Palomar Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2017

Volume 58 Issue 10

2018 Elections

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

President—Jef Wright

Vice-President—Chris Toft

Secretary—Fred Floyd

Treasurer—Toni Floyd

Thank you to all of these members for volunteering to make our club what it is today.

The officers will be inducted at our December 20th meeting.

November Meeting.

November's meeting was our election of officers as well as a Nova DVD on *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.

December meeting

December's meeting will be our installation of officers as well as our Annual Christmas Pot Luck and White Elephant Gift Exchange.

Come spend a fun and exciting evening with club friends as we slide into the holiday season! And bring your friends and family!

So bring a wrapped gift with a value between $10 and $20. It can be club related or not, serious or not! We'll be swapping and stealing gifts until the last person has their prize!

Bring a dish to share with 6 - 8 people and your own favorite drinks along with your plates, napkins, and tableware.

Gift collection for a child in need for the holidays

If you wish, bring a new, unwrapped gift for a boy or girl up to age 17. These will be given to the Children's Services social workers to give to those children who are removed from their homes during the holidays. These children enter the system too late to benefit from Toys for Tots.

See you there!!!

PGMC Membership Drive 2018

November 1 began 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.

Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show

The Palomar Gem and Mineral Club's 2018 Gem, Mineral and Jewelry show is June 9 and 10, 2018 at the California Center for Arts Escondido. This will be the fifth year we have held the show there, and each year it gets better. It is one of the best club shows in southern California, and people are starting to notice.

As you might guess, show committee work has already begun. We sent out invitations to vendors in November. We have extra contracts and vendor letters if you need them. The 2018 flyer is out and will be on our website and Facebook page shortly. Next spring our advertising campaign will be in full swing. The grand prizes are in the works. The many details that go into a successful show will be addressed in coming months.

The show committee consists in large part of the same people as last year. That is a blessing and a curse. It is so nice to have experienced members on the committee. At the same time, we need new members to bring energy and keep the show fresh. So please, get involved and show up at the next committee meeting, which is listed in this bulletin.

At the next committee meeting we will be going over the debrief from this year's show; things that went well and things we can do better. This would be a great time for new people to get involved in the show committee, so please come to the meeting. I look forward to seeing you there!

Archie J. Kuehn

2018 Show Chairman

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

LAPIDARY WORKSHOP IS LOCATED AT

2120 W. MISSION, SUITE 260

ESCONDIDO, CA 92029

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

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. Dec. 16 and Sun Dec. 17, 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

There is a one week class scheduled for Dec 26-30—Call Bob for more info or to register.

Silversmithing—Byzantine Chain

This is a one day basic chain class. The students will learn to weave jump rings to create this ancient design.

Instructor: Annie Heffner

Location: Club Shop

Dates & Times: Sunday Jan 6, 2018, 10a-4p

Cost: $35 plus supply cost (club membership required - $25 fee for single membership). Materials additional

To sign up: Call Annie Heffner at (760) 855-5406 or email annieheffner@hotmail for more information or to register. 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, December 23, 2017 tentative*

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

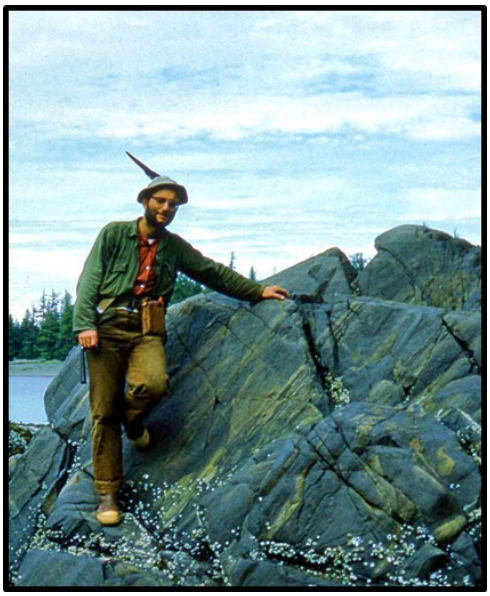
AN OLD GEOLOGIST'S TALES

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 4)

THE UNION BAY IRON DEPOSIT

One foggy day the Mary Lou returns to tow the majestic Sea Scab, 130 miles around the north end of Prince of Wales Island, to the Union Bay iron deposit on the Cleveland Peninsula in Alaska's south coast. The iron deposit is in an ultramafic igneous rock intrusion. This ultramafic rock was intruded into the earth's crust from the mantle to form a lopolith, which is a bowl shaped igneous magma intrusion.



Ultramafic rocks have very low silica content. The mineralogy is predominately the calcium rich plagioclase feldspar series labradorite to anorthosite, pyroxene and amphibole group minerals, olivine, and the ore mineral magnetite. At Union Bay the magma crystallized into a layered sequence of different rock types. The predominate rock types are pyroxenite, dunite, peridotite, anorthosite, and hornblendite. These rocks are difficult to identify in the field, because rock names are determined by the rock's mineralogy and the different minerals are difficult to distinguish visually due to their dark color. The rocks are very dark gray to greenish in color as seen in the photo below.

