

GEM SCOOPS



Vol. 48, No. 9

Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society

September 2010

Rappings of the Gavel

Thanks to all of you who examined our Constitution revision and voted. We finally had enough votes to constitute a quorum and everyone voted to accept the published revision that was primarily devoted to demonstrating that the PDGMS is truly a non-profit organization. Because we barely had a quorum and some of the votes were verbal on the telephone, we would appreciate votes from the rest of you so that our documentation is complete.

The revision changed the number of members needed to constitute a quorum to conduct club business. The original requirement for two-thirds of the active members was too difficult to achieve at regularly scheduled meetings. The new quorum is defined as those attending a regularly scheduled meeting.

Thanks to all who have helped with some of these details that are necessary to operate a club these days. I look forward to seeing you at the September meeting.

Fred

NEXT MEETING October 19, 2010

Chester Karwoski, the owner of the Diamond Hill Mine near Antreville, SC, will be our next speaker. He will talk about the extensive Amethyst finds he has unearthed in South Carolina and Georgia. We also expect to schedule a field trip to the Diamond Hill Mine in October.

SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING

The September meeting of the Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society will be held in the Industrial & Business Development Center at the main campus of Tri-County Technical College on September 21 at 7:00 p.m.

The program will be about Faceting semi-precious stones by Ted Wallenius and Fred Sias. They will show some of the stones that they have cut and faceted as well as videos showing the details of faceting technique. The time required to completely cut a gemstone is too long for a full demonstration at a meeting; however, the gemstones and the Club's faceting machine will be available for close up inspection.

Dan Crawford will serve refreshments. Visitors are always welcome.

Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society Minutes of General Meeting 8/17/2010

Location: Room 127 at Tri-County Technical College. Attendance: 22.

Fred Sias called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Refreshments were provided by Ed and Jeanne Overly. There were no minutes from the August picnic meeting to be approved. Treasurer, Phyllis Phillips, was absent but sent this report:

Balance at first of month	\$1023.39
Receipts	\$ 15.84
(\$15 membership + .84 interest)	
Payouts	0
End of month bank balance	\$1039.23

Updating the Constitution and By-Laws is complete and the document was sent for approval to all members by email and postal service, when necessary. At the time of this meeting, a quorum of votes had not been received for approval. Members whose votes were still outstanding as of this meeting were identified and contacted. Fred Sias later made phone calls to interested parties, more email approvals were received, and a quorum was finally had. The updated Constitution

is now complete. Secretary, Linda Rakey, will contact the IRS, submit the Constitution, and follow procedures to obtain 501(c)(7) tax exempt status. If the SFMS obtains a Group Exemption Letter in the future, we will be eligible for (c)3 status under their wing, but this will do for now.

Our speaker passed around flyers advertising the Hendersonville, NC, Gem and Mineral Show to be held during the town's Apple Festival on Labor Day weekend. The theme will be about gold.

Fred Sias requested that Chris Cicimurri, Jim Dusenberry, Phyllis Phillips, Ted Wallenius, and Viola Wolf serve on the nominating committee for upcoming election of officers. This committee will be appointed at the September meeting

Continued on Page 2

2010 Officers

President: Fred Sias	864-654-6833
V.P. : John Palmer	941-545-3713
Secretary: Linda Rakey	864-224-4245
Treasurer: Phyllis Phillips	864-654-8514

2010 Directors

Larry Boller	864-296-8077
Chris Cicimurri	864-650-7115
Dr. Richard Warner	864-654-0913

