

THE VOICE



Newsletter of the El Paso Mineral and Gem Society

MARCH 2016

NEWS LETTER TO THE EL PASO MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 31516, El Paso TX 79931

Membership Dues are due and payable as of December of each year. Dues are \$12.00 for Adults (18 and Over) and \$4.00 for Juniors. Make check out to EPMGS and mail to PO Box 31516, El Paso, TX 79931. You may also pay Rita at the next meeting. Delinquency of over 90 days will result in being removed from the Membership Roster.

Meetings will be held on the 4th Thursday of every month at the Memorial Senior Center 1800 Byron, El Paso TX at 6:00 PM. Board meetings will usually be held a half hour prior to the general meeting.

The Voice

The Voice is the official bulletin of the Society and is published monthly. All articles must be in the editors possession no later than the Monday following the monthly meeting. Any articles received after that will not be published until the following meeting.

Email mvgvjewels@hotmail.com and mailing address: EPMGS, Editor, PO Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931. Members are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Permission is granted to reprint material from other sources provided that credit is properly cited. Ads are accepted from members for publication at no charge for the sale or exchange of items pertaining to the hobby.

El Paso Mineral and Gem Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization. The purpose of this Society shall be to increase and disseminate knowledge about minerals, gemstones and other geologic materials. To encourage gemological and mineral study, collecting and fashioning as a hobby; to conduct meeting, lectures, displays, field trips, and to sponsor shows for the general edification of the public.

March Field Trip to Hatch New Mexico

Rock Hounding Field Trip to Hatch, NM was a hit with Larry Hager at the helm. It was on Saturday, the 19th of March. Rockhounds met at the Mc Donalds at Hwy 10 and Mountain Hwy at 0730. The finds were Rhyolite, Agate, Jasper, Petrified Wood, Psilomelane, Apache Tears, Fossils, and other crystals. Below are a few words from Larry:

The Field Trip to Hatch on Saturday the 19th went very well. The weather was perfect, lots of sunshine to spot those rocks with ease. We drove up on wash and found some nice rocks until we hit a dead end and had to turn around ha. We then drove further back into the area near the mountain range and did some more rock hounding. I think we all took home some new treasures and it seemed everyone had a good time. I look forward in the next field trip in April and am thinking about a little longer trip to Round Mountain just a little ways into Arizona for some nice chalcedony and maybe a piece or two of fire agate.



Next Club Field Trip April 16th 2016

Club Field Trip for April 16th will be to Round Mountain for Chalcedony and the chances of picking up a piece of fire agate or two ha. We will meet at the I - 10 and Transmountain Mc Donalds truck stop at 0700 and leave by 0730. High clearance should not be needed but recommended. Bring drinks and snacks and a lunch with you. There are no facilities out there. It should be a good day with lots of chalcedony to collect and be choosy about ha. Some is called bacon agate because of the slabs from them looking like bacon strips

LOOSE SPECIMENS





El Paso Mineral and Gem Society School



Awards this certificate to

Your Name

For successfully completing the requirements of the School in

Faceting

Given at the
Parks and Recreation Memorial Park Senior Citizen Center
1800 Byron St. El Paso Texas
On XXXXXX, XX 2016

Instructors

School Chairman

El Paso Mineral and Gem Society School

The Instructors are volunteers from the school committee of the Society and are not paid in anyway by the Society or the students. If you want to enroll in one of the classes, all you have to do is sign up at the Memorial Park Senior Center which is located at 1800 Byron Street, El Paso TX. It is important you register early because a minimum of three students is needed for a "GO" with a maximum of six students per class. Sign up well in advance as there are usually waiting lists. Call 915-562-4268 for information and to enroll in classes.

EL PASO MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY SCHOOL

2016 CLASS SCHEDULE

MON & WED 9AM-12PM

L1 LAPIDARY

Jan 4 --- Feb 10
Feb 22 --- Mar 30
Apr 11 --- May 18
May 30 --- July 6
July 18 --- Aug 24
Sept 5 --- Oct 12
Oct 24 --- Nov 30

S2 SILVERSMITH

Jan 4 --- Feb 10
Feb 22 --- Mar 30
Apr 11 --- May 18
May 30 --- July 6
July 18 --- Aug 24
Sept 5 --- Oct 12
Oct 24 --- Nov 30

TUES & THURS 9AM - 12PM

C3 CASTING

Jan 5 --- Feb 11
Feb 23 --- Mar 31
Apr 12 --- May 19
May 31 --- July 7
July 19 --- Aug 25
Sept 6 --- Oct 13
Oct 25 --- Dec. 1

