. Meteorites, although rare, can be found anywhere on our planet, so keep looking! -**Dr. Bill Cordua**, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

# Club Announcements

## Winners of the Best Specimen Awards

At the October club meeting in October, we voted on 3 awards:

- 1) Tom Odiorne Memorial Award for best specimen collected by a member in the last year.

[This winner will be announced at the Dec. Holiday meeting.](#)

- 2) Best specimen over \$20, won by Larry Havens, shown to the right.



- 3) Best specimen under \$20, won by Jim Hooten, shown here.



## Welcome to our new members:

Our Membership Chairman, Ian welcomes these new members since August:

**Scott & Gaffri & Canille Schiraldi, Fred & Sue Hurd, Lisa & Brian Klingbeil, Bob & Crystal O'Fee, Joyce Roth, Raju Sitaula & Sujita Gautam, and Rob & Cindy Tucker**



**Moving?** Change of Address, Email or Phone Number? Ready to go paperless? Please notify **Ian Duncanson** of any changes at [idunc@q.com](mailto:idunc@q.com) or 303-798-9174.

*Do you know someone who could use some sunshine?* Send a note to our sunshine coordinator and let her know, **Lynette Warren**, [flywithle123@comcast.net](mailto:flywithle123@comcast.net).

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the newsletter!

~Steve

### 🌀 2017 Board of Trustees 🌀

President	<i>Charlie Wall</i>	303-933-0368
Vice President and Membership Chairman	<i>Ian Duncanson</i>	303-798-9174
Secretary	<i>Larry Havens</i>	303-757-6577
Treasurer	<i>Lesley Sebol</i>	720-999-1372
President elect	<i>Travis Leach</i>	303-887-9787
Program Chairman	<i>Bill Jones</i>	303-503-6288
Field Trip Chairman	<i>Jim Hooten</i>	303-770-7177
Highlites Newsletter Editor	<i>Steve Cable</i>	303-868-9931
Trustee (Year of 2017 as past President )	<i>John Smith</i>	720-981-1368
Trustee (2 year term 2017 & 2018)	<i>Nick North</i>	303-840-1177
Trustee (2 year term 2016 & 2017)	<i>Bill Jones</i>	303-503-6288

### 🌀 Chairpersons & Appointed Officers 🌀

Trustee-at-Large	<i>Lou Conti</i>	303-797-3205
Trustee-at-Large	<i>Dale Gann</i>	720-981-5526
Trustee-at-Large	<i>Jim Hurlbut</i>	303-757-0283
Sunshine Chairperson	<i>Lynette Warren</i>	303-956-4634
Refreshments	<i>Anne Jenkins</i>	303-730-7696
Librarian	<i>Mary Davis</i>	303-680-5112
Historian	<i>Maxine Sheel</i>	720-532-0784
Junior Historian	<i>Chloe Lovitt</i>	303-791-3112
Photographer	<i>Bob Zartman</i>	303-973-0405
" "	<i>Mike Snively</i>	720-981-0752
Junior Photographer	<i>Hunter Kokkinen</i>	720-922-1096
Hospitality	<i>Nick North</i>	303-840-1177
Grab Bags	<i>John Kleber</i>	720-851-8510
Web Administrator	<i>Gus Hanson</i>	
Show Committee Representative	<i>Open</i>	Open
RMFMS & AFMS Representative	<i>Jim Hurlbut</i>	303-757-0283
Denver Council Representative	<i>Nick North</i>	303-840-1177
Cabbers & Faceters Group	<i>Keith Sheel</i>	720-532-0784
" "	<i>Mike Snively</i>	720-981-0752
" "	<i>John Kleber</i>	720-851-8510
Mineral Study Group	<i>Bob Zartman &amp; Nick North</i>	303-973-0405

**Meetings:** The Littleton Gem & Mineral Club meets the third Friday of each month, September through May, at the Columbine Hills Church, 9700 Old Coal Mine Avenue, Littleton, CO 80123. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Club and section meetings may deviate from their regular schedules due to holidays, shows, inclement weather, etc.

The Littleton Gem and Mineral Club is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, The Colorado Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies, and the Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council.

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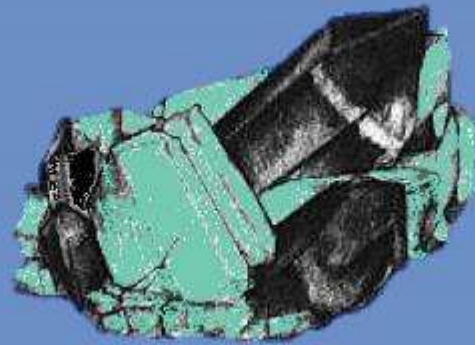
**\*\*The deadline for submissions is the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month.** Please send your material by email to [stevecableisthinkingofyou@gmail.com](mailto:stevecableisthinkingofyou@gmail.com).

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# Highlites

LITTLETON GEM & MINERAL CLUB



HARRIS PARK AMAZONITE & SMOKY QUARTZ

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