

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter



OCTOBER 2017

Volume 58 Issue 9

2018 Elections

At the November general meeting we will have elections for the 2018 Board. The positions and slate of officers are as follows:

President—Jef Wright

Vice-President—David Folberg

Secretary—Fred Floyd

Treasurer—Toni Floyd

If you are interested in any of these positions that are elected, please contact Bob Johnson at 760-809-0152 or email Bob at N78532@yahoo.com

Other positions available to be appointed are as follows:

- ◆ Director of Communications
- ◆ CFMS Chair
- ◆ Parliamentarian
- ◆ Programs
- ◆ Field Trip Coordinator
- ◆ Show Chairman

If you are interested in any of those positions, please also contact Bob Johnson.

October's Meeting.

October's meeting was short and sweet so that we could get on with our Annual Silent Auction. Many people came away with some great goodies. I for one came away with quite a few wonderful specimens. I hope everyone enjoyed the opportunity to make a few dollars and to spend a few!

Note from the PGMC President:

As the outgoing President of PGMC, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the board as well as those who served in filling the chair positions and all those who volunteered their time and talents over the last three years. I am proud to be a part of the accomplishments that have been made over this period of time. Communication and input have made the decision making process not only easy but correct. Palomar Gem & Mineral Club is very fortunate to have such talented and caring members associated with it. It has been not only an informative experience but a pleasurable one as well. Thank you all for all you have done.



Thank You

John Raabe

Retired PGMC President

PGMC Membership Drive 2018

Beginning November 1, we have begun our new membership year. At each meeting, we will have the new membership applications. Each year we require members to fill out a new membership form and liability form (on the backside of the application). This will allow us to have your most up-to-date information as well as maintain a record of release of liability forms for when our members use the workshop and/or participate in field trips. There is an electronic copy of the membership form on our website and our facebook page if you would like to fill it out and bring it to the next meeting. Please make sure to fill and sign the release of liability form as well and return it with your membership form and dues. Beginning in December, John Raabe will be taking over for membership and he will have all the information necessary.

We have also implemented a membership card for our club beginning this past year. Having that membership card makes it easy for our shop supervisors to know that you are a member and current with your membership dues. They can be picked up at one of our monthly meetings or you can coordinate with membership to pick them up at the shop.

November PROGRAM

Can you describe how California came into being? How about the Great Plains? In this meeting we'll be learning the answers to these questions and more from the highly acclaimed Nova DVD, Making North America....

"Mighty, elemental forces molded North America. Fiery eruptions, titanic floods, the grinding of great ice sheets, and massive impacts from space all shaped our land. Now, for the first time, NOVA presents a bold and sweeping biography of our continent and how it came to be.

This epic story unfolds in a forgotten world that existed long before our own, crossed by long-lost mountain ranges, deserts the size of Africa, and vast inland seas spanning the length of the continent. Beloved landmarks like the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, and the Rockies are explored from the inside out as we witness the clash of nature's creative and destructive forces - the uplifting of the earth's crust and the violent eruptions, earthquakes, and impacts that destroy it."

Come join us for this fun and informative evening!

OCTOBER 18, 2017

7:00 PM

DITTUS HALL, REDWOOD TERRACE
710 WEST 13TH AVE., ESCONDIDO



Weekly Workshops



THESE WORKSHOPS MEET EVERY WEEK

Cabochon/Lapidary & Open Workshops

Wednesday 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Tuesday 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Thursday 2:00-5:00pm

Learn to cut and polish a rock into a beautiful stone suitable for wire wrapping or fabricating in metal. A fantastic assortment of material is available for purchase on site.

The workshop is also open for general use. No prior registration needed.

Metalsmithing Open Workshop

Thursday 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

open for METAL SMITHING only, to those students who have had metal smithing instruction or experience and/or have instructor approval. Attendees should be able to work independently as this is not a class. An experienced metalsmith will be available for consultation. **NEW** – Exception for students who have made arrangements with instructor for Beginning Silversmith lessons. See the right for class information and fees.

Cost: A \$7 shop fee will be collected for regular workshop. Club membership required.

LAPIDARY WORKSHOP IS LOCATED AT

2120 W. MISSION, SUITE 260

ESCONDIDO, CA 92029

Beginning Silversmithing

This is a ten hour introductory silversmith class.



The students will learn to develop their designs, use a jeweler's saw to cut out a pattern, solder a bezel to a backing and add a bale, creating a wearable piece of jewelry. Intermediate students can work on a project of their choosing with instructor approval.

Instructors: Diane Hall & Annie Heffner

Dates & Times: Sat. Nov 25 & Sun. Nov 26, 2017—10a-4p

Cost: \$60 for 10 hours of instruction. (club membership required - \$25 fee for single membership)

Materials additional - please bring a cabochon to set in silver or let us know if you need one.

