



Smoke Signals



Gem & Mineral Club

November 2011

Club Activities –

November meeting is Tuesday Nov 15th at 6pm. Hauberg Civic Center, Rock Island, IL. We will be creating decorations to decorate a tree and room at Hauberg for Christmas. We will also continue discussion about donation of Books and/or Magazine Subscriptions to Public Library to promote an interest in Rocks.

Upcoming Events:

November 12-13: FREEPORT, IL, Annual Show, Northwest Illinois Rock Club, Highland Community College Student Ctr 2998 W Pearl City Rd Freeport, IL, Sat 9:00-5:00, Sun 10:00-4:00, Contact Brian Green, PO Box 396, Warren, IL 61087, (815) 745-2228, bgreen57@hotmail.com

18-20: ST. LOUIS, MO Mineral, fossil, and gem show sponsored by the St. Louis Mineral and Gem Society. **NEW VENUE!** Affton Community Center, 9801 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis, MO 63123. Friday 4 - 8 PM, Saturday 10 AM - 7 PM, Sunday 10 AM - 5 PM. \$3 general admission, \$1 students, children 13 and under are free. Free rockhound starter kit for children 13 and younger. See club website for show flier and more info: StLRockClub.com, Melissa Perucca show chairman, PeruccaM@aol.com.

Our Club Show

Well another year has past and another Fall show has come and gone. This year's Fall show was a success. Though our volunteers were thin those who help were great. Thank you very much to those who helped – from set up on Friday morning to tear down on Sunday night. You were all wonderful.

Dues are Due –

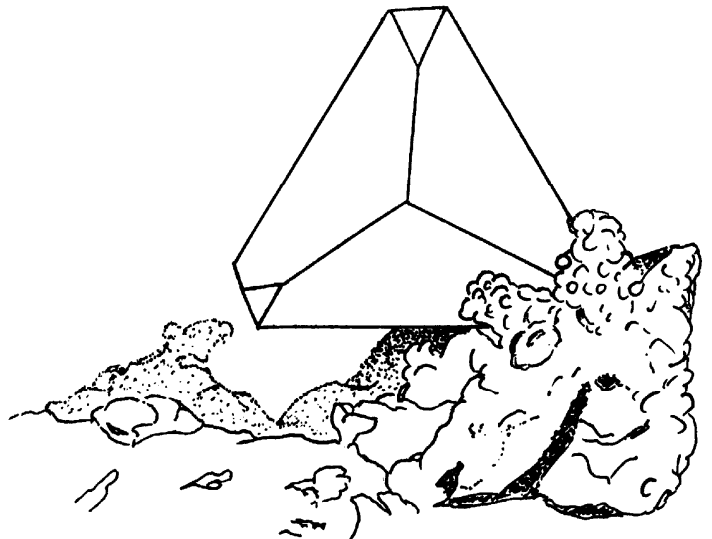


Membership dues for 2012 are due January 1st, 2012; If you have joined the club September or later this year your dues are already paid. Please mail your check to:

**Kellie Moore
718 Franklin Ave Davenport. IA 52806**

**Individuals - \$15.00
Senior Individual - \$10.00
Senior Couple - \$12.00
Family - \$20.00**

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November Birthstone: Citrine

Birthstone Color: Yellow Gold

November's gemstone, Citrine, is as warm as a Van Gogh painting of sunflowers. The name Citrine comes from an old French word, "citrin", meaning lemon. One of the more rare forms of quartz, this gemstone ranges in color from the palest yellow to a dark amber named Madeira because of its resemblance to the red wine.

Is it Citrine or Topaz?



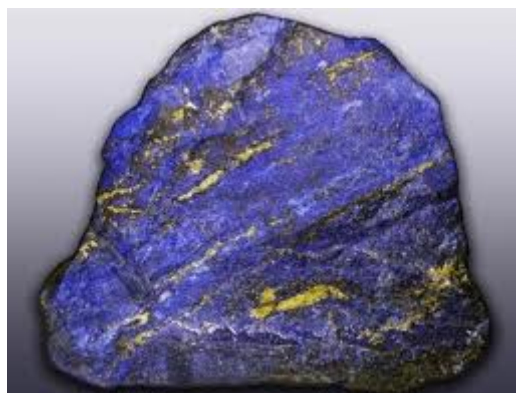
Clean the stone, then use a toothpick, put a drop of water on the table of the stone. The water will form a high bubble on real topaz. On quartz, the water flattens out.