F4 FACETING

Jan 5 --- Feb 11
Feb 23 --- Mar 31
Apr 12 --- May 19
May 31 --- July 7
July 19 --- Aug 25
Sept 6 --- Oct 13
Oct 25 --- Dec 1

AFTERNOON CLASSES 12:30 - 3:30pm

MON & WED

S5 SILVERSMITH

Jan 4 --- Feb 10
Feb 22 --- Mar 30
Apr 11 --- May 18
May 30 --- July 6
July 18 --- Aug 24
Sept 5 --- Oct 12
Oct 24 --- Nov 30

TUES & THURS

CA6 CREATIVE ARTS

Jan 5 --- Feb 11
Feb 23 --- Mar 31
Apr 12 --- May 19
May 31 --- July 7
July 19 --- Aug 23
Sept 6 --- Oct 13
Oct 25 --- Dec 1

**HOLIDAYS WILL BE ADJUSTED AS NEEDED

** ALL MAKE-UP DAYS WILL BE ANNOUNCED DURING CLASS SESSION

FOR INFORMATION CALL 915-562-4268



BENCH TIPS

1. When doing re-mounts often the stones we have to set need to be cleaned before we can set them. A quick and easy method to clean them at the bench is to place the stones in the palm of your hand, and sprinkle table salt over them. Then rub together with your finger. The abrasiveness of the salt will clean the toughest gunk off the stones, and the 2 to 2 1/2 hardness of salt makes it safe for even colored stones.
2. The plastic coffee stirrs from McDonalds make excellent paddles for mixing epoxies. And the best part is you get one FREE with every cup of coffee!
3. Place your millgrain wheel in the handpiece of a Gravermeister, GraverMax, or GraverMate. This makes it easier to use and you will be more efficient.
4. When setting colored stones with an uneven pavilion in clusters or as side stones, set the thicker portion to the outside of the mounting where it will receive more abuse. If the stone is set with the thinner edge to the outside it may become chipped while wearing.
5. Take a warm ball of Jett Sett (the plastic substitute for shellac) and place in a 2" X 3" plastic bag. Spread it out to fill the bag approximately one sixteenth inch thick, then fold the bag in half to 2" X 1 1/2". When hard-ened trim off the top of the bag. Then, when you have a ring shank or other jewelry that is too thin to hold tightly, place the jewelry between the two halves of the bag and insert in your ring clamp.
6. When annealing white gold, use a bushy flame and heat the gold to a red color. Then, hold the metal at this temperature for several minutes by playing the flame across the metal. Heating the metal for too short of a time will not completely anneal the metal. Refiners anneal white gold in ovens and hold the metal at annealing temperatures for a half hour. Always allow the gold to air cool slowly. NEVER quench white gold, as this will cause it to become brittle.
7. When flush setting use a burnisher with a flat tip rather than a rounded tip. The rounded tip will not allow you to burnish the metal at the point of contact with the stone, which may cause difficulty tightening the stone. A flat tipped burnisher makes full contact with the metal allowing you to burnish the metal tightly against the stone. A pointed tipped burnisher works well on diamonds, however the pointed tip may scratch softer colored stones.
8. When a customer brings in a coin pendant with the screw stripped, clean the threads from the pendant with a Krause bur then fit a wire in the hole and rivet it closed. Do Not solder the wire in, actually rivet the ends down. The tubes are soldered to the frame and will move or come off easily if you try to solder the wire in. Also if the customer ever wants to change the coin you can cut the rivet head off and replace the rivet. If a coin is loose in a coin frame, take a piece of wire and roll it out with a rolling mill. Then cut pieces to wedge between the coin and the frame. The length of piece and thickness depends on how loose the coin is. To keep from marring a coin when pushing down on the tabs to hold them in, make a pusher by inserting a wooden dowel rod in a graver handle, or make a pusher from the plastic handle of a tooth brush.
9. To help hold wedding sets together in perfect alignment while soldering together, hold the rings together in your fingers. Next, place a small amount of super glue between the rings at their top. Then clamp the rings as you normally would and solder the back of the shanks together. If any glue remains when finished soak in acetone to remove. Note: before performing this procedure make certain your soldering area is well ventilated. Like all things when soldering fumes are not good and some may be toxic.



10. To make a power burnisher, remove the screw from the end of a flex-shaft mandrel. Insert a screw eye in its place and solder together using silver solder. To use, place in your flex-shaft and hold the rotating screw eye against your metal. The edges of the screw eye will burnish any soft metal, and you can watch your progress through its opening.

