



BRECCIA

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Volume 68 Number 7 July, 2020

Calendar of Coming Events

July 28, 7:45 General Meeting on Zoom, **Live from New York** - Our speaker is **Howard Heitner**. He will be speaking on Fluorescence, History, Mechanism and Applications.

July 30, 7:30 Board Meeting on Zoom.

August 25, 7:45 General Meeting on Zoom - Our speakers are **Noel and Deb Runyan**. They will present - "Carving And Polishing Obsidian".

August 27, 7:30 Board Meeting on Zoom.

All of the events including Smithies will resume again when it is safe to do so.

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General Information

President's Message

The Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society (SCVGMS) has known for a while that we needed to move the rocks from one Donated Rock Club (DRC) site to a new site. So this last three weeks has been spent planning how to do that, contacting people who were willing to spend some sweat equity, and moving rocks and equipment. This was no easy task, moving hundreds of pounds of rock, as well as tables, equipment, machines, tarps, cases, and shelving. People helping with the move set items up in a basic area, and then later will sort and set the rocks up in easy to see locations, bins and cases for a future sale.

As we worked, and I was looking at the variety of rocks we have been given, I thought about the rockhounds who donated this treasure to us. Some have had to downsize and can't have as many rocks, gems and minerals as they used to be able to support. I pictured those calloused hands that had such a joy in Geology and rockhounding. Some have died and their families knew we would appreciate these special collections. But every rock had a special reason for being collected in the first place and I imagined each rock being picked up, thought about, and carefully added to a personal collection. Okay, some were shoveled into buckets with the intention of doing something with them someday, and that someday may or may not have happened. But still, it was interesting to think about where these rocks were found, and the camping trips where the evening may have been spent near a campfire with family and friends bragging about the finds. Our members love to attend the DRC sales, where they can get very good deals on gems and minerals, and the rocks get hauled to a new rock garden, or work shop, and might be turned into a polished rock, or piece of jewelry or just displayed in the yard or house to enjoy because it is beautiful. It has been frustrating for all of us who are ready for a rock sale, but we are reluctant to have one with the current COVID-19 restrictions in place. But we will be back, rooting through the bins for that special rock that wants a place in your rock garden.

So what do we do with these rocks? I like to choose rocks special to me for color, shape or some unusual aspect. Other people have unique ways to appreciate their rocks. These are rocks that show an unusual method used by Jim Fox. He polishes one portion of large rock and the rest of the rock is left in its natural state.

Madam President,
Michele Smith



Ammonite



Clear Creek Jadeite



Apache Gold



Labradorite

To all our family and friends

I know many of you know and love my wonderful husband, Guy. Life has had many ups and downs for us this year, as it has for many families. Our most treacherous downturn this year began on May 23, when Guy's health took a serious turn. We are in great need of your well wishes and are especially grateful for all of our wonderful customers. We are ever so thankful for your patronage, so that Guy and I can weather this terribly trying time.

Guy has had multiple strokes in the past few weeks, and possibly a heart attack. He has been newly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol, which quite possibly caused his initial stroke. Guy has been in 3 different hospitals, with the current one specializing in strokes and heart problems. His doctors have been doing an MRI daily, which has revealed even more stroke activity since his initial hospitalization. Guy is also now suffering from diminished kidney function. The doctors are presently investigating what the underlying cause or causes may be and working to find the right combinations of medicines so that Guy can start healing. Please be assured- that Guy does NOT have the dreaded Covid19 virus. Guy is not doing well. He just keeps getting his socks knocked off from out under him.

Guy should be well enough to be released from the hospital soon, but he will need to go live in a Rehabilitation Center to help him heal and get back to himself again. Rehabilitation could be 2 weeks, or could be two months or longer, depending on how quickly Guy can learn to walk and use his left arm again. This facility is going to cost us a minimum \$600 a day and is not covered by our insurance.

We are facing a mountain of uninsured costs. While the love of my life is unwell, it falls upon me to raise the funds to pay for all the medical bills, transportation costs, medications, supplies for therapy, and for the rehabilitation center.

To help raise funds, we, as in our son, myself and our future daughter-in-law, are going to host unusual types of Auctions to run for several days, with many different, fun and crazy things for sale. We will post at least one as a live Auction, and we will also post running Auctions on our Facebook selling groups.

