

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter



MAY 2017

Volume 58 Issue 5

63rd Annual Palomar Gem and Mineral Club's

Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

California Center for the Arts, Escondido
304 N. Escondido Blvd
Escondido, CA

Admission \$5 for Adults
Children 12 and under FREE

Saturday June 3, 2017 10am - 5pm
Sunday June 4, 2017 10am - 4pm

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

I do not have a report on last month's meeting, due to I was out of town on a family emergency. Our Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show is next weekend so I figured this should take front page.

The annual PGMG Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show is just around the corner. Here are some of the important dates and times:

Setup-Friday June 2, 12:30-6:30 We need your help! Refreshments provided

Final Setup-Saturday June 3, 7:30-10:00. Coffee & donuts for volunteers, all are welcome to help out

Saturday Show-10:00AM-5:00PM. Close down 5:00-6:00PM

Sunday Show-Doors open for vendors and volunteers 9:30AM, show-10:00AM-4PM; Vendor load-out 4:00-7:00PM

I am hoping this will be our biggest show yet. We have done a lot of advertising and are **sold out on vendors**. This is our biggest event of the year. I invite you come enjoy, and volunteer to help out, especially newer members.

I welcome any last minute suggestions, comments or yes, even complaints!

Many thanks to all the committee members who have put in so much effort to make this event possible.

Gem & Mineral Show 2017

SOLD OUT

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**

June PROGRAM

A Native American Toolbox Flint Knapping Demonstration

James Bowden

JUNE 21, 2017

7:00 PM

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

Learn how the Native Americans made their own tools!

Follow the journey of a stone tool created before your eyes to its many connections to the local Native American material culture.

James Bowden has been flintknapping for 33 years, passionately creating images of the past. At first he was largely self-taught. Later, he studied with other knappers in Southern California to advance his skills and knowledge. Early on, sizable stone was unavailable, which directly affected his style of flintknapping.

Today James works with a wide variety of materials to flake many different types of stone implements. The tools and methods he uses closely follow traditional ones. His forté continues to be intricately flaked eccentrics, and small delicate gem points with long, drawn-out ears. This work fills a special niche in the world of modern flintknapping.



James also teaches flintknapping. His list of students includes Mike Rowe whom he taught on his Dirty Jobs series!

So grab your friends and come join us for an exciting talk and some great refreshments!

See ya there!

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. June 17 and June 18 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**



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: June 25, 2017

Time: 10-5

Cost: \$30

Sign-up: Call Dawn at 951-265-8745 to register or email dawnvaughn@hotmail.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, June 24, 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**

Precious Metal Clay Class—*New Class Coming In July!!!*

Learn the basics of Precious Metal Clay - how to make a mold and using precious metal clay (PMC 3), make a three dimensional pure silver design from your mold; and to use a hand held torch to fire the clay. For this class you will need to bring an object no larger than a silver dollar that you want to make a mold of. I have used the head of a dragon figurine. I also have a few molds that I have made you are welcome to use.

Instructor: Annie Heffner

Location: Club Shop

Dates & Times: To be announced

Cost: \$55 members, \$80 non-members (includes 1 single annual membership). Material costs approximately \$70 additional. **A non-refundable deposit of \$70 to Annie Heffner will be required prior to class.**

****Contact Annie Heffner at (760) 855-5406 for more info.**



Calendar of Events



June 3-4	Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show
June 10-11	Beginning Silversmith Class
June 12	PGMC Board Meeting 6:00
June 17-18	Introduction to Faceting
June 21	PGMC June Meeting—7:00
June 24	Faceting Continuation Class
June 25	Wire Wrapping Class
July 10	PGMC Board Meeting 6:00
July 19	PGMC July Meeting—7:00

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



Prospectors and City Folk

It is company policy at Phelps Dodge (PD) that every prospector selling a mining claim will immediately receive a reply with a follow-up visit by a PD geologist to appraise his property. Often Ray, the chief geologist, doesn't trust one geologist to appraise these "opportunities". Instead several geologists will, on different dates, individually visit and evaluate the same worthless property. Because my office is next to Ray's, I receive more than my fair share of these fruitless assignments, which all geologists consider wasted time. Consider that Phelps Dodge has many trained geologists, most of whom have graduate degrees, and yet they don't trust us to develop projects. Instead we are sent on a mindless sampling program across Arizona. It is so mindless that some geologists accomplish each day's work in a few minutes by picking up some rocks at the edge of town. The rocks are put in labeled sampled bags and sample locations are randomly marked on the topographic map. Now the geologist is free to spend a relaxing day in one of the town's air-conditioned bars. We referred to these "ingenious" men as the brother-in-laws because they are treated better than the rest of us.

