

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter



MARCH 2017

Volume 58 Issue 3

March Meeting

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PGMC!

We had a great turnout for our 63rd birthday! We had a great potluck dinner and a great time catching up with friends. Great food as always from all that contributed! A wonderful birthday cake as well!

Thank you Chris

Toft!



After dinner we were treated to a wonderful discussion by Brendan Lars from Gem-A and formerly GIA regarding the beautiful Burmese ruby and his experience at the mines. It was a great discussion enjoyed by everyone.

A wonderful display as always, thank you Barbara Bury and all who contributed!



PGMC Membership 2017

Its never too late to join! We are still taking membership dues throughout the year. Your membership allows you to partake in the ever expanding lapidary workshop and all the wonderful classes that we provide monthly. The Spring Roster has been distributed to everyone who has a paid membership. If you have not received one, please contact Jef Wright at joxer.kot@gmail.com and he will take care of checking on that for you.



**KEEP
CALM
AND
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**

April PROGRAM

Gold Mining History of Escondido and San Diego County

Frank Lorey

APRIL 19, 2017

7:00 PM

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

Did you know we had several active gold mines in Escondido at one time? How much gold did they actually produce and did their owners get rich? Where are they now?

Frank Lorey, a federal and state registered historian, will tell us all about it. Frank is a prolific author with 16 books and over 530 magazine and journal articles to his credit. And you may recognize him as a regular guest star on the History Channel's "Wild West Tech" show!

So bring your samples of gold and come join us for an exciting talk and some great



Gem & Mineral Show 2017

SHOW REPORT

Only about 2 months to go before our show! What better way for a gem, mineral or jewelry enthusiast than to enjoy a couple of hours or more at our show. We have the best venue. We have great vendors. We have great raffle items and our grand prize can't be beat. Our demonstrators are top notch. We have Gem ID, interesting displays, and much more. And we have the best bunch of hard working fun loving volunteers around.

Alas, there is still some work to do. We are looking for vendors. We need about 15 more to fill up the show. Please get in touch with your favorite vendors and let them know there is still room and they are wanted. We need volunteers to spread the word. There will be flyers large and small at the shop and meetings for you to give to your friends and acquaintances, and post at places you frequent. With your help, we will make this a show to remember, in a good way!

Archie Keuhn

PGMC 2017 Show Chairman

As I spoke with many of you at the last meeting, we will be needing everyone's help to promote our show to make it the best publicized and attended show. In that vein, I am asking that each and every one of our members take two posters and find your local coffee shop, your church, any community center that you frequent and see if you can post it for all the customers or members to see. Please start thinking and finding that place that you want to put up your posters and we will have them ready to hand out at the April or May meeting. Without your support and help, we can't make this a success. We need everyone's full participation. Thank you all in advance for your help! *Many hands make light work!*

Dawn Vickers

PGMC 2017 Publicity

Announcements!

Ian Burney, one of our new members just got married in February. PGMC wishes you both the very best.

With hotter weather just around the corner and with the cost of air conditioning only going higher, we have taken several steps to try to keep these costs manageable. An exhaust fan was installed in an existing duct in the slab saw room. The Property Manager fixed the ceiling wind turbine. (third time) This time they are replacing it. We have replaced all incandescent light bulbs with LED's. We placed a fan up on the wall where it is out of the way and where it can circulate air coming out of the A/C vent. Finally, we replaced the Halogen light over the North work table with a LED 48" fixture. Thank you Alan Mazzola for all your hard work keeping our lapidary shop running smoothly!

Vista's TailGate Gem Show (Free Parking and Admission) April 7,8, & 9th.

63rd Annual Palomar Gem and Mineral Club's
Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show
California Center for the Arts, Escondido
304 N. Escondido Blvd
Escondido, CA
Saturday June 3, 2017 10am - 5pm
Sunday June 4, 2017 10am - 4pm
Admission \$5 for Adults
Children 12 and under FREE
Featuring
- Precious & Semi-Precious Gems
- Collectable Mineral Specimens
- Unique Custom Jewelry
- Rough Material
- Jewelry Findings & Supplies
- Gem Identification
- Lapidary Art Demos
- Rock Treasure Dig for kids!
Details at: www.palomargem.org

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: Sat. Jun 10 & Sun. Jun. 11, 2017

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

“In-Saign” Chasing & Repousse Workshop—2017



What: Chasing & Repoussé Workshop with visiting instructor Saign Charlestein

Where: Palomar Gem & Mineral Club Workshop, Escondido, Ca. Dates: Monday August 14, 2016 - Friday, August 18, 2016 ***with a possible 2nd Session Monday August 21, 2016 - Friday, August 25, 2016 Time: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm (total hours: 35) with 1 hour for lunch each day.

Skill: None, Beginner to Advanced

Fee: \$1250.00 A \$350 non-refundable deposit is required to book your place. If you can not attend and we can fill your spot, your deposit will be returned. The balance (\$900) is due on or before June 1, 2017 to allow time for the waiting list to be contacted. NOTE: If you are NOT a member of the club you will be required to join (\$25) for insurance purposes.