Union Bay's forest has never been logged and the open virgin forest is a delight to work in compared to Hecate Island's second growth jungle. The local wildlife is fantastic. There are beaver ponds, where I often eat lunch while watching beavers cutting trees. Eagles and brown bears are abundant as they feast on salmon in the streams. It is not necessary to carry a lunch while mapping along the beach. Instead I carry a small bottle of hot sauce. It is easy to collect and eat raw clams while watching the orcas and seals swimming offshore.

A yacht sails into Union Bay shortly after our arrival. U. S Steel executives and a college professor are on board. The professor managed the Union Bay Project in prior years. Their trip is surely being written off as a working visit, but in reality it's a fishing trip to Alaska. The professor spends one evening talking with us, but the executives are yachting snobs, who never leave the yacht to meet us or inquire about the project. After a brief one evening stay, they leave to go fishing and never return. The professor asks what I'm doing and I reply, "Mapping the coast line". He points to a small headland on the map and says, "Don't map south of this point". I have his previous published work and so far, it matches what I'm mapping in greater detail. Days later, I'm at the headland where the professor said to stop mapping, but being an independent sort, I continue mapping southward. Rounding the headland, it is obvious the planar structures, which everyone mapped as stratigraphic layering in the magma chamber's metamorphosed sedimentary wall rocks, are in fact unimportant joints. Other subtle features, which were previously ignored, are the true stratigraphic layering. This proves there is an error in the professor's published work and our work. The next day, Bob agrees with my interpretation. Now I must re-map the coastline to correct the geology.

Some drilling will take place high on Mount Burnett, where a separate tent camp is to be set up. A helicopter will fly the men, drilling equipment, food, and camp gear to the mountaintop. Bob writes a schedule specifying that first men are to fly to

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the mountain's top to build the camp. Their arrival is to be followed by transporting each item in the order listed. The first items to arrive will be those needed to erect the tent camp and the last items to be transported are the drilling gear, food, and camping necessities. John, the drilling boss, will remain on the Sea Scab to direct helicopter loading. Bob will supervise camp construction.

Bob and I are on the first helicopter trip with chain saws, axes, and machetes. It is a clear day and Bob selects a campsite in an area that is all muskeg, an Alaska word that means bug-infested swamp. The helicopter cannot land due to high brush and scattered trees. As the helicopter hovers, Bob and I bail out landing in muskeg water. The helicopter immediately flies back to the coast. As is typical for southeast Alaska, the weather quickly turns to rain and dense fog. The helicopter cannot return until the fog clears, perhaps in an hour or perhaps in two weeks and we have no food or shelter. Bob and I begin constructing a helipad, for the helicopter's eventual return. We work for hours in pouring rain until finally there is a slight weather improvement. Soon there is the familiar "wop wop wop" sound of helicopter rotor blades. Bob says, "Good, here come more of the crew to help us". Then, through the mist, the helicopter appears and slung below the helicopter is a load of mattresses. The helicopter flies in, the pilot pulls the sling's release and mattresses splash into the muskeg. Bob curses! The next load is sleeping bags. This continues all day as the pilot ignores Bob's frantic signals to land. We pile each load onto log frameworks to keep everything above the muskeg water. This is largely a futile effort, because the drop into the muskeg and the steady rain has thoroughly soaked the mattresses, sleeping bags and everything else. Late in the day, the last loads arrive and these are men. They explain, "As soon as you took off, John took the loading schedule and threw it into the sea". He said, "I don't need a F#^($!@ geologist to tell me how to load a helicopter".

Bob decides that he, Pat, and Jim are going to work from the mountain camp, while I'm going to be in charge at the base camp on the Sea Scab. There I will supervise one drilling rig and continue mapping geology. I'm delighted, because I won't be sleeping in a wet sleeping bag on a wet mattress. I return to the Sea Scab to find John is already drunk.

Things go well until Frenchie and Dottie begin to quarrel. One night Dottie, in a rage, swings her substantial arm to hit Frenchie, who is playing with a large hunting knife. Dottie's arm hits the knife driving it deep into her arm. We stop the bleeding and in the morning a floatplane flies John and Dottie to Ketchikan.

A week later, John returns aboard his brand new cabin cruiser. His wife, the camp's new cook, accompanies him along with their 12-year old son, Billy, who is armed with a 22- rifle. Billy tries to kill all living things. He is constantly shooting at orcas, seals, ravens, and eagles. Billy has too much energy to be stuck all day on board the Sea Scab. It's too dangerous for him to go ashore alone; so I take him along as I'm mapping. Hiking for miles through the forest, I point out plants, animals, and rocks. Billy is not allowed to take the rifle. Billy is a decent kid once separated from his father. Each evening he returns and falls asleep early, much to his parents' satisfaction. I give Billy a brief rest at mid-morning and mid-afternoon, which I call "candy bar break time". Billy's dad asks, "Do you like working with a geologist?" The kid, who grew up around drillers and drilling rigs, says, "Dad it is better to be a geologist than a driller". The father curious and somewhat hurt to learn his son thinks geologists are better than drillers asks why. Billy responds, "All drillers do is drink beer, but geologists have candy bar break time". Now the drillers have new ammunition. Geologists sit in the forest eating candy bars instead of working. Each evening they ask if we had a hard day on "candy bar break time".

