



# CLUB NEWS

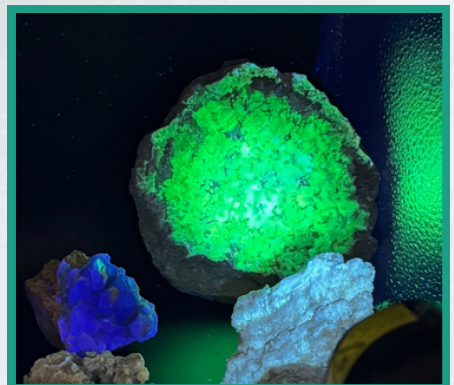
## DECEMBER 2025

### January Club Meeting – Saturday, January 10 at 10 AM Lake George Charter School

**Wrapping Up a Great Year – and Looking Ahead!** As we head into winter, the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club wants to thank everyone who joined us for our annual holiday get-together and Show & Tell in November. What a wonderful way to close the year! At last month's meeting, members voted to honor John Rakowski with a lifetime membership in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to the club. We enjoyed a lively Show & Tell featuring everything from Paul Combs' seven-layer dinosaur dip, silent-auction table, and specimen displays, to Laura Canini's glowing fluorescent minerals, including hyalite opal. President Dave Bruess shared a highlight table of his own finds, and members admired the Herkimer diamonds Kat found.

Note: There will be **no December meeting** since the Lake George Charter School will be closed for the holidays. Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 10 am, when we'll elect officers for the new year and start planning another season of field trips and fun. Happy Holidays to all – see you in January!

**2026 Lake George Gem & Mineral Club Membership registration is now open. You may join or renew your membership through the end of March 2026.**



# MONTHLY MINERAL QUIZ

## Monthly Mineral for December, 2025 (Carnein photos and collection)



**The monthly mineral for December** is so common that geologists call it a “rock forming mineral”. It often occurs as simple monoclinic prisms like the ones shown here (the ones in the right-hand photo came from McIntyre Mountain, near Guffey). It commonly occurs in igneous rocks, especially in volcanic rocks that are rich in iron and magnesium, such as basalt. But it may also occur in gabbro (a plutonic rock), andesite (the example to the left, above), and high grade metamorphic rocks. Identification relies on the dark color (commonly dark green to black), two directions of cleavage at nearly right angles, and squarish or octagonal cross sections of crystals. SG is around 3.3 and H is 5 ½ to 6. It is part of a huge group of minerals that are very hard to distinguish, known as pyroxenes. (That’s a clue that will help you to name it.) Localities are too numerous to mention, but it’s common in the Thirtynine Mile volcanics of central Colorado. Can you name this common rock-forming mineral?



**Last Month’s mineral: Molybdenite, MoS<sub>2</sub>** Last month’s mineral is one that has become crucial to US industry, in part thanks to the huge, low grade deposits at Climax, Lake County, Colorado and the Henderson mine, in Clear Creek Co. It closely resembles graphite, but molybdenite has a definite bluish color whereas graphite is slightly brownish. The two minerals also occur in completely different geologic environments or rock types. Besides color, physical properties that are helpful in identification include a metallic luster, very low H (1 to 1 ½), and simple, hexagonal crystals. At both the Climax and Henderson localities, “moly” occurs mainly as tiny grains that can be clearly seen only under magnification. Associated minerals include quartz, pyrite, fluorite, rhodochrosite, and yellow ferrimolybdate, which is a molybdate. Localities are very widespread, but only a few are economically important. Molybdenite is used to make high temperature, high strength steel alloys and in catalysts, lubricants, and pigments.

# COLORADO SHOW!

Rocks & Rails, the Flatirons Mineral Club's annual gem and mineral show, is on December 12 to 14 at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont from 10 am to 5 pm each day. Adult admission is \$8, and children 12 and under are free with a paid adult. \$6 for seniors and first responders / military. The show is operated in conjunction with the Boulder Model Railroad Club, so you can enjoy lots of gems, minerals, fossils, and lapidary/jewelry. Plus, model train displays and every sort of model RR hobby supplies in the other half of the building for one admission price. The show features a complete array of mineral and model RR dealers, exhibits, fluorescent minerals, and children's activities.

