

## AQUAMARINE

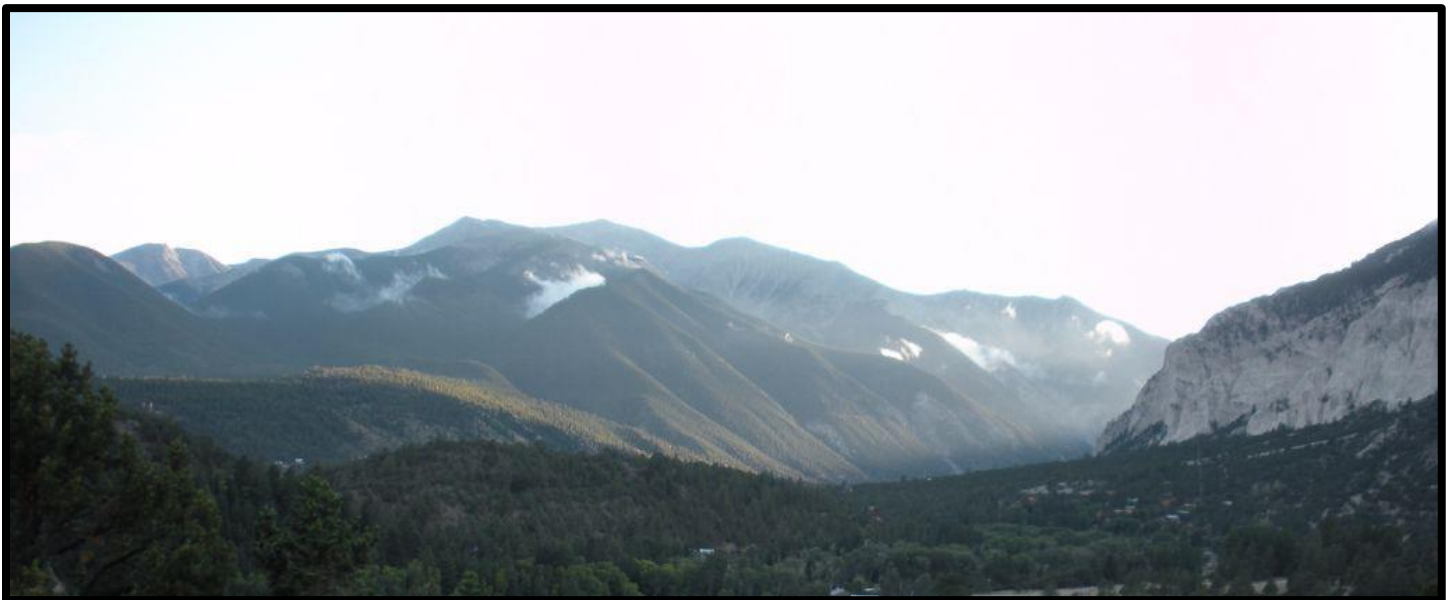
Aquamarine is the blue or blue-green member of the beryl family of gems. Gem grade aqua comes from many places around the world: the USA, Brazil, Madagascar, Nigeria, Pakistan and Vietnam and Afghanistan. The blue aqua from Mt. Antero, Colorado ranks among the finest.

It is the 26<sup>th</sup> highest peak in North America at 14,226 ft. It is a spectacular mountain and yields a variety of minerals to a lucky few who are willing to risk serious illness or death from altitude sickness, hypothermia, deadly lightning, and rock slides; it will kill you in a heartbeat if you are careless! If you decide you want to collect, then at the very least, read Jacobson's book on Antero and hiring a local guide will save you a lot of time and money! Do NOT collect on someone's claim!!

Our first trips were in the '80s and the "road" up there was a challenge even for a Jeep! We felt a real sense of accomplishment just to get to the top of the switchbacks. We still had empty pouches coming down.

