

SHASTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

Shasta Gem & Mineral Society, Inc ROC TOC 2011

Elected Officers

President
 Steve Puderbaugh..... 604-2951
 Vice President
 Sara Fenske..... 528-2651
 Secretary
 Phyllis Szynter241-2010
 Treasurer
 Sandra Park and..... 246-9822
 Rochelle Ohlson..... 221-8050

Board of Directors

Marianne Sweetwood.....549-4598
 Steve Szynter 241-2010
 Bill Doyle..... 549-3039

 Junior Advisor & Work Shop Advisor:
 Rochelle Ohlson... 221-8050
 Assistant Junior & Shop Advisor
 Steve Szynter 241-2010

Appointed Committees

Programs
 Sara Fenske..... 528-2651
 Field Trips
 Jim Foster..... 347-1819
 Sara Fenske 528-2651
 Properties
 Bill Seward 365-8641
 Publicity
 Kelly O'Leary 221-7281
 Show Chairman
 Steve Puderbaugh
 Assistant Show Chairman604-2051
 Bill Seward.....365-8641
 Dealer Chairman
 Bill Seward 365-8641
 Membership
 Gretta Seward..... 365-8641
 Chaplain
 Jim Willis222-2331

Sunshine
 Jim Willis . 222-2331
 Scholarship
 Marianne Sweetwood 549-4598
 Raffle
 Jim & Pat Foster 347-1819
 Hospitality
 Jan Stone 549-077
 Roc Toc
 Gretta Seward 365-8641
 Coffee
 Jan Stone 549-4077
 Superior Cal.
 Steve Puderbaugh ... 604-2951
 CFMS Directors
 Bob & Jeane Stultz 243-3024
 Kitchen: ALL MEMBERS
 Parliamentarian
 John Ellwanger275-1055

Board Meeting: : Next to last Monday of each month, location to be determined by the Board.

Regular Meeting: The second Friday of each month, at the Anderson Grange Hall, south of the Redding Airport on Figtree Lane. Potluck dinner starts at 6:30, meeting after approx at 7:30.

Dues: \$15.00 each adult per year, junior membership is \$8.00 each per year paid to the membership chairman. Bulletins for life members are \$5.00 membership chairman.

SGMS is a member of the Superior Federation of the Mineralogical Societies and the Superior California Association. The SGMS is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing knowledge of gem, minerals and the lapidary arts programs through reading, classes and field trips to perpetuate a deep friendship of fellow rock hounds. Permission is given for use of the material printed in the ROC TOC, provided credit is given. Exchange bulletins are welcome and can be mailed to Gretta Seward 20361 River Valley Dr., Anderson, California 96007-8406.

Shasta Gem & Mineral Society Club workshop is located at the "Marx House", 6471 Airport Road, Anderson, CA 96007. www.shastagemandmineral.com

March 2011 Board Meeting Minutes

The March 2011 SGMS board meeting was held at Steve Puderbaugh's home. The meeting started at 6:45 PM.

The secretary's report was read and corrected. John Ellwanger motioned to accept the minutes as corrected. The treasurer's report was read at the general meeting. The juniors account is low. The bills for the materials for the newly made showcases are to be paid. There were no communications.

Kelly reported that the N. W. Federation will publicize our show in their newsletter and on line. Zeke Braezeale put out flyers at the Klamath show. Bob Jones and Walt Wright will talk about petrified wood and other subjects. Cary Moore at Hawes ranch will publicize our show at her ranch. Miners Cache next to Jones Fort may supply donations to our show which needs business donations.

We need a flyer available at the state show for our fall show that can go into the information package. Susan and Bill Doyle did a drive by at the fairgrounds to check out the facilities. The hospitality tables are 72" round and need tablecloths. Steve Puderbaugh is hoping the banner for the banquet will be ready in time.

The Redding Police Explorers can't help at the show because it is not in the city of Redding. The Anderson Explorers need to be contacted as well as the CHP cadets.

In workshop news, Sandy Park completed the April, May, and June workshop rosters for Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Steve would like the speaker schedule for the state show printed up 3 weeks ahead. Dealers, tailgaters and demonstrators schedules or locations need to be printed also.

Sandy Park will host the next board meeting in April at the workshop. There will be no board meeting in May because of the show.