From The Rockhounds Record, May 2004 via Strata Gems February 2005

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Lapis Lazuli or Sodalite?

Look for pyrite inclusions in lapis lazuli if you want to know whether you have sodalite, lapis, or imitation lapis.



- _ Lapis Lazuli—Look for pyrite inclusions.
- _ Sodalite—does not have pyrite inclusions.
- _ Imitation Lapis—inclusions are golden flakes.

Lapis Lazuli is the gemstone with a rich blue color. Lazurite is the mineral name of the gem and ornamental stone Lapis Lazuli. It has a hardness of 5 to 5½, is a sodium aluminum silicate with some sulphur.

Most of the properties of lazurite are similar to those of sodalite, but the association of pyrite with lazurite determines the identification. Sodalite is a sodium aluminum silicate with chlorine. It is 5½ to 6 in hardness, and the color is usually blue but may be white, grey, yellow, or red. It is associated with other feldspathoids, particularly nepheline.

Lapis requires fine sanding to prevent pyrite inclusions from protruding during polishing.

Sodalite polishes perfectly on felt with cerium oxide, after a fine job of sanding. Hydrochloric acid is good for testing lapis lazuli. A drop of it on the blue stone creates an odor of hydrogen sulfide. On the white areas it usually effervesces because the white is usually calcite. This test will distinguish Lapis from Sodalite.

The Mountain Gem 11/01, via Blue Agate News, Rock Collector & Telephone City Crystal, THE BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE JUNE 2011, Via Pica Pick Oct 2011 Volume XXXVII Issue II

Mineral or Rock?

Rocks are aggregates of minerals - usually several, but sometimes only one or two. Similarly, minerals are either free, uncombined native elements, or elemental compounds. Gold, silver and copper are metallic native elements. Feldspars, pyroxenes, amphiboles and micas are rock forming silicates - compounds in which metallic elements combine with linked Si₀ tetrahedra.

What is Mineral?

With a few notable exceptions (water, mercury, opal) minerals are solid, inorganic elements or elemental compounds. They have definite atomic structures and chemical compositions which vary within fixed limits. Each and every quartz crystal, whether crystallized in a sandstone vein, or in volcanic lava, possesses the same chemical and physical properties.

What is a rock?

Rocks are the essential components of our planet. They are classified into three major groups, determined by how they were formed: igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary. Rocks are aggregates of many different mineral grains, which are fused, cemented or bound together.

Obtained from: A Smithsonian Handbook: Rocks and Minerals

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HOW TO MAKE A SET OF COASTERS

Get out that box of slabs you plan to use some day and blow off the dust. Pick out six that you can trim to 4 inch squares. Then, round the corners and bevel the edges so that the squares have smooth edges. Polish the best side - either on your equipment or by spraying with a waterproof acrylic. Back the other side with self-sticking felt. The thickness of the squares does not have to match. Finished? You now have a set of six unique coasters in a variety of colors and patterns. Of course, if you have a huge supply of slabs and want a matched set of coasters - **go for it!** They make nice gifts and Christmas is not too far away.

No author given - from Post Rock 05 / 02

Via -Pickin's & Diggin's 05 / 03

THE CALGARY LAPIDARY JOURNAL OCT. 2008

Bench Tips

By Brad Smith

HOMEMADE WAX TOOLS

Save your used X-Acto or scalpel blades for utility work on the bench. They're wonderful for delicate wax work. Use a cutoff blade or a grinding wheel to shape the blades to what you need. For instance, you can carve away excess metal on the spine to make yourself some narrow carving knives that do a great job of detailing small areas of your waxes.

RING SIZE VARIATIONS

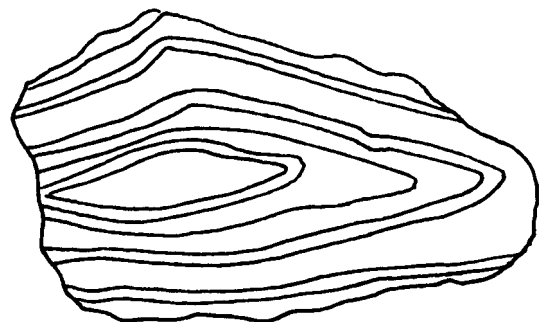
The numerical sizes marked on ring gauges and ring mandrels are often not the same across different manufacturers. If you're using a ring gauge to measure a customer, be sure to compare the markings on the gauge with the markings on the mandrel you use to make the ring. They may not be the same.

