

The Carmel Valley **PROSPECTOR!**

December 2012 Volume 52, Number 12

EDITOR'S NOTES:

As a reminder, for those of you who might be considering going to Camp Zzyzx in the Mojave Desert this coming Spring, there's an application form at the end of this issue; if you do want to attend, spaces and choice of accommodations are limited, so send in your application early! -Rich

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Merry (almost!) Christmas, everyone!

I hope you all were able to add some treasures to your collections or lapidary aspirations at the auction! I am sorry I missed it because I love not only the offerings, but I enjoy the antics of our auctioneers! I did, however, survive the week of babysitting four of my grandkids....and they survived too!

I am looking forward to the Christmas Dinner Dec 9th and would like to thank in advance all of those club members that cook the turkeys...thanks Alyce and Margaret; the turkey dressing...thanks Pearl; the ham...thanks Janis; the rolls...thanks Jay; the punch...thanks Talma; the mashed potatoes.....thanks Susie; the sweet potatoes and cranberry sauce...thanks Barb, and all of the side dishes and desserts prepared and shared by you all! Please remember to bring your own utensils (plate, silverware) and we will provide the table cloth! And a big thanks to those who help set up and decorate so festively....and thanks to Matt, Barb and Talma for providing the decorations. The doors open at 4:30 pm at the Masonic Lodge in Pacific Grove around the corner and across the street from the Post Office. Dinner will start at 5:00. A can or two for the "food tree" would also be greatly appreciated. Margaret will gather the contributed food and take it to the Food Bank of Monterey County.

We will also install the officers for 2013.....I can't believe that it is 2013 already (almost!)

This has been a wonderful year for the club...the "rockhounds" and the "pebble pups"!....and we have lots of good ideas and plans (which include much participation and contributions from all of you) for 2013!

I look forward to seeing you all Sunday, Dec. 9 at 4:30 pm!

Susie Harlow, Pres. CVGMS

CVGMS BOARD MEETING: November 9, 2012

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by President Susie Harlow.

Present: Margaret Chan, Pearl Chan, Matt and Barb Biewer, Talma Taormina, Adrienne Pimentel, Jay House, and Janis Rovetti.

Membership: Jay reports that we have 2 new members A big welcome to Sally Eastham and Doug Brooks! We are so happy to have you join our club.

Treasurer's Report: Pearl gave the treasurer's report. It was M/S/P to pay the current bills.

Federation: Karin is at the Visalia Federation Meeting thus has no report this month.

Correspondence: Matt reports that Sacramento is having their annual gem show Nov. 10 & 11.

New Business: We will be having the nomination of officers at the November meeting.

November Program: We will be having our annual rock auction. Please bring goodies to auction off.

December Program: Our annual Christmas dinner on Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012.

January Program: Jay and Talma will give a presentation on their summer rockhounding trip.

The meeting was adjourned.

Janis Rovetti, Recording Secretary

I've noticed that some other clubs list certain of their members as being "club specialists", such as the following typical categories:

Fossil Preparation, Fused Glass, Opal Cutting, Lapidary, Beading, Wire Wrapping, Cuttle Bone Casting, Tumbling, Faceting, Inlay (Intarsia), Zeolite Minerals, Lost Wax Casting, Sphere Making, Workshop design & construction, Silver Fabrication/Silversmithing, Jade Carving, Mineral Collecting & Identification, and Scrimshaw, to name a few.

Of course, only very large clubs are likely to have such a complete "roll call" of expertise, but nevertheless we are all a resource to each other, one way or another. So, I'd like to have those interesting in assisting others to learn the ins & outs of their particular areas of interest in signing up, if they're willing to share their time & knowledge.

Please let me know if you'd like to participate- either by email (saylor@redshift.com) or by phone, 372-9215.

Cheers, Rich

ARTICLE: ABOUT GRINDING & POLISHING *by Rich Saylor*

What is grinding & polishing, anyway? Is it taking a rough stone or whatever then grinding it to shape, then polishing it till it shines? As an overall description, yes, exactly...but hold on; as a description of the *process*, it falls short...really short!

Let's start with grinding: take something that has a shape you don't like, and by grinding it away using a rough grinding wheel (or file or whatever) you reduce it to a shape you prefer! Easy. Of course the grade/grit of the stone should be matched to the type of stone, and so on. Now to the "polishing" end of it:

Polishing is a misnomer; actually, it should be called scratching. The various grades of grit or stone, etc. refer to the fineness of the final scratches each grade leaves on the work; the lower the number (like 80), the rougher the final "scratch"; the higher the number (like 3000) the finer.

