



## Club Notes



**General Meeting:** Dec. 16th. 2014 7:30 PM at the Church of Christ. For the Christmas Dinner those with the last name **A-F** bring a dessert **G-P** bring a hot side dish; **Q-Z** bring a salad

**New Members:** Unless otherwise stated, General Meetings are on the third with Tuesday of the month at the church at 7:30 pm. You are invited and encouraged to attend! There is a silent auction and door prizes at every meeting.

**Next Board Meeting:** Monday Dec. 8th Board Meeting at the shop 7p.m.

**Show Meeting:** Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at the shop 7:00



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**MGSCV Petrograph - December 2013**  
**Monthly Bulletin of the Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley, inc.**

This publication is the bulletin of the Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley, Inc., a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc., the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the North Bay Field Trip Association.

### **Bulletin Submission Policy**

Submission deadline is the second Friday following the General Meeting (normally the second Wednesday of the month.) Anonymous contributions will not be considered for publication in the Petrograph; however, if requested at the time of submission, the contributor's name can be withheld. Members are encouraged to submit articles that may be of interest to the general membership. The bulletin editor reserves the right to edit any submitted articles or omit any submission from publication. Source must be cited for material quoted from other authors. Permission to reprint Petrograph articles is hereby granted provided properly cited.

### **2013 MGSCV Officers**

#### Elected

President - Bonnie Andrade	<a href="mailto:President@mgscv.org">President@mgscv.org</a>	
Vice President - Mike Mc Bride	<a href="mailto:VP@mgscv.org">VP@mgscv.org</a>	
Secretary - Sheryl Cooper	<a href="mailto:Secretary@mgscv.org">Secretary@mgscv.org</a>	(510) 589-8858
Treasurer - Betty Milam	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@mgscv.org">Treasurer@mgscv.org</a>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Year Director - Michael Cox	<a href="mailto:Director1@mgscv.org">Director1@mgscv.org</a>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Director - Jodi Minshall	<a href="mailto:Director2@mgscv.org">Director2@mgscv.org</a>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Director - Norm Hodgson	<a href="mailto:Director3@mgscv.org">Director3@mgscv.org</a>	
Federation Director - Ron Hasemeyer	<a href="mailto:Federation@mgscv.org">Federation@mgscv.org</a>	
Shop Manager - Beth Farmer	<a href="mailto:ShopManager@mgscv.org">ShopManager@mgscv.org</a>	
2014 Show Chairman - Cathy Miller	<a href="mailto&gt;ShowChair@mgscv.org">ShowChair@mgscv.org</a>	
Membership - Tony Cooper	<a href="mailto:membership@mgscv.org">membership@mgscv.org</a>	510-589-5292
Editor - Diana Cohoon	<a href="mailto:Editor@mgscv.org">Editor@mgscv.org</a>	
Past President - Ron Miller	<a href="mailto:pastpresident@mgscv.org">pastpresident@mgscv.org</a>	

#### Appointed

Scholarship Chair - Mary Howell  
Librarian - Mary Howell  
Historian - Jamie McDonald  
Purchasing Agent - Beth Farmer  
Education Coordinator - Shirley Buschke  
Field Trip Coordinator - Ron Hasemeyer  
Parliamentarian - Doc Buschke  
Reception/Hostess - Ann Vargas/Dan Gilson  
Sunshine Reporter - All members  
Door Prizes - Bonnie Andrade  
Web Master - Tony Cooper

[webmaster@MGSCV.org](mailto:webmaster@MGSCV.org)



**Publication Staff**



◇Contributors: Shirley Buschke, Betty Milam, Sheryl Cooper, Mike McBride

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### BOARD MEETING

November 11<sup>th</sup> 2014

**Submitted by Sheryl Cooper**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. In attendance were **Bonnie Andrade, Beth Farmer, Betty Milam, Sheryl Cooper, Jodi Minshall, Mike McBride, Diana Cohoon and Cathy Miller.**

**Treasurer:** We received a wonderful anonymous donation. Thank You. We had a discussion about different types of insurance that we pay for. We reviewed the October treasurer's report presented by **Betty Milam.** **Beth Farmer** moved to accept the reports as presented. **Mike McBride** seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Minutes:** **Diana Cohoon** moved to accept the October board minutes as printed in the Petrograph. **Mike McBride** seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Shop:** **Beth Farmer** sent the facet machine arm out for repair. At the shop cleanup the usual people showed up. Thank you. She is thinking we need to have three cleanup days each year. She is looking for a better price on the oil. The new 12" saw is ready to be set up.

**Show:** **Diana Cohoon** presented two possibilities for food vendors. **Cathy Miller** says people for positions / volunteers are needed. We are getting contracts back and deposits are coming in. An ad has been submitted to Rock and Gem Magazine. The next show meeting will be December 4th.