Gemstone and Faceting Terminology

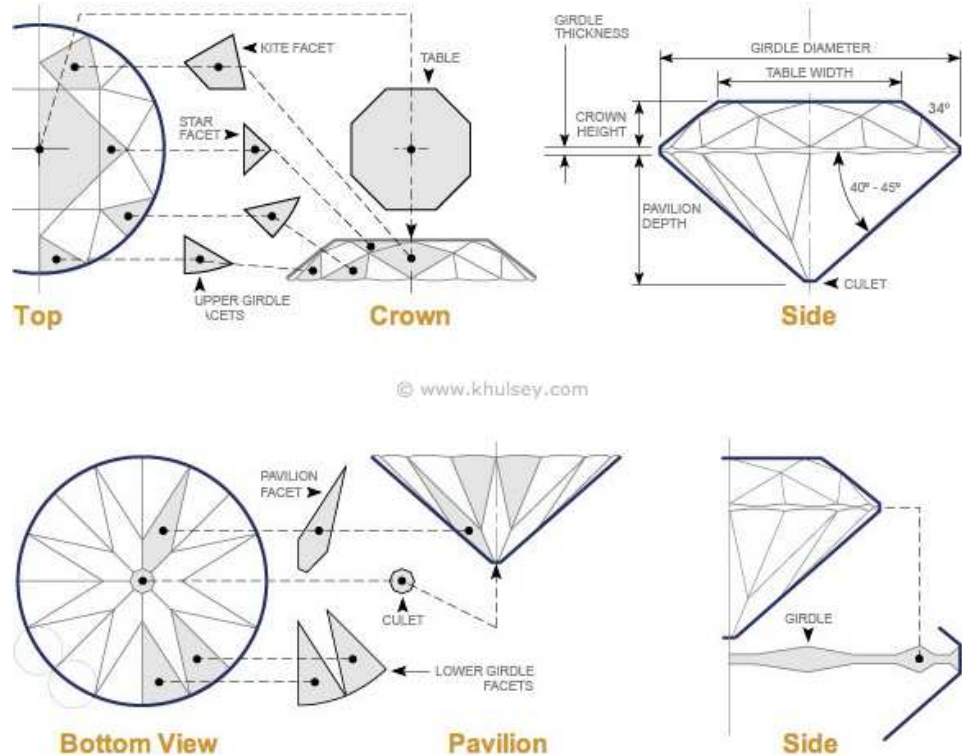
Gemstones have been around for a long time. When we use the term "gemstone" we are undoubtedly referring to something more colorful than a dull rock in the driveway. No doubt the first gemstones were colorful minerals that had been tumbled in a stream. Perhaps an early man found a way to tie a strip of rawhide to the colorful stone so that it could be used for adornment.

A gem is a colored or clear mineral that we can wear or use for decoration. Jade was one of the ancient gemstones that was used both for adornment and as tools around 3600 BCE. Lapis lazuli, carnelian, turquoise, and amazonite were used as gems by the Egyptians as early as 3000 BCE. Diamonds were known in India by 800 BCE and they were exported from India around 300-400 BCE.

Around 800 CE faceted gemstones were known to exist in Venice. Here we need to define a new term: *facet*. A facet is a flat surface ground and polished on the surface of a gemstone or other transparent object. Faceting is designed to enhance the appearance of a gemstone by causing light to be refracted or reflected and thereby increase the brilliance of the stone. The techniques were probably a closely guarded secret of certain craft guilds so there is little documentation about early methods.

The modern round brilliant faceted gem has 57 or 58 facets. These are illustrated above along with a number of terms that are needed to understand a discussion of faceting techniques.

First, the top of the stone that we see when a faceted stone is set in a ring is called the *crown*. The main octagonal flat surface is called the *table*. The facets around the table are



the crown facets.

The bottom of the stone that is usually hidden in a setting is called the *pavilion* and all the flat surfaces on the pavilion are simply called the pavilion facets. The little rim that separates the crown from the pavilion is called the *girdle*.

There are a total of 57 facets on the crown and pavilion unless the very sharp tip of the pavilion is ground off to create a very small facet called the *culet*.

It is very useful to memorize the above terms before starting to learn about the technique of faceting. A person describing his faceting technique will use these terms and learning them ahead of time makes it much easier to understand a presentation or video.

Minutes (Continued)

Program:

Jacolyn Campbell presented a fascinating demonstration of three wire-wrap jewelry projects. This technique uses only wire, without

any soldering, to hold stones. She mainly uses gold-filled wire, since it doesn't require as much cleaning as silver. Half-hard wire is standard for wire wrapping.

For one ring she created, 21 gauge square half-hard gold filled wire was used. Three strips each 5" long were required. At present, gold-filled wire costs about \$50 to \$60 per ounce.

Jacolyn reviewed the few tools that are required for this art. Several specialized pliers and cutters are the norm. She recommended step-nose pliers additionally for making consistent loops. A de-burring tool, which has a cup at the tip to smooth wire ends, and a pin vise were also mentioned as handy.

Two of the demonstrated projects were donated to the club and raffled to the members present. This produced \$63 of revenue for the club. Many thanks were offered to Mrs. Campbell.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Rakey, Secretary