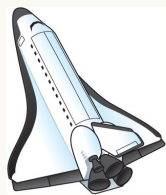


# ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



*The Monthly News Bulletin of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society, Huntsville, Alabama*

Volume 53 No. 1

*"We'll go to the Moon for a Rock"*

January 2021

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**No General Meeting This Month  
but Next Month - Show & Tell  
for those with last initial A-H.**

**We will meet in the south end of our  
Education Center at 7901 Bailey Cove Rd  
Feb 23, 6:00**

**Be picking out your favorite rock, gem,  
mineral, and/or fossil specimens and bring  
three of them to the meeting. Tell what they  
are, where you got them, and why  
they are special.**



**[www.huntsvillegms.org/](http://www.huntsvillegms.org/) - [www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleGMS](https://www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleGMS) -**



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A big hello from your humble president!

Welcome to the new year! We have a budget. You will find it in these pages. We have made some bold plans and all of the groups are meeting or planning to meet soon. Again, you will find details in these pages. We also have in these pages a slate of officers as well. Please send an email confirming your approval or rejection of the slate as offered. If we don't hear from you, we will take it as a vote of confidence.

Do you see a trend here? The newsletter is your friend. Read it thoroughly and you will be totally informed! And if you still have questions, reach out to one of us and we will get you the answer.

Mike

### **Officer Slate for 2021—only one former officer \* is being replaced**

Please return your votes to Mike Harrison at the email above or phone 256-797-2435 by Jan 6, 2021

**President -Mike Harrison**

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**Federation Liaison - Bill Friday**

### **Dues are now Due**

#### **New Members and current Members - Still \$15 single/\$20 Family**

What do your dues give back to you? Dues cover about half of the HGMS Annual Budget (found on page 3 below), along with the Auction, which we didn't get to have last year but will this year. The income is used to help provide support for our many activities - access to our new Education Center, lapidary, jewelry, metals, Pebble Pups, GeoSciences, Field Trips, AFMS/SFMS/DMC Federation membership & insurance, newsletter, monthly programs, Web Page, annual auction, Fall Gem, Jewelry, & Mineral Show, Picnic, Christmas Dinner and Outreach.

Quite a bargain, don't you think?!!!

The Budget was removed from Exchange Copies. Please be understanding.

Bill Friday, Newsletter Editor

**SFMS Rockhound Round-Up - March 12-14, 2021**  
**Suwannee River Music Park,**  
**3076 95th Dr, Live Oak , FL 32060**

We've had a number of inquiries about next year's Rockhound Roundup. Although the possibility still exists that the Covid Pandemic may still affect this event, we wanted to get it lined up, with the hope that a vaccine will have been disseminated by then, making such events more likely. The fact that it is outdoors, makes it less hazardous as a whole in any case.

Therefore, we have tentatively booked the weekend of March 12-14, 2021 for next year, still at the Suwannee Music Park in Live, Oak, FL.

As soon as the event is officially approved, we'll get vendor applications out to the clubs, posted on the web, and into this newsletter. Fingers crossed, everyone!

Please don't hesitate to contact Jerri Heer by phone, text or email. You may have to leave a message, but she WILL respond!

Jerri Heer, SFMS Secretary, [Jheerx6@aol.com](mailto:Jheerx6@aol.com) (419) 344-9999 SFMS



## Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News *By Leslie Malakowsky*



Happy New Year! Unfortunately, circumstances were such that we decided not to meet this month. Tentatively, our first meeting of the new year will be Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 6p – 9p. But we'll evaluate the situation before then and see what we want to do. The current plan is to resume our class schedule on the 3<sup>rd</sup> but with a few modifications since we haven't met for classes since early December last year.



In the meantime, Judy is mailing/hand delivering the two chainmaille projects that were scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup>: Bead-in-a-Chainmaille Box and Elf Star Pendant. You should see these kits in your mailbox soon. Thanks Judy! You should be able to make these projects on your own. You can always contact Judy if you have any questions.

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, the HGMS board approved our 2021 budget request for \$275! We had to scale the amount down considerably since we had to cancel the auction last year. Hopefully, we'll be able to hold the auction this year, and the board will revisit the budget then.

Everyone stay safe and healthy! Please keep our members who are fighting COVID-19 in your thoughts and prayers. We wish you a speedy recovery!

