



## Club Notes



**General Meeting:** Jan. 20th, 2015 7:30 PM at the Church of Christ. Those with the last name that begins with A-D please bring finger foods for the meeting.

**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 Jan. 8th Board Meeting at the shop 7p.m.

**Show Meeting:** Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> at the shop 7:00 P.M.



JANUARY.

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**MGSCV Petrograph January 2015**  
**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

December 8<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, Norm Hodgson and Tony Cooper.**

**Shop:** **Beth Farmer** says we got our \$200 investment back from some purchased equipment by selling some of the equipment. The new 12" saw is now covered. It needs some prep work and oil, and then it will be good to go. One trim saw is out of commission while it is being worked on.

**Minutes:** **Jodi Minshall** moved to accept the November board minutes as printed in the Petrograph. **Norm Hodgson** seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Treasurer:** We looked over the November treasurer's report presented by **Betty Milam.** **Norm Hodgson** moved to accept the report as presented. **Jodi Minshall** seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Federation:** **Mike McBride** gave the AFMS case specifications to **Norm Hodgson** to use as guide lines for our show and the county fair exhibit

**Membership:** There are 161 current members. 2015 is just around the corner. Don't forget to renew your membership.

**Sunshine:** **Pat Rigor** is back home and walking again.

**New Business:** We discussed various items around the 2015 budget. **Sheryl Cooper** moved to accept the budget prepared by **Betty Milam.** **Mike McBride** seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The general membership will vote on the budget at the January 20, 2015 meeting.

**Norm Hodgson** will check with the GIA for speakers at the 2015 general meetings.

The annual Christmas Party will be on December 16, 2014. The doors open at 5:00 pm and we eat at 6:00 pm.

**Show:** We discussed what to print on the exhibitor's gifts. The website address will be included this year. Through email some people will discuss what color and type to go with for the 2015 show.

The next board meeting will be January 12, 2015

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

### GENEAL MEETING

Submitted by **Sheryl Cooper**

While the rain poured down the doors opened at 5:00 pm. The fire was flickering among the snowflakes falling on the screen. Food piled up on the counter. **Doc Buschke** was frantically selling raffle tickets for the turquoise tree while all the "kids" danced in anticipation. The chatter rose while approximately 50 people caught up with each other. Tables were decked out in red, green, and gold. A great array of holiday attire could be seen around the room.

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Due to the wet weather we delayed eating until 6:45 pm. to give people a chance to dodge the rain drops and arrive safely. We started filling our plates with turkey, ham, chicken, chow mein, and spaghetti. Then fruit salad, sweet potatoes, green beans, peas and carrots were added to the plates. For dessert you had cookies, cakes, pies, bars, and cupcakes to choose from.

As plates were emptied **Bonnie Andrade** thanked everyone for coming and bringing all the wonderful food.

**Minutes:** **Shirley Buschke** moved to accept the November minutes as printed in the Petrograph. **Jodi Minshall** seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Federation:** **Mike McBride** has applications available for both competition and non-competition exhibit cases in the June 2015 Lodi Show. Contact him at [federation@mgscv.org](mailto:federation@mgscv.org) for more information.

**Shop:** **Beth Farmer** has nothing to report.

**Editor:** Send your articles to **Diana Cohoon** at [editor@mgscv.org](mailto:editor@mgscv.org)

**Show:** All members are required to work 4 hours at the show. Sign up for a position and time in the sign up book at the shop and the meetings. If you wait to get the mailing you may not get your preferred choice because the position may already be filled. Our show keeps our shop open. **Betty Milam** is wearing the beautiful opal pendant that will be raffled at the show. Raffle tickets are available at the meetings and at the shop. They are in packets of 20 tickets for \$20. At the shop, talk to **Beth Farmer**,

**Mike McBride**, or **Jim Ewing** to purchase tickets. The next show meeting is January 8, 2015 at the shop at 7:00 pm.

**Membership:** There are 160 current members. Only paid members are covered by the insurance.

**Juniors:** **Mark Montgomery** has no new information.

**Education:** **Shirley Buschke** will have a lost wax class in January. The cost is \$40 which includes the silver.

**Library:** **Mary Howell** told us there are two new faceting books in the library.

**Sunshine:** **Delores Barnes** passed away on September 2, 2014. She was a hard working person who loved helping everyone. In the past she provided the music for our Christmas parties. The email was read from her son and a card was passed around for people to sign.