Antero recently became well known through a TV show about the Antero prospectors. The show can make you think it's easy to just run up there and start picking up crystals. I can tell you firsthand, that every aqua crystal that comes from Antero, has been found with hard work and lots of luck.

One of the most important things to remember if you do make it, is to take a break, turn around and look where you're at. The incredible scenery is what it is really all about -- the rocks are just a bonus from the Good Lord! A couple of photos are shown here from some of our past trips.



*Evening shadows march down Chalk Creek Canyon. Mt Antero is the last 14,000 ft peak in the Sangre de Cristo range. On the right are the Chalk Cliffs of Mt. Princeton, first 14teener in the Collegiate Range.*



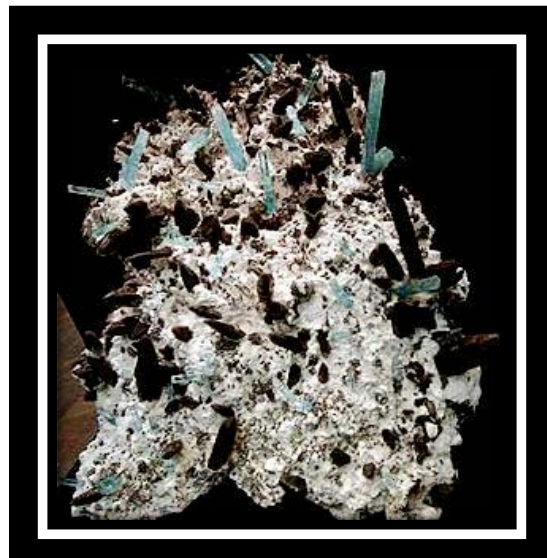
*Top left: Mt. Antero switchbacks looking north from 'the saddle'. The last two trees at timberline are on the left.*

*Right: Brian's claim. Small figure at outcrop is one of Brian's sons. Two of my rockhound friends are several hundred ft below screening for aqua crystals.*

*Left: Rick on Mt. White. A 1000 ft dropoff is behind me and distant valley leads south to Salida, Colorado.*

*Below : The aquamarine monster specimen named "Dianne's Pocket" was found a few years ago on Antero and is now in the Denver Museum of Natural History.*

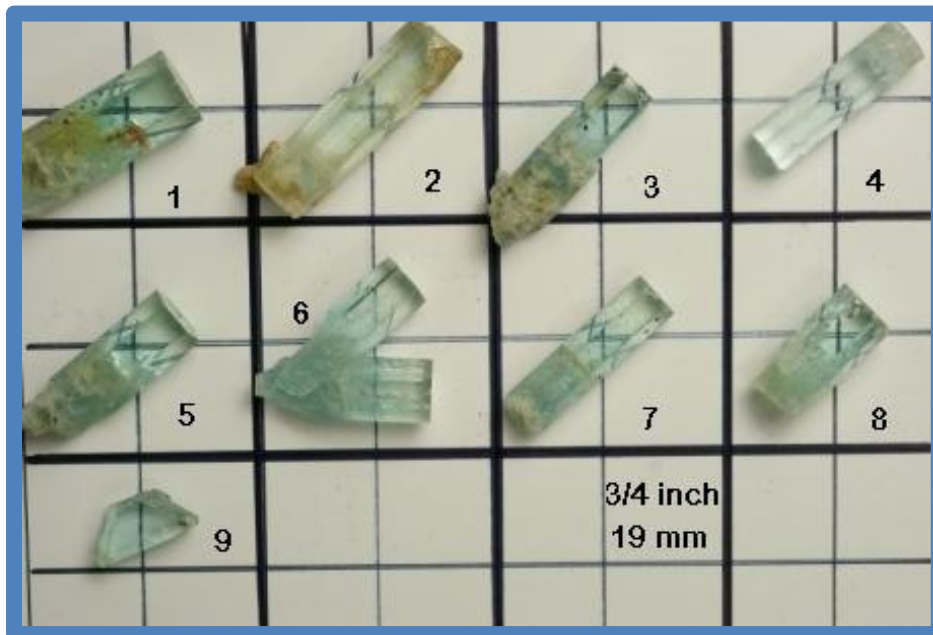
*Bottom left: One of Rick's aquas in a "Zinger Cut" now in a private collection. Facet rough and mineral specimens are listed below.*



## Aquamarine Facet Rough and Specimens

Our faceted gems are currently sold out. Orders for custom cuts are welcome. We have aqua rough from various locations and some very special facet grade crystals from Mt. Antero. Also specimens and a few smokeys are soon to be listed.

