ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS







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

Volume 54 No. 12 "We'll go to the Moon for a Rock" December 2022

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No HGMS Membership Meeting This Month



And there were shepherds in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night ... and when they had heard the Angels, they said "Let us go and see this thing which has come to pass. - Luke 2:8-15



Web Page - www.huntsvillegms.org/ email - hsvgems@gmail.com













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Minutes from the November 22, 2022 General HGMS Membership Meeting

The meeting was opened by President Anthony Zwilling at 6:32 pm with the welcoming of new members - John and Rhonda Strandquist, Eric Silkowsky, and Terry Rivera. Each was invited to pick a rock as a welcome gift.

Check out Jim Lacefield's book Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks - \$30, and a bargain at that.

There was no October meeting because the City failed to open our meeting room [Editor - The responsible *fellow later apologized profusely].*

Voting for board members is usually set for October but we will do that at today's meeting. Isabel Leon y Leon is dropping out as Director. Nominees included Theresa Chivers to fill that position. Nominations for all other positions are the current members. A unanimous vote was taken to accept all of these., so our 2023 Board consists of President Anthony Zwilling, Vice President Bill Friday, Treasurer Clara Goode, Secretary James Yack, Directors Les Bartel, Shelley Curran, Gene Powers, and Theresa Chivers. Mike Harrison is the Past President.

The Club did well at the Fall Show. Seventeen dealers came. The Club provided a Vendor/Worker appreciation potluck meal Thursday evening. Club general account has \$9,091. The Fall Show account has sufficient balance to pay the bills if the show fails next year, plus additional balance to help carry our 2023 activities. We have prepayments from most of next years' vendors. Net income was just over \$4000 for the show. No word yet on how many people showed up. A meeting is planned to address future improvements for the 2023 Show.

Rocket City Jewelers meets every Wednesday. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays are class day. Please RSVP two weeks in advance to reserve a project kit.

Metalsmithing starts at 5 pm not 5:30 as it says in the newsletter. Last months class is extended to December because of the complexity of multiple skills. Please email HGMS@WildIvyStudio.com for certification classes. Please follow up with email confirmation for certification classes. A centrifugal casting machine, a Rectifier, and a Burn out kiln were all donated by the Aldridge family, one of our member/vendors.

Lapidary Report. Almost all the Lapidary wheels were replaced. Some of the sanding wheels were not changed because the wheels had good use left on them. Participants are faithfully paying the \$1/day lapidary fee, in place since last April.

About 15 kids show up semi-regularly to the Future Rockhounds, now called Pebble Pups No meeting in December.

New Nametags are \$7.50 for a pinned name tag and \$10 for Magnetic nametags. Swinging types are available for \$2 that dangle below the name tags.

Dec 13th is the December meeting date and will be a Holiday dinner at Caraba's at 6pm. RSVP with Bill. Tinsel Tree was set up downtown by Bob and Ruth Kemper. Please go check it out. We will need a new volunteer to set it up next year.

6:56 meeting was adjourned.

Elections of 2023 Officers and Board - November 22 Meeting

Elected for these positions are:

President: Anthony Zwilling, 2nd term

Vice President - Bill Friday, 2nd term Director - Shelley Curran Secretary - James Yack Director - Les Bartel Treasurer - Clara Goode Director - Theresa Chivers

Newsletter Editor - Bill Friday Director - Gene Powers

Retiring Director - Isabel Leon y Leon, with our gratitude for service



Christmas Tinsel Tree Trail - Now thru Jan 2 Take the time to visit the 2022

Christmas Tinsel Tree Trail in the Big Spring Park, downtown Huntsville. Our beautifully decorated entry was receiving compliments even while the Kempers were finishing the hanging of ornaments. Many thousands of visitors will see the variety and beauty of this year's contributions. Join them and enjoy it all.