Now course no one really wants to have a "scratched" rock or finished piece of jewelry...do they? Let's talk about the process. When you start to "polish" a rock or anything else, you of course start out with some sort of file, polishing grit (like in a tumbler) or grinding stone, or sandpaper, the latter three of which are usually sold in grades of fineness, starting out with something like 80 or 100 grit, and proceeding to a very fine grade, such as 1500 or 3000, or sometimes even finer. So what's the problem? Easy answer: what you thought was *polishing* is in fact *scratching*, but to understand the actual process it's necessary to understand what's really going on.

Permit me to explain: as an example, when you get through grinding whatever it is (rock, metal, wood, bone, whatever) to shape, you have fairly deep imperfections, meaning ridges, hollow spots, deep scratches and the like. So to get rid of these imperfections you'd have to use some sort of hard material or abrasive that will remove them; this must be done with something that will ALSO produce scratches, but SMALLER ones than you started with. Otherwise there's no point to the process, right? OK so far. Now assuming that you've removed the original deep scratches, only to replace them with finer ones, such as would happen going from (say) a 100 grit whatever to (say) a 220 grit whatever. So now your 100 grit scratches have been removed, and have now been replaced with 220 grit scratches. Now the next step is to go to the next practical finer grit available, say 320 grit. And so the process continues. Wait, you say, why fool around with all those grits/grades of paper or wheels; why not jump to what you want, say a very fine grit wheel, like 600 or even 1000 grit? Won't that polish everything so much faster? The answer of course is "yes" it will, but..." The "but" being, what are you really polishing? And the answer is, because you didn't remove all the *last* set of scratches, by going to a much finer grade of abrasive prematurely, you're only removing the top of the deep scratches a little at a time, rather than removing enough material to get to the bottom of the last set of scratches. And believe me, if any bottoms of scratches remain, they WILL be seen!

And so here's the real state of affairs: What you want to do is to (a) remove deep scratches, replacing them completely with finer scratches, in (b) the shortest time possible, without too much effort, and without damaging the material you're working on. So, each time you've gotten rid of the last set of deep scratches and now have only the scratches produced by the latest (finer) grit, it's time to move on to the next finer grit, which should be as close to the previous one as you can. If you're working with either commercial grade sandpaper or lapidary machine wheels, they only come in so many grades/grits, so typically on (for instance) a Genie or Titan lapidary machine you'd have grits ranging from 80 or so to 3000 or so, for a total of 6 wheels. So how, exactly, do you determine when it's time to move to the next wheel? Generally a good jeweler's loupe (10x is typical) used in good light will help you see whatever scratches

remain, especially when you get to the finer ones. So, just keep going until you're down to the last, and finest, wheel, and no scratches at all remain that can be seen with a loupe!. So what is polishing, really? Polishing is only making such fine, even scratches that you can't tell they're there at all... until the material you're working with simply won't take a higher "polish", even with something really, really fine, like cerium oxide on a leather wheel! A couple of good examples of rocks themselves being the limiting factor might be some grades of turquoise (some are very soft, and must be stabilized to take any polish at all) and some types of jade, which vary in hardness and chemical composition. Sometimes when you have a rock that's a mix, such as jasper and agate, you'll see that part will take a high polish (the agate) and part won't (the jasper). It's not you or the polishing process, it's just the nature of the rock itself.

So now that the process is fully explained, you'll see why "polishing" can be misleading, tempting one to move on from one wheel to another without really understanding the process, winding up with (usually) a nice rock with beautifully polished- and still visible- scratches. Oops!

So here it is: take it slowly, carefully, from step to step, and NOT moving onto the next grade of paper or wheel until each has done its job. Do this and the results will be something you're proud of, and not something to toss in to the mistake pile. And don't worry, we all have one, don't we? I sure do...

Happy "scratching"...*Rich*



CVGMS

Members & their guests are invited

Annual Christmas Dinner

Sunday December 9, 2012

Masonic Hall

Central & Lighthouse, Pacific Grove

Meet at 4:30 p.m.

Eat at 5:00 p.m.



