



# CGMG News

Publication of **Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club**  
 Member of Corporate Employee Recreation Association  
 3300 Bryant Irvin Road, Fort Worth, TX 76109  
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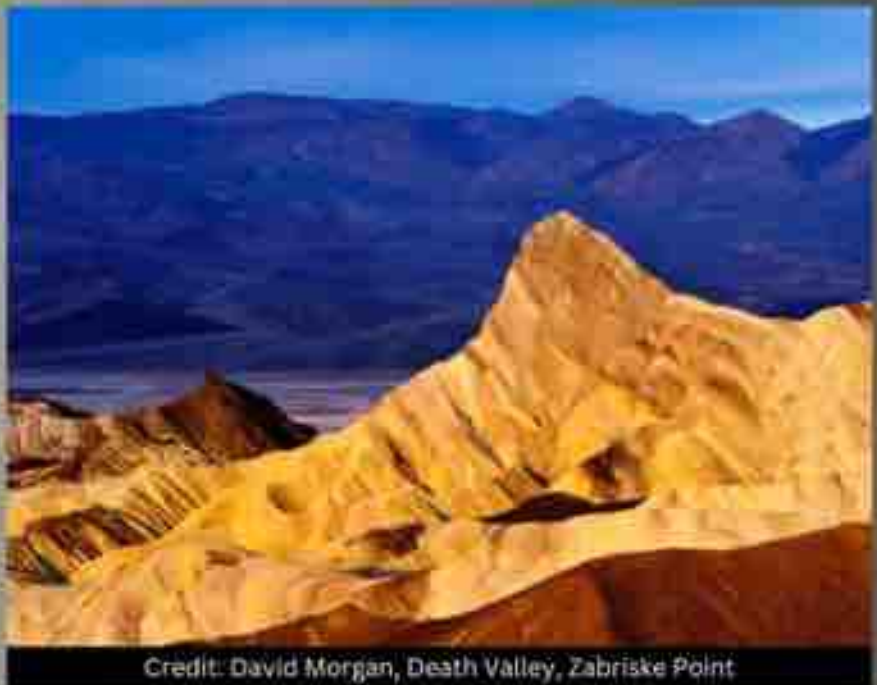
Jacque Brock

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Program, Tuesday, July 13

## SAFETY IN THE WILDS

David Morgan will be sharing precautions he takes when hunting in the wilderness for great photos like the one below, or searching the rubble for rock specimens. He will also be sharing examples of his stunning photography.



Credit: David Morgan, Death Valley, Zabriskie Point

**The Purpose of the Cowtown Gem Mineral & Glass Activity**

is to promote a spirit of fellowship among members and to promote popular interest and education in certain arts and the various earth sciences, in particular, those facets dealing with the arts of lapidaries, metals, glass, and jewelry and the sciences of minerals, paleontology, geology, and archeology.



# Commissioner's Report

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July everyone! I hope all of you enjoyed a nice long weekend. I am happy to report that in response to a Board of Director's request several of our members have stepped up and planned out 3 "Summer Kid's Camps" to be offered by our club this summer. More details on the first one elsewhere in the newsletter – it will be wire wrapping for kids 10-14 years old. Please share the info with friends who are looking for learning opportunities for their kids this summer. Two more classes are in the works - "Glass Fusing" and "Copper Bracelet Making." A very special thank-you to our members volunteering so much time and effort to plan, facilitate, and instruct

these classes for children - Carmen Sorenson, Pam Nolan, C J Wright, and Jacque Brock.

For those of you completely new to the hobby we offer beginner's courses in lapidary arts, stained glass, gemstone faceting and jewelry making. Classes are announced at meetings, in the newsletter, and sometimes via email. To sign up for classes you may visit the front desk and sign up –OR- go to [www.cera-fw.org](http://www.cera-fw.org) and click on ACTIVITIES, click on GEM, MINERAL & GLASS, click on REGISTER, and then find your class and sign up online.

I look forward to seeing you July 11<sup>th</sup>!

Cheers,

**Steve**

Does anyone know the location of the two binders labeled "StoneSteppers Newsletters" and "Cowtown Gem Mineral & Glass Newsletters"? They contain copies of club newsletters going back numerous years and were last seen on top of the cabinet near the faceting area. *Colleen*

## For Sale

Used Ray Tech Tumble Vibe TV5-vibrating tumbler with 6 packages of tumbling media. \$135

Fuseworks glass kiln for microwave never used. Retail at \$120.