Also, you may have to adjust a little for the width of the ring shank. If you're making a wide shank ring, the ring generally has to be a little bit larger in diameter than the ring gauge size in order to get a comfortable fit.

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Acknowledgement to be included with each publication:

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at
groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/
or
facebook.com/BenchTips



Websites of the Month:

<http://www.beadsbaublesandjewels.com/>

Take the next step in your journey as a jewelry artist with **America's favorite jewelry-making TV show: *Beads, Baubles, and Jewels***.

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Master exciting new jewelry-making techniques step by step with wirework, seed-bead stitching, metalwork, and more made easy! Skip the guesswork with **expert tips, up-close shots, and easy-to-see steps. And more!**

PLUS! Download FREE projects, design tips, and more on the *Beads, Baubles, and Jewels* website.

<http://www.fossils-facts-and-finds.com/>

Fossils Rock!

This site is all about **fossils**. From showy pieces like the ammonites pictured here to the common crinoid stem you'll find it here. It is especially for **teachers, students, and homeschoolers** who want to put some **fun** into their **earth science classes**.

You don't have to be a paleontologist to enjoy learning about these extinct relics of the earth's history. You'll find teaching tips and innovative lesson plans, word puzzles and more about fossils and geologic time.



Our site will help you:

- Prepare fun and informative lessons to inspire your students' learning.
- With free, downloadable materials, puzzles, and lesson plans that you can put right into your classroom with minimal additional preparation.
- Learn about these ancient specimens, where and how to find them either through rock hounding or at good prices.

No matter if you are a teacher, a parent, a kid or kid-at-heart; we think you'll find lots of cool info throughout our site.



Buying Online

Anytime you are about to part with your hard-earned cash, you want to make certain you'll get what you're paying for. There are wide price variations, and you need to know

if those price variations express genuine value differences. Sometimes they DON'T! If you'd like to get some tips to help you buy with confidence, check out [Buying Fossils Online](#).

Then follow this link [fossils](#) for fossil deals from our sister site at www.fossilicious.com.

We've worked with wholesale dealers from all around the world and have learned a lot about how these ancient relics are sold and traded. This lets us pass on the Do's and Don'ts's when purchasing so you won't have to learn the hard way!

We strive to provide our customers with quality service: feedback, comments, and questions are ALWAYS WELCOME! Let us hear from you! Tell us what we can do that we aren't already doing! Hey! We're teachers! We value all learning—EVEN OUR OWN!



Mosasaur skeleton

Tucson Ring Meteorite

BLACKHAWK GEM & MINERAL CLUB MEETING MINUTES

This is a reproduction of the Tucson Ring meteorite, appearing as it did back in the 1800s. It has a flat bottom (which the reproduction is sitting on in this picture) and during part of its history it was partially buried so that the flat top could be used as an anvil in the Tucson presidio.

Recently this unusual meteorite has been positioned as a centerpiece of the new Smithsonian meteorite display in Washington, DC. First documented by Jesuit Missionaries before 1736, the meteorite weighs 1,400 pounds. It was rediscovered in 1857 by Dr. B.D.J Irwin lying half buried in the streets of a village near Tucson. He claimed it for the Smithsonian and arranged transportation. The meteorite arrived at the Smithsonian in 1863. Its greatest exterior diameter is 49 inches; the short axis is 36 inches; the greatest width of the opening is 28 inches. Its composition is principally of iron.



A reproduction of the Tucson Ring Meteorite on display at the Arizona State Museum. Photo by C. Safris

September 20, 2011

Present: Kellie Moore, Connie Huber, Vickie Pearson, Diane Preslar, Lori Johnson, Terry Falk, Anne Lucas, Rick Smith, Paul Heuer, John Oostenryk, David Lee

Next meeting: October 18, 6:00 pm, Hauberg Civic Center

I. Announcements

- Meeting started with a Silent Auction in the basement.
- Kellie Moore announced that the Hauberg Civic Center would be celebrating its 100th anniversary and had asked the club to set up a table display for the event on September 24th. Kellie asked for volunteers for the event.

II. Discussion

- Discussions began with the Board of Directors nominations.
- President: Connie Huber made a motion to nominate Kellie Moore and Vickie Pearson seconded the motion.
- Vice President: Lori Johnson made a motion to nominate Craig Moore and Anne Lucas seconded the motion.
- Connie Huber agreed to resume the treasurer position.
- Diane Preslar agreed to resume the secretary position.
- 3 year Director: Kellie Moore nomination Mary Foulk and Terry Falk seconded the motion.