**Editor:** The junior editor was busy with school, but she has something for

December. Sorry, some articles did not make it into the November Petrograph.

**Membership:** There are 159 current members. 2015 is just around the corner and that means you need to renew your membership.

**Sunshine:** **Jodi Minshall's** mom is doing better. She can now get up and do something without feeling tired. **Jim Ewing** is taking it one day at a time and one project at a time.

**Federation:** **Mike McBride** attended the business meeting. There were about 80 people at the meeting. He brought back the applications for the Federation show. He learned that 90% of Death Valley is a now a monument. The CFMS is working to keep the last 10% available. Check out the CFMS Newsletter and Information Binder in the lobby of the shop.

**New Business:** **Betty Milam** proposed to move the savings account into a Business Money Market Select account. The savings account is earning .01% interest and the money market would earn .12% interest. The money would still be available anytime. We are making .05% on the CD's. There are some CDs maturing soon also. **Beth Farmer** moved to close the savings account and open a money market and then as the CD's mature move them to the money market account also. **Jodi Minshall** seconded the motion. It was carried unanimously. (8 for 0 against)

The men's toilet is leaking. We discussed the options of repairing, replacing or will

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the owner pay for it? We need to look at the lease and then make a decision.

Officer Elections are coming up. We need some new blood with fresh ideas.

The annual Christmas Party will be on December 16th. The doors open at 5:00 pm and we eat at 6:00 pm.

The next board meeting will be December 8th

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

### GENEAL MEETING

Submitted by **Sheryl Cooper**

**Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> 2014**

Bonnie Andrade called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. There were 25 members present.

Minutes: **John Caudill** moved to accept the October minutes as printed in the Petrograph. **Greg Ordonez** seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Lapidary Sharing: **Jim Ewing** brought a few pieces to share. A rutilated quartz pendent, a fire agate ring, a malachite pendent, a velvet obsidian pendent, a jade pendent and earring set and a Chinese carved belt buckle from the 1900 century. **Doc Buschke** shared a Chinese chop stone, or seal stone, that his grandson brought back from China for him. It is an agate block, with a hardness of 8, with his initials carved in it. **Mike McBride** shared his 2nd facet called "Lapidary Stars." The design is from the May/June 2013 issue of Lapidary Journal. The star looks 3 dimensional.

**Shop:** We got down to the crude level at the shop cleanup two weeks ago. Beth Farmer says the new saw is ready to put in. She is still looking for an inexpensive oil source. She will be ordering grit also.

**Federation:** **Mike McBride** attended the business meeting in Visalia on November 8th. He brought back the applications for show cases at the Lodi show in 2015. He informed us that 90% of the Death Valley is a Federal Monument and that the CFMS is working hard to keep the last 10% open to us. There is a binder in the shop lobby with the CFMS news, minutes, applications and more.

**Show:** There is 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  months until our show. We do need more help and coordinators. Quarter sheet flyers are available at the shop to pass out everywhere. The show binder is ready and will be on the desk at the shop and at the meetings. Setup starts at 9:00 am Monday, Wednesday and Friday (March 2, 4 and 5). The opal raffle pendent tickets are being printed. We are waiting to hear from a few dealers. The next meeting is on December 4th.

**Editor:** **Diana Cohoon** continues to do a great job.

**Membership:** There are currently 159 members. It is time to think about renewing your membership for 2015. Only paid members are covered by the insurance.

**Juniors:** **Mark Montgomery** has one, sometimes two, juniors. He is hoping to find a third.

**Education:** We had a very successful wax class. The cost was \$40 and included the

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silver. Ed Rigor donated the money back to the club. The next class will be in January and is limited to 4 students. Norm Hodgson enjoyed the class. You learn a lot of tips along with the project instructions and get very individual attention. Students were able to set up their findings for casting. At another session they will learn how to clean up and set their stone. Another class will be held in January. **Ken Panico** is teaching sphere making, and the faceting classes are continuing.

There will be an Open House at the Crucible at 1260 7th St. Oakland, Ca. Admission is free. purchases may be made. Hours are Friday Dec 12 from 7-9:30 , 11AM-6PM Saturday Dec 13 and noon to 5 PM Sunday Dec 14. There is a brochure of their classes on the desk. Check out their prices and compare with ours. We keep our fees low because we do not pay our teachers. We offer classes or demonstrations in cabachon making, wax , soldering (when we can find a teacher). mold making, intarsia, faceting. carving, etc  
Library: **Mary Howell** is coming back in to take care of the library for all of us.

Field Trip: **Brian Gray** went to work in Taiwan twice lately. He is looking for fault lines under the nuclear reactors. While walking the beaches he has found several items including a large bivalve shell and coral pieces. Hopefully we can talk him into doing a program.

The Contra Costa club is hosting a field trip to Wiley Well District on Jan 27-31, 2015.

