

## Summit Gem - June, July, and August 2020 Newsletter

Website: [SummitLapidaryClub.com](http://SummitLapidaryClub.com)  
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**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 [slnewsletter2019@gmail.com](mailto:slnewsletter2019@gmail.com)

### **Mission Statement**

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



**June's Monthly Meeting was held online**  
due to the Covid19 pandemic  
*Dues: Joining fee \$25 then \$48 per year\*\**



The meeting for June was held online at 7:00pm on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 hosted by Courtney on the Zoom platform. (Note: Zoom does not permit phone calls into meetings – you must join through the computer link via computer, laptop, or smartphone. You could use a smartphone to join the meeting but you had to be able to access email through your phone.) The invitations to all members (who have provided their email addresses) were sent by Courtney. Our next meeting is expected to be held on the first Tuesday in September (on 09/01/2020) at 7:00pm.

### **Programs:**

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

### **President's Message – by Becky Kosco:**

I hope everyone had a relaxing Memorial Day. I hope this message finds all of our members well during these crazy times. I'm glad to see members reaching out to check on each other as with Bob Spore's Facebook post. This caring helps keep our club together. Thank you to Lyle Jenkins as well.

The pandemic has brought many changes to our lives. Our planned combined trip with Akron Mineral has been cancelled because William Holland will not be opening for classes this year. We are actually treating this as a postponement and plan to reschedule next year. They are working on their schedule and classes and feel they will have this information available sooner than usual.

Our Summer Picnic scheduled July 11th has also been cancelled because Monroe Falls cancelled our reservation for the Community Center. Because a picnic is not the best way we could maintain our "social distance" we chose not to find another venue. The Picnic is a fun way to see each other during the summer and is also a way the club can give back to our members for all you do. Perhaps we can brainstorm and come up with another activity to fulfill this action.

Though our Governor has yet to abolish the restriction of meeting size (<10) there has been relaxation of other limits. We may soon see our clubhouse open for limited function. I implore members to follow some guidelines: Wear a mask if someone unrelated to you is also at the clubhouse and please take your temperature before coming down. Limit the number of folks at the clubhouse to ten. When classes start up we should limit them to around 6 people to allow for social distancing.

We have created a Zoom Account for Summit Lapidary and will use that platform for our June meeting. Thank you to Courtney for making that happen. We have been working on the website and virtual technology – my thanks go out to Courtney, Mary, Evelyn and Sandy. I'm sure they all cringe when they see the call is from me. We will send out the invitation to the Zoom meeting via email so if you don't receive the invite contact Mary or Courtney should you want to attend.

This is the last newsletter until September so please keep in touch. Our website is a wonderful source of information for classes and events. The calendar is up at the clubhouse as well. Be safe stay well and we'll see you in September if not before!

Keep Rockin' - Becky

### **June, July, and August Classes and Events:**

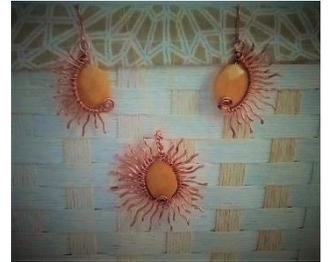
We encourage members to be ready to offer classes as soon as the social distancing restrictions ease and the club reopens. Let's be proactive with developing some ideas about possible classes that you can offer to the rest of us! Class sizes must be limited by the instructor and cannot be greater than 10. Masks should be worn when at the clubhouse. Sanitizing products will be provided by the club. Please check the Summit Lapidary Club's website for the latest information this summer. If you are interested in offering a class, please contact Dave Macseoinin.

Also, regarding the sharing of food: The Executive Board is asking that we do not bring food to share at the clubhouse at this time, but in particular do not leave food behind when leaving the clubhouse. We do not wish to encourage pests since the clubhouse is so often empty.

### **July 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00 PM**

**Wire-wrapped Sun earrings and pendant presented by Kathi Hampton – our first post Covid-19 class!** Kathi will be teaching us how to make a pair of fabulous sun earrings and a

pendant using copper wire and a faceted oval bead. (Please see the photograph). The class is limited to the first 6 people due to the need for social distancing. Cost is \$5 for the materials (18 and 20 gauge copper wire and three 15X20mm oval beads). Remember: Limit – 6 people. Please take your temperature before coming to class and wear a mask as a gesture of kindness for others. **Please call or text Kathi to make a reservation at 330-690-2070** if you are interested in taking this class!