We are working on a date for these upcoming Auctions, but they will be soon, so stay tuned! It could be a fun and wonderful opportunity for you to add to your beading and crafting world, as well as acquiring some collectibles for your home. Please come join us and help me reach our goal to provide for Guy's medical expenses.

I really just want my Guy back. We thank you all very much for your support. Hugs and Love to all of you.

J-ME & Guy
Wild Things Beads, Importer and Lover of Beads and buttons
www.wildthingsbeads.com

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530-743-1339

Bragging Rights

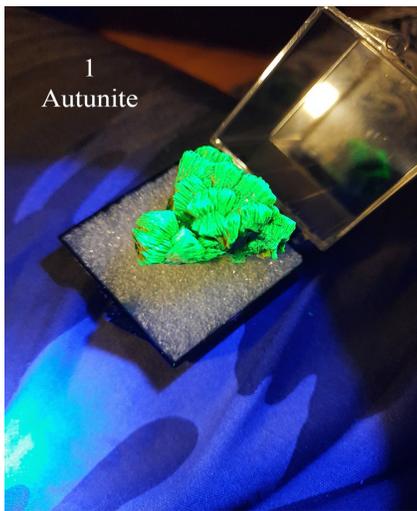
Jim Fox won the contest with his beautiful, **faceted Moldavite crystal**. It is unusual because Moldavite is not usually found in a transparent state. Its chemical formula is $\text{SiO}_2(+\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3)$, and its hardness on the Mohs scale is from 5.5 to 7. It is very similar to glass, and is actually a glass formed during the impact of a huge meteor 14.7 million years ago when splatters of molten material went airborne after impact and then the material fell, mainly in Bohemia. Moldavite can be distinguished from other types of glass by the worm-like inclusions (bubbles) of lechatelierite. Moldavite can be transparent or translucent, and the color is a mossy green.

The **theme for July is something that you have made**. Please submit a photo of your entry to Alan Achor at kayakb@sbcglobal.net.

Alan Achor-Bragging Rights Chairperson



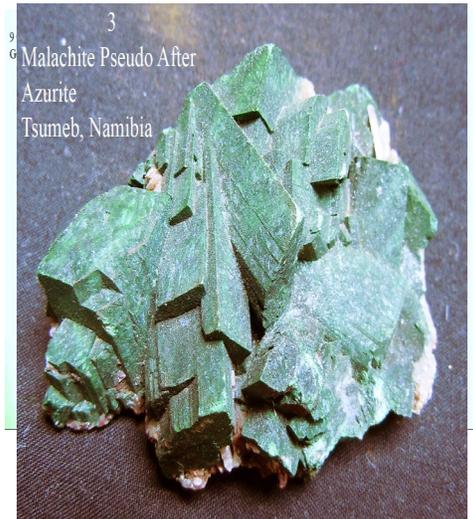
Other Bragging Right Entries



Autunite



A Display of Green Minerals



Malachite Pseudo After Azurite

Field Trips

Currently, there are no field trips planned. Check with Stephen May for questions or if you have ideas or information about future field trips.

Field Trip Coordinator: Stephen May
Email: Stephenmay0990@gmail.com

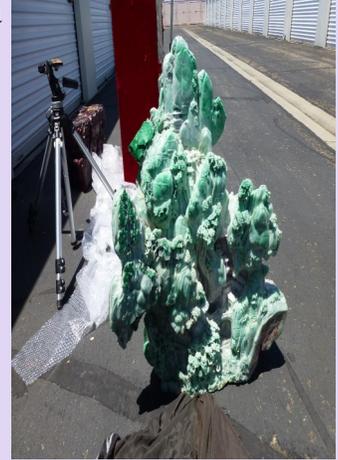
Members' Displays (Show and Tell)

All members are asked to display at least one time per year, but you may display as many times as you like. There are no displays in meetings when Silent Auctions are scheduled. There are no displays in December because there is the installation dinner in lieu of our regular meeting. Email a photo of your display item to Michele Smith by the Sunday before the general meeting so that she can display it on line for you during these times when our meetings are on Zoom. She will send out an email with details before the meeting.

Jim Sugiyama showed a picture of an enormous Jade carving, that belonged to a friend of his. It is very impressive. The Jade carving is shown to the right. Notice its size in relationship to the tripod that is near it.

Don't know what to display? Any type of rock, mineral, or fossil (identified or not), your latest project, information on a field trip, ideas for a display case, anything to do with rocks is appreciated. Sharing items helps to educate all who attend the meeting. Show off what you love so that we can enjoy it with you.