In new business, the new showcases need outside paint. Steve Puderbaugh let us see one of the newly made showcases, missing only the glass. We need tables for the state show and renting them was discussed. A roof fund for a new roof was discussed for the workshop building. Items are needed for the silent auction at the May show whose profits are for the local clubs only.

Bill Doyle mentioned that there would be a tailgate sale on the first Saturday of next month if it is not raining. You can pay when you come. A shop grinding machine needs a new belt and expandable drums are ordered for the shop.

Steve P motioned to end the meeting at 7:57 PM.

We adjourned to a lovely dinner made by Steve's wife Linda. We enjoyed homemade Minestrone soup with meatballs plus garlic bread, with brownies and coffee cake for dessert. Thank you Linda!

HOT TIP ON THUNDEREGGS

Many lapidaries now heat nodule and thunder egg halves under a heat lamp for a few minutes, before polishing with tin oxide or cerium oxide on felt. The polish comes up almost instantly. Alternatives include putting specimens in a 200 degree oven until warm to the touch, or putting specimens in a kettle full of hot water until they are warm. Dry off excess water before polishing.

via Rock Chips 1/11 *Source: The Voice - 12/2010*

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, you can usually dissolve the steel in a solution of alum. Alum is typically available from a food store or a drug store. Use about a teaspoon per cup of warm water. Submerge your piece so that the partially drilled hole is facing up so that bubbles can float free.

Source of the 5 above Tips: Brad Smith - The Voice - 12/2010

GEMS FROM THE REDWOODS

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

We would like to wish every one that has a birthday in April a very happy Birthday.

BIRTHSTONE; Diamond or Sapphire

FLOWER: Sweet pea

She who from April dates her years,
Diamonds should wear, lest bitter tears,
For vain repentance flow; this stone,
Emblem of innocence is known.

DIAMOND: The diamond, brilliant and resistant, like the Knights of Old, has been considered an emblem of fearlessness and invincibility. The virtues ascribed to it are almost all traceable to its unconquerable hardness, or to its transparency and purity. It was therefore, thought to bring victor to the wearer by endowing them with superior strength, audacity, fortitude and courage, and certainly is not the gem for the cowardly or faint hearted. The religious symbolism of the diamond has been a favorite theme of ancient writers on lapidary art. It was regarded as a sacred stone and one especially suited for sacred uses. The custom of diamonds as an April birthstone started in Poland in the 18th century based on the writing of Josephine. While we now accept the diamond as the April birthstone, many less costly substitutes are being advocated by modern jewelers, such as clear sapphire, topaz, zircon, and even quartz. They should give the proper satisfaction and feeling of good luck for after all, the accepted beliefs that one has in their trinkets are the things that count.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TREASURE 2011 C.F.M.S & CONVENTION show is scheduled May 13, 14 & 15, 2011 at the Anderson District Fairgrounds. Please arrange your schedule so that you will be available to help setting up the show tables and display cases. More complete information will follow.

REMEMBER, WHEN YOU ARE ASKED TO HELP PUT ON A SHOW, IT MEANS THAT YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS: Christopher, Meredith and Emma Fisher, and Sonja Lester.

Welcome to the SG&M Club. We hope you will find it a rewarding experience.

Doug and Colleen Latimer have been previous members and we certainly are happy to have them return to the Redding area. Glad to have you back home!

When you see some one at our meetings that you don't know, please introduce yourself. We want every one to feel welcome.

ROC TOC: Our monthly newsletter will be mailed only to those members that do not have a computer. To make yourself a copy of the Roc Toc please logs onto: www.shastagemandmineral.com

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE TO ALL MEETINGS. IF YOU INVITE GUESTS BRING ENOUGH FOR THEM ALSO.

I'M A NEW MEMBER OR VISITOR

I see you at the meetings,
But you never say "HELLO".
Your busy all the time you're there
With those you already know.

I set among the members
And yet I'm a lonesome guy,
The new fish are as strange as I
But you old fellows pass me by.

But remember you asked us in
And you talk of fellowship!
You could step across the room,
But you never make the trip.

Why can't you nod and say "Hello"
Or stop and shake my hand
Then go and sit among your friends,
Now That I could understand.

I'll be at your next gathering,
My time there I'll spend,
Do you think you could introduce yourself?
I want to be your friend.

Author Unknown

Shasta Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Raffle Report February 11,2011

Thanks to all our members and guests who purchased tickets and / or brought items for the raffle table along with what the club purchased.

