

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter



APRIL 2017

Volume 58 Issue 4



April Meeting

Gold Mining History of Escondido and San Diego County

We had a great lecture from Frank Lorey regarding all the untold treasures found in Escondido and San Diego County. It was amazing the number of gold mines there were throughout Escondido and San Diego County. Frank gave us a great talk and it was well received by everyone!



Note from the PGMC President:

Once a year we have a major fund raiser for PGMC, which is the annual Gem & Mineral show. This provides us with the opportunity to raise public awareness of the PGMC. This also provides us with a way to raise those dollars to keep our shop operating for another year so we can offer to our members the opportunity to pursue their interests such as cabbing, silversmithing, faceting gems, etc. This also provides us with a way to acquire speakers for our monthly meetings as well as other operating expenses. So with that in mind, please offer some of your time to this annual event which benefits all of it's membership

Thank You

John Raabe

PGMC President

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.



**KEEP
CALM
AND
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**

May PROGRAM

Inclusions: Crystalline Showcases

John Koibula, GIA

MAY 17, 2017

7:00 PM

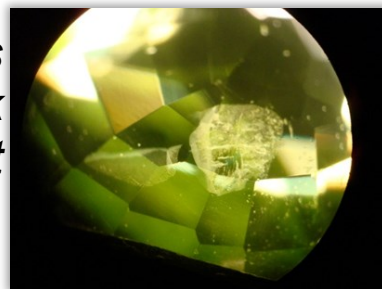
DITTUS HALL, REDWOOD TERRACE
710 WEST 13TH AVE.,
ESCONDIDO

We all enjoy looking at rutilated quartz, with the little metallic fibers running through it, but there is a whole universe of materials that have become trapped in gemstones, called inclusions

Did you know that the most perfect gemstones are usually synthetic? In addition to being beautiful and surprising, inclusions are also highly valued as proof that a stone is natural or sometimes that a material is synthetic. How do you know which is which? Come find out when John Koivula tells us how you can interpret the presence of inclusions in your gemstones!

Bring your examples of included stones and grab your friends for an exciting talk with gorgeous photos and some great refreshments!

See ya there!



Gem & Mineral Show 2017

SHOW REPORT

We are one month away from our annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show! The show committee has been doing a really excellent job in getting us ready to hold what we hope will be the biggest, most fun, most successful show in Club history. We have a few vendor spaces to fill, but we should be full by show time. Dawn has done a fabulous job in getting the word out to the public, I am hoping for record attendance. Michele has worked hard making sure our vendors have the spaces they want, not an easy task. Charles, Michele, Bob and Chris have made sure we have the BEST grand prize of ANY gem show in San Diego. Tickets will be on sale at the next general meeting. Toni has registration and treasury well managed. Alan is getting our signs and supplies organized and ready to go. Diane has demonstrators ready to showcase and promote our shop classes. Thanks to Cathy Davis of the San Diego Gemological Society, a long time friend of our Club, for doing Gem ID at the show. BUT, there is still work to be done; volunteers are needed for setup, teardown and days of the show. Chris, as always, does a superb job with volunteers. With your help, we can make this our finest gem show ever!



Archie Keuhn

PGMC 2017 Show Chairman

If you have already picked up your flyers to help with advertising and posted them, THANK YOU!

If you picked them up but haven't put them up, please do so in the next week or two.

If you haven't picked up the flyers/posters to help please do so at the next meeting or contact Archie or myself and we will be glad to get them to you. We need EVERYONE's help in making this a success.

VOLUNTEERS

This is a story about four people - EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY AND NOBODY. There was an important job to be done and EVERYBODY was sure that SOMEBODY would do it. ANYBODY would have done it, but NOBODY did it. SOMEBODY got angry about that because it was EVERYBODY'S job. EVERYBODY thought ANYBODY could do it, but NOBODY realized that EVERYBODY wouldn't do it. It ended up that EVERYBODY blamed SOMEBODY when NOBODY did what ANYBODY could have done.

We still need volunteers for the actual show!

Our show is very important because the profits enable us to maintain the workshop. Please email or call Chris Toft at (760) 739-1826 or omphalos41@gmail.com to volunteer.

