



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 7 JULY 2008

THE INFORMER



Memorial Day Weekend

BY JOYCE TALLEY

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Editor's Notes:

"Remember, if you don't send me news I can always make up some."

... Jerry Davis

+++++

If you have a story or a news item please email it to me at

jde@txol.net.

Send it in email or as a Microsoft Word document attachment. Remember to get it to me by the 20th of the month.

I am currently teaching a level III silversmithing class with two very talented and enthusiastic participants. We are having a lot of fun and learning some new techniques while building a complete bola tie with inlay piece, slide, bola tips, etc. The use of mathematics in the designing of bola tips is always a fun part of what we do. We pay attention to techniques of

(Continued on page 2)

Carlos and I left on Thursday for Terlingua Ranch to meet our Albuquerque kids and grand-kids. We would ordinarily not go down there the end of May, but they all wanted to go. They have a pretty new trailer and pickup, so probably wanted to show them off. Of course, it was in the 90s; so after twelve o'clock, got a little warm. Carlos had to show Sean our property near the solatario. It's up a mountain on a skinny road where two cars could never get by each other. Scares me to death. The solatario is a geological phenomenon. There is none like it in the world, so we have been told. They say it's a cold up cropping that left a nine mile caldera or crater. Scientists from all over come to study it. You can see the Rio Grande from up there. A beautiful view, but get-

ting there from our mountain!!

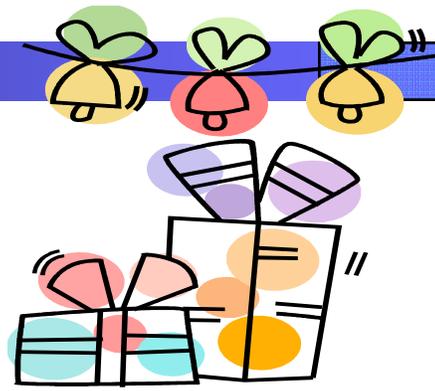
Our two little ones have a love of the outdoors and nature. They've been getting pretty rocks and fossils from Gram and Grandpa since they've been tiny ones. So of course, we had to go rock hunting in this heat. Found some pretty quartz and fossils.

Saturday night, we drove 1 1/2 hours to Marfa to see the Marfa lights. As luck would have it, there were no lights that night. Got back to the Ranch at 1:30am. A very long day and those two little ones are very good travelers.

Carlos brought home some much needed large rocks and I, some much needed cacti.

.... Joyce





Editor's comments

(Continued from page 1)

“pick soldering”, pre-design and design transfer. Inlay techniques with precision fitting stones. (At this point, students have already had training in lapidary).

Special attention is paid to fluxing techniques and information about cleaning of copper and silver. A focus is placed on selection of amount and size of pallions (snippets) of solder to be used in a soldering event. Learning to control the flow of solder and how to move snippets around on a joint during soldering to avoid wasting solder. Ideally we will have little to no solder to remove by filing. The use of pins to hold pieces to be soldered and proper cleaning and use of firebricks is also taught. Participants also learn to do multiple solders on a piece without using cleaning techniques saving much time. The use of yellow ochre or other chemicals is taught to keep joints from losing solder during heating. Jewelry saw cutting is kept to a minimum thus saving more time.

Instruction in building of pitch pots and their use in chasing and embossing metals is taught in one session. Finally in the last session, sweat soldering of different metals together in a bi-metal project will be done. Patination and lacquering of metals will finish the last session. A show and tell of the projects will be presented along with a certificate of completion at one of the club meetings.

I am writing curriculum now for a level V class to be offered as soon as we can get all of our eligible class members together. Some participants have schedule issues which we have to work out. Maybe we can start in the autumn. Level V will focus on new styles of rings, hinge bracelets, filigree bracelets or pendants, and other projects. At this level of silversmithing, the soldering becomes much more delicate and attention to torch control will be emphasized. Some setting of stones will likely be necessary also.