Membership News from Theresa Chivers, Membership Chair

This year we have 292 family/single memberships with 417 adults and 132 kids signed up. We are growing in all areas and I want to thank all that renewed their memberships at the show. Please remember that your membership dues are due in January, \$20 for single and \$25 for family. Remember a family is two adults living in the same household, dependent children under 19 are included as well as any dependent college students. Prompt payment is appreciated. If you signed up at the show then your dues for 2023 are

Notice: The Monday morning lapidary will be on January 9 instead of January 2 due to out of town company. **Thanks, Theresa Chivers**

Back in the old days, at the Senior Center





Christmas Dinner - Tuesday December 13th, 6:00 - Carrabba's Italian

















Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

January 2023 Class: Setting Cabochon

Class 1: Thursday, January 5

Class 2: Monday, January 9

We have had several new people complete their Safety/Certification Class. This class is meant to be a follow up project for those that have recently passed the certification class. You will be setting an oval cabochon or one that has no corners or points. The cab should have a nice even "girdle" like *Figure 1 or 2*. Cabs cut like *Figure 3* are difficult for beginners to set. You should bring the stone you want to set to class. We will provide all other supplies and tools. I will also have cabs available for sale if you do not have one. Our more experienced students may sign up but they should be pre-

pared to set a stone with points or corners. I will have some of those for sale also.



We have finally completed all of our work benches and will have them moved into the classroom by Jan 2nd so we will have 10 seats pers class session available. **Please sign up for this class by sending email to**HGMS@wildivystudio.com.

WE WILL NOT BE MEETING THURSDAY DEC 21^{ST} AND THE WEEK BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS. OUR NEXT REGULAR WORK SESSION WILL BE JANUARY 2^{ND} .

<u>Certification/Safety Classes:</u> The next Certification/Safety Class will be <u>Monday, February 20, 2023</u>
Please send your name and contact information (name, email address, and cell phone number (for text messages) to <u>Certifications@wildivystudio.com</u> to get on the list for the next Certification Class. We will have 9 seats available for this class. Seats will be filled in the order I receive them.

CERTIFICATION CLASS INFORMATION – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

I have purged the Certification Requests list except for requests received since November 1,2022. It was difficult to keep track of names because there were so many names on it that were no longer a HGMS member or never responded to my class notification emails. If you sent in a request prior to November 2022 you MUST send in a NEW request to Certifications@wildivystudio.com to get on the current list

After Certification Class dates are set, email notices with information about the class(es) will be sent to everyone who is currently on the request list several days before the scheduled date. You must reply to that email to be scheduled for the class or to request a future class. One reminder email will be sent to those who do not respond to the first email. If there is no reply after the 2nd email, your name will be removed from Certification Requests list. If you are still interested in Certification, you will have to send in your information again to get on the current list

<u>Facebook Users:</u> The Metalsmithing class has our own page in Facebook groups. You can see info on classes, examples of project classes and other general information. Members of the group can post their finished class projects. Out class page is HGMS Metalsmithing Group.

The link: https://www.facebook.com/groups/438777169648170

Volunteer Positions *

Class Instructors:

Tools/Equipment Inventory Store Manager

Kit Manager

Webpage & Social Media Management

Kathy Bowman Shelley Curran Annie Diekmann

Opening
Shelley Curran

Kathy Bowman

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

Horizontal Hole Wrap

Captured (No Hole)

Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News By Leslie Malakowsky

Greetings jewelry makers! Welcome to all our new members! We're thrilled that you have joined us! Our membership doubled this year! We had 17 people on our roster at the beginning of the year and 32 at the end. We also had 23 classes this year with an average attendance of 15 people per class. That's awesome! Thanks to Judy for gathering this information.

Important: Please be aware that due to the increase in membership, class projects for 2023 are being planned on a quarterly basis, and you'll need to RSVP for classes **a month in advance** to avoid disappointment. (Due to space limitations, pictures of all projects are not included here, but they'll be available online soon. Project pictures are also posted in the classroom.)

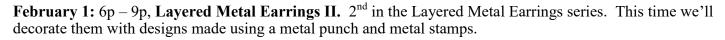
Everyone enjoyed the much-anticipated Tree of Life Pendant class. Each person customized their pendant by making their own tree roots, branches, and leaves! Many thanks to Theresa for hosting our Holiday Party, which had to be rescheduled for the 15th due to stormy weather. Fortunately, we had sunny weather the next day!

Upcoming Schedule:

December 21 & 28: No meeting. Holiday break. Deadline to RSVP for the Jan 4th Basic Wire Wrapped Pendants class is Dec 21st.

January 4: 6p - 9p, **Basic Wire Wrapped Pendants.** We'll make 3 simple wire wrap pendants using a bead with a vertical hole, a bead with a horizontal hole, and a stone with no hole. Photo shows examples; your pendants will vary.

January 18: 6p - 9p, "Pacemaker" Chainmaille Heart Pendant. We'll use red and silver rings to make a heart shaped pendant. This is a variation of the pendant we previously made using all silver rings.