CLUB PROVIDES:

Turkey

Ham

Rolls, Coffee, Punch

Gifts for everyone



YOU BRING:

Vegetable,

Salad or Dessert

Dinner ware

Canned goods for food tree

SHOW REPORT: *The Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society's "Winter Show"*

This past November 10th & 11th, the Santa Cruz club had a new small show, which managed to fill their club meeting place at the live oak grange to overflowing. Featured were quite a few dealers, plus a few demonstrations & activities, mostly for kids. By and large, all the dealers were local folks, rather than the usual traveling troupe of show vendors & dealers, the purpose being to support local craftspersons and dealers, especially leading up to Christmas. Lots of unusual stuff was on sale, not the least of which was working models of Sterling engines, which run on very low heat sources, such as a coffee cup of hot water! Really! They resemble steam engines but aren't! I chatted with the dealer, who is the only person outside of China



to have these unique items available for sale. Other vendors and craftspersons included jade carvers, beaders, and so on, and of course a small snack bar. All in all, a very nice, scaled-down show of what's available locally in the Santa Cruz area! Admission was free; for an update of a possible "second annual" *Winter Show*, go to www.scmgs.org. Contact person (for this year) was Julia Cornblatt, Chairman.



A close inspection...



Beautifully carved!



Lots of raw jade...



Stirling engines..running only on a little heat!



Colorful, or what?



Fossils, meteorites, Martian blueberries, practically everything...



Colorful rabbits!

WINTER AUCTION REPORT *by Matt Biewer*

Hi Rich,

The auction was reasonably well attended. The bidders spent over \$400 on a variety of items. The table held rough rocks, petrified wood, slabs, fossils, gems, jewelry, minerals and books. The gems and jewelry items were popular having been donated by members and dealers from our recent gem show. Our Las Vegas member, Anne McConnell, donated a number of items from her collection which included a box of minerals from Searles Lake and a bag of rock hounding books, both popular items. The auction, handled by Matt Biewer, Richard Franco, Tye Franco and Bob Waibel; went quickly and was over by 8:30.

AND FROM TALMA...

The next Pebble Pup activity will be at the January meeting.

Talma Taormina, Scholarship Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT.... *Jay House*

There were no new members at the last meeting.

AND NOW...

Rich, here's something that might be good to include in the October newsletter. -Jim Brace-Thompson

Would you encourage your club members to submit projects to our Lapidary of the Month contest for *Rock & Gem* magazine? All I need is a clear high-resolution photo of the finished project and 300 to 400 words describing how it was made. The project doesn't have to be complicated, just involve lapidary. I will even allow them to submit by e-mail.

I have nothing to run in the December issue or future issues. This is a sure-fire way to win a Dremel tool kit and personalized plaque. I need to receive something by October 17.

Thanks for anything you can do,

Lynn Varon, Managing Editor, *Rock & Gem* magazine

3585 Maple St., Ste. 232 Ventura, CA 93003 (805) 644-3824 ext. 129 www.rockngem.com

STUFF FOR SALE...

NOTE: There's a new Facebook group called "lapidary swap shop", designed for people that have lapidary equipment, rocks, findings, fossils, gems, rough material, minerals, crystals or anything used in the lapidary trade that they don't need and are willing to trade. Go to facebook and type in "lapidary swap shop".

Messages

Vendor Invitation to Mariposa Gem & Mineral Show

Tue Nov 27, 2012 7:37 pm (PST) . Posted by: "nwest2006"

The Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club, in conjunction with the California State Mining & Mineral Museum (yes! it is back open after the robbery), would like to invite vendors to participate in our Mountains of Minerals Gem & Mineral show April 13th & 14th, 2013. We are expanding our show area this year to include both indoor and outdoor booth space and would like new vendors to participate, as well as our much appreciated return vendors. Our show is located at the Mariposa County Fairgrounds in Mariposa, CA, home of the California State Mining & Mineral Museum. We do not charge admission to our show, we offer free parking, and the museum offers free admission during the show. This encourages the public to spend money with our vendors. Our shows typically have very good attendance as we advertise heavily in the area and in the Central Valley (Fresno, Madera, Merced).

The (usually) mild spring weather in the Sierra Nevada foothills brings many local people to community events since it is before "tourist" season. We are 45 minutes from Yosemite National Park. Come join us and sell your jewelry, specimens, tools, slabs, beads, or whatever else you might have, then enjoy a visit up to the park and see

the beautiful Yosemite Valley.

If you are interested in reserving booth space, please send us an email with your complete mailing address, a brief description of your products, and if you are interested in an indoor or outdoor booth, and we will send you a vendor packet. MGMC@sti.net

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Only club and Federation shows in California (CA), & selected nearby shows in Oregon (OR), Nevada (NV) Washington State (WA) & Arizona (AZ) are listed, due to space limitations. For more information & other out-of-state listings, please go to: rockngem.com/showdates or cfmsinc.org PLEASE NOTE THAT COMMERCIAL (non-club) GEMSTONE/JEWELRY/BEADING SHOWS such as Gemfaire, Crystalfair, Martin Zinn Expositions, and others are generally not listed, since there are so many, BUT CAN BE FOUND AT THE ABOVE WEBSITES. Please confirm all show dates- Ed.