### Upcoming Schedule

**Jan. 27: Deadline to sign up for Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> class.**

**Feb. 3:** Cursive Name/Initials & Leather Bracelet.

**Feb. 10:** Finish It. **Deadline to sign up for Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> CM classes.**

**Feb. 17:** Double-Drilled Bead & Byzantine Earrings/Celtic Labyrinth Pendant.

**Feb. 24:** Finish It and CMS 5 Makeup: Helm's Chain.

Remember that we meet from 6p – 9p on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays and from 2p – 5p on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays with 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays TBA. Please also remember that the deadline to RSVP for any class is always **one week before the class**.

**Important:** The HGMS Education Center is located at 7901 Bailey Cove Road SE, Huntsville. Enter the South parking lot off Bailey Cove Road SE, drive through the lot to the Education Center (long narrow building) at the back, turn left, and park directly opposite the building. Please enter the double glass doors on the West side of the building. Please be aware that the doors will be unlocked for the first hour. After that, the doors will be locked, and you will need to call Judy (205-541-7207) to let you in.

### Volunteers:

Group Leader	Leslie Malakowsky
Instructors	Judy Osmundson, Theresa Chivers, Leslie Malakowsky
Treasurer	Clara Goode, Judy Osmundson
Facebook	open
Security	Judy Osmundson and Theresa Chivers

RCJ is open to **every member** of the HGMS. If you love making jewelry, please join us! All skill levels are welcome! Please note that when you'd like to take a class but you don't regularly attend RCJ, **you must contact us one week prior to the class** so we can make a kit for you.

**Remember our core values: to share what we know, learn new skills, and have fun! Please let us know what you are able to teach and what you would like to learn.**

## Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

February Project Class. Skill level beginning-Intermediate

Charm Bracelet/ Necklace

Thursday, Feb 4th and Monday, Feb 8th. .

Skills Built: Soldering! Soldering! Soldering!

Design and planning

Using the Jump Ringer tool

Using the acetylene torch

Chain making

Finishing

Fabricate a Sterling silver paper clip chain and clasp. In addition make three to five charms in various mixed metals with or without stones.

Several types of chain will be demonstrated but for this project we will do the paper clip chain.

Examples of charms will be provided but students are strongly encouraged to use their imaginations and their own designs. This class will take more than the standard three hour time frame. As always students will be able to use open studio time to complete their project.

Kits are available for \$10.00 or use your own material. You'll need 18 g round wire.

Kits will include enough silver to make 8" of chain and a clasp. Base metal sheet and wire are included. You may also choose one stone or bead from an assortment. Extra silver will be available for purchase if you wish but isn't required to complete the project.

**Certification Classes:** We hope to resume certifications on a one to three person basis in January. If you are interested in scheduling Metalsmithing Certification please send your name and contact information (name, email address, and phone number) to [HGMS@wildivystudio.com](mailto:HGMS@wildivystudio.com). We will contact you and set up a day for you to come. Those who sign up will be notified when the next class will be scheduled.

### Volunteer Positions \*

Class Instructors:

Kathy Bowman

Shelley Curran

CG Lester

Toolbox Sign-outs

Inventory Manager

***Opening***

Store Manager

***Opening***

Kit Manager

Shelley Curran

Webpage & Social Media Management

Kathy Bowman



\*Note: We are all volunteers so the schedule is subject to change.



## Gemstones



A crystal fragment from deep within the earth, a raw natural creation ...No other treasure of the earth has inspired man's desire to capture and possess its extraordinary beauty like a gemstone. The spell a gem casts over the imagination is so powerful, it has also inspired us to free its beauty from imperfection and to mold its shapes and colors for adornment and to express our individuality.

For thousands of years, man has fashioned uncut gem specimens into faceted and cabochon shapes. By experimenting with cutting techniques that enhance the play of light across their surfaces, we have coaxed brilliance and fire from deep within. A fine cut gemstone offers the full array of nature's intricate beauty, highlighted by the skill of the lapidary's art. Pearls, formed by crystals of organic origin, are complete in form as they are harvested from sea and river animals. Luminous, these pearls evoke awe and wonder.

In addition to gemstone cutting, over the centuries we have developed countless other methods to improve upon the natural properties of gemstones and pearls. These techniques are known as enhancements. They derive from our desire to draw from nature's bounty the truest and purest color and brilliance. A basic understanding of these enhancement techniques will add to your appreciation of the beauty, durability, and value of gemstone jewelry.

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## Get your access code for the new facility

The security keypad and magnetic latch are installed. Members will need a personal five-digit code for access. For those who have already given a 4-digit, a zero will be added to the end, or you may add your own fifth digit. You will need to press # afterward. To exit, an overhead motion sensor will unlatch the magnet - after a short delay. Please provide your chosen number to Bill Friday who will maintain the repository. Don't use simple progressions like 1-2-3-4. Birthdates are ok as long as they are unique. Duplicate requests will be arbitrated, but with 100,000 to choose from there are plenty to go around. All numbers are entered into the computer which controls the door latch.