III. Roundtable

Kellie Moore brought up the idea for group discussion for the club to use money to purchase a fluorescent display. Vickie Pearson had been contacted by a seller with the equipment and with rocks for sell.

Meeting adjourned 7:27 pm

Respectfully submitted
Diane Preslar

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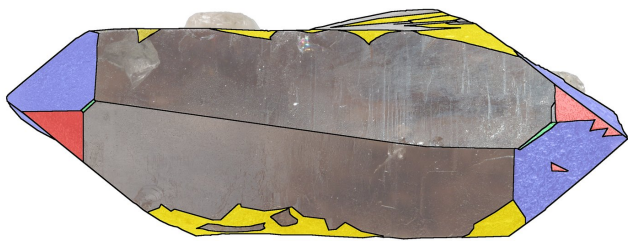
Gwindel Quartz Crystals

A lot of people are confused by the fact that quartz with macromosaic structure is often somewhat twisted around the c-axis and this is often reflected in the intergrowth of neighboring crystals.

There is a characteristic and "diagnostic feature" seen in many gwindels: the edge between the prism faces is more twisted than the gwindel itself.

One can only see that in a top view. If the edge is perfectly parallel to the other edges, one should double and triple check the specimen before making a claim.

The attached photo shows a top view of a clockwise twisted gwindel.



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example, putting them on a private web site, printing them in a public newspaper) is permitted without my written consent.

Disclaimer

I am *not* an expert, so information given on this page could be wrong. And if I were an expert, I could still be wrong! As always, it is best to gather information from different sources and draw your own conclusions.

If you think you found a mistake on these pages, don't hesitate to contact me. Remember that others visit these pages, too.

A m i r C h o s s r o w A k h a v a n
ac.akhavan@gmx.de

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For more information:

About Gwindel crystals:

<http://www.quartzpage.de/gwindel.html>

About Twinning:

http://www.quartzpage.de/crs_twins.html

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Ventilate!

by Ed Wengerd

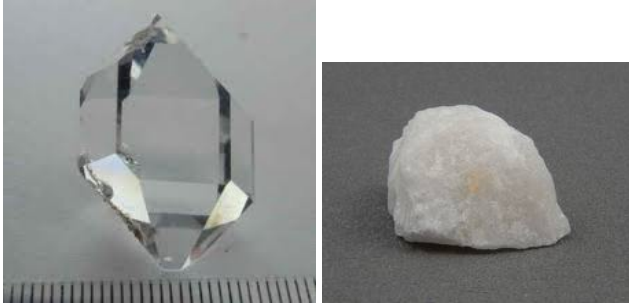
Some lapidary materials such as malachite and coral can be toxic when being worked. Always remember to ventilate your workspace, use lots of water and to be extra safe, wear a dust mask. Ideally, the mask should be the kind with exchangeable filters. Since we don't always know the composition of the materials we're working, it's not a bad idea to follow the suggested safety guidelines every time you saw or cut and polish a cabochon or slab a chunk of rock.

Via - Gem Cutters News - May 09

MAY 2011 THE CALGARY LAPIDARY JOURNAL

Meet the Quartz Family

Papa and Mamma Quartz Crystal belong to a very large family of rocks. They are called the **Quartz Crystal** Family to distinguish them from Uncle Agate's family and Aunt Opal's family, and a whole raft of cousin Quartzes. Then too, Mamma Quartz's maiden name was **Rock Crystal**. They came from Herkimer County, New York, and Papa often called her his little "Herkimer Diamond".



She was very lovely - nicely shaped and perfectly clear and sparkling. Papa Quartz was **Milky Quartz** and, while he was nicely shaped too, he didn't sparkle like Mamma. Papa and Mamma Quartz had quite a large family.

First there was lovely **Rose Quartz**.



She often bemoaned the fact that she was dumpy and didn't have Mamma's nice figure. But she was so sweet and rosy pink that no one cared about her shape. She got her healthy color from eating her Titanium every morning when she was a baby crystal.

Next came **Amethyst**.



She took after Mamma Quartz with her nice shape and sparkling, clear colour, except that Amethyst was the colour of violets. She hadn't much cared for Titanium when she was a baby but she loved Manganese which gave her the lovely lavender hue.

