

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2017

Volume 58 Issue 8

Welcome Back!

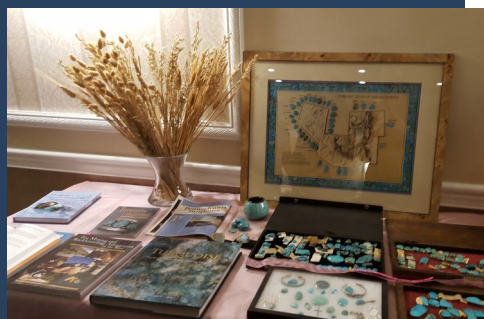
After our August dark month its good to be back and getting onto our normal schedule. Great things happened while we were on hiatus including our great annual picnic. Thank you to all that helped make it a success!

Thank you to the great group of individuals that took the time to lend a hand and clean up and prep the workshop for our next round of classes and events!

September's Meeting.

September's meeting was about Turquoise presented by none other than our own member Eric Brookings.

He gave us an informative discussion on what different types of turquoise there is out there. Some great ideas of how to work with it and some great history on where turquoise is found. He brought some wonderful specimens to look at as well. Thank you Eric for all of your efforts!



PGMC Membership 2017

Enclosed with this newsletter will be the final Roster for the 2017 Membership year.

Beginning in November, we will begin the new membership drive for 2017-2018.

PGMC Annual Election of Officers

We will be having our annual election of Officers at our November meeting. If you would like to be a part of your club and make an impact on how your club is run, please contact Bob Johnson with the Nominating Committee email: N78532@yahoo.com or phone: 760-809-0152 . The list of officers includes the following:

President	Vice-President	Treasurer	Secretary	Director of Communications
CFMS Chair	Parliamentarian	Programs	Show Chairman	Field Trips Coordinator

October PROGRAM

Annual Silent Auction

We will be having our annual Silent Auction on Wednesday October 18, 2017.

OCTOBER 18, 2017

7:00 PM

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

If you are planning on selling anything at the auction, all auction items must be placed on the tables **no later than 6:30**.

Due to the fact that we must be out of Dittus Hall by 9:00pm, we are limiting members' personal sales to **10 items**.

Timing of the night will be as follows:

- From 6:30 to 7:30, members may start placing bids
- A short meeting between 7:00 and 7:15 while members are looking at auction items
- Bidding will continue until 7:30, giving members about an hour to place their bids
- At 7:30, first of the 8 tables will be closed, with a space of 8 minutes between each table closing.
- Members may keep bidding at tables that haven't closed
- Last table closing at approximately 8:30
- 8:30 to 9:00, all auction items to be picked up and paid for, and all unbid items to be cleared off the tables by their owners

To expedite setting up for the auction, included with this newsletter will be bid forms. Please have them filled out for each of your items prior to arriving at the meeting.

As this is also a very social event, we are asking if you can bring "finger foods" for the evening. It can be anything like cold cuts, cheese, nuts, sushi, dips, crackers, veggies, fruit and any else you can think of.

Thank you !

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 ten 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. Oct 28 & Sun. Oct 29, 2017—10a-4p

Cost: \$60 for 10 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

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. Oct 14 and Oct 15 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**



Textured Metal Class

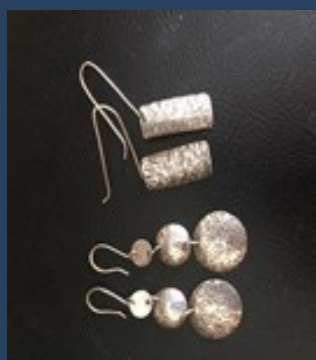
Come and join in the fun, exploring how to texture metal and make one-of-a-kind earrings (3 to 4 pairs) or a bracelet. They will make great gifts. You may also learn how to make your own ear wires.

Instructor: Diane Hall & Annie Heffner
Location: Club Shop

Dates & Times: November 19, 2017, 10a-4p

Cost: \$35 plus supply cost (club membership required - \$25 fee for single membership). You will need about 1 ounce of silver or copper sheet, which we will purchase for every one who is signed up by November 13th. Sign ups after that will need to provide their own material.

To sign up: Call Diane at 760-741-0433 to register or email at dianehall213@gmail.com (preferred). 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, October 21,, 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**

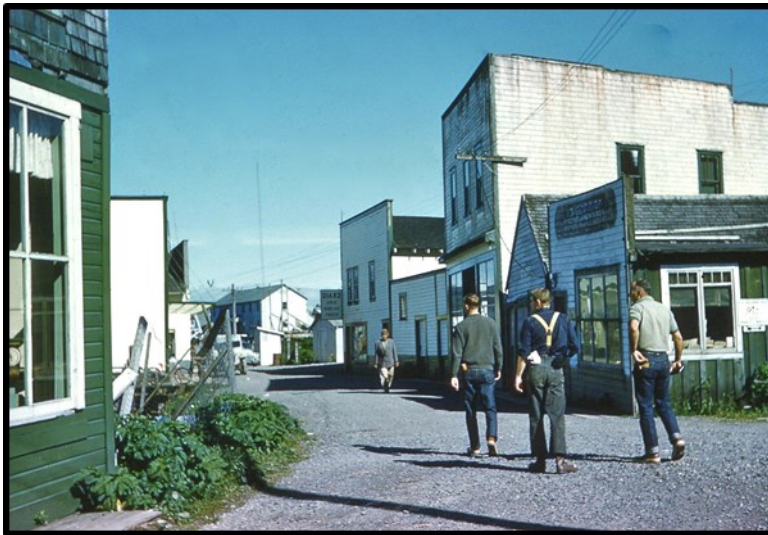
AN OLD GEOLOGIST'S TALES

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



ONE BRIGHT-EYED GEOLOGIST (Part 2)