They will be maintained for as long as members are active, but will be cancelled after a year's absence from HGMS activities. They may also be cancelled if members abuse their privileges. Enjoy all the HGMS activity options.

## Pebble Pups

Current plans are to re-start the Pebble Pups programs in February, allowing the virus problem to settle out further. We will meet in the new Gem & Mineral Education Center at the old Grissom High facility in our own Room. Bring your friends. For more information, contact Bill Friday [bill.friday@earthlink.net](mailto:bill.friday@earthlink.net) 256-527-8227



**Mineral of the Month – Hematite** *By Leslie A. Malakowsky*

January is National Blood Donor month! This month's mineral is in honor of my Father, Bill Malakowsky, who had a rare blood type (only 1% of Americans are AB-), and who was a regular donor to the American Red Cross for many years. The name hematite was derived from the Greek word for blood (*haima*) because of the red coloring in some varieties of the mineral. *Haima* was derived from the ancient Greek *haimatites lithos* meaning "blood-red stone".



Hematite is an iron oxide with the chemical formula  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ . It's one of three main iron oxides. The other two are FeO, in the rare mineral wüstite, and  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ , in the mineral magnetite. Hematite has the same crystal structure as corundum ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ) and ilmenite ( $\text{FeTiO}_3$ ) with which it forms a complete *solid solution* (a family of minerals that consist of a variety of chemicals but have the same crystal structure.)

Hematite can be black, steel or silver-gray, brown to reddish-brown, or red in color. It occurs in a variety of crystal habits, and the colors vary depending on the form. This mineral is harder than pure iron with a hardness of 5.5 – 6.5 on Mohs scale (which is harder than apatite, but softer than quartz), yet it's much more brittle. It's a good conductor of electricity, but it's only weakly magnetic. Varieties include *kidney ore* (a kidney-shaped variety), *martite* (magnetite that's been replaced by hematite but kept its original shape and appearance), *iron rose* (an aggregate of tabular-shaped crystals that resemble a rose), and *specularite* (a variety that has a shimmery surface). Although these forms vary, they all have a consistent rust-red streak, which is one of the keys to identifying this mineral.

Hematite is widespread in terrestrial rocks and soils. Large deposits are found in banded iron formations (layers of iron oxides and chert). A gray variety is found in still, standing water or mineral hot springs, such as those in Yellowstone National Park. The mineral precipitates out of water and collects at the bottom. Hematite can also result from volcanic activity. Clay-sized hematite crystals can form by weathering processes in soil, which, along with other iron minerals, causes the red color of many tropical, ancient, or highly weathered soils.

Hematite has also been found on Mars by NASA! The most recent discovery was made by the Opportunity rover "Oppy" in the form of small spherules dubbed "blueberries". Scientific analysis indicates that these concretions formed in a water solution. "Knowing just how the hematite on Mars was formed will help us characterize the past environment and determine whether that environment was favorable for life". (NASA, December 22, 2018.)



A red chalky form of hematite was used by early humans for cave art, and hematite has been mined on the island of Elba, Italy since the time of the Etruscans. Hematite was once used in mourning jewelry, and certain types of hematite-rich clay were once used in gilding. Today, hematite is collected from iron mine tailings and used for tinting house paint. Hematite is also popular for carvings and for jewelry making (beads and intaglio engravings). "Hematine" is a synthetic material sold as magnetic hematite.

References: [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org), [mindat.org](http://mindat.org)



**GeoSciences - Radiation - 6:30pm**  
**Michael Cape - G&M**  
**Ed Center**



**What is radiation? Where does it come from? What do you do about it?**

**Let's explore the basics of the various forms of radiation and how they are produced and detected.**

Olenellus  
fremontii

### Brad's Bench Tips

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon [www.BradSmithJewelry.com](http://www.BradSmithJewelry.com). For those who enjoy these bench tips, I'm happy to announce a second volume is now available on Amazon. "More Bench Tips" includes 86 additional ways to save time, avoid frustration



or improve quality at the bench. These new tips cover problems in fabrication, stone setting, casting, soldering and polishing. Browse through a couple of the new ones at <https://amazon.com/dp/B07D4B45JJ/>. These are just a few of the many tips in the new book, "More Bench Tips for Jewelry Making". See a sample chapter at <https://amzn.to/2KCygh4>



## BEZEL CLOSER

A bezel closer is a steel punch that makes quick work out of pushing the metal down over a round stone and burnishing it. It works with regular bezels, with tube settings, and with prong settings. Stones can be set in as little as 30 seconds.