### **July Shop Tender Days**

During the month of July, 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 Thursdays from 3:00-7:00pm – call or text her at 330-696-4315. We will be available by appointment only – and please remember bring your safety gear!

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

There may be 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 gatherings of less than 10 people until at least July 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.

**Sunshine News from Mari:** Richard Lee is doing better and is leaving the hospital. Joyce Kish continues to heal but still has a long road to go. Merry Anne McLeod-Wolf had hip surgery on June 8<sup>th</sup> and could use your thoughts and well wishes.

**Gemboree from Guy:** We are still planning to move forward with our Fall Gemboree, depending on Covid-19 restrictions, of course.

**GeoJuniors from Evelyn:** No news received. Please check the website and facebook pages.

**Library news from Doug Shorter:** See the meeting minutes for the latest news on this topic.

**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](mailto:slcnewsletter2019@gmail.com). This will be our last newsletter until Fall. See you then!

### **Miscellaneous items:**

**Summer Picnic** – Sadly our Summer Picnic will not be held this year. We are very grateful to Donel and Susanne Shoffner for securing the rental of the Lehner Community Center in Monroe Falls. The City gave Donel a 100% refund . Perhaps we can give this venue a try next year!

**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. Sandy updates which classes are available with the name of the instructor provided.

**William Holland September trip** – Because they cancelled classes for the 2020 season, William Holland gave us two choices of how to deal with our down payment. Because of the number of students involved they were not in a position to refund so they gave the options of donating our down payments or rescheduling for next year. The executive boards of both clubs agreed to reschedule for next year. This is the perfect trip for our club because it satisfies a social and an educational opportunity.

**Zoom Account** – We have set up for an unlimited Zoom account for SLC – we will no longer be restricted to 40 minute sessions. Perhaps this platform could be used for teaching? Thank you, Courtney, for bringing us up to date!

**Big Dig** – We are still hoping to schedule another “Big Dig” on Flint Ridge sometime in the summer or early Fall probably after the Gemboree. No date has been set yet.

**July 19<sup>th</sup> Trip to Nethers’ Farm on Flint Ridge** – Dave has made plans to go to Nethers’ farm on Flint Ridge on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. This is a “pay your own way” trip, and you will probably drive yourself or car pool with other club members if you and they are comfortable with that. Because this is not a sanctioned club event, just a group of interested people going on their own, non-members may attend. We will be meeting at the clubhouse at 8:30am, and will leave promptly at 9:00am. Please bring (or wear) the following: Long pants, sturdy boots or shoes, leather gloves (flint chips are sharp!!!), safety glasses, masks (for the car trip), tick repellent (warning – it’s a bad tick season!), lots of water (both to drink and to wash your own flint), a rock hammer, brushes, whatever tools you want to bring, and ... some bandaids or first aid supplies (in case you go off on your own)! (Remember, it can be tricky footing and ... did I mention that flint is sharp?!!!)

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

**Old News:**

Summit Lapidary Club General virtual meeting 5-5-2020 Meeting ID #351 716 1407 7pm

Sunshine News: Guy is doing better; has been cleared to drive, Joyce is doing well; was at the last meeting - very nice to see you Joyce. Per David Rich, Frank is alive; well, long story; is not talking about it now. We wish everyone well, with brighter days ahead.

Library, Doug Shorter: Is there an interest in wanting more downloads for the club? The downloads could be made available on DVD’S, availability is starting to diminish as they are being phased out. Information cannot be downloaded. Rob asked if info could be shared at meetings. John Kern noticed a “share content” option, Doug said he would like to try; see if it would work.

William Holland is a wait & see, not sure when they will open up? They are having a meeting at the end of the month (May) to come up with a plan.

Courtney and Becky are setting up an email for the club - no one has login info. We need to pick a different name or combine both clubs’ names into the email to be able to set up meetings in Zoom. Sandy Shorter not receiving email for the meeting invites, if anyone else is having the same issue please reach out to Courtney or Mary M.

Nancy has the extra keys for the clubhouse

Gemboree™ fall 2020: Becky will be co-chair, Tom McLaughlin sonic drill is approximately \$500.00 best one on the market, and we need a table top drill press also. Harbor Freight has one for \$40.00. They would be club equipment not strictly Gemboree™. Concern was raised if it could be competition for the vendors. Doug says if used for gem mine then no. Thomas says it is of interest. We can drill holes in rocks & beads with it.

