

Rock Club Christmas Party by Dave Lines,
Pictures by Al Raucheisen and Debbie Curtin



First of all, we owe a huge “thank you” to the good Lord for beautiful weather --- almost 60 degrees and sunny. It was literally the only dry day tucked into a long string of rainy ones. As another year had flown by, we celebrated the 2019 Christmas season with great fellowship, a delicious potluck feast and a fun gift exchange at the home of Dave and Ann in La Plata.

It was really amazing --- a bit miraculous, in fact --- that the variety of potluck items were so well balanced. For example --- the hors d'oeuvres included a shrimp platter, cheese crackers, taco chips and an artichoke dip. The dinner items included baked salmon, roasted chicken, a pot of chili, more shrimp, macaroni and cheese, scalloped potatoes, three bean salad, grapes and homemade muffins. The dessert table was beautiful as well as scrumptious --- berry pie, pecan pie, chocolate pie, brownies and three kinds of cookies --- (my apologies for anything I missed).

About 22 of our members participated including Bill and Debbie, Jennifer, Carole and Al, Polly, Harry and Tina (returning from Pennsylvania!), Joe, Teresa, Ralph and Mary, Tim and Lorna, Cheryl, Rich, Greta, Mike, Katie, Dave and Ann, and Lorna L. Soon after guests arrived and parked in the pasture, they turned their food over to Ann, Polly and Carole (who were so organized and made it look all so easy), filled out name

tags and put their gifts under the Christmas tree. Then people either visited Dave's rock room or simply enjoyed the snacks before dinner, or both. Meanwhile, the dining room door remained closed so no one could peek inside.

Around 4 pm, we said a blessing and opened the dining room to everyone. The table was magnificent! It was covered with beautifully arranged dishes and a stunning centerpiece composed of glittering rocks, minerals, crystals, jewelry, lapidary creations, gem trees and fossils. Lots of oohs and aahs. Polly said it was gorgeous! And the food was really, really delicious and many folks returned for seconds. The desserts were equally tasty. What a meal!

About 5 pm or so, Polly let everyone pick a slip of paper with a number on it. Then she explained the rules for the "Chinese gift exchange" --- the key being that when your number was drawn, you could either pick a gift from under the tree or steal a gift from someone else. But a gift could only be stolen twice. That led to many entertaining encounters. Some folks had the knack of not being able to hang on to a gift very long. Tim S. was one who probably chose and opened 6 or 7 gifts and then subsequently had each of them stolen. Things eventually quieted down after many of the gifts were stolen twice. The gifts were very generous and thoughtful with pretty rocks, useful tools, interesting books and rock games.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable afternoon with old and new friends. Later after the party, Lorna L. declared that she thought it was the best Christmas party that the Rock Club had ever had --- high praise from one of our founding members and past presidents (several times). Greetings to you all for a happy and healthy New Year!