Bob and Pat stagger into camp late one evening. Pat's leg has a bad machete cut. There was no way to contact us from the mountain camp and Pat hiked for miles through the rugged coastal mountains back to the Sea Scab. As usual the Sea Scab's radio is broken. Bob and I take a tiny skiff out into the ocean to flag down a fishing boat. Like all the project's equipment, the skiff is a piece of junk with no life vests and an outboard motor prone to conking out. The motor's cover was removed

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reach anyone. The fishermen sail us 20 miles down the coast to drop us at a government station with a stronger radio. A rescue plane is sent to the Sea Scab and we sail the skiff back up the coast. At first it is smooth sailing, but the sea grows rougher as a storm moves in. Now we are hardly making headway. It is impossible to put ashore, because high waves are pounding the rocky shoreline. The rough sea keeps throwing the skiff's bow out of the water and Bob has to lay over the bow to provide ballast to the front end. I'm operating the outboard motor trying to keep the motor from stalling out and the skiff headed into the swells to prevent capsizing. Bob is bailing with one hand and holding on with the other. My arm aches, but I can't take my hand off the tiller as I bail with the other hand. Eventually, we spot a small cove. The skiff's bow is pointed out to sea toward the incoming waves. Bob watches the waves, while I keep an eye on the cove. He shouts, "NOW" and I spin the skiff around to ride a wave into the cove as if the skiff is a surfboard. We beach the skiff inside the sheltered cove for several hours and we hungrily devour clams. The weather clears and the journey continues until the gasoline runs out. Now we must hike back to the Sea Scab. Finally, very late at night, we see the Sea Scab's lights. It is the only time she ever looked good. The next day, Bob climbs the mountain as I pack gasoline back to retrieve the skiff.

Finally, the day arrives to break camp; the helicopter returns and equipment is loaded back on board the Sea Scab as we wait for the Mary Lou's return. The drillers, Bob, and Pat go on board John's cabin cruiser, while Jim and I are lashing equipment down. Suddenly, without informing us, the crew leaves for Ketchikan. Joseph a driller, Jim, and I are alone on the Sea Scab. A storm moves in when the Mary Lou arrives late in the afternoon. We attach a tow cable and the Sea Scab's final voyage begins. The storm increases in intensity and the Mary Lou is barely able to control the Sea Scab. Captain Gene McKay tows the Sea Scab into more sheltered water, but the sea is too rough to anchor. Gene tows us in a circle for 18 hours. Waves coming over the front of the barge drown out one pump. Water is leaking into the Sea Scab's hull and it will sink unless Joseph can fix the pump. We tie a rope around Joseph and he goes out on the pitching deck with waves breaking over the barge. Jim and I are holding the safety rope when suddenly Billy is standing next to Joseph. Where the Hell did he come from? Incredibly, John and his wife, driven by their alcoholic thirst, have sailed off and left their 12-year old son alone. This proves drillers will desert their young for a drink. Running out onto the pitching deck, I grab Billy and throw him back inside. Joseph keeps the pumps working as we sail for hours in endless circles. Thirsty and hungry, we check the galley and find no water and only a few cans of stewed tomatoes and evaporated milk. I can cook and Italians can usually survive if we have tomatoes, but there is NOTHING that can be prepared from these two ingredients.

The storm passes and Gene anchors to sleep for 8 hours. The Sea Scab arrives in Ketchikan a day late. The local radio station announces each ship's name when it arrives so wives will know their husbands are returning home. Gene said the radio announced the Mary Lou has entered the harbor towing the barge Sea Scab. Thus NEFCO Fish Boat #1 fittingly ended her days as the Sea Scab. Gene bought the Sea Scab and ran it up on the beach to use as a dock as it slowly rotted away.

Jim and I, with Billy in tow, search Ketchikan's bars for Billy's parents. We find them drunk and not the least bit interested in their son, whom they certainly didn't miss. Jim joins the party, while I take Billy to the hotel where there is a telegram waiting that says my mother is seriously ill and to return home at once. In a few hours, I'm on a plane to Seattle and then a red-eye flight to New York. In less than 24 hours I leave one world and enter another across the continent. Except for Bob and Gene McKay, I never again saw or heard from that summer's friends.

At Union Bay, the work accomplished over many years defined an iron deposit. This allowed U. S. Steel to patent the iron deposit. In 2007, Betty and I are strolling along the dock in Ketchikan and I see a boat with the words, "Union Bay" on the stern. The owner says that U. S. Steel sold the Union Bay claims and now a small community, called Union Bay, occupies that once uninhabited wilderness. Apparently our work led to the founding of this community. Recently exploration has resumed to evaluate the ultramafic intrusion as a possible platinum deposit.

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

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