



Summit Gem - September 2020 Newsletter

Website: SummitLapidaryClub.com
244 Chestnut Blvd., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221
Phone: (330) 929-3798

Board Members:

President – Becky Kosco
Vice-President – Courtney Cable
Treasurer – Nancy Milton-Halloran
Secretary – Cathy Milhoan
Membership Chair – Lisa Troxell
Trustees – Bob Spore (exp 2021), Tom McLaughlin (exp 2022), David Rich (exp 2023)
Newsletter Editor – Mary Myers slcnewsletter2019@gmail.com

Mission Statement

*To afford the opportunity to share interest in lapidary knowledge
and working techniques*

September's 2020 Monthly Meeting – held online

due to the Covid19 pandemic

*Dues: Joining fee \$25 then \$48 per year***



The meeting for September will be held online at 7:00pm on the first Tuesday in September, 09/01/2020, hosted by Courtney on the Zoom platform. (Club meetings were not held in June, July, or August for summer recess.) The invitations to the Zoom meeting for all members will be sent to those who have provided their email addresses. Please contact Mary Myers at SLCnewsletter2019@gmail.com if you don't receive an invitation before the meeting.

Programs:

Programs will resume at our monthly meetings once we can meet again in person.

President's Message – by Becky Kosco:

“First time in History we can save the Human Race by lying in front of the TV and doing nothing – Let's not screw this up” – by Lookgradenthis

I spent my Summer Break 2020 in Porcho Myarda. Usually at this time I like to reflect on what happened at the Clubhouse and with our members. Unfortunately that would entail a long list of cancellations. The pandemic has really restricted our club activities. Currently we are requiring social distancing, wearing masks and no more than ten people gathering at the clubhouse.

On September 1st our General Meeting will be via Zoom. You will get your invitation by email. The email I sent told me a significant number of our members continue to be concerned about meeting in person. I spoke with Terri Steele-Austin from the Polish American Club and they are open for business and are willing to wait for us to be comfortable meeting there. This is a topic I wish to address at our September Zoom meeting.

What about the Fall Gemboree? I must confess when we cancelled our Spring Show I never dreamed the Pandemic would be this out of control. At this time we are still in a Wait and See position – you can expect a decision soon. Keep an eye on our Website and Facebook pages.

To the best of my knowledge most of our members are healthy. We are grateful to those who have continued to work essential jobs. But perhaps Quarantine has afforded some of you time to work on projects or learn a new skill. Please share that with us during the meeting!

The most important thing is the safety and health of our members and their families and friends. If that means we continue self-distancing, wearing masks and not gathering in large groups, so be it. Summit Lapidary Club will survive these crazy times.

Stay Safe and Healthy – Keep Rockin'
- Becky

Classes and Events:

We are still encouraging members to be ready to offer classes as soon as the social distancing restrictions ease and the club reopens. Let's be proactive with developing some ideas about possible classes that you can offer to the rest of us! Class sizes must be limited by the instructor and cannot be greater than 6 participants. Masks must be worn when at the clubhouse. Sanitizing products will be provided by the club. If you are interested in offering a class, please contact Dave Macseoinin.

Several members have begun to form small groups to slowly begin participating (in small groups, wearing masks) in activities at our clubhouse, such as the regular Saturday mornings coffee klatches, slabbing/grinding/polishing stones, or silversmithing.

September Shop Tender Days

During the month of September, Dave Macseoinin and Mary Myers have volunteered to be 'shop tenders' for any of our club members who do not have a key to the club. We will open the club for you and be on hand if you have questions about the equipment downstairs. New members will be able to work on making some slabs or cabochons, but you must make an appointment. Dave can be available on Mondays from 3:00-7:00pm - call or text him at 1-234-706-1523. Mary can be available on Friday mornings from 10:00am-2:00pm –text her at 330-696-4315 or call her at 330-928-3335. We will be available by appointment only – and please remember bring your masks and safety gear! You must wear safety glasses and a mask when working on the machines downstairs. Oil mists and sand dust is not good for your eyes or your lungs.

Zoom (or clubhouse) informal gatherings - Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings

There are often members in the clubhouse who have keys on Saturday mornings or Tuesday evenings, but there are no guarantees about the availability of the clubhouse then. Remember, we are still limited to small gatherings at least for a while yet, and please take proper precautions. Anyone who would like to host a Zoom meeting for the group on those (or any) days, please contact Courtney or Becky and they will help you to host a Zoom meeting.