Workshop Size: 6 people minimum with a maximum of 8. Class size is small to allow each student more attention. ***NOTE: After 8 students sign up, your name will be added to the wait list. If more than 12 students sign up we will try to host a second session the following week and contact you at that time. If you are on the wait list and you do not get a spot in the workshop, your deposit will be returned.

Description: In this 5 day hands on workshop, Saign will teach everything from different methods of transferring images, tool making, and pitch preparation, to proper ergonomics, chasing, repoussé, and creation of relief with only chasing from the front. You will not only go home with one or more completed projects, but also develop and hone the knowledge and skill to create beautiful pieces of art on your own.

The workshop will begin with a skill assessment exercise that everyone will complete. Once Saign can assess your skill level, then he will assign you a project that will focus on what he thinks you benefit from the most. He is also open to guiding you through a design of your choice, as long as it is fitting for the time period and proper advancement of your skills. If you would like to bring your own design, please keep in mind that we will be using 8" pitch bowls, and 4.5" copper blanks. So if the design is larger, please bring your own larger pitch container and material to work on.

Registration Information: (via the instructors website) Website URL: <http://www.metalsmithing-tools.com/product-page/3536470121> OR Send a \$350.00 non-refundable deposit made out to Saign Charlestein and send it to: Saign Charlestein 1912 N Monroe Street Tacoma, WA 98406 Email: Saign Charlestein at saignc@gmail.com Laurie Kern at the.silversmith@TheAdventurousSilversmith.com

MATERIAL LIST

- Notebook, Pen/Pencil, Camera
- Safety Glasses, Magnifies, Ear Protection
- Chasing tools and hammers (not required)
- 8" Pitch bowl with pitch and support ring. NOTE: there are 5 bowls with pitch available for rent if you do not have one, contact Laurie Kern (see below for email) if you will wish to rent one.
- Copper - 3-4 pieces of 18 gauge (0.040" thick). or 32 oz. (0.043" thick). There will be copper available for purchase in the workshop. NOTE: A small set of chasing tools (IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ANY TOOLS) and 3 hammers will be provided by the instructor for students to use and can be purchased (20% savings) after the workshop is over.

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. Apr 15 and Sun. Apr 16, 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**



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. Demystify 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 silver-smith 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 dianehall213@gmail.com (preferred). Class is limited to 8 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, April 22, 2017*

Time: 9:00am—5:00 pm

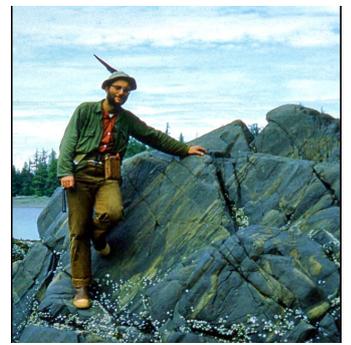
Cost: \$35

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 PGM. 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 of The History and Development of the Western United States. That book documents the life of a geologist and his wife working in the west during the latter half of the 20th Century. We hope to include many of these tales in this newsletter for your entertainment and perhaps another perspective of how our hobby can become a lifetime career.



THE ONLY SUCCESSFUL PROSPECTOR I EVER MET

In 1966, Phelps Dodge Copper Company assigned me to evaluate W. D. Roper's copper mining claims in the Harquahala Mountains near Salome, Arizona. I previously met Roper (everyone called him Roper) while examining his Wickenburg mining claims. Roper, who was by then a senior citizen, had previously owned the Ruskin Lines mining claims near Safford, Arizona. One of Phelps Dodge's competitors staked some mining claims near the Ruskin Lines claims. This caught the other copper companies' attention and a claim-staking rush ensued. Not by science, but by accident and a fear they were missing out on the rush, Phelps Dodge purchased and subsequently "discovered" and named the Safford copper deposit. The Safford mine went into production in 2007 and is the first new large scale copper mine opened in Arizona in over 40 years. Roper received \$1,000,000 (present value \$8,250,000) for the Ruskin Lines claims and he is now considered a "mining genius" among the Arizona prospector community. In the mid-20th Century, \$1,000,000 is a vast fortune and a man, especially a senior citizen, could live very comfortably for his entire life. Flush with Phelps Dodge's money, Roper buys a drilling rig, bulldozer, pickup trucks, and other equipment. Over the next decade, Roper spent a fortune exploring in vain for another copper deposit while supporting several hangers-on-pro prospector buddies.

