

FEBRUARY ROCK PARTY

by Jayne Beer

I would like to thank all those who joined us for the rock party at The Jewelry Connection on February 21st. We had a good number of members there: Judy Anson; Paul & Carolyn Ashmore; Jim & Sharon Marburger; Susy McMahan; Ed Ridge; and, of course, Brian, Jayne, & Corey Beer, with Kelly and Jazz making an appearance.

As we have experienced every single time, this group puts out a great spread of food. We started it with sloppy joes, lemon bars, Asian flavored quinoa rice, and a salad. Add to that fried chicken, mashed potatoes, potato salad, chips & salsa, and cupcakes, and I think everyone there was happy and full.

As usual, there was much discussion among friends about rocks! Carolyn brought a beautiful Condor Agate. I cut a slab off of it and Corey polished a stone out of it. I cut a piece of youngite with druzy on top. I think both of the stones turned out beautiful. Eddie did some work on stones and Sharon polished some "windows" in stones she picked up on one of last year's field trips.

For as long as I have been cutting and polishing stones, I am still amazed at what is found when slicing and grinding into some "interesting" rock that was picked up off the ground!

After a while, most people headed for home, leaving just Judy and me. We started a wire wrap project. I'm not sure what time we finished up, but I left The Jewelry Connection hoping that everyone enjoyed the evening as much as I did.

If you have never been to a Rock Party, I think you

are missing out on one of the most enjoyable activities the club does, maybe right below some of the rock collecting trips we have had. There are a few months open where you could host a party at your house. All you need is a table for food and a couple of outlets for the machines we show up with, and a place to sit around and talk. We have held picnic Rock Parties where we just set up in someone's yard.

I think the most amazing and extensively planned out Rock Party was last year around Easter. Ed Ridge hosted that one. He hid plastic Easter eggs that had numbers inside, which corresponded with numbered specimens from his personal collection. It was quite a sight to see all of us well-grown folks with cute little Easter baskets, looking for eggs, then acting like elated kids with the great rocks we received. There was one egg that was not found that day, and it was several months later that Eddie let me know that he had found it. What a good thing that it was a plastic egg!

Please consider attending these gatherings. We would love for you to host a Rock Party. What a great way to show off your collection.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks for the great article, Jayne! These parties are a ton of fun. As Jayne says, a table, some outlets, and a piece of ground to sit on is all you need. Several members have card tables and folding chairs, and I am sure they would be willing to bring them along if they are needed. Jim & Sharon will be hosting the April party, Wooly & Jackie the May party. June, August, September, October, November, and December are still available! Pick a month and plan to have a blast!

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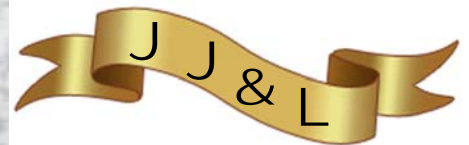
**P.O. Box 68
Hickman, NE 68372**

Lee Harrison
Eric Harrison
402.792.2337

**330 Locust
Hickman, NE 68372**

James Marburger
Sharon Marburger
402.792.2348

jimandjohn@jjlrocksandminerals.com
www.jjlrocksandminerals.com
jjlrocksmin - Ebay Username



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FEBRUARY ROCK PARTY - CONT'D



Jayne, Eddie, Jim, Paul, Carolyn, Susy, Corey, & Brian



Brian, Corey, Susy, & Judy



Carolyn shows Judy her cool purchase



Sharon grinds a "window" into her stone



Jayne begins work on her piece of youngite (below)



Corey likes to kid that Sharon steals his specimens, but he is always quick to bring them out for inspection!



Photos by Jayne Beer, or Jim or Sharon Marburger