****Call Diane Hall at (760) 741-0433 (leave message for call back) or email dianehall213@gmail.com for more info or to register.****

Faceting Classes

An informative introduction and hands-on experience in the world of gem cutting. Learn how to create a gem out of a piece of rough, during a weekend class. No machine required. Return students welcome with or without their own machine. Each class can accommodate 3 new students without machines and 3 returning students with their own machines.

Instructor: Bob Johnson **Location:** Club Shop

Dates & times: Sat. Nov 11 and Sun Nov 12, 2017 – 9am -5pm

Cost: \$80 New. Club membership required. \$70 return

Contact Bob Johnson for more information or to register -

tel: 760-809-0152 or email Bob at N78532@yahoo.com



Textured Metal Class

Come and join in the fun, exploring how to texture metal and make one-of-a-kind earrings (3 to 4 pairs) or a bracelet. They will make great gifts. You may also learn how to make your own ear wires.

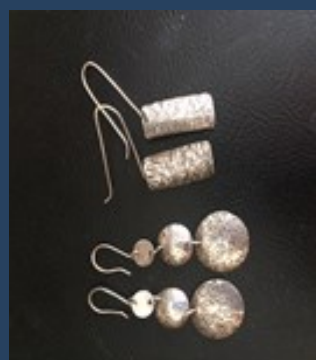
Instructor: Diane Hall & Annie Heffner

Location: Club Shop

Dates & Times: November 19, 2017, 10a-4p

Cost: \$35 plus supply cost (club membership required - \$25 fee for single membership). You will need about 1 ounce of silver or copper sheet, which we will purchase for every one who is signed up by November 13th. Sign ups after that will need to provide their own material.

To sign up: Call Diane at 760-741-0433 to register or email at dianehall213@gmail.com (preferred). Class is limited to 6 so sign up early.



Faceting—Continuation Class

This is a class for continuing students who have completed the Introductory Class and is held once per month, from 9a to 5p on the Saturday following the general meeting, (which is always on the third Wed.)

Date: *Saturday, November 18,, 2017*

Time: 9:00am—5:00 pm

Cost: \$35

Contact Bob Johnson for more information or to register— tel: 760-809-0152 or email Bob at N78532@yahoo.com

**ALL OF THESE CLASSES ARE HELD AT THE
LAPIDARY WORKSHOP LOCATED AT
2120 W. MISSION, SUITE 260
ESCONDIDO, CA 92029**

AN OLD GEOLOGIST'S TALES

As many of you know, Gene Ciancanelli is a long-standing member of the PGMC. Gene had a long career as an exploration geologist searching for energy and mineral resources throughout North America and Asia. These Old Geologist's Tales are excerpts from a book Gene wrote for the Huntington Library's archive



ONE BRIGHT-EYED GEOLOGIST (Part 3)

THE SEA SCAB

We live on the camp barge, which is approximately 55 feet long and 30 feet wide. The hull is constructed entirely from large wooden timbers about 12 inches thick. Half the deck space is occupied by a faded barn-red flat-roofed-wooden building containing a kitchen/dining room, a bedroom for the cook Dottie and her driller paramour Frenchie, and one large room with ten two-tiered-bunks for the drillers and geologists. There is also a shop and open deck space for the drilling equipment, supplies, and hundreds of boxes of drill-core samples. The barge's name is NEFCO Fish Boat #1, reflecting its former purpose servicing fish traps, which were outlawed in 1959. Her papers indicate NEFCO Fish Boat #1 was built in New England in the 1880s and towed around Cape Horn to Alaska, because the Panama Canal would not open for another 34 years. The barge is seriously rotten and it is necessary to keep two large pumps running day and night to keep her afloat. This will be her final journey. Oddly, there are no rats. Apparently the rats knew something we didn't.

From a distance, the barge is an ugly faded-red derelict. The crew decides the barge needs a different name. Perhaps something that more closely captures her persona floating majestically on the sea. I suggest "SEA SCAB", which is enthusiastically embraced. Using fluorescent-green-spray paint, the name SEA SCAB is written on the hull. Thus is born the Sea Scab, which will forever be remembered by the last crew to serve on this rotting hulk.



THE SEA SCAB AT WADLEIGH ISLAND

A large galvanized-metal tank is on the roof to supply the Sea Scab with running water. A plastic pipe runs from the tank to a small stream onshore where gravity flow keeps the tank full. The system works perfectly for several weeks until someone climbs onto the roof. There, floating in the tank, are several dead and decomposing birds and other critters. Water is no longer a requested beverage in the Sea Scab's elegant dining room.