Rick Kennedy– Chairperson



Sunshine

There is no news to report this month for people in need of sunshine. It is good news when we and our loved ones are healthy.

To report someone needing sunshine, email **Margo Mosher** - margomosher@yahoo.com

Smithies

Smithies are on hold until Covid-19 has been tamed and we can meet safely. We'll keep you informed.
Thanks, Pat

June 22, 2020
PRESS RELEASE

Inyo County Search and Rescue team launches **STOP** campaign to promote four principles of safer backcountry adventures. Inyo County Search and Rescue is launching its new backcountry safety campaign for the week Sunday, June 21.

With the start of what is sure to be a busy summer after months of Coronavirus lockdown, the **STOP** campaign was created to partner with visitors by supporting them to be prepared for their time in the mountains of Inyo County. The campaign's letters, **STOP**, stand for four key principles that, in the team's experience, will help people get back down the mountain safely.

The principles are:

Stay Together

Turn Around

Ownership

Prepare and Train

Although backcountry helicopter rescues capture headlines, in reality, helicopter rescues are extremely limited and risky. Inyo County Search and Rescue works with several excellent and capable helicopter agencies, but has no control of availability or other limiting factors such as high winds, heat, altitude, or darkness.

Most people don't know that many who call for rescues or use their emergency beacons to call **SOS** actually aren't in a life-threatening situation. Rather, many of these callers are not prepared for their mountain objective and are looking for an easy way out of an unexpected, but non-emergency predicament. The truth is that sometimes there is no easy way out of the mountains.

The members of the Search and Rescue team are experienced mountain travelers, but even for them, a backcountry rescue can be a highly risky endeavor and usually takes between 6 and 24 hours because of how remote and technical the terrain is, the distance to trailheads, and the time required to organize and transport people and equipment for a rescue mission.

To compound this, more people have been visiting Inyo County each summer, as recreating outdoors (and sharing locations on social media) grows in popularity. Not only has this meant an increased volume of visitors, but also an increasing proportion of those visitors being fairly new to the outdoors.

Being active is so good for us, and our public lands offer some of the most astonishing beauty, we are glad to welcome new people from more diverse communities to share it. We know that being informed is essential to recreate safely here, where activities that get you moving become alarmingly hard at altitude. Altitude sickness can be life-threatening, trail steepness may be surprising, and dehydration or a twisted ankle can seem like dire issues when the path home is through difficult, unfamiliar terrain.

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Inyo County Search and Rescue wants to help these visitors know what they're getting into, and to support them to develop and enhance their skills and knowledge so they have a positive experience with minimized risk.

To create the STOP guide, veteran SAR members analyzed data on the types of calls they get most often, and used it to develop a guide which would enable visitors to prevent those kinds of situations in the first place, and hopefully bring the volume of calls down.

The campaign features postcards and other visuals for Visitor Centers and other common hiker contact points; a social media campaign to get the word out to people planning a hike or a trip here (they will use hashtags #STOPforSafeHiking and #InyoSAR); and a new section of the team's website, inyosar.com/psar.

"If sharing what we know can help prevent a rescue or minimize how many severe incidents we see, we'll consider this a win for everyone." said a representative of Inyo SAR. "We understand people are antsy to get outdoors now, and we are looking to partner with visitors and the community to promote a culture of safer, responsible recreation here. We ask people to STOP and take a moment to plan for their own trips, and to spread the word to others. We ask locals to amplify our messages on social media by sharing them to their networks. And, we also want to remind visitors that they may unintentionally expose our community and our rescuers to COVID19—so keep following CDC guidelines to minimize the risk of contracting or spreading the virus."

Remember: Mountain Safety is No Accident.
For more information, Visit inyosar.com/psar
If you have an emergency, call 911

DRC Update

Our plans had to change. We finished the move from Billie's to my backyard today. It took four days with several big pickup trucks and several cars. All the goods are here now. We will have the clear-out-inventory sale as soon as possible. We hope the Covid-19 situation will have abated before autumn. We have a lot of material to pass on.

Jim Fox and Jim Sugiyama moving the first of two shelving units to our backyard. Jose Sul, Michele Smith, and Bob Kout were also busy loading and unloading. It was a big four day job!