For reasons that no geologist can understand, any ignorant prospector can submit a prospect and get one or more appraisals at considerable cost to the company. These prospectors are almost without exception uneducated and usually they are ignorant and delusional dirty-tobacco-chewing-flat broke-alcoholic misfits camped out in the desert. In the city they would be called bums or derelicts, but out in the desert they are romanticized as prospectors. In over four decades, I will visit dozens of "prospector or promoter recommended opportunities" and never once did I see one that was worth a visit. A promoter is a variant of the prospector brotherhood (women are never prospectors, I guess they have more sense). A promoter has a business card, a big Cadillac, a cheap suit, a flashy pinky ring, and a worthless mining claim or oil lease. One Canadian promoter, whose last name was Brady, had the misfortune to acquire the moniker "Zircon Jim Brady" for the phony diamond pinky ring he wore.

Ray orders me to visit Duffy Dubicki's gold claims near Wickenburg. I mention this to Andy, another geologist, and he starts laughing. "I looked at Duffy's gold mine six months ago. That drunken dummy has a one inch thick quartz vein with a few scattered flakes of gold." (Gene) "Well it looks like Ray didn't trust you to recognize worthless rock. Now it's my turn." The next day, Duffy and I are standing inside a hand-dug pit about 5 feet deep, 5 feet wide, and ten feet long with steep vertical rock walls. The pit exposes a one-inch-thick-quartz vein with a few microscopic gold flakes. Duffy is holding a miner's pick as he fantasizes about the fortune he is going to make. Without thinking, I say, "Didn't Andy Nevin look at this pit with you last spring?" Suddenly Duffy grasps the pick handle in a death grip as the veins pop out on his bright red face and neck. He is walking toward me as he raises the pick mumbling over and over, "Andy Nevin, Andy Nevin, Andy Nevin." I'm in big trouble trapped inside a pit with a nut about to kill me. Thinking fast, I say, "Andy Nevin is the dumbest geologist I know. He wouldn't recognize a great property like this one if you showed it to him on a silver platter. I'm going to recommend to Phelps Dodge that we make a deal with you. This is the richest gold mine I have ever seen." Duffy immediately calms down. Now I'm his best friend, because, thanks to me, he thinks he is going to get rich. Duffy now wants me to share his bottle of whiskey, but I don't need pyorrhea of the gums. All I want is to get the Hell away from here. Back in town, Andy and I drink a few beers, have a good laugh, and we call Ray to tell him to never again send anyone to visit crazy Duffy's properties.

A few weeks later, Ray hands me a letter and says to check out another property. He seems especially hopeful about this prospect. The letter is from John, a prospector, but I immediately recognize John is a man with some modest education. This is not a typical prospector letter written as one single endless sentence containing misspelled words and lacking punctuation. John actually wrote in sentences and he has two paragraphs in a four-page letter. The letter poetically begins, "The Golden Girl mine is a massive quartz blowout located at the apex of the vein with bleeders and feeders that get richer and bigger with depth down to the bonanza that extends into the deepest bowels of the earth." The letter goes on for three pages containing this prospector nonsense gibberish until the last sentence in the first paragraph, which reads, "If Phelps Dodge is not interested in the Golden Girl Mine, I also have invented a wonderful curative salve."