..... Jerry

BIRTHDAYS

Nell Gee	July 1
Martha Boggs	July 4
Dee Cable	July 5
Justin Mabe	July 11
Debbie Thompson	July 19
Walt Scarborough	July 20
Bob Patterson	July 25
Bill Gilles	July 29
Josefina Cardenas	July 30

ANNIVERSARIES

John and Ruth Sparks	July 10
Jim and Bobbie Owens	July 14
Jerry and Lou Jane Davis	July 19

ILLNESSES/RECOVERIES

Gelene Stockton, Ernie Wright

Get well soon!

PUT A STAR IN TEXAS

http://members.tripod.com/tx_rockhound/howto-2.html

Photos by Don Brenholtz

This can be as simple or complicated as you wish. I started doing this with limestone from my place for two reasons. 1. I wanted to use a local rock. 2. It is relatively soft and easy to work with. Anything can be used as long as it is not too hard. The picture rock from the big bend area works good.

We will start with the easy one. You can make a template by cutting out the picture of Texas from a magazine and transferring it over to cardboard or a piece of thin plastic. The star can be drawn freehand.



1

Hobby stores have stencils with stars, hearts and other things. You will need a Dremel type tool, an assortment of diamond burs and small diamond cut-off disk. Harbor freight is good place to get these. In the first photo the stone is ready for the next step. The thickness of the star to be put in will determine the depth that needs to be cut out. The thinner the star, the less work it is.



2

In photo 2, the star has been inserted in the hole. You can see that the fit is not too good. This is not too important if you are going to put something around it. If you are not going to put anything around the star, you will need to do a better job of matching the two or the glue filled gaps will be visible in the finished product.

We can stop here or add more. I like to put something around the star as it hides the mismatch between the star and the hole. For this one I will add some copper and then a band of crushed rock. In photo 3, the groove for the copper wire has been cut. The size of the wire used will determine the width of the groove.



3

The groove should be just deep enough so that the wire goes half way in. The wire will be ground down flush later so must be uniform all around or the band width will not be the same on all sides....the wire can be any size. You can use one piece of wire bent to fit or use short pieces. I find the last easier but may not look as good.

On this one, I used short pieces bent into v shape with the ends on the point of the star. If you put the bend on the point of the star or use one long wire it may take a lot of bending to get it right. You may need to anneal the wire to keep it from breaking during the process.



4

We now need to cut a channel next to the wire. Care must be taken here not to dislodge the wire. Too much heat can also cause it to come loose. Now we need to decide what to fill it with. I use some material from the copper mines. It is colorful and soft enough to crush easily. I have used every thing from agate to oyster shell.

If you use a rock without much color some sparkle with filing from metal. I think this one would better with a smaller star and of rock. There are many other easiest would be not to put a rock epoxy mix alone. You on it. Take a small bur and to fill with crushed rock.

things to do... Don



6



5

you can add copper or other have looked narrower band things you can do with this, the stone in but just use the crushed could use a heart or put a name etch out the letters deep enough I'm sure you can think of other





UPCOMING SHOWS

JULY 2008:

4-6--FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO: Show, "San Juan Co. Rock & Gem Show"; San Juan Gem & Mineral Club; Civic Center, 200 W. Arlington; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; silent auction, free kids' rocks, wheel of fortune, door prizes, raffle, vendors; contact Mickie Calvert, (505) 632-8288; e-mail: Mickie2@earthlink.net; or Ruth Rightmire, 301 S. Johnson, Bloomfield, NM 87413; ruthrightmire@msn.com

AUGUST 2008:

1-3--PRESCOTT, ARIZONA: Show and sale; Prescott Gem & Mineral Club; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Activity Center, 3700 Willow Creek Rd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; adults \$2, children 12 and under free with paid adult; dealers, fine jewelry, beading components, mineral specimens, tools, lapidary equipment and rough, door prizes; contact Larry Jackson, P.O. Box 3923, Chino Valley, AZ 86323, (928) 636-9188; e-mail: lpjack65@cableone.net; Web site: www.prescottgemmineral.org

Celebrating New Members

Dennis Pratt, Hobbies include music, photography and motorcycling. Talents are graphic artist and sign maker.

Grace Hoy, Hobbies are cooking, golf and fishing.

Michael Walker, Hobbies include "outdoor stuff".

