

CONVAIR ROCKHOUND ASSOCIATION -- THE TEKTITE -- pg. 1

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PRESIDENT'S RATTER

Nothing submitted from our President so all must be "well" with our Club.



Jerry Lohmann,
President

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the October 5, 2004 Rockhound Meeting.

Meeting was opened at 6:46 by President Jerry Lohmann. Lynda Lohmann led pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes were approved as written in the Tektite.

Hospitality report: None.

Membership: Phyllis Mahoney reported 15 members were present.

County Council report: None

CSMF report: None. Meeting is on November 13 in Fresno. Anyone want to go?

Jean Kreutzer says that if you want to go to Zyzzx (or however it is spelled) you should do so now. Camp Paradise has to be reserved a year in advance now.

Show and Tell: Jim Claypool brought some sunstones from Davis Creek and black petrified wood from the coast of Oregon for Show and Tell. Also brought for Show and Tell were some polished fiber optic materials and some carved pieces by Jean Kreutzer.

Next month Ralph Davis and Franklin Wade will bring something for show and tell.

Bob Plunkett is going to bring his supplies etc., and show how to make the brass belt buckles in January.

Field trips: Nothing planned. This week Jim Claypool and Mary Jane Dunn are going to Trona.

El Cajon Gem & Mineral show is this weekend (October 9 & 10) at Lakeside Rodeo.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Jerry had contacted someone he knew through Boy Scouts of America for the entertainment at the Holiday party. The cost was too expensive. Jean Kreutzer suggested we contact Mesa (or some honor ensemble). Also discussed was bringing a Mitch Miller tape and just singing carols that way.

Door Prizes were won by Elaine Thompson, Lynda Lohmann and June Wade.

Raffle Prizes were won by Phyllis Mahoney, Patsy Lilley, Al Thompson, Lynda Lohmann, Al Thompson again, Mary Jane Dunn, Patsy Lilley (again), Jim Claypool, and Jerry Lohmann.

Program for the night was a travel tape that Jean Kreutzer had brought. One part was the emeralds in North Carolina and the other part was gold panning in Jamestown, California.

Meeting adjourned by 7:45.

Lynda Lohmann, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING



The next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, November 09, 2004. The Board on meets every other month and here is the schedule for the 2004-2005

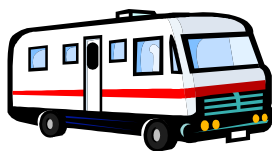
CRA year.

Sep 14 - Nov 9 - Jan 11 - Mar 8 - May 10 - July 12 (picnic planning meeting)

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FIELD TRIPS

????????????? Chairperson
Nothing planned.



MEMBERSHIP

Phyllis Mahoney and Gary Draper, Chairpersons

If you have not yet paid your CRA Dues then please do so ASAP. They are due now and will be past due after the November meeting.

Be sure to complete and return the Dues/Registration form that was in your September Tektite with your check.

HOSPITALITY CORNER

Emmeline Ellis, Chairperson
Nothing submitted.



FROM THE CFMS NEWSLETTER

(Ed note: The registration form for ZZYZX is on page 6. -- Betty)

PROGRAM

Bob Cadman, Chairperson
Nothing submitted.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR NOVEMBER CELEBRANTS



Remember if you want to be wished a "**Happy Birthday**" you must include your month and day of birth on the "Dues" form. You are not required to submit the year unless you are applying as an "Honorary Member" 80 years or over.

John Colbert	11/06
Florence Smith	11/17
Joan Miller	11/18
Bob Bailey	11/22
Bob Cadman	11/25
Peggy Duncan	11/27



SHOP and FIELD TRIP HINTS

Remember, your Editor only writes these things up. She DOES NOT try them out!!

1. Need somewhere to store your 6" sanding and polishing discs? Use an inexpensive music CD case. They fit in the pockets perfectly, and you can label each pocket with a different grit number.

2. FLAT LAPPING TIPS: For best results, use graded abrasives for lapping. * We recommend 220 grit for rough grind and 600 grit for fine grind. Final Polish with Tin Oxide.

3. TUMBLING HINTS for APACHE TEARS: When attempting to polish "Apache tears" we have heard of lots of personal "recipes". Here are some methods you may want to try.

A. In steps 3 & 4, add corn syrup to the load to slow down the action. This thickens the slurry and will keep the

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Apache tears from scratching themselves.

B. Use cerium oxide as a polish, and use it with oat meal. Let it go for several weeks. Do NOT add water in this method. Polish dry.