February 15: 6p – 9p, Elf Star Pendant.

March 1: 6p – 9p, Aztec Double Woven Bracelet.

March 15: 6p – 9p, Celtic Earrings.

General Information:

Meeting Times: Classes are 6p - 9p on 1^{st} and 3^{rd} Wednesdays. Make up and "Finish It" sessions are from 2p - 5p on 2^{nd} , 4^{th} , and 5^{th} Wednesdays.

Class Reservations: You must contact Theresa a month before class to reserve your kit by sending email to <u>rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com</u>. You can also reserve a kit in person at RCJ meetings or at monthly HGMS meetings.

Meeting Location: The HGMS Education Center, 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, park directly opposite the building, and enter the double glass doors on the West side of the building. Note: The doors will be unlocked for the first hour. After that, you will need to call Judy or Theresa to let you in.

Volunteers:

Instructors
Point of Contact/Kit Reservations/Security
Kit Manager/Treasurer/Security
Membership/Publicity/Inventory
Judy Osmundsor
Theresa Chivers
Judy Osmundsor
Theresa Chivers
Leslie Malakows

Judy Osmundson, Theresa Chivers, Leslie Malakowsky Theresa Chivers Judy Osmundson Leslie Malakowsky

Brad's Bench Tips

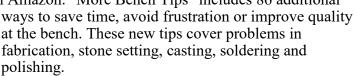
"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making", "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" and "24 Easy Metal Textures" - With No Rolling Mill Required are available on Amazon www.BradSmithJewelry.com For those who enjoy these bench tips, I'm happy to announce a second volume is now available on Amazon. "More Bench Tips" includes 86 additional













CUTTING A BOLT

Whenever you have to cut a threaded bolt shorter, it's often difficult to get the nut to thread back onto it. And the smaller the bolt, the more difficult it is to restore any distorted threads. The problem is easily solved with the use of a nut. Here's how I do it.

First, screw a nut onto the bolt before cutting it. Grip the bolt by the threaded section that is to be sawed off to localize any crushing damage to the piece that will be thrown away.

Then saw the bolt to the desired length, taper the end with sandpaper or file, and unscrew the nut from the bolt.

Unscrewing the nut over the freshly cut end of the bolt will straighten out any damage that sawing and filing did to the threads.



DEPTH GAUGE FOR DRILLING

Sometimes you need to drill a number of holes all to the same depth. One quick and easy way to do this is to wind some tape around the drill bit so that the tape just touches the part surface when the hole is deep enough.

You can set the depth either by measuring from the tip of the drill to the tape or by drilling to the correct depth, leaving the bit in the hole, and wrapping tape around the bit at the surface level.

Note that a little extra tape left free on the end will blow away debris from the drilling.





Pebble Pups - January 26, 6:30

We are still part of the Future Rockhounds of America, and will still be working on the merit badges that they offer. We just changed our name.

The Pebble Pups have a great new year for 2023 and we have a really cool program to start the year! On January 27th, we will meet at the Ed Center at 6:30 PM to learn

all about a 70 million year old fossil called coprolite. Don't know what coprolite is? No problem. We will cover all the bases and have a LOT of fun too! You will even get a sample of coprolite to call your own! Talk about a Show and Tell topic for school! See you there!

Hey Pebble Pups! Do you know what really pretty purple gemstone is loved by almost everyone?

Do you know that it is part of the quartz family?

Did you know that you can find it in multiple locations on multiple continents around the world?

Do you know in what formations it most often occurs?

So the answers to all of these questions will be discussed and the gemstone will be examined and you will take a sample home if you attend the Pebble Pups, February meeting, on February 24th, at 6:30 PM at the Ed Center.

Mineral of the Month – Grossular By Leslie A. Malakowsky



Grossular is a calcium-aluminum species of garnet with the formula Ca₃Al₂(SiO) ₄. The calcium (Ca) may be partially replaced by ferrous iron (Fe²⁺) and the aluminum (Al) by ferric iron (Fe³⁺). Based on chemical composition, the garnet group of minerals also includes almandine, pyrope, spessartite, andradite and uvarovite. Garnets are members of the neosilicate class of silicate minerals. (Neosilicates consist of isolated evenly-spaced silicon-oxygen tetrahedrons with metallic elements between the tetrahedrons. Neosilicates are harder and have higher specific gravity than other silicates.)