**2015 Officers:** We are looking for your help. Elections will be held at the January general meeting.

**Money Drawing:** The member name for the \$125 drawing was **Laura Langdon**; unfortunately she was not present so in January the amount goes to \$130.

**Turquoise Tree:** The ticket drawn belongs to .... **George Kozakura**. Congratulations!

**Ticket Drawing:** **Chris Pavel-Ligon**, **Lily Pate**, **Lizette McBride**, **Leah Pasquini**, **Carolyn Caudill**, and **Maya Caudill-Merida**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm and the silent auction was wrapped up. The next general meeting will be January 20, 2015.

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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.

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

The turquoise tree by **Doc Buschke** made the club over \$400 richer. The lucky winner was **George Kozakura**. Thank you to all who bought tickets for the raffle. And Doc has started on another for next year. If you can't wait, he will have a tree in the show auction. Our very first raffle brought in \$149 and Larry Ham said we can do better than that and threw in a dollar to make it \$150. Doc keeps looking for more quality turquoise.

We sadly announce the passing of **Dolores Barnes**. We remember her as that tiny piece of dynamite, wearing her cowboy

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hat and bustling around constantly. I don't think she ever stood still. She had moved to Montana to be near her son and his family. She was in her 70's.

At the November meeting **Doc Buschke** beat out the other bidders and brought home a painting of a saber toothed tiger donated by **AnneMarie Korchendorfer** which he gave to his grand daughter **Annikka** for her birthday. **Annikka** is studying to be a dog groomer. She was ecstatic with her present. "I don't have to feed it, or bathe it or clean out the cage," she exclaimed.

Club members are still wondering who our anonymous donor of \$1000 was last October meeting. Thank you again, donor or donors.

Christmas dinner was great in spite of the weather. It was a great turnout and lots of wonderful food. The dessert table was phenomenal and lots of vegetables, this time. I guess we are trying to eat healthier. There was a terrific turkey and a most tasty Ham, we do have some good cooks. So nice to see some members we haven't seen for ages. Welcome back.

**Pat Rigor** is home but is still having health issues.

**Jodi Minshall** wants to say "thank You" to the person who gave her a lovely agate pendant. Seems the giver said that anyone who got on her hands and knees to clean the bathrooms at the cleanup day deserved more than a verbal thank you.

Some of our members are planning trips to Tucson this next year. Hope they bring

back lots of treasures. This is an extraordinary place with over 40 individual shows, in hotels, fields, etc. And there is also Quartzite which has mostly raw materials.

**Cathy Miller** was very busy with plans for her daughter's recent marriage. The bride and groom have returned to Tennessee where the groom has a job. The two met in college there. Grandpa Jim Ewing has been busy, too. He made jewelry for the wedding party. All that time in the faceting room is much appreciated by the younger generation

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SHOW VOLUNTEERS:** For all members who have not signed up for your volunteer duty at our annual show, March 6-8, you will soon receive a volunteer form in the mail. Please fill out the form and return ASAP. We need to plan in advance. As positions fill you may be asked to volunteer for another position. If you have any questions contact: **Mike McBride**, E-mail [federation@mgscv.org](mailto:federation@mgscv.org) or mail to mgscv, P.O. Box 2145, Castro Valley, Ca 94546.

**GENERAL MEETING:** Our January General Meeting will continue with "Lapidary Sharing" as part of the program. All things lapidary are welcomed. You can just show your item(s) or you can get up and talk about them. Let's have fun.

Education Jan 15

**Ed Rigor** will offer another lost wax class this month. If your name is on the list on the door at the shop, please contact at 510-

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797-0744. Class is limited to five students. The cost is \$40 and Ed will furnish silver. You furnish your stone, about 15 mm, any shape (within reason). Very small doesn't work and neither does large for your first stone.

We now have a faceting class during the evening on Wednesday, but we need at least 2-3 students.

Our enameling expert has promised to do a demonstration in enameling. Andre says probably on a Saturday. Watch for announcement on billboard in entry.