For gem collectors interested in Mt Antero, we have one copy for sale of Mark Jacobson's book "Antero Aquamarines", 1993 edition which is now out of print. It is a must have for Antero Aqua lovers and prospectors. Check out the gem and mineral books now on sale.



Aquamarine crystals - Facet rough Grid squares are approx 3/4 inch or 19 mm

### Top row

1.	Brazil	94.79 ct	47 x 14.7 mm.	Etched bottom.	approx 18 mm cuttable.	\$220 <span style="color: red;">SOLD</span>
2.	Pakistan	84 ct	50 x 13 mm	matrix bottom	approx 35 mm cuttable	\$120
3.	Madagascar	58.55 ct	35 x 12.5 mm	matrix bottom	approx 15 mm cuttable	\$150
4.	Pakistan	40.7 ct	39 x 9.8 mm	very clean xyl	approx 29 mm cuttable	\$90

### Second Row

5.	Brazil	54 ct	44 x 12 mm	etched bottom	approx 14 mm cuttable	\$160
6.	Madagascar	82.55ct	38 and 35 mm	veils & flaws	approx 30mm ttl cuttable	\$140 <span style="color: red;">SOLD</span>
7.	Brazil	42.66 ct	41 x 10 mm	very clean	approx 21 mm cuttable	\$130
8.	Madagascar	44.65 ct	29 x 13 mm	veil on one flat	approx 13 mm cuttable	\$90

### Bottom

9.	Nigeria	17.82 ct	24 x 11 x 7.5 mm	Very clean	approx 90% cuttable	\$240
----	---------	----------	------------------	------------	---------------------	-------

Grid squares are approx. 3/4 inch or 19 mm



1" grid

**Top row L to R**

- 10. Pakistan 2 pcs 20 x 10 and 7 x 6 mm 21.8 ct ttw lg pc terminated & very clean. \$130
- 11. Antero Goshenite 20 x 8.5 mm 14.2 ct terminated two light flaws \$48
- 12. Brazil Goshenite 20.5 ct 26 x 10 x 8mm terminated surface striations. Very clean. \$60
- 13. Africa light blue 3.3 ct 39 x 9.8 mm surface striations/ clean \$20

**Second Row**

- 14. Antero 3 pcs 1 goshenite, 2 aqua 10, 7, & 8mm 4.87 ct ttw ground xyls some veils \$25
- 15. Madagascar 82.55ct 38 and 35 mm veils & flaws approx 30mm ttl cuttable \$85
- 16. Brazil 42.66 ct 41 x 10 mm very clean approx 21 mm cuttable \$128
- 17. Colorado parcel 14 pcs 65 ct ttw. **SOLD**

**Bottom**

- 18. Colorado 17.82 ct 24 x 11 x 7.5 mm Very clean approx 90% cuttable **SOLD**
- 19. Africa 9.4 ct 14.58 x 10.3 x 5.73. 90% clean – veil on one edge. \$165
- 20. Colorado, Brazil, Africa Mix plus 6 Morganite preforms. 56 carats \$545
- 21 Colorado Mt. Antero crystals 13.7 ct 50 to 90% clean. Top color. 5 pcs \$209

Got a comment or question? Email Rick: [stinsons@gemservice.com](mailto:stinsons@gemservice.com)

**Click on the "BACK" arrow at top, to return to "Gems A to Z" web page**