11. Keep your workbench organized, then you will not waste time looking for tools.

12. Use a wooden clothespin to clamp pearls while gluing. A hole can be easily drilled through it to accommodate an earring post, and a ball bur can be used to carve a recess to help hold the pearl.

13. When channel setting diamonds, color the in-side of the channel with a black felt tip marker. Then when placing the stones in the channel, it is easier to see the space between the stones and to keep them even. If any ink remains after you're done, soak the jewelry in alcohol.

14. When using burs and drills keep the cutting edge cool. To do this, always use a lubricant while using your burs and drills. You can use oil based or solid wax based cutting lubricant. This helps keep the cutting edges cool prolonging tool life. In addition, it helps the metal chips flow away from the cutting edge preventing the teeth from clogging.

15. Place a piece of cardboard from an old box under the polishing wheels. Just lay it on the bottom of the cabinet under where the wheel turns. This will cushion and possibly keep from damaging the piece of jewelry that "gets away" while polishing. A piece of kitchen type carpet works well also.

16. Increase the size of your polishing wheels from the standard 4" wheel to a 6" wheel. This will cut polishing time by over 1/3. Changing to a 6" wheel from an old wheel worn down to 2 or 3" will cut polishing time too less than 1/2. This is due to the surface area of the wheels. Although spinning at the



WHATS IT WORTH?

By: John H Betts

I am a mineral dealer. I get many questions about the prices of collectible mineral specimens. Novices are the most confused because they have yet to understand the confusing factors that affect mineral values. The following is a chronology of prices and events of a typical mineral specimen.

The Beginning

All minerals start in the ground. A specimen is not worthless (because collectors may still lust after the undiscovered specimen) but it does not yet have a price tag. It will lay there undisturbed, as it has for millions of years, until one of two things happen. Either it will erode from the solid rock, work its way into a sedimentary deposit and start another cycle of rock formation OR man will intervene and do something with it. It could go to a smelter to be refined into a commercial / industrial resource. Or it could become a collectable mineral specimen. I am going to focus solely on this latter path.

Price Evolution

A collector digs it up and stores it wrapped in newspaper in his basement. It typically will remain in this state for two or three years, until his wife threatens to toss out all of the "junk" in the basement. Price = \$0

The collector washes it off for the first time and decides it is still worth keeping even though most of the other material he collected should have been left in the ground. He trades it at a swap along with ten other pieces to a collector that can see through the iron staining and dried pocket clay. He gets an amethyst from Brazil in exchange. Price = \$.50

The new, experienced owner dissolves the pocket clay and iron staining in acid to reveal the real beauty of the crystals. It is now clean and lustrous. Price = \$5.00

The specimen is donated to the local mineral club for their fund raising auction. It sells for \$12.

The new owner trades it away at a local swap to a savvy collector who knows the location has just been closed and no more specimens will ever be found. New owner values it at \$25.

Years later, Mineralogical Record runs an article on the lost location. The author identifies a rare left-handed twin crystal form as unique to the location. The owner doubles the price to \$50.

The owner dies leaving most of his collection unlabeled. His heirs have no idea of what to do with the collection. A local mineral dealer calls the widow and offers \$1800 for the whole collection and will not charge her extra for moving it. The price paid each specimen approximately \$50.

Now the mineral, unlabeled, is misidentified by the dealer as originating in Austria and a \$50 price is assigned along with the "classic" location notation.

The specimen does not sell for two years. The small-time dealer discovers there is no money in selling mineral specimens. Decides to sell wire wrapped amethyst pyramids instead. He sells his whole stock for 20% the labeled prices. The specimen goes for \$10.

The new owner is more knowledgeable and recognizes the true origin of the specimen. He researches the location and makes a Xerox copy of the article in Mineralogical Record as a sales prop and prices it at \$100.



An "instant" collector, who has just started collecting minerals again, now that he makes enough money at age 35 after giving up collecting in high school, buys the specimen for \$90. He is happy. He got 10% off!

Meanwhile, there is so much demand for minerals from the old location that prices climb. Brian Wayne Lees-Thompson reopens the mine attracting attention to the location again. Because of savvy marketing and the perceived shortage of specimens prices are set at numbers that look like long distance telephone numbers (though the small specimens are only priced at numbers that resemble zipcodes). After two years the market is saturated. (After all, how many people are there in the world that will pay over \$10K for a mineral specimen?) Mr. Lees-Thompson can't give them away. Prices drop to 10% of post-reopening prices. The minerals from the mine become a commodity worth about as much as Brazilian amethyst! Meanwhile our specimen is sold to a new owner for \$150.

