

## CLUB NOTES



Next Board Meeting and Show Meeting will be **Saturday May 8th. at 3:00 PM** via **Zoom virtual room**. If you have not received a link to the meeting, and would like to attend, please email [president@mgscv.org](mailto:president@mgscv.org) and request an invitation.virus

**. the General Meeting for May 15th via Zoom at 3:00**



### In This Issue:

- ❖ Club Notes
- General Meeting
- ❖ April 20th
- Board Meeting
- April 10<sup>th</sup> 2021
- Gem of The Month
- Brad Smith Bench Tips
- ❖ Updated Letter from the Prez
- ❖ Shop Notes
- ❖ Map to the general meeting place

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, but if requested, the contributor's name can be withheld. Members are encouraged to submit articles that may be of interest to the general membership. The Editor reserves the right to edit or omit any submitted articles. Sources must be cited for material quoted from other authors. Permission to reprint Petrograph articles is hereby granted provided properly cited.

### 2020 MGSCV Officers

#### Elected

President - <b>Jodi Minshall</b>	<a href="mailto:President@mgscv.org">President@mgscv.org</a>	
Vice President - <b>Greg Croft</b>	<a href="mailto:VP@mgscv.org">VP@mgscv.org</a>	
Secretary - <b>Sheryl Cooper</b>	<a href="mailto:Secretary@mgscv.org">Secretary@mgscv.org</a>	(510) 589-8858
Treasurer - <b>Sheryl Cooper</b>	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@mgscv.org">Treasurer@mgscv.org</a>	
Director - <b>Pete Bergeron</b>	<a href="mailto:Director1@mgscv.org">Director1@mgscv.org</a>	
Director - <b>Norm Hodgson</b>	<a href="mailto:Director2@mgscv.org">Director2@mgscv.org</a>	
Director - <b>Michelle Bennette</b>	<a href="mailto:Director3@mgscv.org">Director3@mgscv.org</a>	
CFMS Director - <b>Beth Farmer</b>	<a href="mailto:Federation@mgscv.org">Federation@mgscv.org</a>	
Shop Manager <b>Neil Delfino</b>	<a href="mailto:ShopManager@mgscv.org">ShopManager@mgscv.org</a>	
Show Chairman - <b>Cathy Miller</b>	<a href="mailto:ShowChair@mgscv.org">ShowChair@mgscv.org</a>	
Membership - <b>Tony Cooper</b>	<a href="mailto:membership@mgscv.org">membership@mgscv.org</a>	510-589-5292
Editor - <b>Diana Cohoon</b>	<a href="mailto:Editor@mgscv.org">Editor@mgscv.org</a>	925-348-3000
Past President - <b>Bonnie Andrade</b>	<a href="mailto:pastpresident@mgscv.org">pastpresident@mgscv.org</a>	

#### Appointed

Scholarship Chair - **Greg Croft**  
Librarian - **Mike Mc Bride**  
Historian - **Norm Hodgson**  
Purchasing Agent - **Beth Farmer**  
Education Coordinator - **Lily Johnson**  
Sunshine Reporter - **All members**  
Door Prizes - **Neil Delfino**  
Web Master - **Tony Cooper**  
[webmaster@MGSCV.org](mailto:webmaster@MGSCV.org)



Publication Staff



✧Contributors: **Sheryl Cooper, Jodi Minshall**

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 2021

By **Rosita Alvarez Croft**

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM by **Greg Croft**.

There were 6 Board members in attendance: **Greg Croft, Beth Farmer, Neil Delfino, Cathy Miller, Diana Cohoon, Lily Johnson.**

Meeting minutes from the previous Board of Director's meeting for March could not be approved as printed in the Petrograph because we did not have a quorum.

Committee Reports:

Vice President: Nothing to report.

Treasurer: **Sheryl Cooper** was not present but she sent the Treasurer's report to **Greg Croft** and he shared the screen with attendees. Shop rent and telephone bill are currently outstanding. The Treasurer's report could not be accepted because we did not have a quorum.