Contact Jacque Brock for purchase and see internet for more information.

[jacque\\_brock01@yahoo.com](mailto:jacque_brock01@yahoo.com)



STONESTEPPERS  
of  
GENERAL DYNAMICS RECREATION ASSOCIATION

The Rockhound Activity of the General Dynamics Recreation Association was started in 1956 with R. L. Norment as its first Commissioner.

Some of the Charter members were: R. L. Norment, Chet Rothacker, Bill Aiken, G. L. Allen and W. D. Lewis.

The first Clubhouse and Shop was in the old Barracks Building that had been moved from the Plant to Picnic Area #2 across the Clear Fork of the Trinity River.

The first classes were held here with R. L. Norment and G. L. Allen as instructors.

In 1960 the members of the Club built their own Clubhouse in Picnic Area #1, using only club member's labor, and the shop was located there until the move to the new location in Fieldhouse #2.

The Club adopted the name, "Stonesteppers", and a Club Newsletter, "The Steppingstones" was started to keep the members informed about meetings and classes, etc.

A contest was held to select a Club Emblem and Barbara Rothacker won and was awarded a set of Silver Cufflinks with the Club Emblem, designed and made by G. L. Allen.

G. L. Allen also designed and faceted a large Blue Texas Topaz for the top piece of "The American Crown Jewels" now in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D. C.

The Club held its first sanctioned Show in 1966 and held shows each year through 1970.

R. L. Norment resigned as Commissioner in 1967, and Don Langston was appointed to take his place.

*This is a partial article from a 1960's Club scrapbook found in the shop.  
The entire scrapbook will be on display at the July meeting*



We have been a club since 1956.  
And we're still teaching general lapidary,  
metal smithing, faceting and many other classes and still  
providing numerous educational and social opportunities!





## *Kids Summer Camp: Wire Wrapping*

July 17-20, Monday - Thursday, 10am-12pm

Participants: Ages 10-14

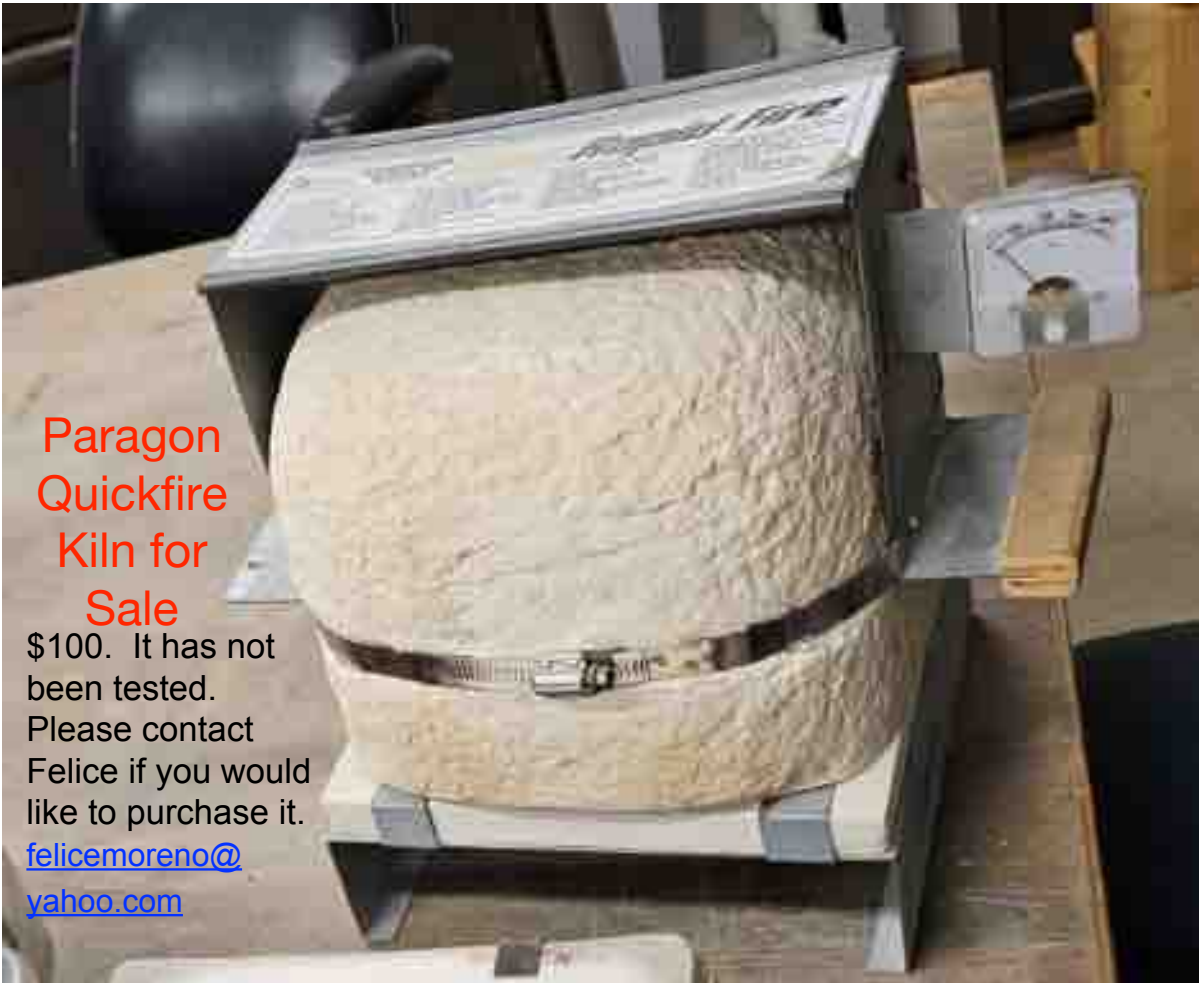
Instructors: Pam Nolan, C J Wright, Jacque Brock, Carmen Sorenson