From Ketchikan we board a surplus World War II Grumman Goose seaplane to Craig, Alaska. Loading our gear aboard the Goose, we depart. Waves lap against the porthole/window as the Goose taxis out into the sound. The pilot revs the engine and the Goose roars across the water with waves slapping the hull. We must have sailed, or to put it more correctly bounced along five miles and never once cleared the water. Aerodynamically the plane has a lot of similarity to a real goose's attempt to get airborne. The Goose turns around and taxis back to the dock, where the pilot unloads our gear shouting, "We're too heavy. I'll bring this stuff tomorrow". Looking at all our neat new gear and possessions lying on the dock, we mumble FAT CHANCE! The Goose roars across the water and is immediately airborne into the clouds. Craig is a small fishing village with a waterfront dock and a couple of dozen buildings scattered among the trees. Bob rents a room at the local boarding house. The owner takes pity on us poor college students and allows us to sleep on the floor for \$3.00 a day each. The going rate down south for a single motel room is \$3.00. In Craig the rate is \$39.00 a night. Bob assures (misleads) us it will only be for a day or two, because the drilling crew will soon arrive to set up camp.



Boarding house food prices are even higher than in Ketchikan. A first look at the menu and we tell the owner we can't afford to eat there. He says, "It will be less expensive if you eat family style". With no other place to eat, we must accept his offer. The owner will choose the day's menu for breakfast and dinner. The price for dinner will be \$10.00. Thus dinner and a night's lodging are costing us each \$13.00/day and we are grossing \$12.80/day. We still have to buy breakfast and lunch plus pay taxes, buy our own gear, and cover other miscellaneous expenses. Bob never offers to pay for anything from the U. S. Steel expense account; not even a loaf of bread.

Day after day, we grumble that we will be broke or starve to death before the camp is set up. One evening the meal is pork chops and, out of boredom, I begin to thumb through the restaurant's menu, which lists all the meals we have consumed and each dinner is cheaper than \$10.00, including pork chops listed as costing \$7.00. Pat calls the owner over and asks why are we paying more than menu prices? As if we are stupid, the owner explains this is a town menu. There is another menu with much higher prices for outsiders and we're paying less.

WADLEIGH ISLAND PROJECT

The gear arrives and work begins on Wadleigh Island. Bob rents a small skiff and, to our surprise and probably fearing mutiny, he doesn't ask Jim, Pat, and I to each pay one-quarter of the skiff's

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rent. The dangerously over loaded skiff wasn't designed to sail across four miles of ocean water and there are no life jackets. Often the weather is stormy with heavy waves, fog, and always it is raining. Twice sea conditions became extremely hazardous. Looking back with more maturity, those open water crossings were an irresponsible risk. Pat, Jim, and I were too young and stupid to know better, but Bob should have recognized the risks we were taking.

The Craig to Wadleigh Island run takes us past the Indian village of Klawok, whose beach is lined with old totem poles. We try to talk Bob into stopping, but he refused. U. S. Steel would never know if we stopped to see Klawok. Hell, the people in Craig wouldn't know if we stopped, because Klawok is beyond the boondocks. I regret having missed the opportunity to visit one of the last authentic Native American villages. Today, Klawok has entered the modern world as just another Alaskan town. Bob, the company man, is always plugging for the company at our expense. This loyalty earned him nothing and two years later he was fired.

Wadleigh Island contains very pure limestone used as flux in a blast furnace. Years earlier, U. S. Steel staked mining claims across the island. The project's objective is to identify the size and location of the flux quality limestone. U. S. Steel can apply for Federal mining claims patents by proving there is an economic resource. A patented claim holder owns the land and the mineral deposits below that land. In the 1960s, the government still allows companies and individuals to patent mining claims, if they can prove there is an economically valuable mineral resource. Today, it is nearly impossible to obtain a mining claim patent.

The first task is to clear a three-foot wide survey baseline across Wadleigh Island. Because there are no maps or aerial photographs for Wadleigh Island, the baseline will be an axis from which secondary survey lines will extend. Geology will be mapped along these survey lines. For 16 hours a day, we cut trees and brush in the pouring rain. Occasionally I map the geology, but poor Jim and Pat just keep felling trees and cutting brush. We are returning to the skiff late on the tenth day and hear noise as we approach the shore. At shoreline, we see a large wooden barge topped with a faded barn red building. The barge is attached to a small wooden boat named the Mary Lou. Both vessels contain shouting and swearing men dressed in rain gear. One guy shouts, "HERE COME THE G@&\$ D&#n GEOLOGISTS!" and we meet Boyles Brothers' drilling crew.