Shop Manager: *Genies 2 and 5* are still having issues with the air pumps. Shop managers need to remember to roll them back and forth when they

open up the shop. **Beth** said they have been lubricated.

**Cathy** and **Beth** both brought typing carts to the shop and the old one has been replaced.

Librarian: Not present

**CFMS Representative: The Amador County Gem and Mineral Society** is having a show on May 1 & 2, 2021.

**CFMS** is sponsoring **Camp Paradise: Week 1**. **CFMS news Camp Paradise** is open this year! August 22-28, August 29-Sept 4. I will have application forms at the shop, you can get an electronic form from the Camp Paradise Registrar **Sandi Kilcrease**, email address is: [slk95228@gmail.com](mailto:slk95228@gmail.com)

Show Chairman: **Cathy** is still waiting to see if and when Alameda County will allow indoor events.

**Cathy** still has 5 or 6 items that were not auctioned off at the last show. If the workers balk, we can still give out the items. Neil also has some items that could be auctioned off.

**Cathy** is still working with the dealers. How do we deal with dealers wanting a refund because of the limited attendance? **Beth** and **Cathy** will work on writing up the contracts.

**Membership Coordinator:** Not present

**Treasurer's Report:** Not present

**Sunshine Report:** **Horace Robertson** passed on March 31, 2021. He would have been 95 years old in July.

**Claire Minors** Is celebrating her 101st birthday next month. She would appreciate cards and emails. Her information as follows, **Beth** was contacted by **Clara Minors** daughter, who said **Clara** will be 101 in June. **Clara** would love to hear from members, and she is currently living at **St. John Kronstadt** Skilled Nursing in Castro Valley.

Her mailing address is:  
4432 James Ave.  
Castro Valley, Ca  
94536

Rm# 12A

Do you remember **Clara's** fabulous turquoise jewelry she modeled every Holiday dinner? I sure do!

**Clara's** daughter says **Clara's** mind is "still as sharp as a tack".

**Procurements Report:** Not present

**Purchasing Agent:** Nothing to report

Field Trips: **Greg** said he would organize a field trip during the second half of the year. He suggested that might help attract new members. There will be a possible trip on April 24 to the house of the late **Vern McCullough** in San Leandro to look for material scattered in his back yard. There will be no charge and it could be a good opportunity for new members to pick up some rough. **Beth** and **Cathy** will organize the trip.

**By Rosita Alvarez Croft**

## GENERAL MEETING

**By Rosita Alvarez Croft**

April 17, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 3:13 pm by **Jodi Minshall** via a Zoom meeting space.

There were 11 club members and no guests in attendance.

**Greg Croft** gave a short presentation called "Feldspar Gems".

**Meeting Minutes:**

Meeting minutes from the previous Board and General meetings were not reviewed at this meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

**Shop Manager:** Not present

**Mike McBride** is willing to start teaching the Beginner's Cabochon class on Monday nights providing the safety precautions he requested have been implemented.

**CFMS Representative:** Not present

**Show Chairman:** Hopefully, we will be able to have our show in October. All of the preliminary planning has been done. We are still hoping Alameda County will allow indoor events.

**Membership:** Not Present

**Education Coordinator:** We are still looking for a new Lost Wax instructor and a Wire Wrapping instructor. New sign-up sheets have been posted in the shop. **Lily Johnson** is thinking of starting a Beginning Metal Working Class and **Teresa** is ready to start teaching a Wax Work and Pearl Stringing Class.

**Historian:** Not present

**Editor:** Not present

**Junior Mentor:** N/A

**Field Trip Coordinator:** A field trip has been scheduled for April 24th from 9am to 2pm at **Vern**

**McCullough's** place: 1500 167th Ave. in San Leandro (between East 14th and I-580). Parking is tight.

It is OK to park at the Ashland Community Center which is close by. Bring gloves and containers. Everything is outside and lots of dirt and leaves are covering the specimens. We cannot disturb the tenants and no early arrivals. **Cathy Miller and Beth Farmer** already picked up a bunch of material to be auctioned off.