Our June 23 Speaker, Missy Fox

Missy Fox taught us a great deal about agates in her talk at our general meeting on June 23rd. Her clear and concise presentation was enhanced with beautiful photographs taken by her husband, Jim. Four of his photos are shown below. We learned that:

- Agates are a family of rocks displaying an amazing variety of colors and patterns.
- They are easy to cut and shape.
- The word, “agate” was derived from the ancient Achates River in Sicily where they were first described in writings.
- The basic material is chalcedony which is a form of quartz.
- The shape of the agate depends on the void being filled with the chalcedony solution.
- The colors are a result of other mineral coloring agents or of light refraction. For example, iron oxide produces red, orange, yellow, brown or black while manganese produces pink, purple or black.
- Chromium produces green and copper produces blue or green.
- Agates can be named for the location where they are found such as Brazilian Agate from Brazil, the physical appearance such as Snake Skin Agate or Polka Dot Agate or even after a processing method such as Dryhead Agate named after a method used by the American Indians to process a buffalo head.
- The agate patterns are many and beautiful. Four of them are shown below.



**Amethyst Sage
Magnified**

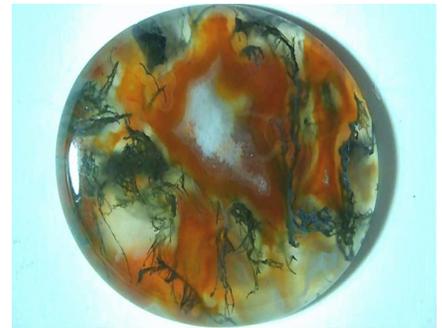


Fire Agate

**Brazilian
Dendrite**



Moss Agate



The following story was sent to me by one of our club members. It is a good thought for all of us, and that thought is to enjoy our differences. Those differences are the flowers that bring beauty and variety to our lives.

To My Crack-pot Friends!

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck.

One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walks from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream. 'I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house.'

The old woman smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side?"

"That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them.' For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding.

You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

SO, to all of my cracked pot sisters, brothers and friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers on your side of the path!

And send this to any or all of your Cracked Pot sisters, brothers and friends and see what a smile you will put on their faces.



Rockhounding for Tourmaline - Part 2

By Jo Borucki

I wrote an article about the first trip to the tourmaline mines in Southern California and published it in the June 2020 Breccia. Bill, our friend Gene, and I made a second trip to the tourmaline mines in the fall of 2017. Bill had just purchased a Subaru Outback, and it was roomy enough for all sorts of rockhounding equipment, so we loaded it up and were on our way. I had once again made reservations to stay at the cabins at Lake Henshaw near San Ysabel, and we were once again looking forward to eating lots of pie from the Julian Pie Company. In between pie slices, we thought that we might even do a bit of rockhounding for tourmaline.

Since the Himalaya Mine is within easy walking distance from our Lake Henshaw cabins, we made it our destination for the first day. We paid our \$75 and began our search through the very small pile of dirt made available to us. I had the feeling that the pile had been there for awhile without any renewal of material. We did not find much that was worthwhile. As we were leaving, feeling rather disappointed and that we had wasted our time and money, the attendant ran after us and handed us some good sized, but poor quality, occluded pieces of very dark green tourmaline. I think she heard us grumping. I doubt we will go back to the Himalaya Mine, if we were to return to this area another time. My feeling is that the mine is pretty well played out. In researching further, I find that what they call the Himalaya Mine is really just a place where they haul some tailings from the mine, and it is not really even that near to the mine.

We also returned to the Ocean View Mine. We found some tourmaline, but not much that was worthwhile. We had a guided tour of the mine, though, and that was interesting. I think the Ocean View may still be a good bet, because despite our lack of luck, other people were finding some tourmaline, and it is a well run operation by friendly, informative people.

The real fun this time was in our visit to the Pala Chief Mine. It is necessary to make reservations and pay in advance, and then you must arrive by 8:00 AM. After 8:30, no one is admitted. For our \$100, we were allowed to search the piles that they had just taken from the mine. I found a nice pink piece that I may wire wrap someday and several other pieces as well. My success was going to my head, and when this young gal came up to me, asking my advice, I, in a motherly way, told her the secrets of my great success. Later in the day, I realized that I should have been asking her the secrets of her great success. All of us in attendance showed what we had found, but she had found more than the rest of us combined. She had scurried around on top of the heaps like an agile mountain goat, picking up treasures as she went. The rest of us had dug and sifted industriously. Even the mine owners were jealous. I would recommend the trip to the Pala Chief Mine as the good way to find tourmaline. For details on this mine, log onto palachiefmine.com

I am no longer sure where I found one of my pieces of tourmaline. I could see that it had promise as I held it up to the light so I cleaned it up, added a small metallic hummingbird from a broken earring, and did a simple wire wrap. It is a piece that I enjoy. Maybe I'll even wear it as a pendant some time.