Thank you much to the members who willingly came up and helped Pat in Jim's absence. Bless you all.....Jim Jensen, Gareth Ohlson, Gabrielle Costa, and Rochelle Ohlson. Thank you Rochelle for calling the drawn tickets and Thank you Gabrielle for drawing the tickets.

For those great donations, thank you.....

1. Jim & Kathy Jensen.....Mystery Rock ????????
2. "Zeke" Breazeale.....Orange Calcite Sphere.
3. Glenn Chamberlain.....Brazilian slab, opalized wood.
4. Charlie McKee.....2 Slabs from Quartzsite .
5. John Ellwanger.....2 pieces Vesuvianite, Tiger Iron from Australia, Mexican fluorite & Obsidian.
6. Debbie Duncan.....Red Horned coral from Utah.
7. Ann Morningstar.....Large petrified wood, small petrified wood, 2 copco agate, 1 tiger eye, 1 crazy lace slab, 1 thunder egg, 1 arrowhead necklace, 1 snowflake necklace, 1 Jasper pendent.
8. Sara Fenske.....Pulga jade, crystals & geode.
9. Steve Puderbaugh.....Bag of Plastic Dop Sticks.

Shasta Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Raffle Report March 11,2011

To all of the members and guests who purchased tickets for the Raffle, many Thanks.
To the members who donated items to the Raffle, much Thanks.

" Thank you " to Glenn Chamberlain who was a good sport when asked to help Jim draw the tickets.

And Thank you to : Jim Jensen and Denise Vargas for coming up and offering to help Pat tear the tickets.

We sure appreciate your willingness . Anyone can come on up and help and we'll be thankful for your help.

Thanks for the donations :

1. John Ellwanger :Mariposite, 4 Honduran opal chunks of wood, Labradorite, Imperial Jasper, Succor Creek Jasper, lime Chrysoprase, Obsidian w/orbs, Agate nugget, Tee Pee Canyon Jasper.
2. Bill & Susan Doyle : 1 polished geode / Richardson Ranch, & 3 from Crane Creek.
3. Glenn Chamberlain : Onyx egg, 2 agates, & 6 polished slabs.
4. Richard & Sandy Park : 1 pair of sharks teeth.
5. Steve Puderbaugh : Bag of plastic dop sticks.

A Big Thank You to : Bill & Gretta Seward and Richard & Sandy Park for going to Arizona to purchase the prizes for the Raffle Table.

We appreciate you all very much.

Thank you to Steve Szynter for being willing to identify various rocks, gems , minerals and fossils.

Your Raffle Team
Jim and Pat Foster

{P.S. } An earring was found at the Grange Hall March 11,2011 after our meeting.

If you lost an earring, please contact Pat Foster and describe the earring to me.

ETHIOPIAN WELO OPAL

What is it? Do you know? I found out that I did not know anything about this type of opal outside the fact that it is a crystal opal with very bright play of colors. They are about as good as I have ever seen.

We have two pages of information on what it is, and how to cut it. The information will be in the newsletter. I will not say any thing more about it. I think you will find this information very interesting. We bought 2 oz. of the opal and the dealer sent us the information.

Gem & Mineral Sale--Saturday, April 2, 2011 (6471 Airport Road, Anderson)

Gem & Mineral Sale--Saturday, April 2, 2011

Sale Hours: 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

The Shasta Gem and Mineral Society, Inc., will be conducting a parking lot sale on the first Saturday of each month. (Weather permitting.)

Items for sale include polished rocks, specimens, geodes, cabochons, unique lapidary items, and handcrafted jewelry.

The sale location is at the "Marx House," 6471 Airport Road, Anderson, CA 96007.

See our website: reddingblogs.com/shastagemandmineralsociety

Is It Amber or Plastic? Distinguishing between Amber and plastic is quite simple. Amber, because of its extremely low specific gravity, will float in salt water. Plastic will not!

Make up a saturated solution of salt in a bowl of water until no more salt will dissolve. Put the article of question in the water. If it sinks, it is plastic. If it floats, it is Amber.

Note: A clasp on a bracelet or necklace will cause the ends to sink but the beads will float. *From Deming Rock Chips 08/10*

AGATE EXPLORER October 2010

Cutting Ethiopian Welo Opal

The new opal deposit in Ethiopia, in Welo Province in the north of the country, is producing spectacular crystal opal displaying very bright play-of-colors in a variety of patterns. The opals in this new deposit, discovered in 2008, are nodule-like stones in an unusual variety...where some stones resemble top Mexican fire opal with excellent play-of-color, others resemble subtle dream-like stones from Brazil and many resemble bright crystal opal from the Andamooka opal field of South Australia. It's quite easy to become enamored with this opal.

