

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter



JANUARY 2017

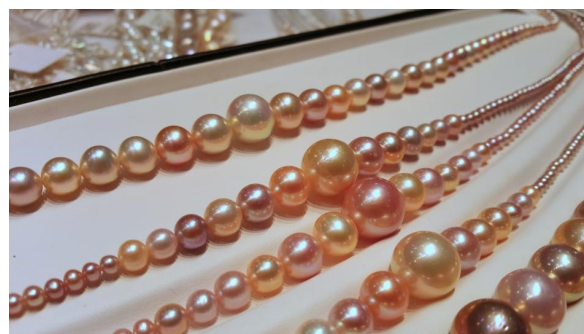
Volume 58 Issue 1

January Meeting

Pearls, Pearls and more Pearls,



This was a great meeting with Blaire Beavers the Managing Editor of Pearl Guide News. She was a wealth of information from the different types of pearls to how a pearl is made. I personally enjoyed the discussion so much I forgot to take any pictures. I am including the website to Pearl Guide News for anyone who is interested. They can be found at <http://www.pearl-guide.com/>. Pictures here courtesy of Pearl Guide News "Pearl of the week" Check it out!



PGMC Membership 2017 Drive in full swing!!

Membership dues for the 2017 fiscal year and now due. In February we will provide a roster of all the current 2017 members. If you want to continue to receive the newsletter and be on the roster, we must have your membership dues prior to the February meeting. We have the ability to accept your dues by check, cash or credit card. The membership application is available through Facebook, from the workshop, or at the meetings. Please make sure to fill and sign the release of liability form as well and return it with your membership form and dues. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jef Wright at joxer.kot@gmail.com or Dawn Vickers at dawnjvickers@gmail.com with regards to your membership status.



February PROGRAM

Field Trip Treasures!

Tuscon and Quartzite! The Mojave!

There's all kinds of news about the exciting findings from Quartzite already this year! By the time we have our meeting, many people will have returned from Tuscon as well. Add to that some of the exciting finds that our rockhounds have brought back, and we've got a lot share!

We'll start with an introduction to Tuscon and some of the highlights in the last couple of years. Then we'll give the floor to anyone who wants to share what they have found and/or what they have done with their treasures.

Please bring your recent findings and pictures to share! Digital pictures on a thumbdrive will be displayed by projector. Juicy stories especially welcome!

JANUARY 18, 2017

7:00 PM

DITTUS HALL, REDWOOD TERRACE

710 WEST 13TH AVE.,

ESCONDIDO



Gem & Mineral Show 2017

The 2017 PGM Gem, Mineral and Jewelry show committee is working hard to make this a record year. Dawn is spearheading advertising and public relations. Michele is busy filling the event with vendors. Toni, Charles, Bob, Chris and Barb are collectively keeping us on our toes and doing their part. And Suzanne still cannot understand why I took this on during tax season, but the show must go on!

As it stands today we have 11 vendors signed up for the show. We have about 20 more to go. If you see a vendor at another show that you like, tell them about our show, give them a flyer and vendor packet, get their card, give their contact information to Michele and we will follow up with them. If you know a vendor that you would like to see at our show, contact them and let Michele know. If you need talking points look at last month's newsletter for ideas.

We need some help with advertising and public relations too. If you have contacts in the media world, please let Dawn or me know. If you have magazines you subscribe to that we should put information on our show in, let Dawn or me know. Your ideas are important to us. If you belong to other clubs bring flyers with you to the meetings, and find out how we get our show information in their newsletters. We have flyers, big and small for you to hand out or post on bulletin boards. Every bit helps. These are ways you can be so very helpful in making our show a success!

The grand prize for this year's show is a stunning 34.6 carat amethyst cut by our own award winning Charles Shupe. WOW!

Archie Keuhn

PGMC 2017 Show Chairman



We want to hear from you!

WE HAVE HAD A TREMENDOUS INCREASE IN PEOPLE USING THE WORKSHOP WHICH IS
FANTASTIC!

WITH SO MANY PEOPLE USING THE SHOP WE ARE WONDERING IF THERE IS A NEED FOR MORE
OPEN SHOP TIME. CURRENTLY WE HAVE **WEDNESDAYS 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM TUESDAYS 6:30 –
9:30 PM AND THURSDAYS 2:00-5:00PM.**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE OPEN SHOP TIME, PLEASE LET US KNOW. LET US KNOW
WHAT WOULD BE A GOOD DAY AND TIME THAT WOULD WORK FOR YOU! YOU CAN EITHER
ALAN MAZZOLA KNOW AT THE CLUB MEETINGS OR THE BOARD MEETINGS OR YOU CAN EMAIL
US THROUGH THE WEBSITE AND LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD.

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.

Beginning Silversmithing

This is a twelve 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: *to be scheduled when enough students for a class*

Cost: \$60 for 12 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.****

LAPIDARY WORKSHOP IS LOCATED AT

2120 W. MISSION, SUITE 260

ESCONDIDO, CA 92029

SPECIALTY CLASSES



Wire Wrap

Wire wrapping for making jewelry dates back thousands of years and can be seen in museum collections from the ancient Sumerians and Romans. Learn how to make a lovely piece of jewelry with Dawn Vaughn, by using wire to wrap to your stone.

