

ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



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

Volume 55 No. 6

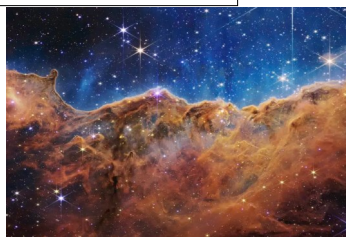
"We'll go to the Moon for a Rock"

June 2023

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HGMS Membership Meeting - June 27, 6:00
Dr. Naveen Vetcha will present details of the development, deployment, and utilization of the James Webb Space Telescope



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



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Minutes from the May 23, 2023 HGMS Meeting

Welcome everyone. No new members. Come get a copy of Jim Lacefield's book - \$30.

The April newsletter minutes were accepted.

Board meeting discussed using other forms of payment. We would like to use credit cards for more transactions within the club. We need to talk to Clara, our treasurer, who is out today.

Dixie Mineral trip was to Cumberland Furnace searching for slag glass. Mike Harrison and James Yack attended finding many wonderful pieces.

Power will be shut off for one week starting June 1st to rerun the wiring to the building. A gas leak was found during their testing. Water was shut off accidentally last week but is working again. On the 31st we need to unplug all equipment before the city does their electrical work.

Treasurer, Clara was not present, so no financial report is available.

Membership: Do not accept membership forms if money is not collected with it.

RCJ: Please check your newsletter for times and dates.

Metalsmithing: Please check your newsletter for times and dates.

Lapidary is running fine. Left Trim saw is working, the right trim saw needs some attention.

Future Rockhounds meet on 4th Thursdays of the month. They will be gold panning on the 22nd.

Picnic is June 10th. We need a volunteer for the BBQ planning. Meeting time is 9-3 with food served between 11-11:30. Location is the Monte Sano State Park biker's trailhead.

The next Dixie mineral trip is to Dorchester, South Carolina on June 24th looking for both minerals and fossils. Please check the newsletter for more details.

Bruce Kowalczyk is moving this summer to San Diego. He is having a rock sale May 27th and 28th.

We have a new projector for future presentations. Thank you, Tony.

We will have a picnic and a meeting in June.

We are starting to plan the fall show. We need volunteers. We need people to chair the different positions. We need a volunteer coordinator and more volunteers. We are working on getting red hats and/or vests with HGMS patches on them. We want a uniformed look for our volunteers.

Next Meeting is June 27th.

Meeting closed.

Tonight's Program is show and tell.

Les Bartel brought slabs in his home-built lighted display case with geodes, plus jewelry he has made and a sphere made on our grinding wheels.

Shelley Curran brought stones that show shimmer, shine, and play of color. Opals, Tiger's eye, Alexandrite, with many more.

James Yack brought iron ore, slag glass, and coral from the creek at the Cumberland Furnace field trip.

Bill Friday brought a really nice brittle star plate donated by Myra Soroczak. He brought three items from Jerusalem - Dead Sea salt, limestone and basalt. He also brought some wonderful trilobites.

Mike Harrison brought some of his favorite blue stones from the Cumberland Furnace site.

Louise Fletcher brought one of her first stones, Turkish stick agate a favorite, and some of her jewelry pieces.

Anthony Zwilling wanted everyone wanted to see our new poop, in the form of a coprolite emoji.

James Yack, Recording Secretary



June Meeting Speaker - The James Webb Space Telescope

Dr. Naveen Vetcha is a Challenge Manager and Team lead at ERC-Oasis supporting Jacobs ESSCA contract at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. He supports NASA's Centennial Challenges Program (CCP). CCP's goal is to leverage citizens, academia, and industry to help fill technology gaps that will enable sustainable human space exploration. He is also a part-time instructor at the University of Alabama in Huntsville's College of Engineering. Prior to this, he was a staff engineer at ManTech where he was the lead test analyst for James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) Sunshield's shape analysis. He has authored/co-authored 19 publications in international conferences and journals.