### BEAD STRINGING JAN 15

Figuring the amount of beads and cord How much is enough? There is nothing more disturbing than to run short just before the end. Probably the easiest system is to double the finished length. If you decide to use a double thread, you will have to double that amount (4X total). Wasting some thread is a cheap price to pay. Starting over is disappointing and extra work.

Beads are usually measured in millimeters. Here is an outline of most usual beads:

16"	18"	24"	
4 mm	100	112	153
6 mm	68	76	100
8 mm	50	56	76
10 mm		40	45
61			

If you choose to knot between beads, knots will add 1 to 3 inches to your thread need. Remember if you are doubling , you add about 6.

The thread or cord you use may dictate the needle you choose. some thread comes with a needle attached. You may prefer the newer large eyed needles, a bit expensive, but worth it. there are also flex needles and twisted wire needles. Some needles are expressed in length, others in diameter. Here the bead you select tells you what to buy. A very versatile needle is that big eye one.

### SHOW SCHEDULES

[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

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

Exeter Veterans 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

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 & 8<sup>th</sup>

8; 9-4:30 daily

Los Angeles 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)



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### 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

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

None to report at this time



### GEM OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Shirley Buschke

This month's gem was born in Eden Hospital, grew up in Castro Valley and graduated from Castro Valley High School. She also attended college in Washington State. Our gem is married and has three daughters. Her husband is an ATT supervisor.

Her dad joined our club and she enjoyed it but then high school activities were a greater draw and she stopped attending. She loved field trips.

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Her favorite stone is the one she is working on. She also likes to sew. Our gem rejoined when it seemed her children were interested. In fact one of the girls exhibited at the fair one year. Our gem likes cabbing and faceting. One year, she was in charge of skirting at the show.

This family also has been helping out at an orphanage in Mexico during the summer.

Back to those daughters --one is married and lives in Las Vegas, one is finishing school in the east and one is attending Chabot college. And the one in the east just got married. Grandpa has been very busy working on gems for the brides' maids. By now you must have a very good guess as to whom we are writing about. That skirting job led to show chairman. And the grandfather making the stones is our faceting instructor **Jim Ewing**. And the recent bride is **Stephanie**, **Melissa** is at Chabot and **Beth** is in Las Vegas. Our gem is none other than **Cathy Miller**.

Counting the girls, this is a fourth generation membership in our club. **Judge Ewing**, **Jim's** father, was our caster. **Jim** is now our caster and faceting instructor, **Cathy** is show chair and right now the girls are just recipients of the elder's work.

### BRAD SMITH BENCH TIPS

#### SOLVENT DISPENSER

Frequently I need to fill a small bottle with alcohol, like an alcohol lamp or one of the nail polish bottles that I use for the yellow ochre anti-flux. Often I can't find a small funnel and end up spilling almost as much as I get into the bottle. It's wasteful,

and the fumes can't be too good for you either.

A neat and inexpensive solution is to use a lab dispensing bottle to store small quantities of the solvents you frequently use. It has a wide mouth for filling and a fine tip for dispensing. You can get a small stream or just a drop or two. With the bottle's fine tip I don't spill a drop.

There are many suppliers on Google. One I've used is Carolina Biological Supply Company at [www.carolina.com](http://www.carolina.com) The bottle is Catalog # 716580 Unitary Wash Bottle, Low-Density Polyethylene, 125 mL

#### SILVER DISCOLORATION

Working with jewelry involves an ever increasing number of skills. Chemistry is one of them that comes into play when dealing with a discoloration on the metal caused by a chemical reaction between it and the environment.

In the case of Sterling silver there are three discolorations we typically encounter: a tarnish, a firescale, and a firestain. Each is different in its cause, in its cure and in its prevention. All three have to do with the metals in the Sterling alloy (92.5% silver and 7.5% copper) and how they react with oxygen and the heat of soldering or with pollutants in the air over the long term.

Tarnish is a grayish coating that builds up slowly on the surface as a result of a reaction of the silver with sulfur-based compounds in the air. Typically these are pollutants from the burning of petroleum fuels, but they can come from other sources as well. I once tarnished all the

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silver in my display case by putting a pretty specimen of iron pyrite in with the jewelry. Turns out pyrite has sulfur in it! Sulfur combines with the silver to form a grayish silver sulfide film on the surface.