Smoky Quartz was the oldest boy in the family.



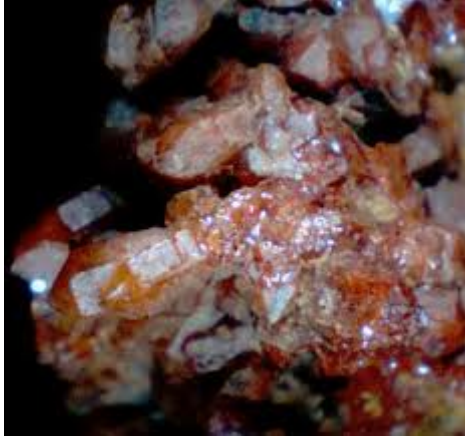
Mamma Quartz really had a time at breakfast with her babies; each one liked a different food. Smoky wouldn't eat anything but Carbon, so he had a grayish colour.

Little **Citrine Quartz** started out to look just like her sister Amethyst, but one day in the hot summer she got overheated and her lavender colour turned to a deep yellow. But she didn't care, really, because she was different from the others and still quite pretty.



The Quartz Crystal children had a younger brother whose name was **Ferruginous Quartz**, but almost everyone called him "Ferry". He was quite a handsome boy with an attractive red colour which Mamma Quartz insisted was because he was such

a good child and ate his daily portion of Iron eagerly.



That's just about all of the Quartz Crystal family except the Ghost.



He was known as **Phantom Crystal** and he looked like all the rest of the family except that you could look right through him and see another crystal inside.

The Quartz Crystals were all quite important people: Papa Quartz was content to do just ordinary things but Mamma was a brilliant actress and little Rose, Amethyst and Citrine Quartz Crystal all grew up to be lovely jewels. Smoky and Ferruginous, the boys, took after their father and worked at ordinary jobs. Papa and Mamma Quartz Crystal were certainly very proud of their big family.

From - The Jaspilite

Via - Glacial Drifter 03 / 82 and Oregon Rockhound 11 / 82 CLJ - May 2007, Via MARCH 2011 THE CALGARY LAPIDARY JOURNAL

HINTS & TIPS

from the exchange newsletters

SILVERSMITHING

Having trouble **soldering** a lighter piece to a heavier one? Use tons of flux, pre-melt solder onto the lighter piece, and only heat the heavier piece, possibly from the bottom.

What is the **heat range** of that snippet of solder you just found on your bench? You will know for sure if you paint both sides of your solder sheets with permanent markers when you buy them, e.g. - use red for hard, black for medium and green for easy.

Want to **make balls of silver or gold** in a consistent size? Put your soldering block on an angle, with a tray or bowl of water under its lowest edge. Put jump rings on the block and heat. As the metal heats and balls form, they will roll off the block, smoothing their shape and rolling into the water.

Want to **prevent fire scale**? Put flux all over the piece you are soldering. The heat will cause the flux to form a 'glass' coating that will prevent the copper in the alloy from reacting to the oxygen in the air to form fire scale.

Want to keep your sterling silver from tarnishing? **Tarnish** is caused by sulfur in the air. Chalk is a natural absorber of sulfur, so keep chalk around your sterling silver.

Need to **prevent solder from flowing** to a different joint or different metal? Paint the area where you do not want solder to flow with typist's correction fluid. Rouge, wax or other things will also stop solder flow, but the correction fluid is cheap, easy to see, and comes with its own applicator.

LAPIDARY

Trying to get a polish on a **porous cab** that doesn't fade out? After final polish, apply a light coat of wax and then buff it off again. The wax will seal the stone's porosity and water won't be able to be absorbed to cause oxidation.

For the gloss finish on **tiger-eye**, polish once, dry the stone, then put a drop of vinegar on it. Let it stand for a few minutes, then give it a second polish.

When using **chrome oxide** for polishing jade, mix it with a solution of ½ water and ½ vinegar.