Most of the opal from Welo is hydrophane opal. Hydrophane opal quickly absorbs water and the opal's base color appearance changes, becoming very clear. The play-of-color, though not entirely disappearing, fades out. But luckily this is only a temporary problem...when the opal is allowed to air-dry for 3-4 days, almost like magic, the body color and play-of-color return to normal. Some of this opal becomes white when going through its drying process...but it too returns to its normal crystal or semi-crystal state, although it may take a few days longer to become clear again and for the play-of-color brightness to return.

Please read the following procedure carefully before cutting this opal

Cabbing: When cutting this material I use Elmer's Glue-All to glue the stone to a ¼" x 5" long wooden dop stick. Let the stone dry overnight, then coat the non-waterproof glue with a coating of clear fingernail polish to make it waterproof. Avoid using dopping wax...especially if the opal has been exposed to and has absorbed water. Cracks can appear between the clear hydrophane portion of the opal and the still fiery portion of the opal, when partially wetted opal is heated. So be aware that this material can be VERY heat sensitive. I use a 220-grit diamond grinding dry wheel to rough grind the stone...dry. Opal's relatively soft and a 220-grit diamond wheel cuts fast enough and also doesn't leave the deep scratches (and won't be as likely to chip) that an 80 or 100-grit wheel will...especially when working dry. Watch for heat and dust (you might want to use a mask if you're doing a lot of opal cutting...opal dust can cause silicosis), but with light pressure on a diamond wheel, opal doesn't heat much. But it is important to check you stones temperature often.

I like to do the rough grinding dry, allowing the stones play-of-color to stay bright, to properly orient and rough shape the stone (if the stone has a uniform fire pattern throughout...orienting is not a problem & rough grinding can be done wet). But once that is completed I go to my normal water-cooled method of opal cutting using a 320 grit belt, on an expanding drum...for final shaping of the stone. And 600-grit will remove any leftover flat spots and course scratches...then onto 1200-grit and 3000-grit with a final polish using a mix of tin oxide and Linde A (10:1 ratio)...or 14,000 grit diamond. If you'd like, a disk with 50,000-grit diamond will give you a super final polish. Remove the fingernail polish coating by swirling in a jar with acetone in it for about 20 seconds (careful acetone is VERY flammable). Soak in a glass of water for 2-3 hours and the stone should fall off of the dop stick. If not let the stone soak overnight. I've never had a problem releasing the opal if it is allowed to soak in water overnight.

One weakness these stones seem to have is sensitivity to pressure...they can easily crack with anything more than moderate pressure. Unfortunately the cracking can place right down the middle of the stone. This isn't a crazing problem as you might find in Australian or Mexican opals, but a tendency to be fragile as you might find when cutting garnets. It's especially noticed when flattening the backs of cabochons on a flat lap. So please use caution when grinding and sanding these gems...and a slow gentle touch is ok as opals are a relatively soft stone that easily responds to abrasives.

Drying Welo Opals: Here in Billings the air is very dry and Welo opals return to their original bright colorful state after drying for 2-3 days. But to accelerate the drying time I use a quart Mason jar ½ full of silica gel desiccant. Leave the stones in the jar overnight and in most cases the stones have returned to their original color and brightness. I've recently spoken to an opal customer who lives in a very humid area and his cut Welos have taken an extended time to return to their original bright colorful condition after wet cutting. His solution sounds scary...but he's had good luck (a dozen good stones at this writing). He uses a programmable burnout oven and sets the temperature for 65-70 degrees Celsius. He programs the heating cycle to warm at 2C/minute and leaves the stone at temperature for 1 hour and then allows the stones to cool down naturally. He says his stones have dried beautifully without a problem.

Another opal cutter has come up with an effective and less expensive method of drying his stones. He uses a desk lamp with a 60 watt incandescent bulb (standard round bulb, not spot light) and positions his stones about 10"-12" below the bulb...very gently heating the stones overnight.