Thanks!

| Volunteer Opportunities | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Saturday, June 3, ticket sales: | Sunday, June 4, ticket sales |
| 10:00 AM to Noon | 10:00 AM to Noon |
| Noon to 2:00 PM | Noon to 2:00 PM |
| 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM | 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM |

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, 2017 - Friday, August 18, 2017 ***with a possible 2nd Session Monday August 21, 2017 - Friday, August 25, 2017 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. May 13 and May 14, 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**



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, May 20, 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 PGMG. 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.



A Chair from the Dump

A Chair From The Dump is the title of a book I wrote for the Huntington Library's archive of The History and Development of the Western United States. The book recounts the life of a 20th Century geologist working in the western United States.

This tale describes my first day of employment after 9 years of college. It provides insight into the conditions people enjoyed (?) working for old-line mining companies. Air-conditioned offices and benevolent employee treatment, benefits, and respect were beyond everyone's wildest hopes and dreams.

Phelps Dodge Corporation's Western Operations 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 very old rundown three story 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 very well-worn linoleum covered wood floors and plaster walls covered in a yellowish patina from decades of cigar and cigarette smoke that forms a stinking dense gray haze throughout the building. The office décor is an eclectic mix of very old abused furniture and a scattering of World War II surplus battleship-gray desks and file cabinets. Many employees chew tobacco and every office contains brass spittoons, which are in constant use and sporadic cleaning. I'm sure spittoon cleaner was a hard job for Phelps Dodge to fill. The office building has not had any money wasted on such frivolities as new paint since the building was constructed. The one exception was the installation of a series of half inch steel rods that pass straight through the office building at intervals. These rods are attached to steel plates on the outside of the building to form a series of turnbuckles that keep the building from falling down, because the brick building has large cracks extending through and across the outer walls. Geologists find the rods a handy place from which to suspend maps.

The office "complex" is closely surrounded, on all sides, by rather unpleasant neighbors, including the smelter and slag pile, a junkyard, the municipal dump, and the city's 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 junkyard's pleasant perfume 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 I will share an office in the library 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. Phelps Dodge treasures old and cracked or broken things. Plaster has fallen off the exterior wall, exposing patches of red bricks. Mortar has fallen from between some bricks and there are open cracks as the building slowly falls apart. This allows 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. The company's entire technical library contains exactly four mining books that were published in the 19th Century except for the newest book 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 well worn 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

Continued on the next page . . . >>>

Calendar of Events



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|-----------|---|
| May 8 | PGMC Board Meeting 6:00/Gem Show Meeting 7:00 |
| May 13&14 | Introduction to Faceting Class |
| May 17 | PGMC May Meeting—7:00 |
| May 20 | Faceting Continuation Class |
| June 3-4 | Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show |
| June 12 | PGMC Board Meeting 6:00 |
| June 21 | PGMC June Meeting—7:00 |

Continued from previous page . . . >>> around and see if we can find one.” We search for nearly an hour, but no spare 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 pass the stinking sewerage ponds to scrounge an office chair at the nearby dump. You can’t make stuff like this up. You had to live it to believe it was real.

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 mounds of slimy-stinking-vermin-covered garbage in a now dusty suit and once shiny new shoes. Eventually, I find “The Chair”. It was someone’s 19th Century tall-straight-backed wooden dining-room chair, whose cane bottom was long ago replaced by solid nailed-on plywood. At some point, tension wire was added to hold the chair’s wobbly legs quasi-rigid. The chair’s last coat of paint was “battleship-gray”. At least its style, distressed condition, advanced age, and color are harmonious with Phelps Dodge’s elegant office décor. 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. First, I need to find an old rag to wipe slime, grime, and fecal matter off the chair, before it can be triumphantly carried back to my “new” office. Throughout my employment that chair from the dump, with its subtle pungent odor, will be “my” office chair. The chair was left behind when I quit although; technically 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 except that in 2007 Phelps Dodge was acquired by Freeport-McMoRan after 173 years in business. Being a mining company, Freeport-McMoRan probably still carries the chair in its office inventory as a valuable antique.

My subsequent employers did not provide me with an office; so I provided my own office furniture and equipment, which made it easy to transition from employee to self-employment. Looking back, I guess those employers correctly discerned that I wasn’t fated to be a company man. Perhaps, I should have kept The Chair as a talisman.



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