



# PICK & SHOVEL

P.O. Box 5342, Lincoln, Nebraska 68505-0342, [www.lincolngemmineralclub.org](http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org)

Volume 54, Issue 11  
July 2012



The purpose of this corporation shall be to study, promote an interest in, and disseminate knowledge of lapidary and various Earth Sciences including but not necessarily limited to Geology, Paleontology and Mineralogy. It shall be a particular purpose of the corporation to provide education in these fields to its members and the general public, especially to youth and student groups.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular monthly meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at the Bethany Park Shelter House on the third Thursday of the month: Sep., Oct., Nov., Feb., Mar., Apr., and May; the first Sunday in December; and the fourth Saturday in January. Youth activities begin at 6:30 p.m. on the same dates. Summer meetings and other activities will be announced as they are planned.

### Calendar of 2012 Meeting Dates

<u>Board</u>	<u>General</u>
Sep. 5	Sep. 20
Oct. 3	Oct. 18
Nov. 1	Nov. 15
Nov. 28	Dec. 2

### July Rock Party

Pittards' Residence  
July 14:00 at 2:00 p.m.  
See announcement on page 3.

## SUNSHINE CORNER

### Happy Birthday to:

Charlie Messenger  
Susy McMahan  
Kelly Beer  
Sharon Marburger

### The Editor's apologies to June babies:

Ed Ridge  
Jayne Beer  
Annette Ford

Hope you had  
special days!

### Special Activities

Remember the Grinding Party on July 8 at the Pioneers Park Nature Center, Chet Ager Building. Setup at noon, tear down at 4:00 p.m. Picnic in the park following grinding party. Come share your knowledge of the hobby and have fun while doing it!

## A Celebration of Agates

Lindbergh Center at Hopkins High School Minnetonka, Minnesota

Thursday, July 26 – Agate Seminars  
Friday, July 27 thru 29 – Show with Dealers, Exhibits & Speakers

AFMS and MWF Annual Meetings  
plus  
Awards Banquet on Saturday night

*More information available at:*  
[www.minnesotamineralclub.org](http://www.minnesotamineralclub.org)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### Board Member

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charles.wooldridge@nebraska.gov

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Richard Peterson

Although we have no general club meetings until September, our club has many activities for members and others to take advantage. This month is no exception. First, we have the Grinding Party and picnic in the park at Pioneers Park here in Lincoln, held Sunday July 8; then it is the Picnic at the Pittards' on Saturday the 14th near Geneva, NE. And finally, "A Celebration of Agates", July 26-29 in Minnetonka, MN. This year the four-day show is devoted to agates and is held in conjunction with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies. More information about these events can be found elsewhere in this issue. Hope to see you at one or more of these July events. Until next month . . .



## REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE

<b>Sep. 20:</b>	<b>Marburgers/Messengers</b>	<b>Pie</b>
Oct. 18:	Charles Wooldridge/AnneMarie Frierichs	
Nov. 20:	Al Stewart/Jim Atkins	

## MONTHLY ROCK PARTY SCHEDULE

July	14th - 2:00 p.m.	Pittards'
August	date & time TBA	The Jewelry Connection
September	AVAILABLE	
October	AVAILABLE	
November	AVAILABLE	
December	date & time TBA	Marburgers'

## NATIONAL OR REGIONAL EVENTS

**21-22: MOOSE LAKE, MN.** Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club's Annual Agate Days; Moose Lake High School, 413 Birch Ave.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; CONTACT: Gary Pitoscia, 815 N. 13th Ave., Duluth, MN 55805, 218.724.1894, [pitosciajg@charter.net](mailto:pitosciajg@charter.net).

**26-29: MINNETONKA, MN.** Minnesota Mineral Club's "Celebration of Agates"; Hopkins High School; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Information at [www.minnesotamineralclub.org](http://www.minnesotamineralclub.org).

# JUNE ROCK PARTY

## PITTARDS' PICNIC, ROCK PARTY, AND JAM SESSION

Saturday, July 14 at 2:00 p.m.