Not sure when clubhouse will open again, we need to think about questions for reopening such as:

Wear masks

Only allow 10 people at a time

Social Distance rules

Take temperatures - Rob is going to check on a thermometer approximately \$100 or \$125

Sign up genius – Rob will also be checking Sign up genius to see if sign-up sheets can be made; to be open more than one day per week

David Rich brought up unlimited Zoom.

Becky and Courtney are trying to get email straightened out. Becky will take to executive board and get back to everyone. Doug asked for more research on subject, specifically more info about the billing, Rob suggested not using Gmail, Sandy will check for available email address and will contact Becky. ATT account is John Kerr email account. Digital storage with a Gmail account would be helpful for sharing info to the next board.

John Kerr motion to adjourn, Bob Spore 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.  
Submitted by Cathy Milhoan

### **Gems provided by members:**

**June birthstones:** Alexandrite and Pearls, by Mary Myers



Alexandrite is known as the “color-changing” gem. It is extremely rare and valuable. It was originally discovered in Russia’s Ural Mountains, and has been found in Sri Lanka, East Africa, and Brazil. It has so very desirable because of the way it changes color in different lights, and in fact has been called “emerald by day, ruby by night.” Because of its magical green and red colors, the same colors as the Old Imperial Russia’s military colors, it was named the national stone of tsarist Russia, and was one of the most prized gemstones in Russian Aristocracy. In daylight, it is a cool, bluish and mossy green although it can also be a yellowish or brownish green. In lamplight, it is a red gem with a warm raspberry tone much like a ruby. It exhibits different colors in fluorescent light than under an incandescent light. It is a truly magical stone! This metamorphosis is called Pleochroism. The stone has a hardness of 8.5 on the Mohs scale, softer than sapphire, and harder than garnet, the other two gemstones that can change color. Because of its scarcity, a beautiful green/red alexandrite from Brazil with 100% color change is considered to be more valuable than most gemstones, including rubies and diamonds! It is said to strengthen one’s intuition, to aid in creativity, and to inspire the imagination. Alexandrite is also said to inspire romance (if you’re looking for love!)



**Pearls** have been widely popular for jewelry for centuries for their luster and beauty. Persians described pearls as “tears of the gods” while the Chinese claimed that the moon created pearls. They are the only gemstone on earth that is formed within a real, living creature. They come in a range of beautiful colors, from pale cream and white to rose, lilac, green, gold, gray, and even black! Cultured pearls come from mollusks that have been carefully seeded (by man) are similar to pearls produced by nature. There are four main types of cultured pearls, each with its own unique qualities. Be careful with your pearls – they are easily damaged! Sun block, perfume, cosmetics, and other things such as hairspray can dramatically dull the luster of a pearl, as can the natural acids in body oils and perspiration. Always keep your pearls separated from hard items. They are best kept in a soft cloth pouch or cushioned jewelry box. Do not ever store pearls in an airtight environment (such as a zip lock bag) as they will become brittle and their luster will be damaged. Pearls should be re-strung (with knots between each pearl) with silk or nylon thread yearly since the threads will soak up oils from the skin.

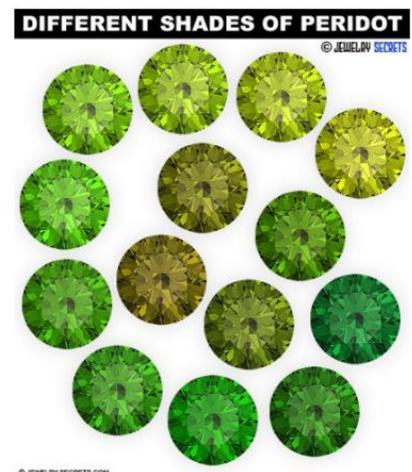


**July birthstone:** The ruby

**Rubies** represent love (what birthstone doesn't represent love?), health, and wisdom. It is believed to bestow good fortune upon its owner. Rubies come in a range of hues, from purplish and bluish red to a deep orange-red. The most valuable color is often a rich, passionate, hot, full red color with a slight hue of blue. This color of ruby is only associated with the Mogok Valley mines in Myanmar. The color is called Pigeon Blood Red although why it's called that, I have no idea because the color is apparently not associated with the color of a bird's blood, but rather the white of the pigeon's eye! The things we learn in rocking!