I'm qualified to evaluate Roper's Harquahala claims, because my thesis area was in the nearby Granite Wash Mountains. Arriving at the isolated property, Roper and his buddies are about to eat breakfast in the shack they call home. This millionaire lives with his prospector friends in a large one-room shack about 20 feet square. The shack's weathered and unpainted wooden walls are single planks nailed vertically with one-inch gaps to provide air, light, and easy access for snakes, scorpions, centipedes, and other vermin. The tin roofed building lacks insulation, electricity, and plumbing. What it desperately needs is a maid armed with a shovel and a pressure washer filled with disinfectant. The furnishings include an old-fashioned cast-iron wood-burning stove and a large homemade wooden table with old chairs and wooden boxes for seats. Around the room's perimeter are homemade wooden beds with filthy mattresses, blankets, and no sheets. The filthy blankets have obviously, by sight and probably odor, not been washed in years. The prospectors share the room with several dogs, cats, and many chickens. The animals are free to run all over the room, including onto the beds and kitchen table. Roper invites me inside, just as breakfast is being prepared. One large cast-iron skillet contains several pounds of bacon and another skillet is filled with frying eggs. There is also a bubbling pot containing beans and a large steaming coffee pot. Each man's unwashed metal dinner plate is nailed permanently to the table. These plates should hold the dried-on remnants from countless former meals, but I observe that as the men finish eating, the animals jump onto the table to eat the leftover scraps licking the plates clean. The plates are nailed to the table to prevent the animals from scattering the plates onto the "dirty" feces covered floor, because apparently that would be unsanitary. In biological terms, the men, cats, dogs, and chickens share a symbiotic relationship, with the animals serving as both bio-dishwashers and vermin dispatchers.

Upon arriving, Roper gives me a friendly hello and says, "Sit down and have breakfast with us." (Gene) "Thanks, I just ate at the café in Salome." (Roper) "How about some coffee?" (Gene) "No thanks, I already had three cups." (That was a lie) The prospectors fill their dirty plates with food, toss some bacon and beans unto the floor for the animals, and begin eating with gusto. I'm observing this while inside a stifling hot building inhaling the stink from unwashed men, animal filth, and cooking odors. I'm desperately trying to keep from puking my breakfast. One man goes to get more coffee and accidentally dumps coffee into the bacon frying pan that now contains a half-inch-deep grease layer. This mess briefly boils up and then begins to boil down as the man stands there watching. Then he says, "Hey this coffee and bacon grease is turning into coffee gravy. I'm going to try some on my beans and bread." Dipping bread into the slop, he says, "Boy! This is good eating!" Now everyone wants some gourmet coffee/grease gravy as I quickly, and not too discretely, run outside into the fresh air. Later that day we return for lunch and they cannot understand why I want to sit in the hot Arizona sun eating a sandwich, when I can relax inside and enjoy lunch of hot beans in the cabin's shade and ambiance. Fifty years have passed since that long ago day, but the odor inside that cabin still remains in my mind.

Several months pass and I'm sent back to check on Roper's drilling progress. I find the cabin deserted except for the animals. Driving around the property, I find the truck mounted drilling rig lying on its side with the rods still in the hole, except the upper rods were bent and broken as the rig tipped over. Continued on the next page . . . >>>

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

- Apr. 7-9 Vista TailGate Show at the Steam Engine Museum
- Apr. 10 PGMC Board Meeting 6:00/Gem Show Meeting 7:00
- Apr. 15&16 Introduction to Faceting Class
- Apr. 19 PGMC April Meeting—7:00
- Apr. 22 Faceting Continuation Class
- Apr. 23 Chiseled and Cut Bezel Ring Class
- Apr. 29 Wheels & Circles Bracelet Class
- May 8 PGMC Board Meeting 6:00/Gem Show Meeting 7:00



Continued from previous page . . . >>>

Returning to the highway, I observe that a bulldozer has recently cut a swath through the cactus extending from the wrecked drilling rig out across the desert toward the town of Salome.

This is before the construction of interstate 10. Salome is then a tiny town on the main highway from California to Phoenix. Salome contains a truck-stop café, a bar, a small grocery store, a decent motel, and several trailer homes. The bar is the best place to find information. Inside, Roper's prospector pal, Chet, greets me as my eyes are adjusting to the bar's smoke-filled darkness. Stopping at the bar to pick up two cold beers, I sit down with Chet and he recounts the latest gossip. Roper was going to Phoenix for supplies. Roper's son is working as a driller and he asks his dad for money, a few days off, and a ride to Phoenix. Roper says he doesn't need money or a day off and to keep working. Roper leaves his angry son, who has been working for months and hasn't been paid. The son attached a cable from the bulldozer to the drilling rig's mast and pulled the rig over. He then drove the bulldozer to Salome and caught a ride to Phoenix.

That was the last I heard of Roper until Betty and I joined the Palomar Gem and Mineral Club. At the second PGMC meeting that Betty and I attended, a young man asked if I ever met a man in Arizona named Roper. I told him we were friends long ago and he replied that he was married to Roper's granddaughter. He said Roper died years ago and never found another mine. In over half a century, I have met dozens of dead broke desperate prospectors. Roper was the only one to ever make money and was by far the best of them. Roper did not use the prospector's slang pseudo-technical terms. (I'm being polite in referring to this lingo, which we geologists consider "prospector nonsense".) Roper was eager to learn and asked intelligent questions when we were together in the field. He had a good layman's working knowledge of geology and mining as well as being a nice person. I couldn't understand how a wealthy man could stand to live in that shack. Money certainly did not go to Roper's head. Instead, he was enjoying a colorful life of adventure with his long time friends.



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