Dry Cabbing: This procedure isn't for the faint of heart as it's still not a proven method of cutting Welo opal...so beware and be VERY careful of heat build-up. I've been experimenting with cutting this opal completely dry...except for moistening the polishing wheel slightly, when using tin oxide or cerium oxide on leather, to improve the polish. Tin or cerium doesn't seem to work well completely dry. But diamond compound with a bit of baby oil or extender fluid, should be fine for polishing...perhaps better than tin or cerium (I'm just old fashioned ☺ and I have a lot of tin oxide). I dop the stone to the wooden dowel using Elmer's Glue-all, as previously mentioned, but no fingernail polish is needed as this is essentially cutting dry. Again...watch carefully for heat build-up...this opal can be very heat sensitive. And if you are using Nova wheels or expanding drums with diamond/resin bonding: beware of sharp edges on your stones peeling off the abrasive coating on the wheels or belts...water provides lubrication for the belts and wheels so this will decrease your diamond abrasive wheel life. There is a LOT of dust coming off the stones and this can be dangerous as it causes silicosis!! Be sure to at least wear a good dust mask. The results cabbing dry have been encouraging...no color change to wait on. But the jury is still out...need to cut a few more stones to see how well this works on a variety of Welo opal types. To remove the stones from the dop sticks I simply use a fine jewelers saw to cut the stones off of the sticks, at the stone-stick glue interface. Then sand off any extra wood or glue on fine (400-600 grit) wet/dry sanding cloth or a dry flat lap...checking often for heat.

Carving: If you plan to carve this opal (it carves wonderfully) and are using syringes filled with color-coded diamond paste, beware of the color staining the opal. I've switched to mixing my own diamond compound (1200, 3000 and 14,000 grits) with a mixture of diamond powder and clear baby oil...it's even a bit cheaper...and it smells better☺. If you want it thicker add a bit of Vaseline and stir well...or for a different consistency, I've heard that melted bees-wax or Crisco has worked well. I like to carve this material using a combination of diamond/metal bonded grinding points, Cratex points (coarse, medium fine and extra-fine) for sanding and diamond compound on bullet shaped felt points...dry. When working dry, using these techniques, you won't have the color change problems associated with working wet. I've found that as long as I'm VERY careful with heat...checking the stones temp often...this opal can be successfully cut dry. But it is heat sensitive, like other opals, so care must be taken working without water.

Keep in mind this is just one of many cutting techniques that will accomplish the same result...a beautiful, well cut opal cabochon. The important things to remember are: cut slowly, avoid over-heating your stones, smooth out flat areas and polish your opals well...checking carefully for scratches.



Northern California Treasures

May 13, 14, and 15, 2011

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. Show
and Convention

Shasta District Fairgrounds
Briggs St. - Anderson, CA
8 Miles South of Redding, CA



Hours:

Friday: 9am-5pm

Saturday: 9am-5pm

Sunday: 10am-4pm

Raffle

Speakers

World Class Displays

Silent Auction

Free Demonstrations

Adults: \$4.00

Seniors: 65+ \$3.00

Children: 13-18 - \$2.00

Children: 12 and Under - Free



Minerals

Fossils

Beads

Gems

Jewelry

Jewelry Supplies

Lots of stuff!

Loads of Fun!

Come for Lunch and
stay through closing!



Sponsored by California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Hosted by:

Superior California Gem and Mineral Association a combined association of:

Shasta Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. - Redding, CA. - www.shastagemandmineral.com

Paradise Gem and Mineral Club - Paradise, CA.

visit us at: www.superiorcal.com

May 2011

Workshop Hours
 Tuesdays - 5:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.
 Saturdays - 10A.M. to 2 P.M.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1						7 Juniors Show "D" Day for Juniors Rochelle Ohlson Steve Szytler
8		9 Steve Lay		11 SupCal Gem Show Set-UP Anderson Fairgrounds All Hands Needed 8AM	13 SupCal Gem Show 9AM - 5PM Anderson Fairgrounds All Hands at Fair Club Meeting Cancelled	14 Workshop Closed SupCal Gem Show 9AM - 5PM Anderson Fairgrounds All Hands at Fair
15 SupCal Gem Show 10AM - 4PM Anderson Fairgrounds All Hands at Fair 3PM Tear Down		16 Zeke Breazeale		18		20 Juniors & Adults Rochelle Ohlson Steve Szytler
22	23 Board Meeting Workshop 6 PM	24 Bill & Susan Doyle		25		27 Bill Seward Charlie McKee
29	30 Richard & Sandy Park	31				28