Continued on Page 11

So the fun does not have to stop when you return from a rockhounding vacation. Perhaps your treasures may become jewelry, display items, cabochons, whatever you may decide and wish to do with them. Or you may become an arm chair prospector of tourmaline information. I just finished an enjoyable afternoon reading about the importance of California's tourmaline worldwide. Tons of beautiful tourmaline have come out of the Pala area with world class display pieces, gem stones, and pieces to carve. Here are some websites that you may wish to explore for further information:

<https://www.mindat.org/loc-3563.html> has information about the King, Schuyler, tourmaline Queen Mountain and the Pala Mining district in San Diego County

https://www.sdnhm.org/blog/blog_details/mining-san-diagos-history-bling-uneearthed/114/ talks about San Diego's mining history.

<https://geology.com/gemstones/states/california.shtml#tourmaline> is a site describing California's very early native American mining history

<http://wheretofindrocks.com/gem-minerals-at-Himalaya-mine/> talks about the history of the Himalaya Mine.

The Pala District Tourmaline mines have a history that goes back into the 1800s. Some of the mines are Tourmaline Queen, Tourmaline King, Stewart, Pala Chief, and Himalaya. Chinese Dowager Empress Tz'u Hsi was one of the area's main customers.. In particular, she loved the pink tourmaline and bought so much of it, in fact, that when either she died in 1908 or the monarchy collapsed in 1912, commercial mining in the area dwindled and then ceased in 1914. Much of the pink tourmaline sent to China was opaque and was carved, but gem quality was also exported. Tourmaline is so beautiful with its many colors. Log onto <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tourmaline#Schorl> as an excellent website for an overview. The book, The World of Tourmaline-The Gerhard Wagner Collections is worth a good look for all of its gorgeous photos of Tourmaline found throughout the world.

Whether your destination is the Pala Region of Southern California for tourmaline or some other rockhounding paradise, I hope that you have many enjoyable, rewarding, and educational rockhounding adventures.



Tourmaline
in its Many
Colors



How To Build A Shortwave Lamp

by Robert Winsor, from Gem Cutters News, 6/08

I have had several requests lately for information about how to make a shortwave lamp. This article serves as one method which can be used to build one, but there are many variations that can be made to this plan.

The heart of the shortwave lamp is a simple fluorescent lamp. Many types will work, but some may be more convenient than others. For example, one possible starting point is to purchase a fluorescent “trouble light”. These are automotive type lamps with a cord built-in and have compact fluorescent bulbs inside. Another type of lamp that can be made to work is a desk lamp. Whatever lamp is chosen is likely to work, but keep in mind that the bulb type should be one that emits a lot of light in a small area. For example, compact fluorescent lamps have “U” shaped bulbs so that this is accomplished.

The next step is to remove the bulb. Notice on the bulb there is a designation of the bulb type. Common types are the 9 watt, the 13 watt, and the 18 watt. The bulb needs to be replaced with the same bulb type, but rather than using a bulb that emits soft white light, you want to purchase a germicidal UV bulb. These are commonly available via mail order (e.g. <http://www.bulbs.com>). The light fixture is now capable of emitting shortwave UV (SWUV) light, and prolonged exposure will result in sunburns. You should never look into the light without wearing safety glasses-the same type you use to protect your eyes from flying debris (they also block SWUV).

Any “window” on the fluorescent fixture needs to be removed or altered. In its place needs to be a shortwave UV filter. Replacement filters for many commercial SWUV lamps can be obtained from this site: www.uvsystems.com/

Follow the links to Products, then the link to UV filters. Pick one with dimensions that will match your lamp (i.e. a 2” X 5” size is a good choice). A housing needs to be constructed to hold the bulb, ballast, and filter together and block the visible light emission. This can be done a number of ways, but if you start with a “trouble light,” much of the work is already done. You only need to make a new window. Most windows are plastic, so altering them is easy. Make an undersized cutout in the window where the UV filter will be placed, and using epoxy or a hot glue gun, bond the filter to the window over the cutout. Then use a coating of primer paint and then flat black paint to cover the rest of the window to prevent visible light from escaping.