Eating at 4:30 p.m.

Roger & Mary Pittard's home

1013 Road K

Geneva, Nebraska



### DIRECTIONS

- I-80 West to Exit 353 at York (approx. 40 miles)
- From Exit 353, turn left (south) on US-81 toward Geneva (19+ miles)
- Take the Thirteenth Street exit (the first of four exits for Geneva), turn right, around a slight curve (¼ mile)
- Turn right (West) at gravel road (Road K), (this is on the north side of the Nu Star Pipeline Terminal) (go 2-1/3 miles)
- Turn Left into Pittard's driveway.



## SHOW COMMITTEE MEETING #3

by Sharon Marburger

The third show committee meeting was held during the June Rock Party at Wooly's. Wooly started the meeting by announcing we will have the same 14 dealers as we had in 2012. He also has written confirmation that our Special Feature will be a large emerald crystal and a spectacular emerald and diamond pendant. There was discussion of allowing the owner to have a booth near the display so he can answer questions and possibly making high-end sales. These sales would not impact any of the dealers.

### MOVING SALE

by Sharon Marburger

Francis Belohlavy, a past member of the Lincoln Club and a rockhound for over 30 years, is moving to Texas in August. He has extended an invitation to Lincoln and Omaha club members to participate in a pre-auction sale. On July 7 and 8, he will allow club members to select and purchase anything and everything in his personal collection. Most of his specimens are rocks, but you might find just about anything. Francis will accept any fair offer.

Both days, he will be at the Quonset building on his property located at 5th and B Streets in Elmwood, Nebraska, preparing for his final auction. Elmwood is approximately 20 miles east of Lincoln on Highway 34 (O Street).

You don't want to pass up this opportunity. Not only will you be helping Francis out, you can add a wide variety of specimens to your own stockpile. Hope to see you there on the 7th, Lincoln members, as the Grinding Party is on the 8th!

Mr. Bones has confirmed he will participate in the show.

Susy McMahan offered to contact the Dinosaur Museum in Milford to see if they have a traveling display available. (As of the date of this writing, Susy has received no response from the museum.)

Andrew Tiedje volunteered to contact paleontologist Paul Sereno of Texas, and Mike Voorhees, curator of the State Museum, to try to line them up as speakers for special programs.

It was suggested that we contact the Children's Museum and have them publish a \$1 off coupon for adult admissions, and free admission for 12-15 year olds with a paid adult. The same for the Friends of the Museum newsletter.

Mark Awakuni-Swetland will try to get a speaker and/or display from the Native American museum.

Contact Tom Whitlatch to find out where the Cedar Rapids club gets its mammoth display.

Perhaps have a booth where scouts can earn their geology badge.

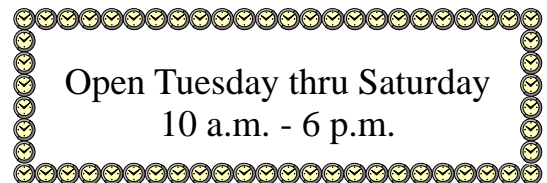
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6625 Burlington - Lincoln, NE 68507 [Park in alley]

(402) 310-3307

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## BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

### SHEET & WIRE STORAGE

The more you work with jewelry, the more problems you have finding the piece of metal you need. My pieces of sheet were generally stored in various plastic bags, and the wire in separate coils. Few were marked, so it often took me a while to locate that piece of 26 gauge fine sheet I bought last year, especially since I usually take my supplies back and forth to classes.



A tip from a friend helped me organize everything. I bought an expanding file folder from the office supplies store (the kind that has 13 slots and a folding cover) and marked the tabs for each gauge of metal I use. Then I marked all my pieces of sheet with their gauge, put them in plastic bags, marked the gauge on the bag, and popped them into the folder. I usually store coils of wire loose in the folder, but they can also be bagged if you prefer. I use one tab for bezel wire and one for the odd, miscellaneous items. The resulting folder is really convenient when I want to take my metal out to a class or workshop. It's also colorful enough for me to easily find in the clutter of the shop!