Mother of Pearl for inlay work can be softened by soaking it in white vinegar. It then can be easily cut. from many bulletins

JUNE 2011 THE CALGARY LAPIDARY JOURNAL

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2011 Officers and Directors

President	Kellie Moore	(563) 445-3034
Vice President	Bret Henderson	(309) 626-0107
Treasurer	Connie Huber	(563) 340-1585
Secretary	Diane Preslar	(309) 786-1523
Director (3-year)	Craig Moore	(563) 445-3034
Director (2-year)	Vickie Pearson	(309) 235-6128
Director (1-year)	Linda Maro	(309) 797-3275

Committee Chairpersons

Membership	Kellie Moore	(563) 445-3034
Publicity	Craig Moore	(563) 445-3034
Youth Group	Vacant	
Field Trips	Bret Henderson	(309) 626-0107
Displays	Bret Henderson	(309) 626-0107
Rock Show	Kellie Moore	(563) 445-3034
Scholarship	Board of Directors	(563) 445-3034
Bulletin Editor	Kellie Moore	(563) 445-3034
Property	Board of Directors	(563) 445-3034
Ways and Means	Board of Directors	(563) 445-3034
Historian	Vacant	
MWF Liaison	Vacant	

The purpose of this non-profit organization is to promote interest in collecting, studying and working with gems and minerals and fossils. Organized in 1955, the Black Hawk Club joined the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies in 1959. It is also a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month, September through May at 6:00P.M. in the Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island, IL. Picnics are held at various locations during June, July, and August. Annual Dues: Individual Membership: \$15.00, Senior Couples: \$12.00, Senior Individual: \$10.00, Family: \$20.00.

Contributions: Submissions (announcements, photographs, notes, letters, articles, etc.) are actively solicited from BHGMC members. Copyrighted material submitted for publication must be accompanied by a written release from the copyright holder. All material submitted is subject to editing. Unless previously arranged, all submissions become property of the Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. When requested, original and personally-written articles will be published with a copyright notice in the author's name; otherwise all submissions will be published without individual copyright. No anonymous submissions will be considered; however, the submitter's name will be withheld or a pseudonym may be used at the submitter's request. The deadline for all submitted work is the 20th of the month before it is to be published. Late and/or unused entries may be published in later issue.

Editor: Kellie Moore 718 Franklin Ave, Davenport, IA 52806.

Disclaimer: The conclusions and opinions expressed in *Smoke Signals* are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Officers, Editor, or members of the club.

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Visit us at:

www.blackhawkgemandmineralclub.com

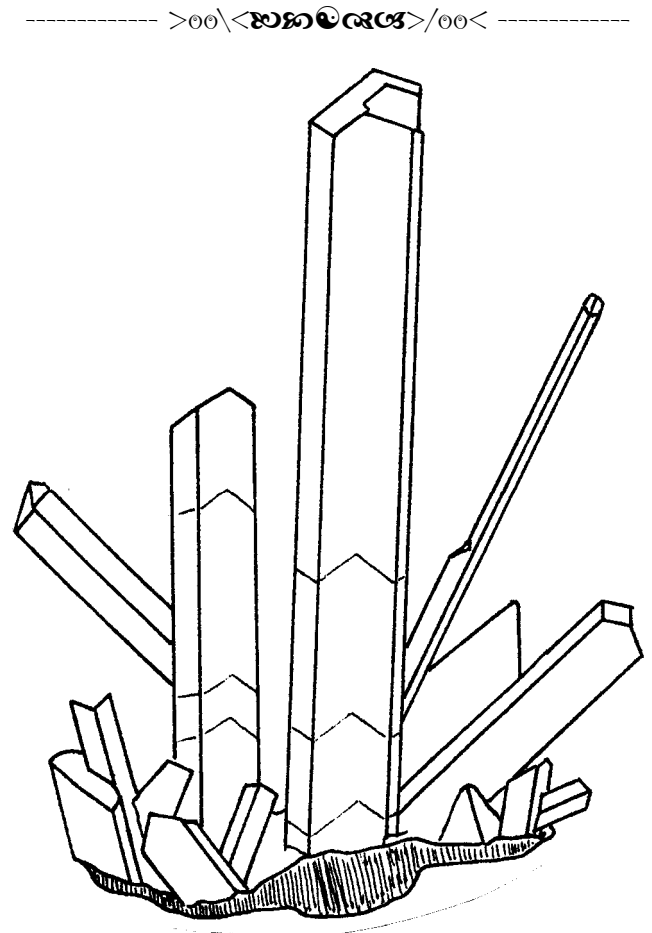
Affiliations

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies

<http://www.amfed.org/mwf/>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

<http://www.gaminal.org/afms.htm>



Smoke Signals



**Black Hawk
Gem and Mineral
Club, Inc.**

November 2011

Volume 56 Number 11

**Blackhawk Gem & Mineral Club
Kellie Moore
718 Franklin Ave
Davenport, IA 52806**

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