Using this technique and some planning and elbow grease, you can construct a SWUV lamp for about \$130-\$150 in parts, about half to a third what you would pay for it retail.



Making Gem Stone Lamp Shades - 101

(excerpt from Robert Stephens book—My First Eighty Years)

To make a lampshade, one begins by sawing medium size translucent rocks into 3/32" thick slices with a slab saw. Cut a variety of rock to get contrasting colors and patterns. I use rocks from India, South Africa, Tanzania, Brazil, Mexico, and even some from a West Texas ranch that was found on a rock hunt.

The sliced rocks are then cut into small freeform shapes with a trim saw with a .012 thick high-speed blade. All shapes-triangles, squares, rectangles, parallel-o-grams, etc.; even some special shapes, like stars, may be used. Cut a lot of pieces because they will be put in place much like a jigsaw puzzle on a flat panel frame of your own design for a six- or eight-sided shade, or one copied from a commercial stained glass lamp book of patterns. Some commercial patterns can be modified to look more original than copied. Paste the paper pattern on a sheet of plywood and coat it with clear silicon carbide caulk. This protects your patterns from burning when soldering, and they can be reused. Tack or glue outline wood strips to the edge of the pattern so all panels are finished the same size. Foil wrap all of the pieces with 7/32" self-adhesive copper foil and burnish the edges tight and flat with a burnishing tool or one made from a piece of dowel rod sharpened with a pencil sharpener. Foil is to make a solder surface (rocks don't solder to other rocks).

To make a six- or eight-sided panel shade, start by fitting the pieces of the puzzle along the perimeter frame, as many contrasting pieces as you can. If a central design, such as a star, is to be centered in the panel, place it in the center and place the pieces working out from that shape. Don't spend a lot of time looking for pieces that fit perfectly. When the panel is nearly complete, there will be missing pieces just like lost puzzle pieces. That open space will become the template for cutting a piece to fit later. If a hole is too small to bother with cutting a piece, just fill it with solder using some folded newspaper behind it to act as a heat sink allowing the solder to solidify.

A small-tipped 100-watt soldering iron will work well, connecting as many pieces as you can with a nicely rounded solder bead. Remove the panel and, using the missing pieces for patterns, draw the outline on another rock to cut and fill in the missing pieces. A sharpened piece of aluminum wire makes a good pencil for marking rocks. When all of the spaces are filled and soldered on one side, turn the panel over and put a solder bead on that side.

Another good beginner lampshade is to remove the cloth from an old wire-framed shade. Spiral-wrap the wire frame with self-adhesive copper foil, and then solder in the small, flat pieces to replace the cloth. Keep all of the rock pieces small to avoid protruding humps or large, flat spots when trying to make a round lampshade maybe even with compound curves. When using a wire frame and both sides - inside and outside - are soldered, the assembly is complete.

Making 6- or 8-sided shades, tear about 1/2-inch wide strips of duct tape to hold the panels together for soldering. Tack solder all of the panels together so the shade will retain its shape when the final soldering is done and the tape is removed. Make a solder bead on the inside of the shade, too. A vertical slit may be added on the bottom of the slanted panels. Get and fit the spider mount for attaching the shade to the lamp base. Use 3-leg spider mounts for six-panel shades and 4-leg spiders for eight-panel

shades. When all of the soldering is complete, wash off the soldering flux residue with soap and water and allow to dry; then brush the solder with some patina solution, in antique brass, copper, or black, to control oxidizing of the solder. Wash again and allow drying. Spray the entire shade with a clear acrylic spray to protect the patina and make the unpolished rock look shinier. Polished rock would not need this treatment, but the patina would and it would be very tedious with a small paintbrush. Use favorite old lamp bases or get new ones from a stained glass supplier along with other supplies - copper foil, 60-40 tin lead solder, acid brushes, patina, spiders, soldering flux, etc.

When the lamps are turned off, they will look like old antiques, and when turned on, they bloom. Some say prettier than Tiffany's. I don't think Tiffany ever made a lampshade from rock, and I don't make mine from glass.



Website Links

Your Window to the World of Important Websites
Click on the blue area of whatever site you want to visit!