Unfinished Business: We voted on the bylaw change presented to the members regarding unfilled Board positions. Shirley Buschke moved to accept the proposal as presented. Mark Montgomery seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

New Business: A nominating committee is needed. Does anyone want to join the board? We need some new blood. Think about looking at your club from a different angle.

Announcement: **Doc Buschke** brought in the turquoise tree for the Christmas party raffle. Last year we made \$470 and he would love to set a new record. Tickets are \$1 each.

Christmas Dinner is on December 16th. The doors will open at 5:00 pm and dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. Betty Milam's husband will bring a turkey and **Diana Cohoon's** husband **Ron** will also bring a turkey **Beth Farmer** will bring a ham. If your last name begins with **A-F** bring a dessert; **G-P** bring a hot side dish; **Q-Z** bring a salad. Guests are encouraged.

Drawings: The member name for the \$120 drawing was Vincent Mojasterio; unfortunately he was not present so in December the amount goes to \$125.

Attending Member Tickets - **Cathy Miller, Mikey Monterrosa, Angelo Monterrosa, Stephen Caudill-Merida, Chuck Meyer, Doc Buschke, Jim Ewing, Sue Meyer, Mikey Monterrosa, Christopher Monterrosa, Mike McBride, Angelo Monterrosa, Betty Milam, Greg Ordonez, Katrina Ordonez, George Kozakura,**

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**Christopher Monterrosa, Maya Caudill-Merida, Stephen Caudill-Merida and Maya Caudill-Merida**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm and the silent auction was wrapped up.

The next general meeting will be December 16, 2014.

### **Shirley Buschke**

The Turquoise tree that **Doc Buschke** makes for our Christmas party raffle will have tickets available for sale November 1st, and the drawing will be at the Christmas Dinner. All proceeds go to the club, and let's exceed the \$400.00 that we did last year!!!!

### HINTS FOR THE BEADER

When buying beads label the container you put them in with the color name and source then, if you need to reorder, you know where they came from. Store wire in plastic bags and label as for beads including gauge and metal content where appropriate.

These are several storage hints; place in film canisters and label as above, use a metal or plastic utensil tray to store scissors, tools, makes it easy to see where they are.

Work on a towel, beads won't roll on a towel. Some like to roll up a partially finished string if you will soon be working on it again. A metal cookie tray is a nice portable tray to hold your projects.

Cover the jaws of your pliers with painter's tape to prevent scratching your work. A paper clip or a corsage pin are great tools for removing bits of dust or

dirt from the hole of a bead. Nail clippers make a good tool for clipping thread.

If you are using a magnetic catch on a bracelet, a good security insurance is to attach a short piece of fine chain to either end, and gift wrap your present and tie with a ribbon. Knot a bead on the ribbon as an embellishment.

Announcements:

All Club Members -

The 2015 Rock and Gem Show will be held March 6, 7 & 8, 2015 at the Newark Pavilion on the corner of Thornton Avenue and Cherry Street in Newark. The show requires many, many volunteers to assist the public, protect the dealers, work with the spinning wheel, and geode cracker, labor for set-up on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before the show and take-down on Sunday evening after the show closes at 5pm, but especially SECURITY during the 3 days of our show. You can sign up to work the show in the handy binder at the shop - on the desk, or by responding to the form that will be sent to all members thru the mail.

Mark your 2015 calendars now !! All members of MGSCV must volunteer to work at the show for a minimum of 2 days for a total of 4 hours (or more if you can). If you are unable to work the show yourself, send a willing alternate in your place, however, when you signed the Membership Application, and paid your dues, you agreed that A requirement of membership is that every member must work at the show for a minimum of 4 hours.

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All members of the Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley automatically become members of the Publicity Committee by telling friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, about our show, handing out flyers (to be found at the shop), and generally spreading the word. It IS a great show, and we want to make the Dealers happy by bringing in a terrific, enthusiastic public.

To quote the membership application again: The show is fun to work and is the reason we have the best workshop/club in Northern California. Shop services such as rock sawing, casting, special classes (faceting, wire wrap, metal work, etc...) will not be available to members who do not work at the show. See you there....the next show committee meeting will be December 4, between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

We offer classes or demonstrations in cabachon making, wax design, soldering (when we can find a teacher), mold making, intarsia, faceting, and carving, etc



### ROCK RUMBLES

By Shirley Buschke

I am looking forward to our Christmas Dinner at our next meeting. It is always nice to see many faces that haven't been

around for awhile. How much food to bring for the pot luck? See cover of Petrograph for ideas. About 6-8 servings seems to be a good idea. We also will raffle off the turquoise tree. All proceeds to the club. Last year we made \$470. Let's beat that this year.

**Jim Kennedy** is always trying something new. Currently he is working on jade inlay.

It seems I missed one of our patients. **George Kozacura** also had surgery and has recovered. Mark Montgomery also had a turn being a patient. Ed Rigor is happy to report his wife Pat is now home.