Instructors: Dawn Vaughn

Dates: March 25, 2017

Time: 10-5

Cost: \$30

Sign-up: Call Dawn at 951-265-8745 to register or email dawnvaughn@hotmail.com.

Beginning Chasing & Repousse

Skill: None. All levels welcome

Dates: Saturday/Sunday, February, 25 & 26, 2017 and Saturday/Sunday March 4 & 5, 2017 (4 days)

Time: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm with 1 hour for lunch (24 hours total)

Where: Palomar Gem & Mineral Club Workshop, Escondido, Ca.

Fee: \$350.00. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required with the balance due at start of the workshop. Palomar Gem & Mineral Club membership IS required for insurance purposes. You can sign up on the first day (additional cost of \$25.00).

Workshop Size: 3 people minimum with a maximum of 6. Class size is small to allow each student more attention.

Description: Using a hammer and special tools, learn how to change a flat piece of copper into a piece of art that has volume and detail. Over the 4 session you will learn the basic techniques of Chasing & Repoussé while creating your first piece along and many demonstrations. In this workshop, everything is supplied, you just have to show up with an inquisitive mind. NOTE: This is not a project class, it is about technique and depending on your work, you may not finish the design in the workshop and that is O.K.

Material List: Notebook, Pen/Pencil (provided by student)

NOTE: The pitch bowl with pitch, tools for the project, hammer, copper, and design for the workshop will be supplied in the workshop. This will allow students to experience the art of Chasing & Repousse without a large commitment to tools in the event you do not want to further your education in this technique. The copper piece with your worked design is yours to take home after the workshop has concluded.

Registration Information:

Send a \$50.00 non-refundable deposit (check or cash) to:

Laurie Kern
24774 Shoshonee Drive
Murrieta, Ca 92562

Deposit must be received by January 28, 2017 to allow for those on the waiting list to be contacted.

Email Laurie Kern: The Adventurous Silversmith at The.Silversmith@TheAdventurousSilversmith.com

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. Feb 11 and Sun. Feb 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**



Chasing and Repousse Play Date

Come to the shop to work on your current projects and spend time with your fellow chasers

Date: Sunday March 19, 2017

Time: 10a—5p with an hour lunch break

Cost: \$7 for half day, \$14 for whole day.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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, February 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**

Chiseled and Cut Bezel Ring with Overlay Ring Shank with Jeff Fulkerson

Have you ever wondered how to make a chiseled and cut bezel with an overlay ring shank? This is the class for you! Students will learn: How to pick cabochons, silver solder, proper stamping techniques, silver overlay, various texturing techniques and finishing. De-mystify silver soldering, overlay, and stone setting. This class will boost your confidence in using a torch and creating beautiful rings you can be proud of. Jeff Fulkerson is an accomplished, award winning silversmith who is published frequently in Lapidary Journal.



Instructor: Jeff Fulkerson

Date: Sunday, April 23rd, 2017

Time: 10am – 5pm

Cost: \$80 class and approximately \$65 material. You may bring your own cabochon, or purchase one from Jeff. He has high quality, well cut cabochons.

Sign Up: Call Diane at 760-741-0433 to register (leave message for call back) or email me at diane-hall213@gmail.com (preferred). Class is limited to 8 so sign up early.

WHEELS & CIRCLES BRACELET

This class is back by request. Annie will teach a one day class on this soldered sterling silver link bracelet originally taught by Cal North. Membership and soldering experience required for this project.

Date: Saturday, April 29, 2017

Time: 10-4pm

Instructor: Annie Heffner

Cost: \$30 plus materials

Call Annie at 760-855-5406 for more info and to register.



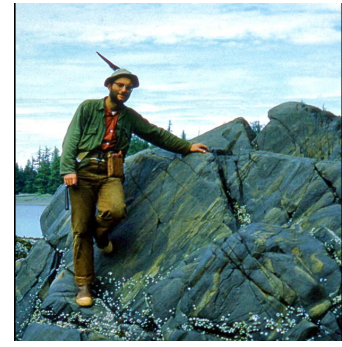
Calendar of Events



Jan. 7-8	Heart Chains Class
Jan. 9	PGMC Board Meeting 6:30/Gem Show Committee Mtg. 7:30
Jan. 18	January Meeting—Pearls
Feb. 13	PGMC Board Meeting 6:30/Gem Show Committee Mtg. 7:30
Feb. 15	February Meeting—Tucson and Quartzite finds
Feb. 25-26	Beginning C&R workshop #1
Mar. 3-4	Beginning C&R workshop #2
Mar. 13	PGMC Board Meeting 6:30/Gem Show Committee Mtg. 7:30
Mar. 15	March Meeting—Brendan Laurs from GIA and now GemA

AN OLD GEOLOGIST'S TALES

As many of you know, Gene Ciancanelli is one of our long standing members of the PGMCM. Gene's long history as an exploration geologist searching for energy and mineral resources is far reaching. Gene and Betty wrote a book on compressed air energy storage in porous media reservoirs. We hope to bring you many tales of this 20th Century Geologist over the course of this newsletter for entertainment and perhaps a different perspective of our hobby as a lifelong career.