C. Use a vibrating polisher. These type polishers do not have the harsh action a rotary polisher has.

4. JEWELERS HINTS:

A. Tarnish: This is a great way to keep your sterling silver jewelry from tarnishing. Sulfur gases in the air cause tarnish. Chalk is a natural absorber of sulfur. So place sticks of chalk (blackboard chalk) in your cases, jewelry boxes, jewelry drawer, or just around your jewelry.

B. Firescale is caused when you heat silver or gold and the copper alloy mixes with oxygen in the surrounding air. One way to prevent firescale is to coat the entire piece you are working on with flux. As the flux dries when you are soldering, it will create a glass that forms a barrier between the copper and the oxygen.

C. When making a **bezel for a smaller stone**, it is often very difficult. So try using a super glue to attach your stone to your metal block. This will hold your stone in place and it can be removed when you are ready for it by placing a solvent on the glue.

This method is not recommended for opals (especially doublets and triplets).

[*Hot Stuff*](#) works well for this.

5. CUTTING HINTS:

Turn your blade around (for multidirectional blades only), and sharpen it after every 25 hours of use. This will extend the life of your blade and help prevent "dishing" and "warping". You may find that you need to sharpen your blade more often.

To sharpen your blade, cut a sharpening stone. These are usually

made of aluminum oxide. For blades 10" and smaller, use a 0.5" x 0.5" stone. For blades 12" and larger, use a 1" x 1" stone.

From <http://www.rocks4u.com/lapidaryhint.htm>

Hints and Tips about OPAL

Here's an eclectic assortment of hints and tips you may find helpful when buying or working with opal.

1. Not all opal is valuable. Potch, sometimes-called "common opal" does not reflect colours. Potch does have its use, however, as a backing for doublets and triplets. When there is color mixed with potch it's called "potch and color."

2. Some classes of rough opal are unsuitable for making gemstones. Some are very porous. Others have a chalky appearance. Still others can lose their colour in a short period of time. And yes, it is common for certain types of opals to shatter in a dry atmosphere when the water from the gel evaporates. The best protection for buyers is to purchase opal from a knowledgeable and reputable dealer who accurately details exactly what you are purchasing and is willing to guarantee the stones. **Note:** If you buy rough opal, there is no guarantee that it will not crack. This is the calculated risk you take and is part of the "excitement" of opal cutting.

3. When examining opal jewelry, look at the stone from the side to determine whether it's a triplet. Solid and doublet opal domes are simply the opals formed into a curved dome shape. Triplets have clear crystal domes to protect the flat opal surface.

4. It is very difficult to tell whether a stone is a doublet or a solid if it is in a setting. It helps if the back of the setting is open, but it is still no real indication because the back of a doublet and a solid looks very similar, although a doublet is

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usually perfectly black on the back whereas a solid black opal usually has some imperfections. So if the back of a stone looks too perfect, you have to be a little suspicious. For this reason it's best to buy opal from reputable dealers who know what they are doing because, unfortunately, many jewelers also are not experienced in opal.

5. When buying opal over the net, ask the seller to give you a summary of how close the graphic sample is to the real thing. Opal is very difficult to photograph and the appearance on the computer screen may give it a different look. Particularly is this the case in regards to size. Graphics come out in all different sizes, usually a lot larger than actual...so make sure you get your ruler out and actually draw the size on a piece of paper so that you will know in your own mind's eye the actual size of the stone.

6. The same thing applies to the colour of the stone. Make sure you get the supplier to give a commentary on the colour so that you will know pretty well what you are getting. The camera sometimes picks up colours that are only minimal, while ignoring the feature colours.

Cutting Tips

Opal is one of the easiest stones to cut. The trick is chasing the colour to make sure you approach the colour from the right direction. Lapidary clubs are a good resource for new opal cutters. Ask experienced members for advice on the basics of cabochon cutting.

Your first task is to search an opal for any hint of colour. Then, you use a wet grindstone to grind off the potch until you can see where the colour is going. When you've exposed enough colour, you can choose the top and bottom for your stone based on where you see the best colour contrasted against the background colour.

Let the stone dry then check for cracks and imperfections. Everyone wants to cut a big stone, but two or three smaller perfect stones are a better choice than one big stone with imperfections. Remember too, if you're planning to make a jewelry piece, settings come in standard, calibrated sizes. Unless you'll be making a completely custom setting, you're better off sticking with a common size. A diamond blade, 10 thousandths thick is a good choice for cutting an opal stone to size. Many lapidaries will tell you to run the diamond blade slowly with opal. This is a big mistake. Opal is not a hard material like agate, for example. Opal slicing is best done either in water or with water passing over it at the speed achieved from an ordinary 1440 RPM, 1/4 H.P. motor with a 6" pulley on the motor and a 1 & 1/2 pulley on the shaft. If you don't force the stone and you have plenty of water passing over it, you will not cause any damage. In fact your diamond blades will last longer because they will not buckle as easy. After you've cut the stone into the basic shape, use a wet grinder to finish shaping and remove rough edges.