A trip to Nether's Farm on Flint Ridge

A few members drove down individually to the Nether's Farm this past Sunday, 08/30/2020, and dug some flint (at their own expense). It was a lovely, cool fall day for that activity and Mrs. Nethers was as gracious as always. A few new pits had been dug or old ones reopened.

Sunshine News from Mari: No news.

Gemboree from Guy: No news yet.

GeoJuniors from Evelyn: No news.

Library news from Doug Shorter: No news.

William Holland School Update from Sandy Shorter:

The School of William Holland posted an August calendar, but the new September calendar is not yet out as of the time of this newsletter. They do try to have many events each month to help out their school, and to help others to survive this covid lock-in. Sandy watched the hydraulic press demo and reports that it was very nicely done. Sandy has requested the 2021 class schedule for our club members. She is awaiting a reply from them as to their status. Their website does say that they plan to open again in 2021, but there is no news yet about those classes. Their facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/williamhollandlapidaryarts?epa=SEARCH_BOX The August calendar is provided below just so that you can get an idea of the types of events that are typically being offered at this time.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 Tuesday Night Auction	5	6 Tailgating	7 Friday Show & Tell	8
9	10 Demo with Vickie Prillaman Hydraulic Press	11 Tuesday Night Auction	12 Cabs & Slabs Event	13	14 Friday Show & Tell	15
16	17	18 Tuesday Night Auction	19	20 Tailgating	21 Friday Show & Tell	22
23	24 Demo with Pat Lillie Metal Clay	25 Tuesday Night Auction	26 Tools, Books & More!	27	28 Friday Show & Tell	29
30	31					

Exchange group events: Burgundy | Marketplace group events: Purple

Newsletter from Mary: If you know of anyone in the club who is not receiving emails, please forward their email addresses to slcnewsletter2019@gmail.com. This is our first newsletter since our Summer recess.

Miscellaneous items:

Polish American Club (PAC)

From Becky: As of the beginning of June 2020 The Health Director of Ohio re-opened Restaurants, Bars, Banquet and Catering Facilities. Terri Steele-Austin of the PAC told me they are capable of accommodating us whenever we are ready to meet in person. They could open up the entire space (triple our usual size) that would allow us to have social distance between tables. She is aware we will not be there in September. What I need from you is what the club consensus is. Meeting at night does not lend itself to an outdoor meeting. Please think about this and be ready with your opinion at the meeting (or contact a board member, a trustee or myself).

Teaching a Class

From Becky: If you want to teach a class at the Clubhouse please follow these requirements. Contact Dave MacSeoinin with the date you are requesting. Plan on no more the six participants who must contact the teacher prior to the date of the class – this will be 1st come 1st serve. Our Clubhouse will allow six people to socially distance and still be able to learn in person. The

teacher is also responsible for wiping down the surfaces before and after use. Following these precautions will keep the Clubhouse safe for all.

Zoom

From Becky: As many of you know the Club has purchased a Zoom account. We have been using this for General Meetings and for Board Meetings but it could be used for much more. If you desire any group associated with our Club to meet via Zoom contact Courtney Cable or myself.

Wally Rocks

From Becky: As many of you know Wally and Oma Frlich have been our “unofficial” rock suppliers for the Gemboree for years. They winter in Arizona and would collect or buy rocks and minerals in Tucson or Quartzite then ship them to Ohio. Unfortunately we recently heard from Wally that he is having some health issues and wants to resign from his rock buying position. Since March his back has gotten bad and Oma and he had to remain in Arizona because the return trip would have been too much. We are so grateful for all the wonderful rocks and minerals they have provided for the Gem Mine and Geo Juniors over the years. Wally said in the future he may still send us donations that his club members might give him. Perhaps we should consider sending him a box of Ohio Flint for him to share with his club?

Website – Thanks to Sandy Shorter our Website has been updated through 2022. This is an excellent source for information – especially if you don’t have easy access to the clubhouse calendar.

Big Dig – No news.

Christmas Party – We are still hoping to have this on December 19th, 2020, at St. George’s on Ridgewood Rd. Hopefully by then we’ll have figured out this Covid19 and social distancing!

Old News:

Look for meeting minutes in next month’s newsletter.

Gems provided by members:

Kathi Hampton on silversmithing:

When I started to learn silversmithing, the torch scared the heck out of me. The ‘pop’ when you light it or turn it off made me jump. The first thing I learned is that safety around the torch is extremely important. My first piece went smoothly. The second, third and fourth pieces I had to scrap. I made numerous mistakes from melting the metal to failing to make sure that the “joint” really took. It has taken many weeks for me to feel comfortable with the torch and the processes involved.