Garnet in its chemically pure form is rare in nature. Chemical substitutions between species make it hard to positively identify any given sample. Color also varies with chemical composition, so positive identification is difficult based on color alone. Luckily, hardness, specific gravity, and refractive index of the pure forms can be used to help identify unknown samples. For example, grossular is characterized by a hardness of 7 on Mohs scale, a specific gravity of 3.6, and a refractive index of 1.73.



Common dodecadron shape

Grossular occurs in isometric crystal shapes, particularly dodecahedron (a three-dimensional shape with twelve flat faces, straight edges and sharp corners or vertices). But trapezohedron and hexoctohedron forms can also be found. And garnet, like other minerals, occurs in characteristic environments that make identification fairly accurate without chemical analysis. For example, orange-red or brown-orange grossular is characteristically found in metamorphosed limestone with the minerals vesuvianite, wollastonite, and diopside, to name a few. Garnet crystals resist alteration so they're fairly easy to recognize in rock that has been exposed to erosion and weath-

ering. Garnet is also a common constituent of beach and river sands and gravels.

The name grossular comes from the Latin word *grossularia*, meaning "gooseberry," in reference to the pale green variety of grossular crystals found in Siberia. Other shades of grossular range from white, yellowish, grayish and greenish-white, pale to medium green, yellowish-orange, orange-red, reddish-orange, reddish-brown, pink (rarely) to colorless (rarely). Variety names are based on color. For example, hessonite or "cinnamon stone," is a yellow to brownish-red variety of grossular. (Grossular is often called grossularite in mineralogical literature, but use of that name has been discouraged by the International Mineralogical Association since 1971.)



Grossular is one of the most popular garnets for collecting and for use as a gemstone in jewelry making. This abundant garnet is found in numerous localities in the United States (including Maine, Colorado and California) and in other countries. For example, a classic locality for white and pink dodecahedrons to 4" in diameter is in Mexico. Another classic locality is in Italy where beautiful transparent orange-red crystals are found. Gem quality crystals are found in the gem gravels of India, and fine lapidary-quality intense green (due to the presence of chromium) crystals are found in South Africa.

Reference: wikipedia.com, Mineralogy by John Sinkankas



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 Copyright © All rights reserved.

An Official Field Trip of the Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society (Birmingham, AL) (HOST) An Official Field Trip of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society

Saturday, January 21, 2023 Meet at 10:00 AM Central Time Franklin County, AL Mississippian marine fossils Registration Required - Fee: \$8.50 per day

TRIP: This is a good site depending on the level of the lake.

COLLECTING: Mississippian marine fossils

BRING: Lunch, collecting containers, paper to wrap fossils in and labels for identifying them

FEE: An \$8.50 pass per day is required and can be purchased at the meeting site.

CHILDREN (Yes): Children are welcomed but need to be supervised at all times. We will be on a lake.

PETS (No): All pets must be on a leash. This means cleaning up after too.

FACILITIES: There are NO facilities at this location, but there are facilities where we will meet

REGISTRATION: Click <u>here</u> to fill out a registration form. If you are unable to attend the trip, please be considerate to your fellow rockhounds and let us know as soon as possible so someone on a potential waiting list can take your slot(s).

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Directions and meeting place details will be emailed to registered participants

CONTACT: Jim Thomas, 205-516-6436, jamesethomasrng@gmail.com

Click here for DMC Field Trip Attendance Policies

Click here for the DMC Field Trip Schedule

SFMS Facebook https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Nonprofit-Organization/Southeast-Federation-of-Mineralogical-Societies-317959434999844/

SFMS Website: https://www.southeastfed.org/

IMPORTANT: DMC field trips are open only to members of clubs in the SFMS field trip sharing program. SFMS DMC club members are covered by liability insurance and they are bound by the AFMS code of ethics (click here to read them), but the general public is not and could jeopardize access to a collecting location. So, unless the property owner has invited non-SFMS attendees, the general public is not allowed on DMC field trips. **Please** do not post DMC field trip information where the general public can access it.

