

### DECEMBER ROCK PARTY

By Sharon Marburger; Photos by Sharon & Jim Marburger

The December Rock Party was hosted by the Marburgers on Saturday, December 15. Twenty-one club members and one visitor attended.

We started off with sitting around and visiting while waiting for others to arrive. We proceeded to the potluck meal of holiday comfort foods. As normal, there was lots of good food, laughing, talking, and people having a good time enjoying one another.

Two Genies were set up in the living room for those wishing to do lapidary. Several people went downstairs to check out the new rock room Jim set up for Sharon. A co-worker of Jim's brought a prairie agate for Jim to cut. It was fantastic!

The Rock Parties are great fun and a wonderful way to connect with fellow hobbyists. Not only can you learn by just sitting around and talking, there are members willing to share their knowledge with hands-on projects. You can learn how to wire wrap, how to cut cabochons, how to do end polish of stone (otherwise known as polishing a window), how to do some simple basics of silversmithing, and other hobby activities. We talk about past field trips and brainstorm about future trips. I have heard people say that the best part of belonging to LGMC is the Rock Parties.

Sadly, there are only three families/entities that routinely host. It would be wonderful if we could get 10 host volunteers for the year, thereby having each volunteer host once a year. We typically don't have a Rock Party in January or April because of the Swap and Show, however, there's no reason we couldn't!

Additionally, although the December Rock Party was the best-attended party in history, overall attendance has been down. It is very discouraging for a host to prepare for a party, only to have six people show up. In a club of over 70 members, this is very sad.

I love getting together with our hobby friends. I'd hate to see the Rock Parties disappear for lack of interest. Please consider hosting a party or, if you don't have the space to host one, attend other hosts' parties. Share your knowledge



Judith, Wooly, Corey, Jayne, Paul, and Vera enjoying the meal and great company.



Sharon telling tall tales to Cindy, Pat, Evan, and Stjepan



Left: Carolyn enjoying time on the Genie



Right: Corey and Evan grinding a polishing stones



Stjepan's Prairie Agate