Our field trip chairman Bryan Grey has made two trips to Taiwan recently. He is a geologist and is studying fault lines in the vicinity of some atomic reactors there. I Hope he can presents a program and tell us about his trip because he also looks for rocks. He said on one trip he arrived shortly after a storm and saw lots of shells on the beach. Pretty good collecting because the natives seem to fear the reactors.

**Jim Ewing** and daughters continue to go through his wife's things and have been donating to the club. They had buttons and trimmings at our last meeting. Thank you **Jim**. **Jim** also found a Rolex watch which Bill Luna was able to put back in service,

Off to a nice show at Livermore. **Doc** and **Shirley Buschke** were asked to exhibit as well as the Pasquinis and our president Bonnie Andrade. This is a small but nice show.

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We had a great lost wax class given by Ed rigor. The cost of the class was \$40.00 and Ed promptly donated the amount to the club so we are \$80 richer. Peggy Lee, Norm Hodges, Renne Casstilino and Roland Arajs, are now "experts". students were able to set up their findings for casting. At another session they will learn how to clean up and set their stone. Another class will be held in January. Our Faceter **Roland Arajs**, won an award for his faceting design. Ask him to show you the one that won. Competition for these awards is very strong, but he beat them all.

We had a great turn out for the cleanup, but there is still much that needs to be done. **Beth** has suggested three cleanups a year. Good idea. The following are the workers who showed up to clean the shop:

**Ken Panico**

**Mike Cox**

**Jodi Minshall**

**Jim Ewing**

**Roland Arajs**

**Roland A**

**Chuck Meyers**

**Rennie Castelino**

**Norm Hodgson**

**Betty Milam**

**Zayyir Almed**

**Doc Buschke**

**Shirley Bsucke,**

**Gordon Matsumato**

**Beth Farmer**

**Sud**

**Peggy Lee**

**Ann marie Korchendorf**

**Jim Kennedy**

**Victor Arca**

**and a junior member whose name i did not get.**

Our window washer did not show up as she was in the hospital, her names is **Mary Howell**. She has washed the windows since she joined the club.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHOW VOLUNTEERS WANTED - Our show needs several lead positions filled. We will train you if needed. These positions oversee an area or task to help that activity go smoothly and see that the volunteers understand their task. The following positions are critical and we really need help there: 1) Club case set-up, take-down and repair. 2) Food service and food truck coordinator. 3) Spinning wheel. 4) Electrical set-up and take-down. 5) Coordinating take-down and loading of the trailer. If you have questions or would like to volunteer please contact Mike McBride, e-mail:

federation@mgscv.org or leave a message on the shop phone: (510) 887-9007.

CFMS NEWS - The Golden Bear, a 1oz crystallized gold nugget whose natural contours look like a standing bear eyeing the ground, represents the CFMS. As rockhound legends go, in 1857 a 14 year old girl picked up the nugget in a sluice box at the Georgia Hills mine in Jim, Ca. After her

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death at age 75 her son used it as collateral for a loan from an engineer with the California Division of Mines, which ended in foreclosure. In 1937 it was sold for \$300.00 to another engineer in the Division of Mines, C.D.Woodhouse. Woodhouse, president of the CFMS from 1940 - 1945, sold the nugget to the CFMS in 1940. It has been the nucleus of the CFMS's mineral collection and the logo ever since. You can see the Golden Bear at the CFMS show, June 12,13 & 14, 2015, Lodi Grape Harvest Fairgrounds, 413 E. Lockeford St., Lodi, Ca.

### SHOW SCHEDULES

#### CASCADE MINERAL SOCIETY

Edmonds, Washington

Dec. 6; 9-6pm

Maplewood Gem Society

8802 196<sup>th</sup> st. SW

[www.cascademineralogicalsociety.com](http://www.cascademineralogicalsociety.com)

#### ORANGE BELT MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Railto, Ca

Dec. 12-14; Fri. & Sat. 10-5pm; Sun. 10-3

Across the street from Rialto City Hall

105 S. Palm ave

Ken Gard or Jessica 909-887-5507

[kengard@roadrunner.com](mailto:kengard@roadrunner.com)

#### GILA COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Globe, Arizona

Jan. 16-18; Fri. 9-5; Sat. 9-5; sun 9-5

Gila County fairgrounds 3mi. N.E. of junction us 60

Jodi Brewster 623-810-9780

[www.gilagem.com](http://www.gilagem.com)

#### YACHATS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Yachats, Oregon

Jan. 17-18<sup>th</sup>; Sat. 10-4; Sun.10-4

Yachats Commons 4<sup>th</sup> & hwy.101

Donna Hirschman 541-270-3777

[iamhardi@yahoo.com](mailto:iamhardi@yahoo.com)