We immediately pitch in to anchor the barge. Pat, Jim, and I are put under the supervision of an old shriveled-up-toothless deckhand. As we work, the guy says, "You boys are good hands. Not like the bunch they sent up here last year. Those guys were so dumb they didn't know how to saiwash a winch." The old guy wanders off and Jim says, "How do you saiwash a winch?" Pat and I both shrug. Lucky for us, no one told us to saiwash a winch and we never found out what the term refers to. (Saiwash is an offensive Alaskan Indian word thrown in conversation.)

After anchoring the barge and securing it with steel cables fastened to nearby trees, we left the drillers to finish setting up camp. Gene McKay, the Mary Lou's captain, sails us to Craig to pick up our gear and boxes of drill core (cylindrical rock samples from drill holes), which were stored in Craig from prior years of drilling at Wadleigh Island. Upon returning, the fog-shrouded barge has the forlorn look of a derelict. According to her papers, the barge was built in the 1880's.

The drilling crew contains a foreman, six drillers, and six helpers. Dottie, a very large woman, is the camp cook. The helpers are college football players sent to Alaska to toughened up by hard work. The largest specimens, Fawn and Big John, are well over six feet tall and in the +300-pound weight range.

Big John has the largest size and the smallest intellect. The men are constantly playing jokes on Big John, whose size, stooped posture, and shaggy black hair have a Neanderthal appearance. Big John is timid and fears the forest, which he is convinced harbors a creature that he calls the Giant Behemoth. Naturally, the men exploit his fears as an element of fun.

The three drill sites are reached along narrow foot trails cut through the forest. Big John is frequently sent on errands along these trails. Fearing the forest, he tries to beg off from solo assignments. Naturally, his begging adds a perverse element of pleasure to the assigning driller. Big John occasionally wanders off the trail and gets lost. Realizing he is lost, Big John's animal instinct is to cower against a large tree until he is found. This prevents his wandering too far into the forest. There is concern that eventually he might get seriously lost. We decide to mark each trail with a bright fluorescent orange colored paint. As we are congratulating ourselves on this foolproof system, Big John gets lost again. A loud whistle is tied on a string around Big John's neck and this proves to be the solution, because as soon as he is lost, John blows the whistle non-stop until rescue arrives. We have reinvented the cowbell.

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The drillers decide it will be great fun for Big John to work the night shift. He is assigned to work with Frenchie at the most remote site in the forest. For Big John's first night initiation, Frenchie concocts a plan to pretend the rig broke down at 1 AM. Frenchie will leave Big John alone in the forest and go back to camp for a replacement part. Everyone will be waiting in the forest to watch the fun. At 1 AM Frenchie fakes the problem telling Big John he is going back to camp and will return in an hour. Big John is instructed to keep the fire going and the pump running. Big John begs not to be left alone, but Frenchie is adamant that Big John must keep the pump running. Frenchie must take the only lantern and naturally the pump is rigged to stall out shortly after he leaves. Frenchie leaves and circles around to join us. We watch as Big John builds up a great fire and backs up against a large Sitka spruce tree. He sits there trembling with an ax clutched to his chest. Soon the pump stalls out, but he does not seem to notice. With the pump off, the forest is now silent. The boys wait patiently, as the silence, the natural forest noises, and Big John's imagination work their magic. Then to add to Big John's terror, Fawn's bulk is used to make noise like a large animal moving about. Now Big John is trying to climb the spruce tree, which must have been six feet in diameter.

Frenchie has another idea, which we all agree will be the perfect climax to the evening's fun. Frenchie strides back to the drill site. Big John is now a trembling basket case as Frenchie tells him they will return to camp, get the part, and have a hot meal. Meanwhile, the crew quietly walks back down the trail to hide. As they near the beach Big John can see the lights on the barge. Frenchie slows down to let Big John get ahead. Suddenly there is a great roar and the forest, on either side of the trail, bursts into chaos. Big John bolts for the beach hitting the water at full gallop and running into the bay up to his chest before remembering he can't swim. Now frozen with fear he can't move. Two guys must wade out to bring him to shore. Big John is so terrified that the prank suddenly is no longer fun and this ends the Big John baiting. He is transferred back to the day shift and treated with some kindness. Dottie even cooks a special meal with a separate cake for Big John's dessert. After his usual hearty dinner, Big John eats the entire cake in one sitting. (To be continued)

Calendar of Events

Oct 9	PGMC Board Meeting 6:00
Oct. 14-15	Intro to Faceting Class
Oct. 18	PGMC Meeting & Silent Auction 7:00
Oct 21	Faceting Continuation Class
Oct 28-29	Silversmithing Class
Nov. 13	PGMC Board Meeting 6:00
Nov. 15	PGMC Meeting and Annual Election of Officers 7:00
Nov. 19	Textured Metal Class





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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