Continued on the next page . . . >>>

Continued from previous page . . . >>> Remember, very few words in the original letter were spelled correctly. The second paragraph begins, "John's Miracle Salve is an ointment that cures mankind's afflictions including syphilis, gonorrhea, boils, camp fever, sores, baldness, constipation, black fever, canker, flux, the itch, pyorrhea of the gums, fungus, ring worm, lumbago, piles, lung fever, gout, croup, the rheumatism, carbuncles, grippe, gas pains, toe rot, shingles, trench mouth, black pox, and female problems." Regarding "female problems", I'm not sure if he means female medical problems or problems men have with women. The letter continues describing other uses this salve provides to men, women, and horses. It's even a lubricant for machinery and other purposes. I finish reading the letter and ask Ray if PD also wants me to investigate the salve. He gives me a dirty look and as he walks away, I say, "I'll make you a bet John's salve has more potential than the mine."

Putting the wonderful salve's merits aside, in a few days smelly John and I are at the Golden Girl Mine, which in reality is a two-foot deep foxhole at the top of a hill. Returning to the office, Ray spots me. Ray is always optimistic these prospector visits will disclose a vast ore body and he asks, "What did you think of the Golden Girl Mine?" (Gene) "I think we should pass on the mine, but I'm still evaluating the salve. There may be a real opportunity for PD with John's Miracle Salve. It could be a big seller at PD Mercantile (the company store)." Lacking a sense of humor, Ray walks into his office, slams the door violently, and puts another black mark next to my name.

Unexpected situations occasionally arise in the field. Driving into a remote location to examine another of the never-ending prospector submitted mining properties; I notice shallow ruts in the dirt road where someone had driven through mud after it rained. The dried mud in the ruts is not disturbed, thus indicating no one has traveled this seldom used road since the last rainstorm five or six months previous. The undisturbed ruts prove I'm the first person to travel this road in half a year. The road into the property crosses two wide-dry-sandy ravines. By mid-afternoon, I've completed another fruitless examination and I'm driving back toward the highway thinking of a cold beer and a steak dinner. Suddenly, the road is blocked by a convertible stuck axel deep in the loose sand in the second creek bed. Standing by the convertible are a man and woman, who are very happy to see me. The man is wearing open sandals, short pants, no shirt, and no hat. The woman wears sandals, shorts, a halter, and no hat. In Arizona's summer heat it is about 110 degrees and they have no water, just a thermos containing liquor. They both speak with a recognizable New York City accent and tell me they are on vacation from New York. (Gene) "What would you have done if I hadn't shown up?" (New York man) "I would have started walking." (Gene) "In what direction?" He points to the northeast, "That way." (Gene) "That way is 60 miles across the cactus filled desert to the nearest paved road. You would never make it without water, sun protection, and decent shoes. You should walk back to the highway on this road." (New York man) "The highway is more than 10 miles back." (Gene) "I know, but it is the nearest paved road. I'm surprised you made it this far in that convertible. What are you doing out here anyway?" (New York woman) "We are on a picnic." (Gene) "This is a Hell of a remote place to go on a picnic. Didn't anyone tell you to take water and sun protection when you go into the desert?"

I pull the convertible loose and tell them to follow me. The guy drives onto solid ground and stops the convertible. Backing up to see what is wrong, the man says they are stopping to have their picnic. We discuss the wisdom in a decision not to follow me out and the fact they still have another sandy ravine to cross. He is a typical New Yorker as am I; so we argue because that is our traditional NY form of polite conversation. He is arguing and trying to appear macho to his girl friend, but she has more sense and is starting to understand that maybe they don't belong out here in the desert. Eventually, she convinces City Boy to follow me safely back to the highway.

A few weeks later, I meet several hikers while I'm mapping near Wickenburg. They are staying at a local dude ranch. The hikers went for a walk in the desert and became lost. They are eager to drink my water and allow me to drive them back to civilization. That same year my coworkers found a skeleton out in the desert. They just left it be and didn't notify the sheriff, because that would have been too much bother. After spending a long day in the hot desert, who wants to take the sheriff back out there. On more than one occasion, I have found people lost or stuck miles from civilization. I too occasionally got stuck but, with a shovel and other equipment, I could always dig the jeep or truck out. I once rolled a pickup truck on its side, but I was able to pull the truck upright with a nearby tree, a rope, and a block and tackle. Upon retirement, I had to put all these wonderful working conditions and amenities aside. Here is a bit of worthless information. If you hear a geologist say, "I just love fieldwork" then you can bet he has done very little real fieldwork.



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:



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760-743-0809 | WWW.PALOMARGEM.ORG