#### TULE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Exeter, Ca

Jan. 17-18<sup>th</sup>; Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4pm

Exeter Vetrans Memorial Building

324 N Kaweah Ave, Hwy 65

Bill Bingaman 559-741-6381

[bandgbing@aol.com](mailto:bandgbing@aol.com)

[www.tulegem.com](http://www.tulegem.com)

#### SAN GORGONIO MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY, CABAZON

Indio, Ca

Feb. 13-22; 10-10 daily

Riverside county fair & national Date festival

82-503 Highway 11

Bert Grisham 915-849-1674

[Bert67@verizon.net](mailto:Bert67@verizon.net)

#### IMPERIAL VALLEY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Imperial, Ca

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Feb. 27-Mar. 8<sup>th</sup>; weekends noon-10pm;  
weekdays 4-10-pm

Imperial Valley Expo

200 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> st./dd>

John Pyle, Jr. 760-562-3453

[jcwus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jcwus@sbcglobal.net)

[www.IVGMS.org](http://www.IVGMS.org)

### VALLEJO GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Vallejo, Ca

Feb. 28-Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>; 10-5pm daily

Solono County Fairgrounds, Mc Cormack  
Hall

900 Fairgrounds drive

Dan Wolke 707-334-2950

[dncwolke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dncwolke@sbcglobal.net)

[www.vigems.org](http://www.vigems.org)

### MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY OF CASTRO VALLEY

Newark, Ca

Mar. 6-8<sup>th</sup>; Fri. & Sat. 10-6; Sun.10-5pm

Newark Pavilion

6430 Thornton ave

Cathy Miller 510-887-9007

[www.mgscv.org](http://www.mgscv.org)

### MONRIVIA ROCKHOUNDS

Arcadia, Ca

March 7 & 8th

8; 9-4:30 daily

Los Angles Arboretum

301 Baldwin Ave

Jo Anna Ritchey 626-359-1624

[joannaritchey@gmail.com](mailto:joannaritchey@gmail.com)

[www.Moroks.com](http://www.Moroks.com)

### VENTURA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Ventura, Ca

March 7 & 8<sup>th</sup>; Sat. 10-5pm Sun. 10-4pm

Ventura County Fairgrounds

10 W. Harbor Blvd.

Krishna Juarez 805-323-6725

[onfo@VGMS.org](mailto:onfo@VGMS.org)

[www.vgems.org](http://www.vgems.org)

### PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY

San Marino, Ca

Mar. 14-15<sup>th</sup>; Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5

San Marino Masonic Center

3130 Huntington Dr.

Marcia Goetz 626-260-7239

[Joemar1@verizon.net](mailto:Joemar1@verizon.net)

[www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org](http://www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org)

### MOTHER LODE MINERAL SOCIETY

Turlock, Ca

March 14-15<sup>th</sup>; 10-5pm daily

Stanislaus County Fairgrounds

900 N. Broadway

Bud & Terry McMillin

[terry\\_mcmillin@yahoo.com](mailto:terry_mcmillin@yahoo.com)

[www.turlockgemshow.com](http://www.turlockgemshow.com)

### LEMOORE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Lemoore, ca

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March 21-22; Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-4pm

Trinity Hall

470 Champion St.

Keith Olivas 559-622-9440

[georgersilva@sbcglobal.net](mailto:georgersilva@sbcglobal.net)

### CALAVERAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Angels Camp, Ca

March 28-29<sup>th</sup>; Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4pm

Calaveras County Fairgrounds

101 Frogtown Rd.

Robin Williams 209-728-8277

[Amy95247@yahoo.com](mailto:Amy95247@yahoo.com)

[www.calaverasgemandmineral.org](http://www.calaverasgemandmineral.org)

### ROSEVILLE ROCK ROLLERS

Roseville, Ca

March 28-29; Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4pm

Placer County Fairgrounds (Roseville)

800 All American City Blvd.

Gloria Marie 916-216-1114

[gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com](mailto:gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com)

[www.rockrollers.com](http://www.rockrollers.com)

### Field Trips

#### Rockhound Field Trip Fanatics

#### Area 54 Last Blast

Firebaugh, Ca

December 28<sup>th</sup>, 9-5pm

Nees ave & I5, Chevron Travel Plaza

559-250-5057

Contact Kris Rowe @

<http://rockhound-field-trips.ning.com>



### GEM OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Shirley Buschke

Our gem of the month was born in . New Mexico and moved to Hayward, California when he was about 5 years old. He graduated from Tennyson High School and went on to earn a degree at San Jose State University. He thinks he was always interested in rocks and became more so as his father became a vender in the bay area. He worked with his dad and he soon was making jewelry. He began working on a Masters degree at Santa Clara University in counseling and went to work as a probation officer with the County of Santa Clara. His expertise was working with gangs. He was a supervisor of the unit.