December 2012

7-9—SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA: Tailgate Sale; OrangeBelt Gem & Mineral Society; Western Regional Little League Ball Park; 6707 Little League Dr.; Fri. 9-dusk, Sat. 9-dusk, Sun. 9-dusk; free admission; rocks, gems, minerals, jewelry, crafts, tools, rough, slabs, carvings, books, beads, fossils; contact Ken Gard, 205 W. Benedict #8, San Bernardino, CA 92408, (909) 624-1782; e-mail: kengard@roadrunner.com; Web site: OBMSRocks.yolasite.com

January 2013

1-31—QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA: Wholesale and retail show; Desert Gardens RV Park; Desert Gardens RV Park; 1055 Kuehn St.; Mon. 9-dusk, Sun. 9-dusk; free admission; crystals, minerals, rough, polished, jewelry, lapidary equipment; contact Sharon (manager), 1055 Kuehn St., Quartzsite, AZ 85346-2818, (928) 927-6361; e-mail: info@desertgardensrvpark.net; Web site: www.desertgardensrvpark.net

4-6—MESA, ARIZONA: 41st annual show; Flagg Mineral Foundation; Mesa Community College; SW parking lot, US 60 and Dobson; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; Peralta Stone maps exhibit, fluorescent display, free children's activities, free samples for children and teachers, more than 100 dealers, crystals, minerals, fossils, club and museum booths; contact Lavone Archer, (480) 969-0483; e-mail: elabasol4@cox.net; Web site: www.flaggshow.info

January 2013-February 2013

31-17—TUCSON, ARIZONA: Wholesale and retail show; Eons Expos LLLP; large tent; 22nd St. at Interstate 10; Daily 9-6; free admission; 180 dealers, minerals, fossils, articulated dinosaurs, meteorites, petrified wood, amber, gems, jewelry; contact Christine Perner, (516) 818-1228; e-mail: lowellcarhart@yahoo.com; Web site: www.22ndStreetShow.com

February 2013

1-28—QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA: Wholesale and retail show; Desert Gardens RV Park; Desert Gardens RV Park; 1055 Kuehn St.; Mon. 9-6, Sun. 9-6; free admission; crystals, minerals, rough, polished, jewelry, lapidary equipment; contact Sharon (manager), 1055 Kuehn St., Quartzsite, AZ 85346-2818, (928) 927-6361; e-mail: info@desertgardensrvpark.net; Web site: www.desertgardensrvpark.net

2-17—TUCSON, ARIZONA: Wholesale and retail show; The Rock Show; Kino Sports Complex; 2500 E. Ajo Way; Daily 9:30-5:30; free admission; minerals, jewelry, cabs, slabs, beads, lapidary equipment, rough rock, crystals; contact Trym Gibbons, PO Box 246, Cortaro, AZ 85652, (800) 983-0133; e-mail: rockshowtucson@gmail.com

8-10—PORTLAND, OREGON: Annual show; Oregon Agate & Mineral Society; Oregon Museum of Science & Industry; 1945 SE Water Ave.; Fri. 9:30-5:30, Sat. 9:30-5:30, Sun. 9:30-5:30; free admission; contact Craig Prier, (503) 984-7004; e-mail: oamsrockhound@live.com; Web site: www.oregonagate.org

15-17—LINCOLN CITY, OREGON: Annual show; North Lincoln Agate Society; Lincoln City Cultural Center; 540 U.S. 101; Fri. 5-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; contact Laura Joki, Rock Your World LLC, 1423 N.W. Hwy. 101, Lincoln City, OR 97367, (541) 351-8423; e-mail: ljoki@rockyourworldgems.com

15-24—INDIO, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society; Riverside County Fairgrounds; 46-350 Arabia St., Gem & Mineral Bldg. 1; Daily 10-10; adults \$8, seniors \$7, students \$6, children (under 5) free; contact Bert Grisham, 1029 N. 8th St., Banning, CA 92220, (951) 849-1674; e-mail: bert67@verizon.net