A Chair From The Dump is the title of a book I wrote that accurately recounts working as a 20th Century geologist. The following is my first full day of employment after 9 years of college. It gives a bit of insight into what it was like working for old-line mining companies in the mid-20th Century. Air-conditioned offices and benevolent employee treatment, benefits, and respect were beyond even our wildest hopes and dreams.

I am a new employee of Phelps Dodge Corporation. The firm's office is located at the western edge of Douglas, Arizona a border town adjoining the aptly named Agua Prieta (Dirty Water), Mexico. The company's facilities include a copper smelter and office buildings next to the smelter's slag heap. The offices occupy a three story late 19th Century brick building with some adjoining sheds and a very large carriage house barn with horse stables from the horse-drawn wagon days. The offices are large high-ceiling rooms with well-worn wood floors and plaster walls with a yellowish patina from decades of cigar and cigarette smoke that forms a dense gray haze throughout the building. The office décor is an eclectic mix of old abused furniture and World War II surplus furniture. Every office contains brass spittoons, which are in constant use.

The office "complex" is closely surrounded, on all sides, by rather unpleasant neighbors, including the smelter and slag pile, a junkyard, and the municipal dump and open sewerage ponds. With no air-conditioning and depending upon wind direction, we breathe either choking nose and throat burning smelter smoke, raw sewerage, or the dump's rotten stench. On a rare day, an east wind brings the pleasant smell of oil and old machinery.

In the late 1980s, the smelter, municipal dump, sewerage plant, and junkyard are removed in a massive environmental cleanup. All these facilities, including the old office building and smelter, were demolished and the contaminated soil removed. Only the smelter's slag remains from this former environmental abomination.

On that first day, Ray, the chief geologist, decides my office is in the library, which I share with Dr. Robert Stewart, an older geologist and another new employee. The library is a large octagonal-shaped room with a ten-foot ceiling and walls lined with empty bookshelves, except for the exterior wall that has a cracked window. Plaster has fallen off the exterior wall, exposing patches of red bricks. Mortar has fallen from between some bricks, thus allowing foul odors and occasionally water to enter the room. On rainy days, a pail sits on my desk because the roof leaks. Bob calls the rain pail our stereo system. This is the entire technical library, containing exactly four mining books. The newest book was written in 1907, the year my father was born. These four books take part in a daily office ritual. Ray enters the library each morning precisely at 7:30 AM. He never speaks to us as he walks over to the four books and takes one off the shelf. The chosen book always opens to the exact page, which Ray pretends to read for about 30 seconds. Ray then closes the book, puts it back on the shelf, and leaves the library. Bob then says, "We can start work now kid. We have been clocked in."

On the first day, I wore a suit and tie not knowing field clothes were proper office attire. Ray escorts me to the library where the furniture is two gray-metal-war-surplus desks, and one chair. I ask, "Where is my chair?" (Ray) "Go down to the carriage house and you will find an old man named Julio. Tell Julio you need a chair." Julio is sitting behind an old desk in the carriage house's dirty musty dirt floor horse barn. I'm thinking, "Lucky me, at least my office has a wood floor." (Gene) "Julio, I was told to see you about getting a chair for my desk." (Julio) "I don't have any chairs. We will have to walk around and see if we can find one." We search for nearly an hour, but no chair can be found. Finally, Julio says, "Yesterday, I take some trash to the dump and I see an old chair there. You should walk over to the dump and get that chair." So off I go, a new college graduate walking down a dirt road to scrounge an office chair at the dump. You can't make stuff like this up. You had to live it to believe it.

Douglas's pre-environmental era dump contains decades of unburied garbage, refuse, and toxic substances piled into a high mound across the desert. An ecosystem containing a large population of flies, maggots, cockroaches, seagulls, mice, rats, scorpions, centipedes, and other vermin has evolved over the decades. Gingerly, I climb over trash piles and slimy-stinking-vermin-covered garbage in a now dusty suit and once shiny new shoes. Eventually, I find "The Chair". It was someone's old-tall-straight-backed wooden kitchen chair, whose cane bottom was long ago replaced by solid nailed-on plywood. In the chair's long history, tension wire was added to hold the legs quasi-rigid. The chair's last coat of paint was "battleship gray". At least its style, distressed condition, and color match Phelps Dodge's elegant office décor and will not look out-of-place. Peeking from under the chipped gray paint are the chair's previous colors including yellow, red, and green. This gives the chair a speckled character that adds the only color to our otherwise drab office. I have to find an old rag to wipe slime, grime, fecal matter, and vermin off the chair, before it can be triumphantly carried back to the office. Throughout my years of employment that chair from the dump, with its subtle pungent odor, will be "my" office chair. I left the chair behind when I quit although, it was my property by right of capture. The chair found a good home because Phelps Dodge never threw anything away. It would not surprise me to enter an office today and still see that chair in use by the newest geologist.



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