Our gem's favorite stone is turquoise but he likes many others, too. It must be the New Mexico influence. Our gem often visits his mother who still lives in Hayward. Not so long ago he decided he wanted to make cabachons so he became one of Mark's students, he cuts more than turquoise.

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Our gem is married and has three children. Two of them, a daughter and a son, had weddings this summer. It must have been a busy time in that household this summer.

Our gem said what started as a hobby has turned into a second career. He does many southwestern designs in his jewelry but also does many contemporary things. By now you must know who our gem is, he has taught soldering to many of our members and you have seen him at many gem shows including our own. Of course you know Lee Chavez

### BRAD SMITH BENCH TIPS

#### TAKE BETTER PHOTOS

Most digital cameras these days have the ability to take a good picture of your small jewelry items, but set-up is important. There are four major items to control - background, lighting, camera motion and focus control.

Lightly colored papers from an art store make reasonable starter backgrounds. Try experimenting with other products later like glass or colored plastics. Avoid fabrics because the weave can often be distracting at high magnification.

Outside lighting is the easiest. In fact for close-ups, flash never works well. Turn off your camera's flash. Choose a bright but overcast day or a lightly shaded area when the sun is full. For inside use, two gooseneck desk lamps can be used with 75 watt bulbs. Whatever you use, be sure to set the camera to match the type of lighting you use or else the color will be off.

You'll be shooting up close, so turn on the Macro mode. Now at this range, if the camera moves even a little bit during the shot, the picture will be blurry, so it's essential to use a tripod. Used ones are available inexpensively from eBay, yard sales or some camera shops. And even with a tripod, I put the camera on the self-timer mode so that any vibration from when you click the button settles down before the camera takes a picture.

In order to get the largest part of your jewelry in focus, you have to close the lens down to the minimum aperture (highest F-Stop number). This is done by taking the camera off of "Auto" mode and selecting Aperture Priority, usually denoted by "Av" and then setting the aperture to the largest number, which is F-8 on my camera. You'll probably have to get out the book or go back to the store to ask about this, but it's really worth it. That's it. In recap, here are the camera settings I use:

Set the lens to Macro for a close-up shot.

Move the camera in close enough for the item into cover at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the frame.

Look for adverse reflections from the jewelry surface. Try to minimize reflections with changes of light position, camera angle or white background paper. Carefully check for any fingerprints or dust that might be on the piece.

Make any final tweaks with light and arrangement. Turn the camera's flash off.

Select "Av" for aperture priority mode.

Set the lens opening to the highest number for max depth of field.

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Set the lighting to match what you're using (daylight, overcast, lightbulb, fluorescent, etc). Set the timer to delayed shooting, either 2 seconds or 10 seconds, to avoid camera movement. The delay also gives you time to hold up a piece of white paper to reduce any final reflections. Take the shot.

### GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

It's often difficult to find a nice gift for a friend who makes jewelry. The Bench Tips book has earned over 25 Five Star reviews, was ranked Number One in Amazon's Top 100 list for Jewelry, and named by Amazon as one of the Best Books in 2014. Get a copy at [www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/) Attribution to be included with each publication

"Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon" and if you publish as a pdf, I'd appreciate Amazon to be a live link to

[www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/) **More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/)**

**or see the book "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon**

### KIDS KORNER

**By Elizabeth Bennett 16 yrs. Old**

Son Đoòng Cave

With the holiday season among us, people of all ages have found themselves in the company of their families, enjoying wonderfully unhealthy holiday food and watching the football game. Whenever my family arrives, it always seems as if many of

them enjoy reminiscing about the "good old days" and how everyone would love to take a family trip "back home." We always find ourselves discussing the itinerary for a fantasy trip to Asia that all of my relatives will take "within the next year or so" (something my relatives say every year). However, during one of our most recent conversations in which we discussed all of the tourist locations we would like to visit, my aunt told us about the possibility of going cave exploring in a newly discovered cave in Vietnam, called the Son Đoòng Cave (the Mountain River Cave), that is supposed to be the largest in the world. "It's a little pricey and dangerous" she explained, "But I think it'll be worth it. It's supposed to be amazing." Everyone loved the idea, but once we found out that only one tour group had gone into the cave before, and that the journey would be long and expensive, it was no longer considered a possible activity our supposed trip. Despite the fact that the idea was vetoed, I was still interested in some of the details of the cave. Was it really the largest one in the world? Why is it so dangerous, yet so special? And lastly, were there any rocks or minerals in there? With a little research, I was able to answer these questions.

Son Đoòng Cave truly is one of the largest in the world, ranking as the largest known cave in 2009. Some of the first measurements of Son Đoòng were taken by the caves' first explorers, Howard and Deb Limbert, a British couple who explore caverns recreationally. Only during following trips to the cave would they be joined by a exploration team to assist them in

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determining the size of it. Using laser devices, it has been verified that the cave is 2.5 miles long, with some of its ceilings peaking at 600 feet. These extremely large dimensions causes explorers to have an incredibly difficult time navigating the cave itself, some trips taking multiple days. National Geographic describes how "one misstep on slick boulders could mean a fall of more than a hundred feet." However, the danger involved in this trek is all worth it for the spectacular geological and botanical phenomenon's found within the cave.