Odell Walker, Hobbies are football and video games.

Bill Rister, Hobbies include wire sculpture, rocks and jewelry making.

Thank You

A THANK YOU was sent to Fred Hink for the purchase of Calvin's sand art picture.

From the Front Desk— President —Gary Hudson



Hello everyone!

Busy, Busy, Busy. Have you heard me say that before?

The Silversmith III class has been under way a couple of weeks now. Jim Vick and I are sharing the ride to Rising Star once a week. The projects selected by Jerry Davis are certainly challenging. I didn't know what a Channel/Inlay was prior to the beginning of the class.

The classes are going very well. The second class turned out to be half ranching and half silversmithing. Jim and I volunteered to help a friend in need. Jerry needed help penning a heifer trying to have a calf. I didn't know I could still move faster than a walk. It took some time, but we managed to get her penned and after some excitement, got her loaded up for the Vet to take over. The pair are doing fine (cow and calf that is).

We'll be back at it Thursday for some more classroom silversmithing. I really appreciate Jerry taking the time to teach the class.

Monday nights are really looking busy these days. With the influx of new members, there is a lot of activity. I can still remember when I joined the club. I thought it was amazing what one could do with rocks. Come to think of it, I still think that way.

If you were at the last meeting, you remember the talk about filing a tax form with the IRS. Well, forget about it till next year. Calvin Donaghey went on the Internet the next day and filed the form for us. He said now all we have to do is wait to see if the IRS accepts our report. Thank you Calvin. He will be on his way back to South Dakota searching for black gold soon. Hope you find some interesting rocks Calvin, along with a huge oil pool.

I went back to the ranch near Dryden over the Memorial Day holiday. It sure was a mite warm. On the way down the pasture road from the highway to my place the thermometer on the pickup registered 107 degrees. But it cooled off by the time we got to the top of the hill at camp. It was a cool 103 degrees up there! We spent some time in the water storage tank on the neighbor's property the next day. That was sure was refreshing. We walked around in the canyon and picked up some more Indian artifacts.

Well it's time to go for now. See you at the Meeting. , Gary

MINUTE BY MINUTE BY BEV

Minutes of CTGMS meeting of Monday, June 2, 2008



President Gary Hudson called the meeting to order. 28 members and two guests were in attendance. After the opening prayer and pledge of allegiance, minutes of the May meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Old Business: Errol, our Treasurer, reported that the 2008 gem and mineral show took in a total of \$8,753.39. With expenses of \$4,998.08, our net profit stands at \$3,755.31. Errol will bring in the statistics for the expenses and profits for the shows over the last two years for comparison.

No one has found the coffee urn, which was missing before the show this year. Bob moved that we buy a new one. The motion carried and Sallie volunteered to pick one up.

New Business: There was general discussion about a new IRS law that requires that non-profit organizations file an annual statement, form 990. Gary has downloaded the form and promised to sign it if Errol will complete it.

The vacuum cleaner burned up last Saturday during the clean up at the clubhouse. Carlos volunteered to research prices for a good commercial vacuum that can handle the rocks and other materials that end up in our carpet. After discussion, a motion carried that has given Carlos authority to purchase a vacuum at his discretion. We would ask that club members please use care and clean up after themselves when they drop things in the building.

Carlos also suggested that no food or drink be used in the work areas of the clubhouse. We have rat and fire ant problems and food and soft drinks that are left behind encourage their presence. A motion was made that no food or drinks be allowed in the working areas of the clubhouse. After discussion, the motion carried. In the future any drinks and foods must be consumed in the meeting area.

Our two guests were asked to tell something about themselves and how they heard about CTGMS. Judy Abernathy and Tricia Harvey work in a doctor's office. Judy saw beautiful jewelry worn by a patient who was a club member. The lady doesn't come out to the clubhouse any more but she gave Judy's number to Don Brenholtz. Tricia said she did go to one of our gem and mineral shows once. She knew where the clubhouse is so the ladies decided to come together.

Bob and Carlos recently visited Bassett Elementary School on south 20th. They said they talked to about 200 students in two classes. Bill Patrick was there to introduce them. They said they had more fun than the kids.