He is an Associate Fellow of AIAA and a member of AAAS. He is an amateur astronomer and is the current outreach Coordinator at Huntsville based Von Braun Astronomical Society (VBAS). Dr. Vetcha received MS & PhD degrees in Mechanical Engineering from University of California Los Angeles, MTEch in Mechanical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, India, and BE in Mechanical Engineering from Osmania University, India.



Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

Metals will NOT have a July project class. We will still have open studio at the regular times of Monday and Thursday 5-9:00pm.

All three of us are traveling this month. In addition to that Kathy and I will be taking classes. Busy month for all. We promise to bring back some new things from William Holland to share.

Certification/Safety Classes: The next Certification/Safety Class has been *tentatively* scheduled for Monday, **July 24**. Please send your name and contact information (name, email address, and cell phone number (for text messages) to Certifications@wildivystudio.com to get on the list for the next Certification Class. Seats will be filled in the order I receive them. If you end up on the wait list, you will be added to the next scheduled class.

CERTIFICATION CLASS INFORMATION – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

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 about a week 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

Facebook Users: 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:

Kathy Bowman
Shelley Curran
Jan Edmunds
Annie Diekmann
Opening
Shelley Curran
Kathy Bowman

Tools/Equipment Inventory
Store Manager
Kit Manager
Webpage & Social Media Management

The Picnic in the Park. We had forty or so attendees, who enjoyed the fun and fellowship, and had an opportunity to shop from amongst members who came to sell their displayed wares. The Club does not charge a fee, and the array of treasures was dazzling. Perfect weather with cool temps, and plenty of shade,





Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News *By Leslie Malakowsky* June 2023

Hello jewelry makers! RCJ is open to all HGMS members 16 and older. All skill levels are welcome! **Signups have started for 3rd quarter classes!** (July is for Holiday Preparation and August focuses on Fall!)

Remaining 2nd Quarter Classes:

June 28: Double-Drilled Byzantine (DD Byz) Bracelet. Bring your own double-drilled stone beads and jump rings. Kit contains beading wire, wire guards, crimps, crimp covers, and a clasp. Kit cost varies depending on what you ordered. Bring 2 pairs of small flat nose pliers, crimp pliers, and cutters.

June 28: The “Fortune’s Wheel” Donut class has been rescheduled for the June 28th make up day. Remember to bring small flat nose pliers, a 3/8” wood dowel or cherry stick, cutters, and safety glasses, if you have them. You can work on your DDByz bracelet then, too!

3rd Quarter Classes:

Unless otherwise indicated, all kits are \$5.

July 5: Layered Metal Earrings, 3rd in series, Sawed Shapes. Saw tree and star shapes in silver metal (layer 1). Place layer 1 on layer 2 (green metal) and attach earring findings. Patterns, saws, and files



provided. Bring 2 pairs of flat nose or chain nose pliers and a marker.

July 19: Christmas Tree Chainmaille Earrings. Weave tree trunks in 2x2 chain using brown rings, attach branches (green rings), ornaments (multi-color rings), stars, and earring findings. Bring 2 pairs of flat nose pliers, chain nose pliers, round nose pliers, and cutters.

Aug 2: Spider Web Pendant & Earrings. Aug 16: Pinecone Chainmaille Earrings.

Sep 6: Inlayed Chainmaille Loom Bracelet, design your own, individual orders. Cost TBA.

Sep 20: Love Knot (aka Fourever) Chainmaille Bracelet, individual orders. Cost TBA.

Meeting Times/Reservations:

We meet for Classes from 6p-9p on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. We meet for Make Up from 2p-5p on 2nd, 4th, and 5th Wednesdays. The front doors will be unlocked for the first hour. After that, you’ll need to call Judy or Theresa to let you in.

Class signups will begin for each respective quarter in: **Nov - 1st Quarter, Feb - 2nd Quarter, May - 3rd Quarter, Aug - 4th Quarter.** Our classroom holds 16-20 students. Overflow may carry over to our Make Up days. Signup sheets are available at RCJ meetings, or you may contact Theresa Chivers **a month before class** at: rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com. **NOTE:** When you sign up for a class, you are responsible for the cost of that class and for attending. We send out texts and/or emails often. Some kind of reply is necessary.