December Birthdays

1 Tammy McGuire 7 Thomas Joyce 1 Judy Osmundson 8 Daniel Dunn 1 Monie Wilson 8 Faith Nkosi 9 Erika Walley 1 James Yack 3 Ray Ferguson 12 Kathy Bowman 3 Wafa Orman 13 Randy Kent 14 Shelley Curran 3 Jan Rogers 3 Seth Walley 16 Mark Barrier 4 Elijah Barrier 19 Karen Allen 4 Florence Mims 22 Jersey Sitko 4 David Sanders 23 Shady Sanchez 5 Paisley Dunn 23 David Wyatt 6 Lynn Peete 26 Bob Kemper 6 Becky Rollston 27 Pat Hallisey

Anniversaries

10 Danny Eldridge



December Zircon

January Birthdays

1 Robert Handford 11 Monica Joyce 3 John Strandquist 20 Betty Zoller 3 Steve Tesh 21 Lowell Zoller 4 Wayne Hall 22 Abigail Cantrell 6 Linda Meek 22 Mike Wesley 23 Isabel Leon y Leon 7 Anita Bynum 8 Susan Lowman 23 Rob Sanderson 29 Deone Keane 9 Brian Burgess 10 Brittany Stoner 30 Sherry Cantrell

Anniversaries



None reported this month

January Garnet

The Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education, 7901 Bailey Cove Rd. SE, Huntsville AL 35802

Metal Smithing Instructors: Shelley Curran, Kathy Bowman, Jan Edmunds

Lapidary: Bill Friday, James Yack, Bruce Kowalczyk, Anthony Zwilling, Shady Sanchez, Haley Middleton

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

Future Rockhounds: Karen Allen, Mike Harrison, Dee Morton

Monday Metal Smithing 5:30pm - 9:00pm

Lapidary 1st Monday each month 9:45am-2:00pm

Lapidary 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Tuesday Lapidary 9:00am - 2:00pm, 6:00pm - 9:00pm

HGMS Meetings 6:00pm - 8:30 4thTuesdays

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 5:00pm - 9:00pm Future Rockhounds 6:00 4th Thursdays

Friday Lapidary 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Saturday Metal Smithing 9:00am - 3:00pm irregular 1st Saturday of the Month

Lapidary 9:00am - 12:00pm

Sunday Lapidary 12:00 to 3:00

2023 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD

President—Anthony Zwilling - <u>afzwilling@gmail.com</u>
Vice President - Bill Friday - <u>bill.Friday@earthlink.net</u>
Recording Secretary: James Yack - <u>jamesgyack@gmail.com</u>

Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194 - <u>claragoode1@comcast.net</u> Newsletter Editor: Bill Friday - 256-527-8227 - <u>bill.friday@earthlink.net</u>

Past President: Mike Harrison - campcraft.mike@gmail.com

Directors:

Gene Powers - genepowersgddm@gmail.com

Les Bartel - lester.bartel@gmail.com

Shelley Curran - <u>curranshelley1@gmail.com</u> Theresa Chivers - <u>wolfsong929@gmail.com</u>

2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Property: Michael Cape macape@knology.net Program Chair—Bill Friday

bill.friday@earthlink.net Webpage: Leslie Malakowsky,

Webpage: Leslie Malakowsky, <a href="mailto:length: length: le

Hospitality: Mike Harrison campcraft.mike@gmail.com
Pebble Pups: Dee Dee Morton deemorton@hotmail.com

Show Chair: Tony Smith, 256-603-3095.

tsmith@erc-incorporated.com

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

Lzol@comcast.net

Show Publicity Chair - Tony Smith tsmith@erc-incorporated.com

Show Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

claragoode1@comcast.net
Mineral ID: Lowell Zoller

Lzol@comcast.net

Facility Administrator: Bill Friday

bill.friday@earthlink.net

Publicity: Open

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 \$20.00 per person, \$25.00 per family, and are due on January 1st of each year Membership Applications may be found at our webpage 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: 4thTuesday 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

 $SFMS: \underline{https://www.southeastfed.org/newsletter} \ - new, under \ construction$

AFMS: www.amfed.org/news/default.htm







2022 - 23 CALENDAR

- 24 Jan'23 Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center 7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 28 Feb'23 Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center 7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 18 Mar '23 Saturday Annual Rock Auction—Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center 7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 8:00am
- 25 Apr '23 Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center 7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 27 Sep '23 Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center 7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6::00pm
- 6-8 Oct '23 HGMS Fall Gem Jewelry and Mineral Show Jaycee Building, 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL
- 24 Oct '23- Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center 7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6::00pm
- 28 Nov'23 Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center 7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 12 Dec'23 Christmas Dinner 6:00pm time & date tentative



Deadline for Next Newsletter January 14, 2022

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December 2022

Rocket City Rocks & Gems Bill Friday, Editor 2508 Excalibur Dr. Huntsville, AL 35803