**Sunshine Report:** I was contacted by **Clara Minors** daughter, who said **Clara** will be 101 in June.

**Clara** would love to hear from members, and she is currently living at **St. John Kronstadt** Skilled Nursing in Castro Valley.

Her mailing address is:

4432 James Ave.  
Castro Valley, Ca  
94536



Rm# 12A

Do you remember **Clara's** fabulous turquoise jewelry she modeled every Holiday dinner? I sure do!

**Clara's** daughter says **Clara's** mind is still "as sharp as a tack".

Unfinished Business: Nothing to report

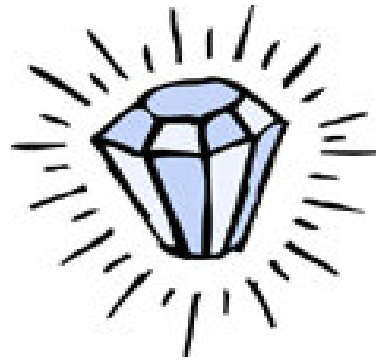
New Business: **Cathy Miller** suggested we should have an Open House in June or July if Alameda County allows us to open up. We have lots of stuff to sell. However, we need to clean and organize the Shop first.

It has also been decided that Churches are no longer restricted so we could possibly have the June General Meeting in person and via We have no gemZoom for anyone who is still not comfortable meeting in person.

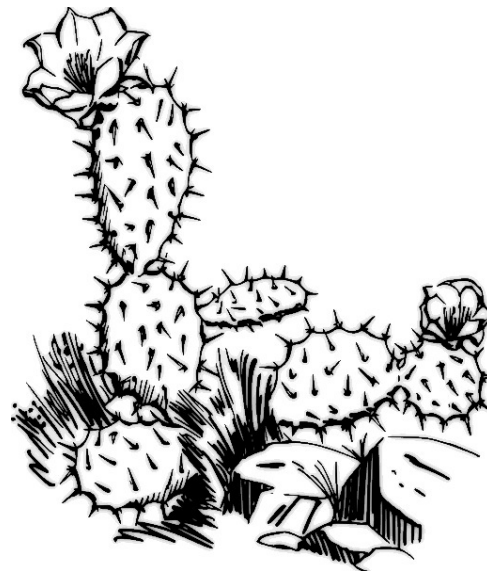
**Mike McBride** suggested we do the Open House and clean up in October. **Jodi Minshall** suggested perhaps we should have two Open Houses and two clean up sessions. One in June or July and one in October.

Alameda County Fair is having a livestock showing only.

**Beth Farmer:** CFMS news  
Camp Paradise is open this year!  
August 22-28, August 29-Sept 4.  
I will have application forms at the shop, you can get an electronic form from the Camp Paradise Registrar Sandi Kilcrease, email address is: slk95228@gmail.com



### GEM OF THE MONTH



### Updated Letter From The Prez By Jodi Minshall

Topic: MGSCV General Meeting  
Time: May 15, 2021 03:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82591233449?pwd=SXhza05QcWNMeDFzVUZVUWpVNGdFZz09>

Meeting ID: 825 9123 3449  
Passcode: 673020

Dial by your location  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

## **BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH**

**FOREDOM STAND** A quick and easy way to suspend a flexshaft over your jewelry bench is to use some steel pipe components from the hardware store. You can buy it today, attaches with a couple screws, and only costs about \$10 I use  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch galvanized

**NEW MELTING DISH** A new melting dish or crucible must be given a protective coating of borax before its first use. Borax extends the life of the ceramic material. Once done, it generally does not have to be repeated. The procedure is straightforward. Heat the new melting dish to red with a large torch. You'll need plenty of heat. I use an acetylene/air Prest-O-Lite torch with a large #5 nozzle. When the dish is hot, sprinkle in a half teaspoon of borax, let it melt, and spread it with a carbon rod over all of the interior surface of the dish. Add more borax if needed.