Prior to our arrival, the filthy bunk mattresses became wet and mildewed. It is impossible to dry a wet mattress in southeast Alaska's damp weather. Each mattress is wrapped in transparent polyethylene sheeting and, as time passes, it became routine to periodically look through the plastic sheeting to observe new life forms evolving. My mattress grew into a mass of greenish-black slime mold that was surprisingly pleasant to lie upon. Everyone knew that to remove a mattress's plastic sheeting would be a social faux pas and possibly a life threatening action.

DRILLING AND GEOLOGY

U. S. Steel has been evaluating Wadleigh Island for years and numerous diamond-drill holes have recovered thousands of feet of cylindrical rock samples known as core. Chemical analyses have shown there is both flux and non-flux quality limestone. Everyone is new to the project. The previous geologists' notes and reports indicate they were not able to decipher the geology nor could they visually distinguish flux-quality limestone from waste rock. Fortunately, we have the core samples from previous years and I "volunteer" to reexamine them in my "spare time".

A typical workday involves cutting survey lines through the forest along which geology is mapped. At day's end, we visit each drill site to check on drilling progress and problems. Now after working all day as lumberjacks, we each make several round trips carrying heavy boxes filled with rock core through the forest and back to the Sea Scab. Drilling rigs constantly need supplies and on each return trip, we human mules carry 5-gallon gasoline cans, 50 or 94 pound sacks of drilling mud and cement, 10-ft. steel drilling rods, core boxes, etc. back up the mountain to retrieve another box of rock. The back and forth human mule-train toil is brutal work conducted either in the rain or surrounded by clouds of biting black flies and mosquitoes. You haven't done

Continued on the next page . . . >>>

hard work until you've had a 10-foot steel drill rod cutting into your shoulder as you climb an Alaska mountain along a mud slick trail accompanied by biting black flies. Walking the trail, I kept thinking, "I went to college to learn to do this work".

In summertime Alaska sundown comes late at night and there is daylight to work 16-hour days. Each evening, I wash and examine the drill core recording geologic information on a log form. The core is split lengthwise and half is analyzed and half retained as a permanent record. The core, drilled in previous years, was never logged and that too is studied. Each evening, until about 11 PM, I'm washing, logging, splitting, and sampling core. Electronic calculators don't exist; so Pat, a mining engineer, spends each evening manually computing and checking the mathematical survey calculations while Jim and Bob transfer each day's survey lines and geologic mapping onto the base map. They also review and compile the drilling, assay, and accounting records, write the daily report, and lay out the next day's work.

Eventually, we determine there are two easily distinguished limestone layers. After plotting the analytical data onto each drill hole's geologic log, it is immediately obvious that the flux grade limestone is the upper layer. U. S. Steel has finally succeeded in defining the limestone deposit's size, grade, and economic viability. The government accepts our evaluation and the mining claims are approved for patent. Now U. S. Steel owns this deposit and the island thanks to three 80-cent-per-hour college boys. Years later U. S. Steel sold their Alaskan properties and Wadleigh Island's new owner logged the timber. The limestone flux has never been mined.

With Wadleigh Island finished, the Sea Scab is towed north to uninhabited Hecate Island, another limestone flux deposit. We spent two weeks evaluating that deposit, but did not finish. Two years later, I'm newly married and Betty will return with me to complete the Hecate Island work. Today Heceta Island has a single fly-in fishing lodge that costs a mere \$654 a day. Perhaps being paid 80 cents per hour with food and shipboard accomodation wasn't so bad?

Every few days, I brace myself and go to a nearby freezing cold creek for a bath. Once I'm undressed the bugs descend for a feast on the newly exposed choice parts. My comrades are avoiding the inevitable need to bathe and some argue that bugs don't bite dirty people. Finally, the big day arrives when they are all forced to take THE BATH, because Dottie is refusing to cook for stinking pigs. There is a rock ledge at the point where a creek forms a small pool before entering Heceta Inlet. The boys decide to run together and jump from this ledge into the water. Dottie and I are on the barge watching the fun. On the distant beach, they disrobe in the fog and rain, becoming a fuzzy looking huddled pink mass. Suddenly there is a big shout as 15 naked men are running up the beach. Off the rock ledge they jump! An inhuman sound shrieks through the fog as they hit the freezing water. Men desperately claw at the rock ledge, fighting to get out of the freezing water. The bars of soap have been lost and the bath is a never again to be repeated dunk! A laughing Dottie refuses to budge when they return to the Sea Scab as dirty and smelly as ever. They must be clean if they want to eat. On the Sea Scab's back deck, the crew erects a shower facility using 60° F water from the roof tank. Bathing becomes a more regular practice for everyone.