Due to the immense size of the cavern and its location underneath a thick forest, parts of the ceiling of the Son Đoòng Cave have gradually collapsed. As a result of this, there are several large skylights within the cave. This introduction of light into the caves has created an entirely new ecosystem within the chambers of Son Đoòng. Unlike the majority of popular caves, Son Đoòng has its own green garden growing along its walls. In addition to the growth of a small-scale forest, the skylights have also allowed for the development of geological anomalies. The openings in the ceilings encourage the dripping of calcite-saturated water on the floor of the cave, yielding the developments of enormous stalagmites and "cave pearls." The pearls, given the nickname because of its spherical shape, cover the walls and floors of parts of the caves. Because of their constant exposure to the fast moving rivers that run throughout the cave, the pearls are well polished. Cave pearls are typically found in most limestone caves like Son Đoòng, but because of the abundance

of skylights and vastness of the caverns, Son Đoòng has a collection of exceptionally large pearls.

Though my family's plans to visit Son Đoòng have been dismissed, it is still well worth it to make a visit, especially for those who enjoy traveling overseas. As geology enthusiasts, members of Mineral and Gem Society can appreciate the caves' beauty, and understand that it is a fantastic example of the almost other-worldly capabilities of nature. So if anyone's planning a trip to Asia soon, consider visiting Son Đoòng for the opportunity to explore Vietnam's "infinite cave" and all of the wonders it possesses.



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**Shop Schedule**

**(All shop session's members only)**

**MAP**

- Monday** 10AM to 1PM, Lapidary  
6PM to 9PM, Beginners only in lapidary
- Tuesday** 9:30AM to 12:30PM, need daytime supervisor  
6PM to 9:00 PM, Lapidary,
- Wednesday** 9AM to 12:00PM, Lapidary  
Library open 10AM to noon.  
5:30 - 8:00 PM Lapidary
- Thursday** 10:00AM to 1:00 PM, Lapidary  
7PM to 9 PM, Lapidary
- Friday** 9-1 PM Lapidary, Faceting (experienced only)
- Saturday** 9AM to 3PM, Faceting Class 9-12, Juniors,  
w/supervisor's approval, lapidary  
Library open 10AM to noon.
- Sunday** 9:30AM to 12:30PM, Lapidary