Pebble Pups - Thursday April 27, 6:30

For those who missed it, we had an awesome time catching “Gold Rush Fever” on Monte Sano after we had lunch at the picnic. ! I brought a container that I knew had gold flake in it and I “panned” it to show what it looks to find gold in your pan. Angela brought some “paydirt” from California and it proved to be really good. We had enough for everyone to find some gold and we had three young ladies walk up from the hiking trail and join us in the fun. We also had a few adults get “Gold Rush Fever”! After everyone panned, I set up the sluice and we ran some dirt that Myra Soroczak gave us and it too had some gold specks in it. It is amazing how no one wants to quit when there is “gold in them there hills!” But It was about 3:30 when we packed it up and called it a “prosperous” day.



Earth Processes

This Thursday, June 22nd, I will be presenting a program for the Pebble Pups on Gold (and maybe other precious minerals), where it is found, how it is refined and the true value of it. That will be June 22nd, at 6:30 at the HGMS RCJ room in the Sandra Moon Ed Center (the old Grissom High Field House) in front of the Pickle Ball courts (And behind the gymnasium).

I also wanted to share a cool website on the three types of rocks; igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. http://www.minsocam.org/msa/collectors_corner/id/rock_key
This website is called “The Rock Identification Key” by Don Peck, Mineral Society Of America.

There is also another website called the “Rockhound Resource”, maintained by Mike Rhea and he shares his knowledge as a professional geologist, avid rockhound and his adventures with his wife and daughter as they travel the world collecting rocks and polishing them in tumblers.

His website is: <https://rockhoundresource.com/>

And he has articles on the best gear, state guide, rockhounding, lapidary & tumbling and cool info!

Thanks, Mike



Brad's Bench Tips

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" 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 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.



ONE PART DIE FORMING

An easy way to make large and strong components for your jewelry designs while keeping the weight of precious metal to a minimum is done with simple tools in a process called one-part die forming. Complex 3-D shapes can be made quickly from thin gauge sheet with just a piece of plastic and a dapping ball.

I make a forming die by sketching the shape I need on a piece of thick plastic. Then drill a hole and saw out the shape with a jeweler's saw and a coarse blade. When sawing, try to keep edges straight up and down. Refine the cut as needed with a sanding drum or file. Select a thickness of plastic that is just a little more than the amount of doming you want.



Note: I tend to use 1/4 inch or 3/8 inch plastic that I get as scraps from a local plastics shop.

To use the die, cut a piece of sheet about 3/8 inch wider than the hole in the die on all sides. Anneal the sheet and tape it down on the plastic. Use a dapping ball and hammer to create the domed shape. When the taped down edges begin to warp, planish them flat on the top of the die. Finally, if the sheet is to be domed deeply, you will need to anneal the metal occasionally.

One nice feature of this technique can be seen in the top and left of the picture. If the sawed walls are straight up and down, the hole on the back side is a mirror image of the hole on the top. Flipping it over allows you to produce a mirror image shape as needed to make left and right earrings or both sides of an irregular shaped bead as shown.

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.



Tellus Science Museum

Just hours away is the Tellus Science Museum, a worldclass 120,000 square foot museum located in Cartersville, GA just off I-75 at exit 293. The museum's exhibits open minds and ignite a passion for science. Tellus features four main galleries: The Weinman Mineral Gallery, The Fossil Gallery, science in Motion and The Collins Family My Big Backyard. A 120-seat digital planetarium and an observatory with a state-of-the-art 20-inch telescope is also located at Tellus. Eye-popping exhibits like an 80 foot-long Brontosaurus and a replica Wright flyer excite and amaze visitors of all ages. Children will have a blast conducting hands-on experiments with light, sound, magnets and more. Dazzling gems and minerals sparkle and glow alongside interactive exhibits demonstrating how the Earth moves and changes. Tellus Science Museum has over 17,000 objects, including minerals, rocks, fossils, flight and space materials, books, and periodicals. These help the museum meet its mission of educating and inspiring visitors through dynamic exhibits and enriching experiences.