Once you are familiar with the basics, you decide the project you want to work on. Dave is very informative and admits that he is still learning. I have made 8 copper bracelets from youtube videos I watched. It was fun to hammer the metal into shape and add designs. So far, I have completed 2 pendants and 2 rings. I am still deciding if I want to add any stones to the copper bracelets I made.



September birthstones: Sapphires, by Mary Myers



The rich and stunning violet-blue color so often envisioned when sapphires are mentioned is not the only color of these beautiful gems – after all, ‘sapphire’ is Greek for the color blue. But sapphires come in almost every color including pink, yellow, orange, peach, green, violet, and blue. It is usually the most desirable in its pure, rich blue color. The highest prized sapphires are found in Myanmar, Kashmir, and Sri Lanka, and typically, the purer the blue of the stone, the greater its price. But there is an ultra-rare, and ultra-expensive, and very sought-after color and that is the rare and beautiful Padparadscha, which is a pink-orange corundum with a distinctive salmon color that is reminiscent of a tropical sunset. Doesn’t that sound beautiful?

These gems were believed to protect those close to their owners from harm. The stones also represented a promise of honesty, loyalty, and trust. Because of this belief, sapphires have become one of the most popular engagement gemstones.

Source: <https://www.wixonjewelers.com/education-type/birthstones/>

Brad's Bench Tips for May: Bob Powers, courtesy of Bradford M. Smith

Learn New Jewelry Tricks and Techniques
with Brad's Jewelry-Making Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

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RAISING A CABOCHON

When a cabochon sits too low in a bezel, the bezel can hide a lot of the stone. The solution is to either sand down the bezel height or boost up the stone. But if you choose to raise it up, the question is what is the best material to use ?

I was taught to use fine sawdust but now think that might be a problem when used in rings. I reason that rings will frequently get wet, which would cause the sawdust to swell in size and push the stone against the bezel. Then when the sawdust dries out, the stone would be a little loose.

In any case, I now prefer to insert a flat sheet to boost up my stones. It can be a scrap of metal or some plastic from product packaging or old credit cards.* In either case, just cut a piece to loosely fit into the bezel and drop in the stone (with some dental floss) to check its height.

**Another hint: Old music records, or the little free samples of laminates (often available at hardware stores) also make an excellent base since these are usually water resistant. Mary*

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TRANSPARENT CABS

When bezel setting a transparent cabochon in silver, I usually cut out the back of the bezel to allow background light to show off the colors and patterns in the stone. If this is not possible or appropriate, I worry that the silver bezel will tarnish under the stone and will ruin its brilliance. What to do?

My solution is one extra step before setting the stone. I place a piece of thin silver Mylar plastic under the stone to act as a mirror that will never tarnish. Mylar is readily available in craft and gift

wrap stores, or in a pinch from a party balloon supplier.* You may even want to experiment with using colored or patterned Mylar (i.e. diffraction pattern) under some stones.

**Another hint: Dave Macseoinin uses a potato chip bag – and it works great! Mary*

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STRAIGHTENING WIRE

Have you ever pulled out some silver wire only to find that it's all bent up? The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit.

Simply put one end in the vise and grab the other end with a pair of serrated tip pliers. Then pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band. This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16 ga.



Be careful if you are trying to pull hard on a thick wire. Brace yourself in case the wire breaks or pulls out of the pliers.

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DO BEZELS SHRINK?

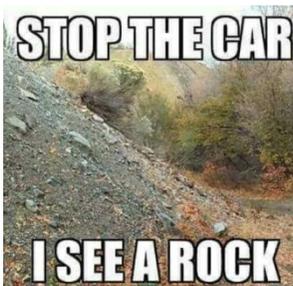
The engineer in me says there's no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone won't quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering.

If that ever happens to you, here's a fix that usually works for those times when there's just a minor problem. I file or sand the stone down a little around its base. For soft cabs like turquoise, lapis, jet or Howelite, you can use a sanding stick. Harder cabs like jasper or agates will require a diamond file. In a pinch, a ruby nail file from the drugstore will work.

There are two important things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment to the stone's size. All filing or sanding has to be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone.

Secondly, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder that's in the bottom joint of your bezel. Just a little bump here can put enough stress the stone to risk breakage when you burnish the bezel down over the stone.

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And finally, if you're taking a drive together during this covid craziness, just to get out of the house, and you find yourself saying, "Stop the car!!! I see a rock!!! Please don't stop on the highway or put yourself in danger, just to pick up a rock. It might just be a leaverite.

(As in, probably best to leave-her-right-there).