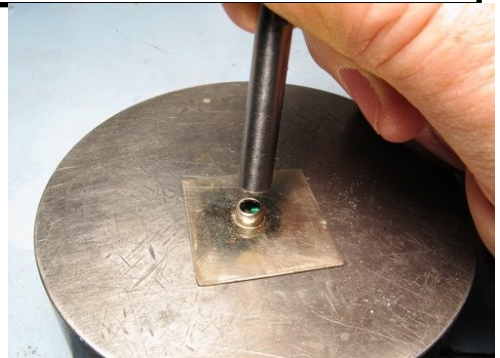
The working end is a concave cavity that fits over the bezel or prong setting and is pushed and twisted to capture the stone. Sets can be purchased but are expensive and contain many sizes you will probably never use. If all you need is one or two sizes, here's how you can make them yourself.

Find a round steel rod or bolt a little larger in diameter than your bezel cup or prong setting. Cut a 5 inch length. File both ends flat. Locate the center of one end, center-punch a divot, and drill a small pilot hole about 5 mm deep. Remember to use a little oil as lubricant when cutting steel.

Select a ball bur a bit larger than the bezel. Enlarge the pilot hole to a full hemispherical cavity. Test for proper fit with your bezel. Bezel should first contact the cavity about a third of the way in. When the size is correct, polish the cavity using Zam on a length of chopstick in your flexshaft. If the tool is not polished, it will leave scratches on your bezel or prongs.

When using the tool, the first step is to capture the stone correctly. I usually work by hand and push the punch straight down over the bezel or prongs. This causes the metal to start bending over the stone. Next, if it's a small stone, I inspect with a lens to be sure the stone is staying level. This is repeated until the stone is seated on its bearing and can't move anymore.

Next you want to force the metal down onto the stone uniformly all the way around. While this can be done by hand, I often gently tap the punch with a hammer. Finally, I burnish the bezel by twisting the punch around.



## BENCH SHEARS

When cutting sheet metal, it's quicker and easier to use a set of shop shears as compared with using a hand saw. The cut is not as precise, but many times you don't need that. Shears will easily cut up to 24 gauge sheet, and some will cut 22 or even 20 gauge.

Current prices for shears run from \$13 - \$36 in jewelry catalogs, and the Joyce Chen scissors recommended on some jewelry blogs run more than \$20. But we found a cheaper alternative at the 99 Cent Store - some gardening utility scissors that were only \$1.07







# Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

## The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve  
DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee  
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## DMC Field Trips Cancelled for 2021

### Schedule Moved Forward One Year

I hope everyone is healthy and safe as we enter this new year. COVID-19 vaccines are providing some post-COVID optimism. We are nearing a time when we can share field trips with one another again.

Unfortunately, even with vaccines available, it appears that the virus may still be a problem this year. Until we know for certain that we can gather together safely, we must approach the situation with great caution.

So in the interest of safety, I am moving the entire DMC schedule forward by another year.

All trips scheduled for 2021 are moved to 2022, 2022 to 2023, 2023 to 2024, and 2024 to 2025.

The new schedule is posted on the SFMS website here: [http://www.amfed.org/sfms/\\_dmc/dixie-proposed-ft.htm](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dixie-proposed-ft.htm)

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Many thanks to all of the clubs who continue to support the DMC Field Trip Sharing Program as we work our way through this.

Stay healthy, stay safe.

Lori Carter  
DMC Coordinator  
[sfms-dmc@amfed.org](mailto:sfms-dmc@amfed.org)  
[dmc@gamineral.org](mailto:dmc@gamineral.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

**The HGMS had been scheduled to host a DMC Field Trip in August of this year, and so we were automatically moved to August 2022. We will sponsor a trip to the Hogg Mine in LaGrange GA, with concurrence from Chris Painter who operates the mine.**

**Looking at the DMC trips for the next few years, June of 2024 is open, so we have requested that month to take advantage of the good weather expected for that time of year and for kids being out of school.**

## January Birthdays

1 Robert Handford	15 Jaxton Roberts
3 Steve Tesh	17 David Bath
4 Wayne Hall	18 David Gulliver
4 Trent Phillips	20 Betty Zoller
5 Lindsey Armstrong	20 David Hosmer
6 Regan Harris	21 Lowell Zoller
7 Anita Bynum	22 Mike Wesley
8 Dorothea Chism	23 Nancy Burrows
8 Susan Lowman	23 Evelyn Detwiler
9 Brian Burgess	25 Pat Allen
9 Suzy Calloway	25 John Hall
12 Pat McKinney	26 Kyla Harris
14 Lindsay Limbaugh	27 Wes Wells