He shows the specimen to an experienced collector who owns a microscope. They spot rare inclusions of baloneyium. They write an abstract that is accepted for presentation at the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium. They give a 15-minute presentation. It is offered for sale for \$500.

It sells immediately to a locality collector that specializes in only that location. It is placed in a position of honor in his collection. The abstract is published in Rocks and Minerals magazine. The collector is offered \$1000 for it and he refuses.

As the owner's age goes up, so does the mineral's value in the owner's mind. But he also knows that he can't take it with him when he passes on. He offers it to a local museum for \$5000. The museum has an annual acquisition budget of \$1000. They try to find a donor to purchase the specimen for donation to the museum.

In the mean-time the owner dies. The heirs know nothing about the collection - they just want to move into the house. So everything is hauled away by the trash hauler. The mineral specimen ends up in the local landfill and starts the rock-forming cycle anew.

So what is a mineral really worth?

This silly chronology illustrates that the price is determined in varying parts by aesthetics, rarity, location, associations, uniqueness, marketing, and scholarly study. As in art, the value and desirability increases with knowledge of the subject. There is no absolute value. As a result, there are no hard and fast rules. (Adler, 1981)

References: John H. Betts & Adler, Mortimer J., 1981, Six Great Ideas, Macmillan Publishing Co., New York

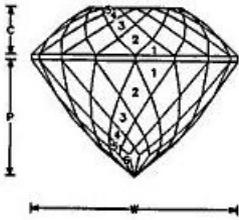
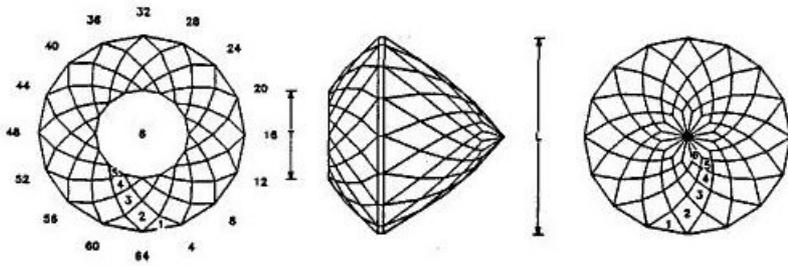
FACETING



The following page is the faceting diagram of a Whirlwind Round by Don Olson. The gemstone is an Amethyst 6.25 carats, 11.1 millimeters diameter. This gemstone diagram has 177 facets.



9211



WHIRLWIND (WHIRLWX.GEM)
 By Don Olsen
 PROTOTYPE - AMETHYST, 6.25 CARATS, 11.1 mm
 .
 Angles for R.I. = 1.54
 177 facets + 16 facets on girdle = 193
 16-fold, mirror-image symmetry
 64 index
 L/W = 1.000 T/W = 0.450 T/L = 0.450
 P/W = 0.584 C/W = 0.240
 H/W = (P+C)/W+0.02 = 0.844
 P/H = 0.692 C/H = 0.285
 Vol./W³ = 0.314

PAVILION

Facet #	Depth	Facet Sequence
	90.00	02-06-10-14-18-22-26-30-34-38-42-46-50-54-58-62
1	60.00	02-06-10-14-18-22-26-30-34-38-42-46-50-54-58-62
2	56.00	64-04-08-12-16-20-24-28-32-36-40-44-48-52-56-60
3	52.00	02-06-10-14-18-22-26-30-34-38-42-46-50-54-58-62
4	48.00	64-04-08-12-16-20-24-28-32-36-40-44-48-52-56-60
5	44.00	02-06-10-14-18-22-26-30-34-38-42-46-50-54-58-62
6	40.00	64-04-08-12-16-20-24-28-32-36-40-44-48-52-56-60

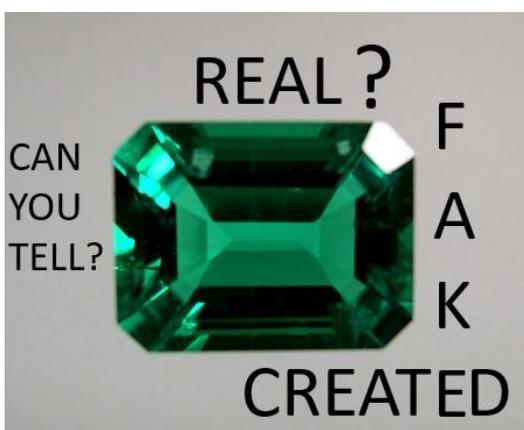
CROWN

Facet #	Depth	Facet Sequence
1	52.00	02-06-10-14-18-22-26-30-34-38-42-46-50-54-58-62
2	45.00	64-04-08-12-16-20-24-28-32-36-40-44-48-52-56-60
3	40.00	02-06-10-14-18-22-26-30-34-38-42-46-50-54-58-62
4	35.00	64-04-08-12-16-20-24-28-32-36-40-44-48-52-56-60
5	30.00	02-06-10-14-18-22-26-30-34-38-42-46-50-54-58-62
6	0.00	Table