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at [groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/) or [facebook.com/BenchTips](http://facebook.com/BenchTips)

### LITTLE BALLS

I often use little balls, silver and gold, as accent pieces on my designs. They can be made as needed from pieces of scrap. Just put the scrap on a solder pad and melt it with a torch. Then throw the balls into a small cup of pickle. The only problem is if you need to make all the balls the same size. For that, you need the same amount of metal to melt each time, and the only way I know to do that is to clip equal lengths of wire.

But there's an easier way to get a supply of well-formed balls. Simply pick them out of your stash of casting grain. But before you grab for your magnifying glass and tweezers, you may want to do what I do. Just pour the casting grain out onto a baking pan, tilt the pan a bit and watch all the round ones roll to the bottom. Then pick out the good ones and pour the rest back into your bag for casting.



## BUTTERFLY BROOCH COLLECTION

Article from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County's website.

The butterfly brooch collection is on temporary display in the Gem and Mineral Hall for a year, starting May 1, 2012. The collection was created and is owned by Buzz and Bernardine, who have a passion for rare gemstones that they have chosen to share through unique jewelry pieces. The butterfly brooches only represent a third of their entire jewelry collection. Buzz faceted most of the main gems and Bernardine designed all except for the "Ninja" butterfly, which is Buzz's creation. All the metalwork is done in 18kt gold.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## BUTTERFLY BROOCH COLLECTION - CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 5)*

This brooch is almost entirely set with benitoite, the California state gemstone. A barium-titanium silicate mineral ( $\text{BaTiSi}_3\text{O}_9$ ), benitoite is a rare mineral, crystals large enough to be cut into gemstones are found only in one location: the Dallas gem mine in San Benito County, California. Benitoite is known for its high dispersion and its vivid blue fluorescence in UV light. While the blue and colorless benitoites are natural, the orange benitoites in the eyes are produced by heat treatment of colorless stones.



A 10.01-ct green hiddenite is the central piece of the brooch. Hiddenite is a green variety of the mineral spodumene ( $\text{LiAl}(\text{SiO}_3)_2$ ) in which the

color is caused by small amounts of the element chromium. The body of this butterfly is the world's largest faceted hiddenite. It comes from a deposit in North Carolina that is the only important source of Hiddenite. The butterfly



also contains rainbow feldspar (displaying adularescence) from Madagascar, colorless diamond, and green tourmaline. The eyes are red beryl, the rarest of all varieties of the mineral beryl. Red beryl of gem-quality is found only in the Wah Wah mountains of Utah.

The featured stone of the "Ninja" butterfly brooch is alexandrite (body and eyes). Alexandrite is a variety of the mineral chrysoberyl ( $\text{BeAl}_2\text{O}_4$ ) that displays a particular feature known as "color



change". The picture of the Ninja butterfly on the left has been taken under incandescent light, and on the right, under fluorescent light. Tanzanian purple scapolites and Madagascar blue apatites are set around a 3.58ct Russian alexandrite. While these gems do not change color, they do match the color of the alexandrite under each type of illumination.

This butterfly brooch displays a variety of precious opals from Virgin Valley, Nevada. This deposit was a forested valley buried by volcanic ash approximately 15 million years ago. The buried wood was gradually replaced by opal. The most valuable opals are black with a strong play-of-colors. Nearly all Virgin Valley opal has very high water content, so that as soon as it is removed from the ground it starts to dehydrate, causing it to



*(Continued on page 7)*

## Silversmithing classes

**The Jewelry Connection Ltd.  
Indian Village Shopping Ctr.  
13th & Arapahoe, Lincoln**

**Tuesdays**

**August 14, 2012**

**thru**

**October 2, 2012**

**7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

**Tuition: \$120 plus \$30 supply deposit**

**Contact:**

**Jayne Beer 402-890-3307**

**Judith Bay 402-423-7058**

**or e-mail**

**[jbeer60070@aol.com](mailto:jbeer60070@aol.com)**

## BUTTERFLY BROOCH COLLECTION - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 6)

crack (or “craze”). The stones in this butterfly are remarkably free of cracking and represent the tiny minority of stable opals from this locality.