Link to Our SCVGMS Website: <http://www.scvgms.org/>

Note: After you click on the above link, if you want to see the Breccia and other news items, scroll down and click on "Download", shown under the Newsletter option.

Link to CFMS Shows and Festivals: [CFMS Society/Club Shows](#)

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies: <http://www.amfed.org>

CFMS Bulletin: <http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

To access the news from the **American Lands Access Association:** www.amlands.org

Tourmaline Facts

Composition $(\text{Na,Li,Ca})\text{Fe}^2, \text{Mg, Mn, A})_3$
 $\text{Al}_6[(\text{OH})_4(\text{BO}_3)_3\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18}]$
Hardness 7 to 7 1/2
Specific Gravity 3.02
Cleavage None

Fracture Conchoidal, uneven, brittle
Color colorless, all colors
Streak white
Luster vitreous
Transparency transparent to opaque

The above specifications show how minerals are defined. Read to find out what this means.

Rockhound of the Month



Our June Rockhound of the month is **Pat Speece** for her continued support of our club and for allowing the DRC to move its operation, in other words, all of the rocks and minerals which take up considerable space, back to her place. This is an act of real generosity. Thank you, Pat

General Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2020

Our ZOOM Meeting was called to order at 7:47 pm By Club President Michele Smith. Michele lead us all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Welcome

The **Board Meeting** will be held on Zoom this Thursday 06-25-20 at 7:30 pm.

The **Founders' Day Picnic** has been cancelled. Our board will review if restrictions change.

This month should have been the **June Silent Auction**. It has been cancelled, which is why we are having a presentation today. The next Silent Auction is scheduled for November, dependent on COVID-19 restrictions.

Next month we will have a **guest speaker LIVE FROM NEW YORK. Howard Heitner** will be speaking on Fluorescence, History, Mechanism and Applications.

DRC: Pat Speece, Jim Sugiyama and Michele Smith

The Donation Receiving Committee (DRC) is in the process of moving from Billie Gordon's yard back to Pat Speece's yard. We are not having the Rock Sale at the end of June. We do have club muscle to move the rocks, but if you are interested in helping, call Michele Smith at 408-679-0202 or respond to the last e-mail you received about last DRC help request.

Member Displays: Jim Sugiyama shared with us a very large jade carving. I first thought it was a green sofa chair. Wow that's some hunk of jade!

Hospitality: 26 Total ZOOM Participants with 24 members and 2 Guests.

New Members: None

Rockhound of the Month: Went to Pat Speece for her continued support of our club and for allowing the DRC to move its operation back to her place. Thank you, Pat.

Bragging Rights: conducted by Alan Achor. This month's topic was the color green. The entries were:

#1 Autunite

#2 An assortment of green stones, specimens and jewelry.

#3 Malachite Pseudomorph After Azurite

#4 Moldavite (9 Carat Faceted Gem)

The winner was #4 entered by Jim Fox. Next month's Bragging Rights topic is something that you have made!!! (Let's see those beautiful items)

Federation Report: Nothing new

Correspondence: None

Field Trips: Nothing new

Sunshine: Margo Mosher "No news is good news!"

Study Groups:

Smithies: Pat Speece On hold for now.

Cutaways and Carvers: Not currently meeting.

Reminder: anyone can have a study group, ongoing or occasionally. When we can meet in person, David Mosher has offered to step us through all the steps involved in rock tumbling.

Presentation: "Agates" by Missy Fox, with technical support from Jim Fox.

Everyone seemed to enjoy it, and Michele requested being allowed to put it up on our Website so others can enjoy it as well.

Meeting adjourned: 8:47 pm

Respectfully submitted, Jim Fox (Filling in for Rick Kennedy SCVGMS Secretary)

Board Meeting Minutes

June 25, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM via the Zoom application so that the board could be in compliance with the governor's stay at home order.

Roll Call: All board members were present except for Rick Kennedy, Steven May and Sonia Dyer.

Reading of the minutes from the April 30th Board Meeting: M/S/P to approve the minutes as read. (F. Mullaney, D. Welder).

New Members: No new members. Ana Papadopoulos expressed an interest in joining. Jo Borucki will email Missy Fox with email address to send a Member Sign-Up Application

A motion was made **to reimburse** Michele Smith \$150.00 to pay for Zoom expenses. (F. Mullaney, J. Fox)

Old Business:

CFMS Show has been cancelled.

