



The Southwest Gem & Mineral Society

The Southwest Gem

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August 2008

PO Box 17323, San Antonio, TX 78217- 0323

General meetings will tentatively be held the second Tuesday of the month, except in September and December. Board meetings are usually held the second Monday after the general meeting.

Inside this issue:

Member Health Updates	2
Upcoming Events	3
Announcements	3
Greetings from the President	2
Meeting Minutes	4
Mini Classifieds	5
Officers & Directors	6

General Meeting: Tuesday, August 12, 2008

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: 17018 Silverwood Drive, San Antonio, Texas

Just East of Hwy 281 on Donella Drive

Refreshment

Pat & Floyd Duncan	Richard Busch
Gail Hyatt	John Ingle
Clyde & Sandra Jones	Mark Jones

If you can not attend, please let Jim Meloche or Debbie Krause know so they can bring refreshments. Thank you for your consideration.



Health Updates of Our Members

Bob Bowie under went minor surgery last month. He is doing great now.

Tom Banta was diagnosed with lung cancer recently. He is at home on hospice. He and Marie could sure use our prayers.

Uli Railsback is coming along fine with her treatments. She has been spotted out in that garden of hers. Bad Girl, Uli!

Greetings from the President

None to report or at least I didn't get anything. This is probably due to the fact that my internet has been out for 2 weeks. That is also why this newsletter is late.

The August program will be presented/hosted by Bob Bowie. It will be on his trip to the Yukon.

Please visit our website, www.swgemandmineral.org

Announcements

The wire wrap class Anne Kollé taught last month was great. The three people who went all made a wrapped pendant. We had a wonderful time and it was very interesting. Thank you again Anne.

The Board would like your opinion on not having club meetings next summer in July and August. We all the vacations and other stuff attendance is down. Please let any of the Board members know your opinions.

There will be no Board meeting in August.

Upcoming Events

- Aug. 23-24 Pine Country Gem & Mineral Soc. Show, VFW Hall, Jasper, TX
- Aug. 30-31 Arlington Gem & Min. Soc. Show, Arlington Convention Center, Arlington, TX
- Sept. 20-21 Pleasant Oaks Gem & Min. Club Show, EMGI at Brookhaven College, Richardson, TX.
- Sept. 26-28 AFMS/SCFMS Show & Convention hosted by the Houston Gem & Mineral Society @ the Humble Civic Center

Please let me know of any other events or shows coming up so I can include the information in the newsletter.

Meeting Minutes

None were taken

Did You Know?

That diamonds, emeralds, sapphires, tourmalines, rubies and topazes all are formed from hardening of molten igneous rocks?

That amethyst, turquoise, opal and quartz are formed from the evaporation of underground waters?

That garnet and staurolite are formed by metamorphic processes whereby the minerals in the rock are recrystallized into different forms?

Via *The Rockcollector*, April '97.

Before your final polish on a tiger's eye piece, soak it in vinegar for 1/2 hour. It will polish brighter!

To get a high polish on onyx and other stones that are difficult to polish, mix in a wide mouth jar 3 tablespoons of water with 1/2 tablespoon oxalic acid. Dip your cab in this and then polish. Via *Gem Time*

Making a Doublet by Don Brenholtz

Ever have a beautiful stone with small pits or imperfections that can't be sanded out? Here's what you can do. This works great on a lot of the agate and other stones we find.

Making a doublet is simply gluing a quartz cap on the top of the stone to be made into a cabochon. There are several advantages to this:

1. You can buy the quartz caps already finished so this eliminates a lot of work.
 2. It solves the problem of imperfections in the stone as the glue between the quartz cap and the stone makes them invisible.
 3. Because the quartz cap already has a dome to it, you can use a much thinner slab. This lets you get more slabs from a stone.
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Mini Classifieds

This space will be for anyone wanting to sell something or is looking for something that someone else might be able to help them with.

Debbie Krause is looking for any used equipment or tools. Call her on 659-7125.

LOST-N-FOUND

Gail Hopkins loaned Bob Bowie's DVD on *Planet Earth-Caves* out in February to someone. They still have it and Bob would like it back. Please check your DVD collections to see if you may have this and return it to Bob.

Making a Doublet - Con't

Pick your stone and the size cap you want to make. Mark and cut it as usual. Leave the perform slightly larger than the cap. Then finish grinding it to size after the two are joined. By grinding with a slight angle to the back, you can get a perfect match w/o getting into the cap. If you have a large slab, you might want to glue several caps on it, then cut it apart after the glue has set. The top of your stone should be perfectly flat. Sand it smooth. A flat lap is best for this. Do not polish it, as the blue will adhere better to a slightly rough surface.

Here is the tricky part: You must be sure there are no air bubbles trapped between the cap and stone, as these will show up as silver streaks after it sets. The stone and cap should be cleaned with acetone to be sure they are free of oil. A trick I use is to mix the epoxy and then heat slightly. This thins it a little and tends to make it easier to get any air bubbles out. This could be done by holding it over a light bulb. Be sure the stone is covered evenly with glue. The quartz caps can be rather expensive in larger sizes. You can make your own from plate glass, but they will not be as durable as the quartz. Natural or man-made quartz can be used.

Via *The Informer* 3/08