## Anniversaries

17 Lindsay & Matt Limbaugh

## February Birthdays

1 Ryan Flippo	11 Karin Bath
1 Darrell Murphy	12 McKinley Harris
2 Michael Cape	12 Kay Jones
2 Maureen Lokken	13 Bryan Sofka
5 Alli Curran	14 Matthew Elmore
6 Mike Goode	17 Don Cooper
7 Lester Bartel	18 Wayne Falkenberg
7 Karen Cale	21 Zachery Moore
10 Steve Heinrich	22 Joey Bonds
10 Tony Smith	25 John Cook

## Anniversaries

2 Dorothea Chism  
12 Don & Marie Aldridge  
12 Kay & Mark Jones

**The Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education , 7901 Bailey Cove Rd. is now open on a regular schedule**

**Metal Smithing Instructors: Shelley Curran & Kathy Bowman**

**Lapidary: Bill Friday (Tue), Michael Cape (Tue), James Yack (Wed,Fri), & Bruce Kowalczyk (Thu)**

**Rocket City Jewelers: Judy Osmundson, Theresa Chivers, Leslie Malakowsky**

Monday	Metal Smithing	9:00am-2:00pm
Tuesday	Lapidary	9:00am - 3:00pm
	Lapidary	6:00pm - 9:00pm
Wednesday	Lapidary	6:00pm - 9:00pm
	Rocket City Jewelers 1st & 3rd Weeks	- 6:00pm - 9:00pm -
	Rocket City Jewelers 2nd & 4th Weeks	- 2:00pm - 5:00pm-
Thursday	Lapidary	6:00pm - 9:00pm -
	Metal Smithing	6:00pm - 9:00pm -
Friday	Lapidary	9:00am - 3:00 pm -

## 2021 HUNTSVILLE GEM &amp; MINERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

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## 2020 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Auction Chair: Shelley Curran

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Field Trips: Open

Rocket City Jewelers: Leslie Malakowsky

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Show Vendor Chair: Lowell Zoller, 256-534-8803

[Lzol@comcast.net](mailto:Lzol@comcast.net)

Show Volunteer Chair: Theresa Chivers, 256-837-6819

[wolfson929@gmail.com](mailto:wolfson929@gmail.com)

Show Publicity Chair - Tony Smith

[tsmith@erc-incorporated.com](mailto:tsmith@erc-incorporated.com)

Show Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

[clarag1964@gmail.com](mailto:clarag1964@gmail.com)

**PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY:** The Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society is a non-profit educational organization for people interested in mineralogy, geology, paleontology, and related lapidary arts. Its primary purpose is the education and enjoyment of the members and the general public in these areas. This purpose is accomplished through programs and activities, shows, lectures to school children and organizations, and exchange of rocks, minerals, artifacts, and newsletters.

**DUES:** Annual dues are \$15.00 per person, \$20.00 per family, and are due on January 1st of each year

Membership Applications may be found at our webpage [www.Huntsvillegms.org](http://www.Huntsvillegms.org) or at the HGMS Education Center during a meeting or at one of our activity periods: 7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 35802

Meetings: 4th Tuesday of the month except for March Auction, June picnic, Christmas Dinner and major holidays.

**The Society is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies ,**

**the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and the Dixie Mineral Council**

**Federation Newsletters: DMC:** [http://www.amfed.org/sfms/\\_dmc/dmc.htm](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dmc.htm)

**SFMS:** [www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar\\_newsletter.html](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar_newsletter.html)

**AFMS:** [www.amfed.org/news/default.htm](http://www.amfed.org/news/default.htm)





## 2021 CALENDAR



- 23 Feb '21 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center  
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 27 Mar '21 - Annual HGMS Fundraising Auction  
Jaycees Bldg, 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL
- 27 Apr '21 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center  
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 25 May '21 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center  
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 26 Jun '21 - Tentative date for Annual Picnic - details to be worked out
- 27 Jul '21 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center  
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 24 Aug '21 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center  
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 29 Sep '21 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center  
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 8-10 Oct '21 - Fall Gem Jewelry & Mineral Show  
Jaycees Building, 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL
- 29 Sep '21 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center  
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm



Deadline for Next Newsletter  
February 14, 2021

**Dated material  
Do not delay**

January 2021

Rocket City Rocks & Gems  
Bill Friday, Editor  
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