These natural pearls from the Gulf of California are known as “Baja pearls.” They have been popular since Spanish conquistadors brought them back to Europe. “La Peregrina,” the famous pearl owned by Queen Mary I of England and more recently by actress Elizabeth Taylor, is a Baja pearl. Madagascar rainbow feldspar, colorless diamond and Colombian emerald are also set in this brooch.



This elegant butterfly brooch is set with green peridot from Pakistan, colorless diamond and orange spessartine garnet from California. Peridot is a nickname for gem-quality forsterite. This mineral is one of the most common in the Earth, but most is located deep underground, in the Earth’s mantle.



This butterfly brooch is made entirely of gems from Mexico, including a 13.51ct rhodocrosite (MnCO<sub>3</sub>). This mineral is very easily scratched, so it is very rare to find it in jewelry; however, its beautiful vivid pink-red color makes it worth some extra care! Apatite and opal cover the wings. The eyes are green chromium-rich titanite (sphene).



Orange spessartine garnets from the Little Three Mine in Ramona, California highlight this brooch, along with colorless diamonds and green tsavorite garnets from Kenya. The name “garnet” refers to a group of silicate minerals with the same internal



arrangements of atoms, but different chemical compositions. Spessartine (Mn<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>(SiO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>) is a manganese-aluminum-garnet popular in jewelry due to its bright shades of yellow, orange or red. Tsavorite is a green variety of grossular ((Ca<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>(SiO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), a calcium-aluminum garnet, with impurities of vanadium and chromium, which give the green color.

Pink and red spinels from Vietnam are the highlights of this butterfly brooch. Red spinel (MgAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) has long been used as an affordable alternative to ruby, which it closely resembles. Some famous historical rubies are actually red spinels. The eyes of the butterfly are blue jeremejevites (Al<sub>6</sub>(BO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>(F,OH)<sub>3</sub>) from Namibia. Although beautiful in faceted gems, jeremejevite is seldom used in jewelry because of its great rarity.



The multi-colored sparkle of this butterfly emanates from its green titanites (a.k.a. “sphene”) from Madagascar. The “fire” of titanite derives from its very high dispersion and combined high index of refraction. Titanite (CaTiSiO<sub>5</sub>) is a fairly common accessory mineral in igneous and metamorphic rocks, but is very seldom found in size and quality suitable for gems.



Natural unheated tanzanite of many different colors can be seen in this butterfly brooch. Tanzanite is a nickname for gem quality varieties of the mineral zoisite from northern Tanzania. Most stones are vivid blue to purple. Stones that are not heat-treated can display very strong pleochroism.



To see the complete article and more spectacular brooches, along with more technical information, go to <http://www.nhm.org/site/research-collections/mineral-sciences/temporary-displays#poc>.

# MINERAL MONKEYS

by Sharon Marburger



## Hi Monkeys!

This puzzle has a variety of specimens that form larger crystals. Have fun hunting for them.

AMAZONITE  
AMETHYST  
APATITE  
AQUAMARINE  
CALCITE  
CELESTITE  
CITRINE  
CREEDITE  
EMERALD  
EPIDOTE  
FLUORITE  
GARNET

HELIODOR  
PERIDOT  
QUARTZ  
RHODOCHROSITE  
RUBY  
SAPPHIRE  
SPINEL  
TANZANITE  
TOPAZ  
TOURMALINE  
ZINCITE  
ZIRCON