Certificates and Awards: Our resident athlete Jim Vick went to the Bowling US Open being held in Albuquerque. Over 66,000 athletes are participating this year and about 55,000 have bowled so far. The bowling is going on seven days a week. Only the top 150 bowlers will place and so far Jim is number 39. The results are expected in mid-July.

Carlos introduced one of our new members, Grace Hoy. Tim Walker introduced two new members who also happen to be his relatives, Odell and Michael Walker. Bill Rister and Marla McNair introduced themselves. They have also joined the club and they found out about us through the Internet.

MINUTE BY MINUTE BY BEV

Minutes of CTGMS meeting of Monday, June 2, 2008, continued



Committee Reports were as follows:

Maintenance Chair Charlie Lightfoot expressed his thanks to the four hardy members who actually showed up for the clean up day last Saturday. He thinks the leak in the roof has been repaired. We do need to purchase more grass killer for the Johnson grass in the yard.

Silversmithing Chair Jerry Davis sent word that he is about ready to begin the Silversmithing III classes.

Jim Owens said he is willing to teach a Silversmithing I class, provided that the requirements are met. These include membership in the club for the necessary length of time and a commitment to attend the classes for the full course of the Level I class.

Bob Patterson has indicated he is willing to teach a tumbling class. He'd like to know if there is enough interest to warrant scheduling classes. A sign up sheet is available at the clubhouse. Please sign up if you're interested in learning how to tumble rocks.

Shop Foreman Tim Walker reports that he's been repairing equipment in the shop and things are beginning to look a lot better. We really want to thank Tim for looking after things in the shop and keeping the machines in good repair.

Illnesses: Allen visited Ernie before Monday's meeting and said that he is not progressing well. Jim Owens said he's doing well after his surgery and thinks he'll be getting even better over the next few weeks.

The Lightfoots, the Vargos and the Nell Gee will provide refreshments for the meeting in July.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, Beverly Vargo



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Abilene, TX 79608-7343

Editor: Jerry Davis
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We are on the web:
www.txol.net/rockclub

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2008



President	Gary Hudson	325 554-7804
Past President	Calvin Donaghey	325 695-1508
Vice President	Dave Vargo	325 690-0750
Secretary	Beverly Vargo	325 690-0750
Treasurer	Errol Rutledge	325 672-7505
Corresp Sec	Joyce Talley	325 692-0063
Editor	Jerry Davis	254 643-4586

Committees/Chairpersons

Show	Sallie Lightfoot
Field Trips	Tony & Judy Steele
Classes	Charlie Lightfoot
Nominating	James Grant
Programs	Dave Vargo
Shop	Tim Walker
Club House and Grounds	Charlie Lightfoot
Dealers for show	Tony & Judy Steele
Budget	Errol Rutledge
Scholarship	JoAn Wilks
Show Demonstrations	Jerry Davis
Silversmithing Classes	Jerry Davis

GEMSTONE OF THE MONTH

RUBY

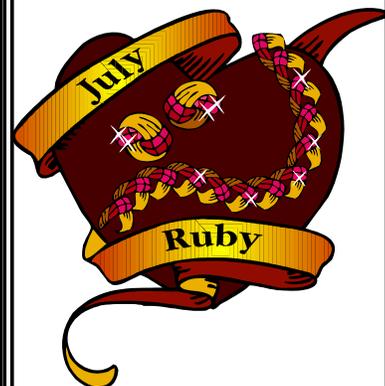


“A Ruby is a pink to blood red gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum (aluminum oxide). The common red color is caused mainly by the element chromium. Its name comes from *ruber*, Latin for red. Other varieties of gem-quality corundum are called sapphires. It is considered one of the four precious stones, together with the sapphire, the emerald and the diamond.”

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ruby>

MISSION STATEMENT

The Central Texas Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of rocks, minerals and fossils. We offer field trips and provide educational opportunities and instruction to members in a variety of areas related to the Lapidary Arts and Jewelry making. We also award a scholarship to a student enrolled at a local college in a field closely related to geology. We provide educational displays related to this hobby at shows of a similar interest. — Jerry



ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE 20TH OF THE MONTH.