16-17—ANTIOCH, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Antioch Lapidary Club; CCC Fairgrounds; 1201 W. 10th St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, children (12 and under), Scouts in uniform, and active military with I.D. free; jewelry, gems, findings, supplies, auction, grab bags, exhibits, hands-on projects for kids; contact Brenda Miguel, (925) 301-6957; e-mail: brenda.miguel@yahoo.com; Web site: www.antiochlapidaryclub.com

16-17—LINCOLN CITY, OREGON: Annual show; North Lincoln Agate Society; Lincoln City Cultural Center; 540 NE Hwy. 101; Sat. 10-4, Sun. 10-4; free admission; free rocks for kids; contact Laura Joki, (541) 351-8423; e-mail: laura@rockyourworldgems.com

16-17—MESA, ARIZONA: 47th annual show; Apache Junction Rock & Gem Club; Skyline High School; 845 S. Crismon Rd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$3, students with ID \$1, children (12 and under) free; dealers, jewelry, gems, cabs, beads, rocks, specimens, slabs, fossils, lapidary equipment and supplies, hourly door prizes, silent auction, grand raffle, gem tree-making activity, Wheel of Rocks; contact Kelly Iverson, (480) 325-2705; www.ajrockclub.com

“GEOLOGY OF WINES” TOURS

TOPS A Rock Shop, located in San Juan Bautista just a couple hundred feet from the San Andreas fault, has launched a new FUN tour, the Geology of Wines Tour. Fossil Phil (Stoffer, Ph.D.), retired USGS Geologist, hosts a bus tour of the faults in San Benito County stopping at various award winning wineries where you can either taste the Fruits of the Fault or go for a walking tour with Phil.

These tours are scheduled once a month or if you have a group of at least 16 we can schedule a custom tour tailored to your interests and knowledge level.

Jan McClintock, TOPS A Rock Shop jan@topsarockshop.com 831-207-7111

----- **CUT HERE** -----

CAMP ZZYZX: THE CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC. **DEDICATED TO THE ADVANCEMENT AND ENJOYMENT OF THE EARTH SCIENCES**

We invite you to join us at the Earth Science Seminar to be held at Soda Springs (ZZYZX) located approximately

50 miles northeast of Barstow, CA, OFF Hwy I-15 at Zzyzx Rd. Facilities are rustic, dormitory style rooms with bed, mattress, and desk. Cleaning is the occupant's responsibility. You must bring bed linen or sleeping bag and any creature comforts you may desire, i.e. lamp, throw rug, ice chest. RV PARKING is approximately 1/4 mile from the center and has no facilities of any kind. All restrooms and showers are located in separate building at the center and are communal. The Earth Science Committee retains the right to accept or deny applications as they deem appropriate. This area is designated by the Government as a Desert Studies Center, consequently, **NO PETS ARE ALLOWED**. A limited number of reservations are available and early application is recommended. Subject to change, these classes will be offered.

LAPIDARY, BEADING, PRECIOUS METAL CLAY, SILVER FABRICATION, WIRE ART, ALTERNATIVE CASTING, SOFT STONE CARVING, SCRIMSHAW, FACETING, FIELD TRIPS AND KNAPPING.

The fee for the week is \$375.00 per person and includes room or RV space, three meals per day, and classes. Additional charges may be assessed for material furnished by instructors.

--- IF YOU USE YOUR R.V. YOU CAN SAVE \$50.00 PER PERSON ---

NO CANCELLATIONS AFTER MARCH 1, 2013 unless a replacement is provided. A \$25.00 Administration fee will be assessed for cancellations made prior to March 1, 2013.

Please complete the Registration Form below and mail it with full payment, payable to C.F.M.S.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY CONTACT: MAIL APPLICATION TO:

MARION ROBERTS AUDREY HARVEY

(209) 538-0197 3363 Tuxford Place

email: mvroberts@bigvalley.net Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

(805) 492-2253

CAMP ZZYZX REGISTRATION CAMP DATE: MARCH 31 to APRIL 7, 2013

REGISTRATION FORM DEADLINE MARCH 1, 2013

Applications received after this date will be placed on a standby list and considered only when a vacancy exists.

Please use block printing:

Mr. Mrs. Ms

Mr. Mrs. Ms

Street

City

State

Zip

Phone

email

ROOM ASSIGNMENT FOR SINGLE APPLICANTS ONLY. R.V. _____ DORM _____

ROOM REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL OR PHYSICAL REASONS; PLEASE DESCRIBE _____

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS: DIABETIC _____ OTHER (explain) _____

ALL CLASSES OF YOUR CHOICE ARE AVAILABLE AS SPACE IS AVAILABLE.