**August birthstone:** The Peridot

Peridots were believed to be a gift from Mother Nature to celebrate the annual creation of a new world. This stone is believed to bring its wearer (ooh...) **magical** power and healing properties, and it also protects against Covid nightmares (actually, all nightmares). Most Peridot comes from Arizona, and ranges in color from a yellowish-green to brown, but the most desired are the bright lime or olive-green colors. Large Peridot gemstones (over 5 carats) are rare and more valuable than smaller stones. See all the different shades?



Color range of Peridot

Sources: [https://www.wixonjewelers.com/education-type/birthstones/#:~:text=June% 20birthdays%20claim% 20two%20birthstones,color%20based%20on%20the%20lighting](https://www.wixonjewelers.com/education-type/birthstones/#:~:text=June%20birthdays%20claim%20two%20birthstones,color%20based%20on%20the%20lighting). <https://www.jewelsforme.com/alexandrite-meaning>. [https://www.pearlparadise.com/pages/how-to-care-for-your-pearls#:~:text=Simple%20Steps%20to%20Protect%20Your% 20Pearls&text=Always%20keep%20your%20pearls%20separated,such%20a%20a%20zip%20lock%20bag](https://www.pearlparadise.com/pages/how-to-care-for-your-pearls#:~:text=Simple%20Steps%20to%20Protect%20Your%20Pearls&text=Always%20keep%20your%20pearls%20separated,such%20a%20a%20zip%20lock%20bag). <https://www.americangemsociety.org/page/alexandriteoverview>. <https://www.wixonjewelers.com/education-type/gemstone-guide/?gem=Ruby>. [https://www.wixonjewelers.com/educationtype/birthstones/#:~:text=August% 20is%20the% 20latest%20month,and%20influence%20in%20the%20wearer](https://www.wixonjewelers.com/educationtype/birthstones/#:~:text=August%20is%20the%20latest%20month,and%20influence%20in%20the%20wearer). <https://www.parlegems.com/blog/perido-or-peridot/>

**Brad's Bench Tips for May:** Bob Powers, courtesy of Bradford M. Smith (Discover New Jewelry Tricks in Brad's "How To" Books at <https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>).

### QUICK CLOSE-UPS

Often when trying to get a close-up photo with your iPhone or Android, you end up with a fuzzy, out-of-focus image. Next time try using your loupe over the camera lens. It works quickly and easily.



### LITTLE THINGS CAN BITE

Most jewelers treat motorized equipment with caution. We've all heard stories about workpieces coming loose in the drill press or about getting long hair or clothing caught in the polishing machine. It stands to reason that a machine with a motor of a half horsepower or so is going to win out over its operator. We all know that, and I'm not going to harp on it. That's not the point of this story.

I want to talk about the smaller motor-powered machines we often use, the ones with little 3 inch diameter motors. For instance, these small motors are used in flex-shafts and micro buffers. They're so small that many of us forget caution when using them. I'm guilty of it myself sometimes, and believe me it can get you in trouble. Here's what happened to two people I know.

One friend had a polishing bur bend in the handpiece and then whack the thumb that was holding the workpiece. The swelling was substantial, and it took several weeks to regain normal use. A small underpowered motor? Not so.

Another friend was using one of the small buffing machines, the kind you can stop when you apply too much pressure to the wheel. Not to worry about such an underpowered beast you say. Wrong, it literally jumped up and bit the hand that feeds it!

Buffer was set on a low table to do a quick polish, so was not mounted or clamped. A buff was installed on the right spindle, no buff on the left. Friend was wearing a tight-fitting, long-sleeved sweater. While buffing on the right wheel, the left tapered spindle caught a thread on the friend's left sleeve and started grabbing more and more threads and sleeve.

Rather than pulling the arm into the machine, the light buffer quickly lifted off the table and started climbing up the underside of the friends' arm. There was no way to get a hand of the on/off switch because the unit was spinning wildly and battering my friend like a club wielded by a mad man. Only when someone nearby could grab the power cord and yank it from the wall did the mayhem stop.

So when you're in the shop, please think safety. Don't take even the little motors for granted.