www.tellusmuseum.org

Mineral of the Month – Beryl (var. Morganite)

By Leslie A. Malakowsky



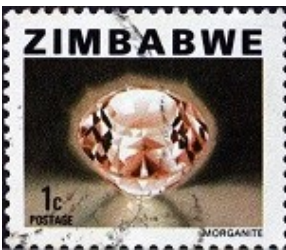
Morganite is a rare variety of the mineral beryl. Like beryl, it's a beryllium aluminum silicate with the formula $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18})$. This mineral was first discovered in 1910 in Madagascar and named "rose beryl" because of its color. Morganite can range from pink to orange to purple with a variety of hues in between. Color variations are due to impurities. For example, pinks are due to Mn^{2+} and/or Mn^{3+} and purples are due to Mn and Fe^{2+} combined. (Single crystals of purple morganite are rare because Mn and Fe ions tend to form color zones in the same crystal.) Morganite has a distinguishing optical characteristic called *pleochroism*, a phenomenon in which a mineral shows different colors or a more intense color when it's viewed at different angles, especially under polarized light. When viewed along its crystallographic axis, morganite's color is more intense.



Morganite crystal in matrix with quartz.

Morganite can easily be distinguished from colored varieties of quartz using hardness and crystal shape. Morganite is 7.5 to 8 on Mohs scale and quartz is 7, so morganite scratches quartz. And morganite is in the *hexagonal* crystal system, forming short-prismatic to thick-tabular crystals while quartz is in the *trigonal* system, typically forming 6-sided prisms with pyramidal tips.

In 1911, the New York Academy of Sciences renamed the mineral *morganite* after American financier John Pierpoint Morgan, who was one of the Western world's most prominent gemstone collectors in the early 20th century. George Kunz, Tiffany & Co.'s chief gemologist at the time, suggested the name to honor Morgan's philanthropic work. In the gem trade, morganite is also known as "pink beryl", "rose beryl", and "pink emerald" (not legally recognized by the Federal Trade Commission). Cesium-bearing morganite is known as "cesian (or caesian) beryl", one of the rarest members of the beryl family.



Gem morganite is found in pegmatites (an igneous rock with a very coarse texture of large interlocking crystals). The associated minerals include aquamarine (another variety of beryl), feldspars, micas, quartz, and tourmalines. Morganite is mined worldwide especially in Brazil and California and Maine. Fun facts: The largest specimen ever discovered was found in 1989 in Buckfield, Maine. The orange-hued crystal was 9" long and 12" wide and weighed (including its matrix) over 50lbs! A Zimbabwean postage stamp features a faceted morganite, and "Zimbabwe" in Shona, one of two major languages in the country, means "houses of stone".



This month's mineral was inspired by the traditional wedding month of June. Before 2011, morganite was largely unknown in the jewelry industry. But it's grown in popularity especially for engagement rings. *Brides* magazine and CNN news have listed it as a good alternative to diamond. In fact, morganite is the second most popular non-diamond stone, after sapphire. And morganite is more economical than diamond. A single carat of morganite costs about \$300 compared to a single carat of diamond, even with variations in cut, clarity, and color. However, due to its rarity, high-quality morganite is one of the most expensive *beryls* per carat. Deep pink morganite tends to be the most valuable, so paler stones are often radiated to improve their color and heat treated to remove yellow areas. So, buyer beware! Note: Use care when handling beryl. Beryllium is a known carcinogen when inhaled. References: wikipedia.org, mindat.org, jewellermagazine.com

June Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 Elizabeth Kowalczyk | 23 Jonathan Kowalczyk |
| 5 Emma Allen | 24 Tonya Sitko |
| 5 Ruth Kemper | 25 Caryl Jean Nixon |
| 14 David Young | 26 David O'Dell |
| 15 John Gibbs | 27 Dianna O'Dell |
| 15 Matthew Kowalczyk | 28 June Gibbs |
| 17 Cliff Cantrell | 28 Lori Willhoite |

Anniversaries

- 8 Charlie & Lori Willhoite
- 9 Jimi & Tonya Sitko
- 12 Wayne & Polly Falkenberg
- 13 John & Ivey Cook
- 19 Michael & Sheila Cape
- 21 Chris Ross
- 21 Lawrence & Diana Nelms
- 29 Caryl & David Nixon



June Pearl

July Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Katherine Allen | 12 Kathryn McCullough |
| 3 Doug Snodgrass | 18 Abigail Inman |
| 3 Jelcie Southard | 19 Kristi Kazi |
| 6 Isaac Burgess | 19 Stacy Walbridge |
| 6 Ken McCormick | 25 C.G. Lester |
| 9 Liz Cooper | 26 Clara Goode |
| 9 Brant Kosten | 27 Angela Kowalczyk |
| 12 Lucy Allen | 30 Bruce Kowalczyk |

Anniversaries

- 3 Jim & Bonnie Treadway
- 11 David & Nancy Hosmer
- 12 Josh & Amy Peeples
- 28 Steve & Sheila Tesh
- 31 Stacy & Kathi Walbridge



July Ruby

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, Les Bartel

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

Pebble Pups: Dee Dee Morton, Mike Harrison, Angela Mendoza, Bill Friday

Monday	Metal Smithing	5:00pm - 9:00pm
	Lapidary	1st Monday each month 9:45am-2:00pm
	Lapidary	6:00pm - 9:00pm
Tuesday	Lapidary	9:00am - 2:00pm
	HGMS Meetings	6:00pm - 8:30pm 4th Tuesdays
Wednesday	Lapidary	6:00pm - 9:00pm
	Rocket City Jewelers 1st & 3rd Weeks	- 6:00pm - 9:00pm
	Rocket City Jewelers 2nd, 4th, 5th Weeks	- 2:00pm - 5:00pm
Thursday	Lapidary	6:00pm - 9:00pm
	Metal Smithing	5:00pm - 9:00pm
	Pebble Pups	6:30pm 4th Thursdays
Friday	Lapidary	6:00pm - 9:00pm
Saturday	Metal Smithing	9:00am - 3:00pm irregular 1st Saturday of the Month



2023 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD

President– Anthony Zwilling - afzwillig@gmail.com

Vice President - Bill Friday - bill.Friday@earthlink.net

Recording Secretary: James Yack - jamesgyack@gmail.com

Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194 - claragoode1@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor: Bill Friday - 256-527-8227 - bill.friday@earthlink.net

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

Directors:

Gene Powers - genepowersgddm@gmail.com

Les Bartel - lester.bartel@gmail.com

Shelley Curran - curranshelley1@gmail.com

Theresa Chivers - rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com

2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Property: Michael Cape

macape@knology.net

Program Chair—Bill Friday

bill.friday@earthlink.net

Webpage: Leslie Malakowsky,

lmalakowsky@gmail.com

Auction Chair: Shelley Curran

curranshelley1@gmail.com

Membership: Theresa Chivers

rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com

Field Trips: Bill Friday

bill.friday@earthlink.net

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: 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>

SFMS: <https://www.southeastfed.org/newsletter> - new, under construction

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

2023 CALENDAR

- 27 Jun '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6::00pm
- 25 Jul '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6::00pm
- 22 Aug '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 26 Sep '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 13-15 Oct '23 - HGMS Fall Gem, Jewelry, and Mineral Show
Jaycee Building, 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL
- 24 Nov '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- Dec '23 - Christmas Dinner -
Date, time, and place to be determined
- 25 Jan '24 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 27 Feb '24 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm

Deadline for Next Newsletter
July 16, 2023

Dated material
Do not delay

June 2023

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