The final step is sanding. Begin sanding with a 320 grit paper. If the paper is new, you may rub it on some potch* or a sheet of glass to dull its sharpness a bit. You can then use either a 600, 700, or 800 grit wet and dry sandpaper to gradually take out the finer scratches and bring up a matte polish. Finally, on a leather lap, use a paste of cerium or tin oxide (mix with water) to bring up the final polish. Your finished opal should have a nice, high dome for easy mounting.

Save the chips! You can use those bits of opal to create stunning mosaic patterns.

If you have a piece of opal jewelry that has become scratched or dull, just use the finer papers (700 or 800 grit) you can try to work the above process by

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hand by cutting small strips of the sandpaper and just rubbing them back and forth across the stone until the scratches are taken out. If the paper is too harsh, just tone it down by rubbing it on a piece of glass. Next step is to get a piece of old sheet or pillow slip (cloth) and vigorously polish with tin oxide or cerium oxide.

If you want to polish the gold or silver at the same time, use some metal polishing paste. Most of these items can

be purchased from the hardware store, with the exception of the oxides, which may only be available at Lapidary supply stores or at workshops that polish gravestones. (Stone masons) (Check in your yellow or pink pages on the telephone directory for locations.) *potch is unformed opal

From <http://www.opalmine.com/opals-encyclopedia-6.php>

Dolores, you are right at the top of our list of people for whom we are

Thankful.



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THE CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC.

DEDICATED TO THE ADVANCEMENT
AND ENJOYMENT OF THE EARTH SCIENCES



We invite you to Join us in Celebrating the Twentieth Anniversary of Earth Science Seminar to be held at Soda Springs (Zzyzx) located approximately 50 miles Northeast of Barstow, CA. Off I-15 at Zzyzx Rd. The facilities are rustic, dormitory style rooms with bed, mattress & desk. Cleaning responsibilities lie with the occupants. You must bring bed linen or sleeping bag, and any creature comforts you may desire i.e. lamp, throw rug, ice chest. R.V. parking is approximately 1/4 mile from the center, and has no facilities of any kind. All restrooms and showers are located in separate buildings at the center, and are communal. When you fill out your application, Please use **block printing**.

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 - Tom Burchard
Silver Fabrication - Lois Allmen
Chain Making - George Snyder
Beads - Virginia Grafton

Soft Stone Carving - Margaret Kolazcyk
Wire Wrap - Anna Christensen
Field Trips - Francis Podneau

The fee for the week is \$220.00 per person, includes Quarters, R.V. Space, three meals per day and classes. Additional charges may be assessed for material furnished by instructors.

DEADLINE - MARCH 19, 2005. No cancellations after this date, **UNLESS A REPLACEMENT IS PROVIDED.** A \$25.00 Administration Fee will be assessed for cancellations prior to this date.

Please Complete the Registration form and Mail with full payment, Payable to CFMS. MAIL to:

For Information Only Call:
CAL OR DEE CLASON
661 - 589-4169

APRIL 3 - 10, 2005

Audrey Harvey
3363 Tuxford Place
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
Phone #: (805) 492-2253

REGISTRATION FORM - DEADLINE MARCH 19, 2005

Applications Received after this Date will be placed on a stand-by list and considered only when a vacancy exists.

(A) Mr. Mrs. Ms _____ Phone _____

(B) Mr. Mrs. Ms _____ Phone _____

(A) _____

STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE E-MAIL ADDRESS

(B) _____

PLEASE FILL IN CLASSES DESIRED...

FIRST CHOICE

SECOND CHOICE

THIRD CHOICE

A			
B			

ROOM ASSIGNMENT FOR SINGLE APPLICANTS ONLY

R.V. ☐ DORM ☐

1. DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND WITH WHOM YOU WISH TO ROOM? _____
2. ARE YOU AN EARLY RISER OR A NIGHT OWL? _____
3. ROOM REQUEST FOR MEDICAL OR PHYSICAL REASONS. PLEASE DESCRIBE _____
4. SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS ☐ DIABETIC ☐ OTHER ☐ EXPLAIN _____