Just another easy day feeding black flies while leaning against a moss covered rock outcrop



A seaplane resupplies the camp each week. Dottie is a good cook and for this reason meals are the day's high point. The Sea Scab has no refrigeration. Perishable food is stored below deck in the barge's cool damp moldy bilge. When food spoils, Dottie throws rotten food into the sea. Fish and crabs cluster around the Sea Scab to dine on prime rib, pork chops, chicken, etc. I decide to build a crab trap to catch Dungeness crabs. Using chicken wire and old pipe, I build a crab trap and bait it with dead fish. The trap is lowered over the Sea Scab's side and left for the night. The next morning, the bait is gone, but no crabs. I modify the trap, bait it, and lower it back down. That evening the trap is again empty. Day after day, I adjust the trap and try again without success. Naturally, I become the object of much teasing. One day, I return from work and as usual go directly to check the trap. As the trap comes out of the water, I can see a small tin can inside and then I can read the label "CANNED CRAB". Turning around there is the whole camp laughing. They had ordered a can of crab meat with the week's food supply.

Eventually I succeed in catching crabs, which become a regular part of our diet along with the clams, mussels, and cockles Dottie and I collect. Some evenings the drillers fish from the raft to catch rock cod. They use large forest slugs for bait. The 5 to 6-inch long slugs are covered with a slime that is almost

Continued on the next page . . . >>>

impossible to get off your hands. Neither soap nor gasoline cuts through this slime. The slugs are tough, but the cod like them. You can catch a dozen fish on a single slug before it wears out. The driller's helpers are Mormons and they are convinced you can't eat things from the sea, because they are poison. They refuse to eat the fresh seafood dinners, and Dottie has to cook them their staple meat and potato fare.

One morning we can't believe our eyes. The ocean is bright red for as far as we can see. The water looks exactly like tomato soup. Dottie says it is a red tide and we cannot eat anything from the ocean for two weeks because the fish will be poison. Now the Mormon lads are convinced Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, or the Angel Moroni has vindicated their faith. At first we suspect Dottie is pulling our leg, but as the tide goes out, the beach is littered with dead fish and seabirds. Later we learned that several people died from eating fish during that red tide.

One evening a magnificent 100-foot long white yacht cruises into Heceta inlet and anchors. We've seen no other people for 6-weeks and are starved for news from the outside world. The guys jump on the log raft, start the outboard motor, and slowly (the raft has no other speed) drift over to the yacht. Dottie shouts to invite them over for dinner. A large crew, dressed in clean uniforms, and a single family are on the yacht. We, in contrast, must appear to them as bearded-ragged-dirty riffraff. Pulling our makeshift raft alongside the yacht, the yachtsmen are imperiously looking down from their immaculate vessel. We call out greetings and try to engage in conversation; explaining we have been isolated here for some time. They look disdainfully without a greeting or speaking a single word. We are scum beneath them. Rich people should never look down upon the poor; especially when they are out numbered and the rabble are drillers. The yacht's occupants' rude behavior makes the boys angry. They begin to shout curses and vile insults and then they shout, **"If you won't talk to us then we are going to pee on your boat"**. There in full view of the Yachting Set, the boys demonstrate their contempt by peeing on the yacht's side. Then, as we pull away from the yacht to head back to the Sea Scab, they moon the yacht. I'm sure my mother would be pleased to know I took no part, thanks to my upbringing. Furthermore, I'm earning my fortune while meeting yachtsmen and traveling in the polite upper crust society she envisioned for her son. (To be continued)

Calendar of Events



- Nov 11—12 Intro Faceting Class
- Nov. 13 PGMC Board Meeting 6:00
- Nov. 15 PGMC Meeting and Annual Election of Officers 7:00
- Nov. 18 Continued Faceting Class
- Nov. 19 Textured Metal Class
- Nov. 25-26 Intro to Silversmithing Class
- Dec. 11 PGMC Board Meeting 6:00
- Dec. 20 PGMC Meeting and Christmas Potluck/White Elephant Gift Exchange
- Jan. 8 PGMC Board Meeting 6:00



PALOMAR GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

The Palomar Gem and Mineral Club, a non-profit corporation open to all adults and young people, was organized to promote the study of rocks, minerals, gems, fossils and related subjects, such purpose to be developed through regular meetings with educational programs, field trips for the collection of geological specimens, and classes for teaching lapidary arts. The Palomar Gem and Mineral Club shares its knowledge of the earth sciences by sponsoring Gem and Mineral shows featuring exhibits, displays and demonstrations. The Club was founded March 20, 1954.

THE PALOMAR GEM AND MINERAL CLUB IS AFFILIATED WITH:



PALOMAR GEM AND MINERAL CLUB | P.O. BOX 1583 | ESCONDIDO, CA 92033-1583

760-743-0809 | WWW.PALOMARGEM.ORG