*Puzzle manually created by Sharon Marburger.*

H	E	L	I	O	D	O	R	A	G	N	E	T	I	C	N	I	Z
I	M	N	A	D	P	R	U	Q	R	C	A	L	C	I	T	E	N
N	E	L	J	W	M	P	B	M	L	J	M	E	R	E	A	E	R
A	R	C	T	R	T	S	Y	H	T	E	M	A	N	T	L	J	M
R	A	R	A	N	M	L	O	D	O	R	V	N	A	I	C	T	S
O	L	T	Q	U	A	R	T	Z	P	X	W	A	E	N	T	I	A
R	D	M	U	W	T	L	W	Y	A	D	R	C	A	A	H	P	P
W	T	G	A	R	N	E	T	R	Z	E	N	E	L	Z	R	T	P
D	P	R	M	W	M	T	R	V	R	N	A	L	C	N	P	R	H
E	D	P	A	W	T	I	V	L	O	I	T	E	W	A	R	R	I
T	M	C	R	H	O	D	O	C	H	R	O	S	I	T	E	F	R
I	L	O	I	Y	O	E	P	R	V	T	O	T	T	L	L	L	E
N	E	L	N	R	V	E	M	N	G	I	O	I	P	R	V	U	I
O	N	C	E	K	H	R	W	Y	O	C	N	T	M	P	C	O	F
Z	I	O	D	N	O	C	R	I	Z	R	A	E	E	A	R	R	C
A	P	A	T	I	T	E	R	V	R	V	M	C	X	W	Y	I	D
M	S	D	P	D	P	R	E	N	I	L	A	M	R	U	O	T	R
A	J	G	P	E	R	I	D	O	T	E	T	O	D	I	P	E	C

**2013 SHOW COMMITTEE**

Chairman: ..... Charles Wooldridge  
 Breakfast:..... Vera Lyman  
 Dealers:..... Charles Wooldridge  
 Demonstrators:..... Richard Peterson  
 Displays: ..... Ed Ridge  
 Event Center Liaison ..... Vera Lyman  
 Finance & Ticket Sales:.... Vera Lyman, Jim Atkins  
 Floor Chairman:.....John Harrison  
 Forms ..... Sharon Marburger  
 Host Hotel..... Sharon Marburger  
 LGMC Club Booth: .....  
 MWF Coordination..... Sharon Marburger  
 Vera Lyman  
 Plants: ..... Ed Ridge  
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 Publicity & Promotion:.....James Marburger  
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 Silent Auction:..... Stella Thiessen  
 Special Features:.....  
 Web Master: ..... Jim Atkins  
 Youth Activities:.....Kay Jurgens

**HOBBY FUN**

Would you like to have some hobby fun? Consider hosting a monthly Rock Party. It doesn't matter where you hold it. All you have to do is set the date and time, provide place settings for the potluck, and have areas to work in and chairs or floor to sit on. June through December are still available. Let a Board Member know if you are interested in hosting.



Bring a nice specimen to each meeting  
 between now and April  
 for the 2013 Show Silent Auction.  
 Let's have an AWESOME event!

**2013 Show Silent Auction**

**J J & L Rocks & Minerals**

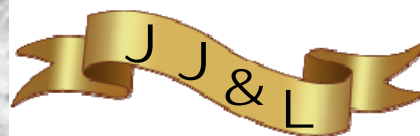
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330 Locust  
 Hickman, NE 68372

John Harrison  
 Lee Harrison  
 402.792.2337

James Marburger  
 Sharon Marburger  
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Proudly serving  
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 36 years

## JUNE ROCK PARTY

By Sharon Marburger

We gathered at Wooly's the evening of June 16 to share our love of the hobby. Those present were Wooly and Jackie; Brian, Jayne, and Corey Beer; Susy McMahan; Howell Pabian; Ed Ridge; Andrew Tiedje; Vera Lyman; and Jim & Sharon Marburger.

After a yummy meal, Wooly called the third show committee meeting to order. See the report on page 4.

Jim and I left after the meeting, so I cannot report on the additional fun had. I'm sure there was a lot of fun, though.



As always, there were lots of smiling faces.

Midge enjoyed cleaning up the corn cobs.  
Yummy!

**STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRMEN**

Audit	John Harrison
	James Marburger
	Ed Dvorak
Christmas Party	Edward Ridge
Education / Librarian	Charles Wooldridge
	Judy Cropp
Facebook	Andrew Tiedje
Field Trips	James Marburger
Geology Day Coordinator	Aulden Stewart
Grinding Party	Aulden Stewart
Historian	Sharon Marburger
Legislative Liaison	Robert Cropp
Membership Record	Edward Ridge
MWF Liaison	Vera Lyman
Programs	Jayne Beer/Judy Cropp
Property	James Marburger
Refreshments / Door Prizes	Mary Pittard
Scholarship	Vera Lyman
Show—2013	Charles Wooldridge
Swap—2013	Richard Peterson
Website	Jim Atkins
Youth Activities	Stella Thiessen
	Andrew Tiedje

**ADVERTISING, SUBSCRIPTION, AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Advertising by rock / hobby business or interest is permitted with the approval of the Board of Directors. Contact the Editor with your proposed ad. The rate is set at \$20.00 per full page; \$10.00 per 1/2 page; \$5.00 per 1/4 page (minimum) per issue, paid in advance to the Club treasurer. Ads will be placed throughout the newsletter as space permits.

Subscription to the Pick & Shovel is \$15.00 per year for mailed copy.

Membership dues for the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club are as follows:

- Adults (age 16 and over) - \$15 per year or \$25 per couple (within the same household)
- Juniors - \$2 per year (with a responsible adult)

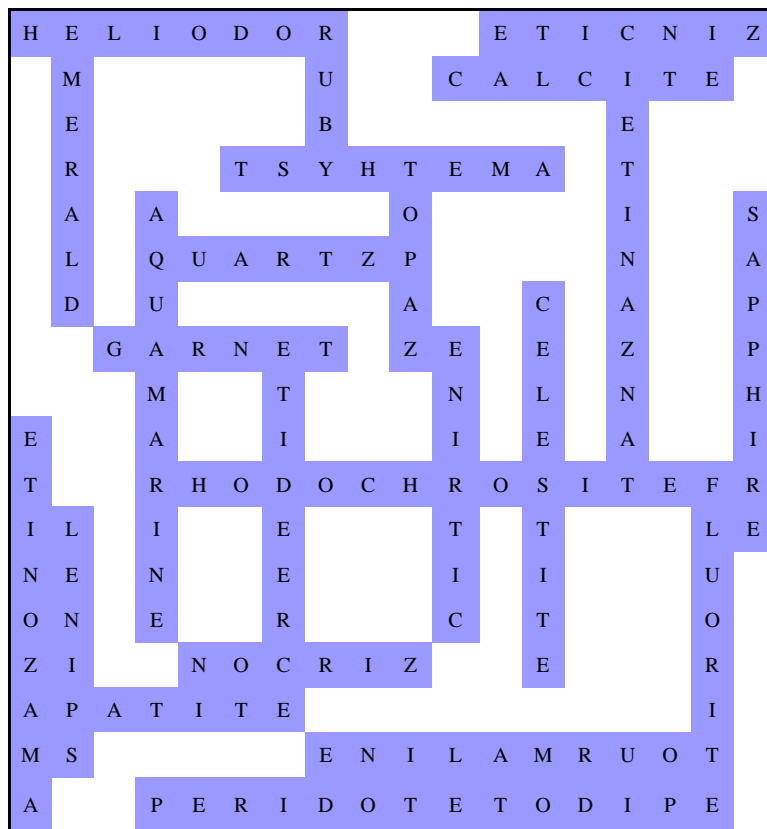
All new memberships must be accompanied by a written application. Prospective members must gain Board approval and attend one regular

**LONG RANGE PLANNING & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**

<b>1 year</b>	Edward Ridge
	Robert Cropp
<b>2 years</b>	Charles Wooldridge
	Sharon Marburger
<b>3 years</b>	Vera Lyman
	John Harrison

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

3 years	Brad Nielsen
	Roger Pittard
2 years	Robert Cropp
	Judy Cropp
1 year	Vera Lyman
	Edward Ridge



Answers to Mineral Monkeys' puzzle

Mail Exchange Newsletters to:  
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Or e-mail newsletters to:  
lgmsecretary@yahoo.com

# PICK & SHOVEL

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SUBMIT ARTICLES, POETRY, OR DRAWINGS.

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