Preventing tarnish involves keeping sulfur away from the metal. Plastic bags will help, and anti-tarnish strips are available from jewelry supply companies to pack near your items. Tarnish is easily removed by hand polishing with a jeweler's cloth or with one of the products sold for cleaning the good silverware for holiday dinner.

Another way is to remove it chemically. Put a piece of aluminum in the bottom of a dish large enough to contain your piece. Heat enough water to cover the silver. Mix in 2 tablespoons of sodium carbonate per cup of water and pour into the dish. Be sure the silver touches the aluminum. Sodium carbonate is the main ingredient in washing soda. Read the labels in grocery and hardware stores.

The second type of tarnish is called firescale. It is the dark gray to charcoal colored film that forms on Sterling or other copper alloy like copper or bronze when we heat it with a torch. The copper in the alloy reacts with oxygen in the air to form a dark cupric oxide coating on the surface. Luckily, the oxide is easily removed by dissolving it in a mild acid - generally called a pickle. It's important that we not let firescale form on a solder joint because it will block the flow solder over the joint.

Prevention can be done two ways. Most common is to use a flux, a borax-based

solution applied to the metal before soldering. When melted, borax forms a thin glassy layer that keeps oxygen away from the metal. A second way is to do your soldering on a charcoal block. Together with the flame, charcoal greatly reduces the amount of oxygen in the area being soldered. In either case oxygen is prevented from reaching the metal, so no cupric oxide firescale is formed.

A second oxide can also be formed when soldering copper or a high copper content alloy like bronze or brass. It's called cuprous oxide and is reddish in color. That's why a black looking piece you put in the pickle sometimes comes out red. Problem is that while the black cupric oxide is dissolved by a pickle, the red cuprous oxide is not. The discoloration can be sanded or polished off, but an easier way is to use a "super pickle". This is a mixture of fresh pickle with a healthy shot of hydrogen peroxide from the local store.

I've saved the worst form of discoloration, firestain, for last. Think of firescale (above) as like getting dirt on your shirt that you have to wash off. Firestain is like getting ink on it. The discoloration is not just on the surface, it seeps down and stains the material. Firestain happens when we heat a piece of silver too hot, too long, and/or too many times.

Firestain occurs when the oxides start to build up below the surface of the metal. You generally don't notice it until after polishing. It appears as a darker area of the surface and is easy to spot when viewed under light bounced off a piece of white

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paper. Because firestain is below the surface, there's no easy bench tip solution. Depletion gilding may work for some pieces. Otherwise, removing it calls for sandpaper and aggressive polishing.

A much better approach for a piece that will require a large number of solderings is to protect the metal from developing firestain by applying liberal coats of a firecoat. Regular soldering flux will provide some protection but will not be as effective as preparations made specifically for the task.

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/)

### KIDS KORNER

**By: Isabelle Bennette, 10 years old**

The annual Mineral and Gem Society Christmas Party was held on December 16th. It is an event that everyone enjoys attending because of the delicious food, the opportunity to spend time with other members, and the silent auction and ticket raffle. First, the appetizing food is something everyone looks forward to each year. Generous members cook or buy food which is always amazing and tastes great. At this year's party, I enjoyed the turkey, green beans, and the raspberry tart. In addition to eating great food, you get to see or meet new and old members.

**Mark Montgomery**, my junior mentor, and I talked about the great pieces that were part of the silent auction. My mom spoke with Betty about the opal pendant which was being raffled at the upcoming show. A silent auction to help fund the club is one of the more popular activities at the Christmas party. Each stone that is to be auctioned is placed above a piece of paper where you write your bid. Two of my favorite auction items were a large soap stone and a tiger eye stone. I was able to win a small bag of circular stones that were multiple colors.

My favorite stones in the bag are the ones that look like buttons. I also won a slab of jasper. The slab has amazing streaks of dark caramel and tan brown colors as well as a smooth texture. Half of the slab was cut, but whoever cut it did not finish cutting it. My bids with many others helped the auction become a success. The ticket raffle was also very popular. This year **George** won the legendary turquoise tree in the raffle. Door prizes were also given out. A beautiful necklace was won by a junior member. Ultimately, everyone had a good time at this year's Christmas party.



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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.**

# MGSCV Petrograph January 2015

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_