APRIL CLUB MEETING:

The Club meeting on April 28, 2016 will have a guest speaker: Mark Villanueva R.G.A., C.S.P., A.J.P. will be discussing the different treatments of gemstones out on today's market. The lecture will cover topics on how laboratory gemstones are created using the different processes. Flame Fusion, Flux-Melt, Pulled, Skull Melt and Hydrothermal process. The lecture will include how to detect these processes using simple equipment to identify if a gemstone is natural or created. The discussion will also include detection of dyeing, coating, color infusion, fracture filling and High Pressure High Temperature HPHT. All the gemstones pictured in the presentation will be present for viewing.

Please email mvgvjewels@hotmail.com if you are attending or text 915-258-9363. The club wants to get a head count. If the occupancy exceeds the club room it will be moved to the larger hall located in the same building.



THE VOICE



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Amethyst - Alexandrite – Amber – Aquamarine – Adventurine - Beryl

Carnelian – ChromeDiopside – Citrine – Coral – Diamond - Emerald

Garnet - Iolite – Jasper - Jade – Larimar – Malachite - Moonstone

Onyx – Opal – Pearl – Peridot – Quartz – Ruby – Sapphire - Tanzanite

Topaz – Tourmaline – Turquoise - Zircon

Y T K O B U J Y X N U O B O P L U V V V
V C D T B Y D I A M O N D Z N B P X D B
P O P N Q Y Y Z O G U R K V S G E B L Y
E C J E E S O D P K C A R N E L I A N Y
R W Q C N N J B A E T I N A Z N A T E R
I Z F B Y I O W L A D Y Y H S O C V M B
H C D M J M R T G V S Q B Q E X Y V M B
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L O R C H R O M E D I O P S I D E Z A Q
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P T E N R A G E E C E V L O D T C O X G
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A O T I B H V L H R Z M A B R I C R D I
R A M I R A L O C I P Y N B E H L E R B
T L G B N U T I A N V Y L K M R Z P I H
Z S S J A D E W L E W O C L E K H L T B
C F T C W L K X A D V E N T U R I N E E
F H B N E X K X M T U N J Z T Z B E G A



UPCOMING GEM & MINERAL SHOWS

April 2016 Upcoming Gem & Mineral Shows:

9-10—ABILENE, TEXAS: Annual show; central Texas Gem & Mineral Society, Abilene Civic Center; 600 Pine St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$3, Students 6-12 \$1.50, Children under 6 free; Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society presents its 2016 Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show. There will be exhibits, wheel of fortune, fossils, rare minerals, cut and uncut gems, fluorescent display, lapidary supplies and rough, jewelry making equipment, beads, Crack your own Geode, Silent Auction, door prizes, grand prize drawing; proceeds benefit scholarship program. ; contact Kay H McDaniel, 3118 Woodglen Cove, Abilene, TX 79606, (325)-668-8558; e-mail: kmcdaniel23@suddenlink.net; Web site: new.calichetimes.com

15-17—ALPINE, TEXAS: Show and sale; Chihuahuan Desert Gem and Mineral Club, Alpine Civic Center; 801 W. Holland (Hwy. 90); Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6; Free Admission; contact Paul Graybeal, PO Box 1111, Alpine, TX 79831, (432)-729-4526; e-mail: paulgraybeal@sbcglobal.net

22-24—HOUSTON, TEXAS: Annual show; Fine Mineral Show, Embassy Suites Hotel; 2911 Sage Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; contact Dave Waisman; e-mail: info@finemineralshow.com; Web site: FineMineraloShow.com

April 30– May 1—WACO, TEXAS: Annual show; Waco Gem and Mineral Club, Extraco Event Center; 4601 Bosque Blvd; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; \$5 Admission, Children \$1.00; Scouts in uniform get in free to our 56th annual show.; contact J. Bennett, 1238 Kirkland Hill Rd., Axtell, TX 76624, 2545486839; e-mail: showchair@wacogemandmineral.org; Web site: www.wacogemandmineral.org

From the Desk of the Editor:

Greetings friends and family of the gemological, geological and mineral world. The previous pages are what I have put together for our newsletter. Best Wishes, and please feel free to email me at mvgjewels@hotmail.com if you would like to submit an article, mineral or gemological information for our newsletter.