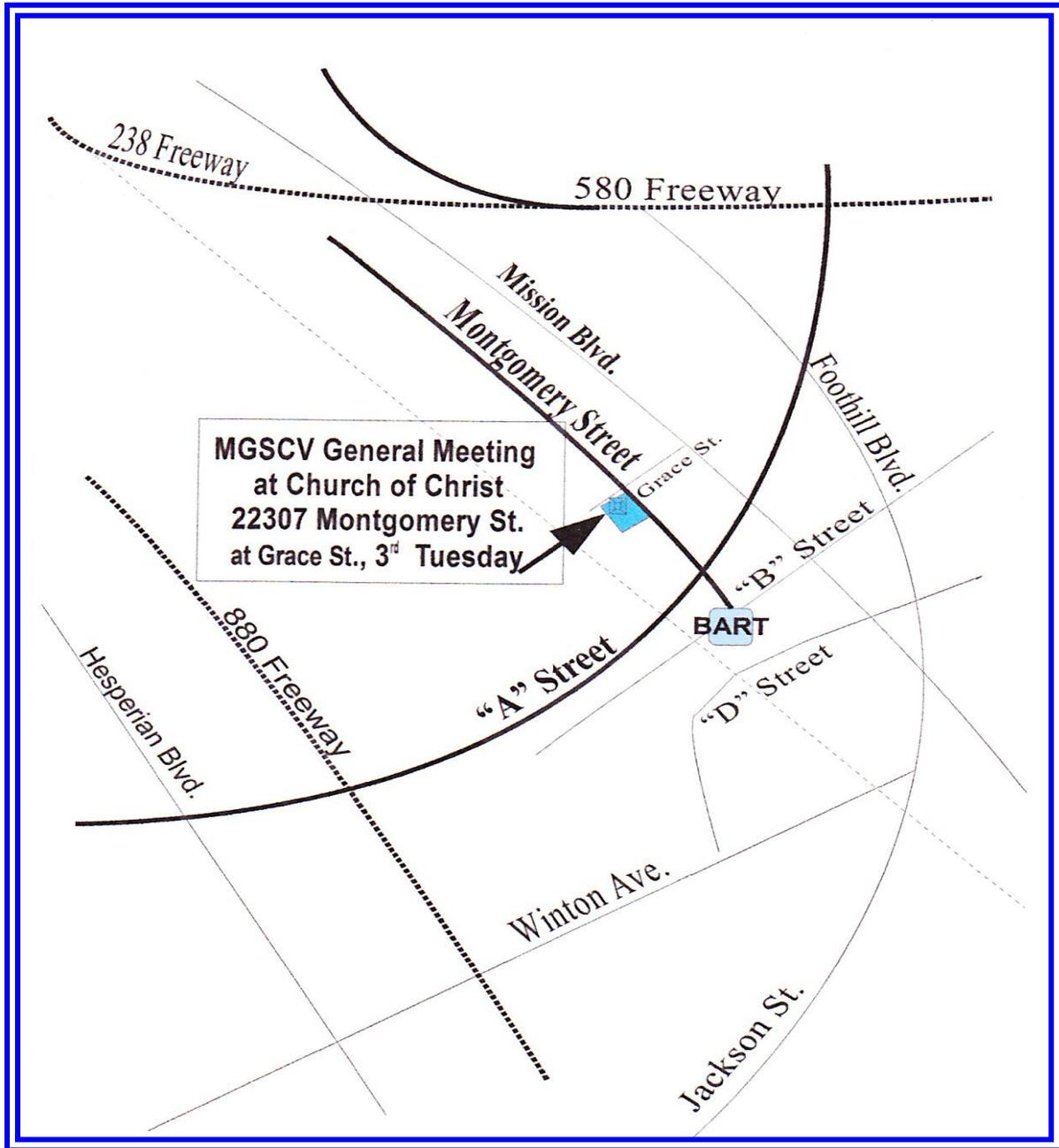


**SHOP NOTICES:**

Email us at [info@mgs](mailto:info@mgs)

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**From I 580: Take the A Street exit and go west, turn right on Montgomery Street and go to 22307 Montgomery Street.**

**From I 880: Take the A Street exit and go East. Turn left on Montgomery Street and go to 22307 Montgomery.**

**From Jackson Street: Go north on Mission Boulevard, turn left onto A Street, then right on Montgomery Street and go to 22307 Montgomery Street.**

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## Monthly Bulletin of the Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley, inc. Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley (MGSCV) Membership Application and Information



Membership is good for one calendar year from January 1st through December 31st. Please fill out and sign the application. Mail the completed form, a check for the dues **payable to MGSCV**, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to - **MGSCV, Attn: Membership Chair, P.O. Box 2145, Castro Valley, CA 94546.**

Your membership is active upon receipt of your check and application. It will be processed and membership cards will be mailed to you within 4 weeks. Your email will be added to the list for the Petrograph, our newsletter. Your name will be added to the roster in the lobby at the workshop and in the drawing at the general meetings for cash prizes, if present.

We are a non-profit club whose sole purpose is the education of lapidary arts and geological sciences for all who are interested. **No products produced in the shop can be sold for profit.** All members should have or be familiar with the MGSCV Handbook. A copy is available for review in the club's lobby or one can be emailed to you by sending a request to [info@mgscv.org](mailto:info@mgscv.org).

Before any member may operate any equipment or take any class they must have completed an orientation and their first cabochon. **To schedule an orientation send an email to [WorkShopManager@mgscv.org](mailto:WorkShopManager@mgscv.org) with your name, phone number, and a good time to call you.** During the orientation you will learn about the club and get a tour of the workshop. Monday evenings are reserved for beginners only.

Membership dues cover less than 10% of our annual operating costs. It is our annual show that funds the club, workshop and all activities. **A requirement of membership is that every member must work at the show for a minimum of 4 hours.** The show is always held the first full weekend of March, so mark your calendars. The show is fun to work and is the reason we have the best workshop/club in Northern California. Shop services such as rock sawing, casting, special classes (faceting, wire wrap, metal work, etc...) will not be available to members who do not work at the show.

Membership Chairperson

Type of Membership(s): (check all that apply)       new membership       renewal membership  
 Single - \$35     Couple - \$60     Junior (11-17 with adult) - \$1     Junior (11-17 without adult) - \$5  
 Associate - \$17.50 (former member living more than 100 miles away)     Lifetime (voted in by the board)

After July 1st all new membership dues are half (½)

Name(s) (Please print all the names.)

Adults: \_\_\_\_\_

Juniors: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Our monthly newsletter, the Petrograph, will be emailed to this address.)

Occupational Skills: \_\_\_\_\_

(Sometimes we are in need of advice and/or help in regards to electrical, plumbing, mechanical, clerical or other skills.)

Confidentiality: (check all that apply)

I do not want my address printed in the roster at the shop.

I do not want my phone number printed in the roster at the shop.

I do not want my email address printed in the roster at the shop. I agree with the By-laws and rules of the Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley (MGSCV).

Members Signatures: \_\_\_\_\_