Roseville Rock Club, Sacramento, is having their show on the 4th of July week-end

Festival: We are still waiting for the \$201.00 refund from the Fire Marshal.

Michele has obtained permission to display presentations on our website. She still needs Rick Kennedy's for one of his presentations.

Food For Heroes: Michele Smith ordered food to be delivered to Valley Medical Center by El Burritos for breakfast/Lunch/Dinner 4 different kinds of burritos including a veggie burrito.

New Business:

Discussion on ways to slowly start up our General Meeting again. After much debate, it was decided to continue, for the time being, to wait and watch.

Programs: Here's a list of upcoming programs:

July - Howard Heitner will be speaking on Fluorescence, History, Mechanism and Applications.

August - Noel and Deb Runyan will present - Carving And Polishing Obsidian.

DRC: Donation Receiving Committee is moving from Billie's back to Pat's. They are planning a live auction on the 4th of July to bid for an 18" Highland Park Slab Saw. Michele will email club members only. DRC will set conditions of the sale.

Meeting adjourned: 8:47 pm

Respectfully submitted, Jim Fox (Filling in for Rick Kennedy SCVGMS Secretary)

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

SCVGMS ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Michele Smith (408)374-1897
Vice President: Billie Gordon (408)356-3406
Secretary: Rick Kennedy (408)529-9690
Treasurer: Missy Fox (408)356-7711
Editor: Jo Borucki (408)245-2881
Federation Director: Stephen May (669)248-3993
Alternate Fed. Director:
Paul Kidman (408)356-4995

Board Members at Large

Jim Fox (408)356-7711
Sonia Dyer (408)629-5735
Alan Achor (408)749-0771
Frank Mullaney (408)691-2656
Cal Hansen (408)394-4642

Parliamentarian: Dean Welder (408)353-2675
Historian: Jacquelyn Calderon (408)995-5211

SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS

Bragging Rights Chair: Alan Achor
Donation Receiving Committee Chairs:
Michele Smith and Jim Sugiyama
Festival Chairpersons 2020: Jim and Missy Fox
Field Trip Coordinator: Stephen May
Founder's Day Picnic Chairman: Sonia Dyer
Founder's Day Raffle: Pat Speece
Founder's Day Bingo: Stephen May
Hospitality: Pat and Louis Schuesler
Installation Dinner: Rick Kennedy
Member Displays: Rick Kennedy
Refreshments: TBD
Silent Auction: TBD
Sunshine: Margo Mosher
Trophies: Frank Mullaney
Webmaster: TBD

Note: Some of these committee heads may change. Michele Smith and Stephen May are working to fill all positions.

P.O. Box 54, San Jose, CA 95103-0054

Website: www.scvgms.org

Email: info@scvgms.org

Phone Number (408) 265-1422

Like us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/santaclaravalleygemandmineralsociety>

An Invitation

This society is pleased to invite guests to attend general meetings, study groups, and field trips. General meetings are normally held the fourth Tuesday of every month with meet and greet time beginning at 7:15 followed by the meeting at 7:45 PM at 100 Belwood Gateway (the Cabana Club), Los Gatos, CA 95032. Belwood Gateway is just south of Blossom Hill Road between Leigh Avenue and Harwood Road.

The next **General Meeting is scheduled for July 28 at 7:45**, and the **Board Meeting is scheduled for July 30 at 7:30**. Both will be held using Zoom.

Our Society's Purpose: The inculcation of a love of rocks and minerals by the furtherance of members' interests in the earth sciences and by education in all facets of related educational activities with the promotion of good fellowship, proper ethics, and conduct.

Our Membership Requirements: Attendance at two general meetings within twelve months. This society is a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) and is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). Dues per year are \$5.00 for Junior, \$20.00 for an individual, and \$30.00 for the household.

Our Newsletter, the Breccia, is published ten times annually. **The deadline for all articles is the Sunday after the general meeting.** The Breccia editor is Jo Borucki who may be contacted by email at joborucki@yahoo.com or by phone at (408)245-2881. Leave a message if no one picks up the phone. The Breccia is proofread by Pat Speece. Exchange bulletins may be sent to Jo Borucki, 1196 Sesame Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Permission to copy is freely granted to American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) affiliated clubs when proper credit is given.

Study Group Leaders

For information, please contact the leader listed below.

Smithies: Pat Speece 408- 266-4327 pat.speece@comcast.net

Cabbers: We need a leader. Can it be you?