## ROCKS & RAILS

**December 12-14 10am - 5pm**

**Adults \$8 ::: Children 12 & Under Free with paid Adult**  
**Seniors Over 60 \$5 ::: Discount Multi-day Passes Available**

<p><b>Flatirons Mineral Club</b> 2025 Annual <b>Rock &amp; Mineral Show</b></p> <p>Gem and mineral dealers, Exhibit displays, grab bags, children's activities including games, dig site, spin the wheel, fossils, meteorites, lapidary tools, jewelry, fluorescent mineral display, and more! Bring your mineral treasures in for mineral identification.</p>  <p><a href="http://flatironsmineralclub.org">flatironsmineralclub.org</a></p>	<p><b>Boulder Model Railroad Club</b> 48th Annual <b>Model Railroad Exposition</b></p> <p>Come one, come all, and enjoy the Boulder Model Railroad Club (BMRC) Exposition where you can see different Model Train Layouts for the young and old alike. The show will also have many displays of Model Train related items to both teach and entertain everyone. This includes many vendor tables where you can purchase railroad-related items just in time for the Holidays.</p>  <p><a href="http://bouldermodelrailroadclub.org">bouldermodelrailroadclub.org</a></p>
--	--

**ATM & Food Service Available at the Show**  
**BOULDER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS LONGMONT**  
MAIN EXHIBIT BUILDING 9595 Nelson Road Longmont, CO 80501

Bad Weather? Call 303-591-2830 to see if we're open

Find us on  Facebook

## Check out RMS!

Your source for Rock and Mineral Shows, Clubs, Rock Shops, & Mineral Museums.

# READ ALL ABOUT IT!

## Rock Tumbling Hack: How to Polish Only Parts of a Stone Using Hot Glue and a Tumbler

Ever wondered how to selectively polish parts of a stone while leaving other areas untouched? This how-to-guide breaks down an ingenious method using hot glue and a tumbler to create unique stone specimens.

**[Watch The Video and See How It's Done!](#)**



**Did you know?** [Nevada's Extraterrestrial Highway](#), famous for its UFO lore, is also home to incredible geological and archaeological wonders. The region, dominated by desert landscapes, features volcanic activity, fossils, and ancient rock art created by Indigenous peoples thousands of years ago. This fascinating stretch of road offers not only a peek into extraterrestrial fascination but also a deep dive into Earth's geological history and human culture.



# DECEMBER BENCH TIPS

**OCHRE APPLICATOR** Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder won't flow on an area of your piece while you're soldering another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it.

I use recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush applicator. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.



Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of a sheet metal component, I think of making a template. Templates let me easily draw the shape of an item to cut out.

Art stores or online sources like [cooltools.us](http://cooltools.us) and [kingsleynorth.com](http://kingsleynorth.com) sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc., but for nonstandard shapes, I make my own out of a scrap of sheet plastic or sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.

One example is the brass template in the pic below, which lets me quickly trace the design for ginkgo leaf earrings onto a silver sheet. Another is the nickel template, which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.



[See More of Brad Smith's Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making](#)

# JUST FOR FUN! – CAN YOU FIND IT?

There's a dog hiding in this sea of cats in the photo below. Can you find it?

Bonus: there are 10 mice hiding in the picture as well.

[Click here for a higher resolution image!](#)  
(You'll find a clue as well)



# LAKE GEORGE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

## About Us

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club is a group of people interested in rocks and minerals, fossils, geology and history of the Pikes Peak/South Park area, Indian artifacts, and the great outdoors. The Club's informational programs and field trips provide opportunities to learn about Earth Science, rocks and minerals, fossils, lapidary work, jewelry making, and to share information and experiences with other members. Guests are welcome to attend, to see what we are about! The Club is geared primarily to amateur collectors and artisans, with programs of interest both to beginners and serious amateurs. The Club normally meets on the second Saturday of each month at the Lake George Charter School gym, located on the south side of US Highway 24 approaching the town of Lake George from Florissant. A link to a map of the meeting location is provided on the sidebar under "Contact Us". Between Oct - Mar, our meetings start at 10 AM. From Apr-Sep, our meetings start earlier, 9 AM, to allow for more time for any subsequent field trips.

## Club Officers

President Dave Bruess [david@bruess.me](mailto:david@bruess.me)

Vice President Bart Zobel [bezobel@gmail.com](mailto:bezobel@gmail.com)

Secretary Steve Kahler [pippophet@gmail.com](mailto:pippophet@gmail.com)

Treasurer Karen Vogl [bigmabe@hotmail.com](mailto:bigmabe@hotmail.com)

Newsletter Editor Angela Wilson [AngelaWilso@gmail.com](mailto:AngelaWilso@gmail.com)

Field Trip Coordinator Corey Miller [corythevaulter@gmail.com](mailto:corythevaulter@gmail.com)

Show Coordinator Carol Kinatec [kinatec@aol.com](mailto:kinatec@aol.com)

## Making Jewelry with Melted Silver

Making jewelry at home? Learn how to melt silver, carve molds, and cast sea glass or stones into custom pendants using simple tools and beginner-friendly steps.