Sometimes you will have to hold the dish at an angle to coat the sides up to the rim. And don't forget to coat

the pouring spout itself, pipe and fittings. To build a stand that attaches to the top of your bench, all you'll need is a flange and a Thirty inch length of the pipe. If you prefer a stand that attaches to the side of your bench, you'll need a little longer pipe, three foot, a flange, and a 90 degree "street elle". Finally, make a hook that goes into the top of the pipe to hang the motor from. You can use heavy coat hanger wire or 1/8 steel rod from the hardware store.

## **BROKEN DRILLS**

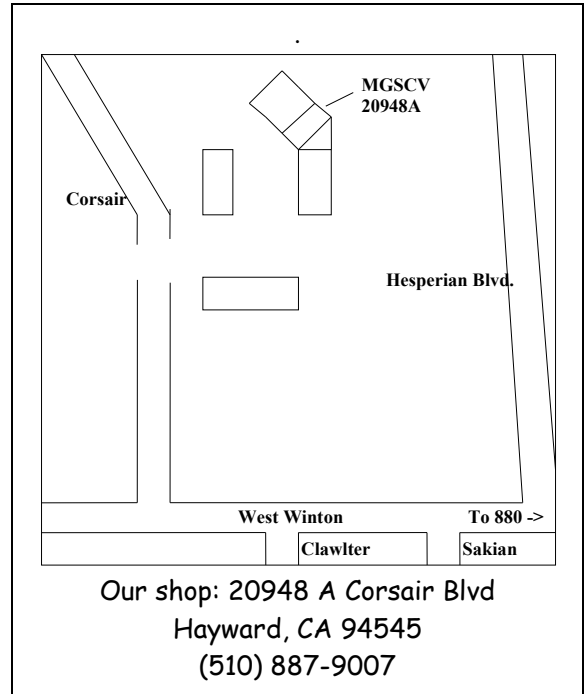
Have you ever broken a drill bit off in a hole? Sometimes you can grab it with pliers, but other times the steel piece is below the surface in the hole. If this happens, a quick fix is to dissolve the steel in a solution of alum or fresh pickle. The solution will not affect your silver or gold piece. Alum is typically available from a food store. It's used to preserve some foods. Use about a tablespoon per cup of warm water. Submerge your piece so that the partially drilled hole is facing up to let the bubbles float free and not block the hole. Work Smarter & Be More Productive With Brad's "How To" Jewelry Books

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

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

- Monday** closed, Lapidary
- Tuesday** closed, need daytime supervisor  
closed, Lapidary,
- Wednesday** 11AM to 2:00PM, Lapidary  
Library open 11AM to noon.
- Thursday** 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Lapidary
- Friday** closed
- Saturday** 9 AM to 12:00 PM, Faceting Class 9-12,  
Juniors,  
w/supervisor's approval, lapidary  
Library open 10AM to noon.
- Sunday** 9:30AM to 12:30 PM, Lapidary

**MAP TO THE SHOP**



**SHOP NOTICES:**

Email us at [info@mgscv.org](mailto:info@mgscv.org)





**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 May 2021

Monthly Bulletin of the Mineral and 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 at the shop 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):  new membership  renewal membership  Lifetime (voted in by the board)

* With Shop privileges	Junior Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Single - \$45	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior (11-17 with adult) - \$1
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple - \$80	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior (11-17 without adult) - \$5

NO Shop Privileges

Single - \$35  
 Couple - \$60

After July 1st all **new** membership dues are half (1/2)

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  phone  email 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley (MGSCV)**  
**Membership Application and Information**