Members \$100, Non-members \$135      Class Size – up to 8 students

Summer camps offer opportunities to find memorable objects. What can you do with them? How about wire wrapping? The Wire Wrapping camp will teach four different techniques for wrapping rock, glass, or beads to construct necklaces, and other wearable or hangable projects.

Important safety requirements are: 1) Students must wear closed foot and toed shoe (no sandals or flip-flops). 2) Wear clothing for crafting (avoid excessively loose clothing). 3) Long hair must be tied or clipped back out of the face. Students must attend camp dressed appropriately in order to participate. If there is a safety concern which cannot be easily addressed, parent/guardian should take student home to change.

A parent/guardian must accompany their student down the main hallway to the Gym, Mineral, and Glass shop located outside the rear of the CERA facility. Adults are encouraged to stay and listen to the first day's safety explanation. At the end of class instructors will escort students to the front lobby for pickup near the front desk.



**Paragon  
Quickfire  
Kiln for  
Sale**

\$100. It has not been tested. Please contact Felice if you would like to purchase it.  
[felicemoreno@yahoo.com](mailto:felicemoreno@yahoo.com)



**REMINDER TO ALL**

Only qualified members are allowed to use club equipment. As shown in the photo we have a damaged and now useless 100grit diamond wheel on one of the Covington cabbing machines. It will cost the club \$150 to replace it and is a priority for the General Lapidary class that's coming up.

Other wheels show excessive wear in the center. Remember that as you grind/polish you must move your stone left to right at all times to keep the wear even. Only work with stones that are smaller than the width of the wheel.

Thanks, Steve

## June 13, 2023 Minutes

Steve, our Commissioner called the meeting to order in lieu of Robert's absence and welcomed all. We had one guest Jenn Davis. who introduced herself and told us about her interest in the club. .

Steve thanked all the volunteers that came and helped Felice set up for our auction and sale that was held. It produced \$2068 and half went to the club for their efforts.

The secretary's stand in Colleen asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes for the March newsletter that she took for Jacque's absence.

Brad, VP Classes cautioned us of the changes on the website when signing up for upcoming classes as sign up is now open to the public and there are two different registration fees on the page. He told of the many different classes that are upcoming and keep an eye out for them if interested in joining in.

Steve also reminded us that the Consignment display cases are available for our use in the lobby. He had brought copies of the agreement that needed to be filled out by individuals and sent to him NOT CERA. He also mentioned that if sales are in excess of \$600 a 1099 form would be sent to the seller from CERA.

On the topic of classes Steve also asked for ideas that we could do for Summer Camp for Kids in the shop.

Send him any ideas as we need to create more classes for the public because CERA is pushing for more income from the club.

The last note came from Brad that classes will be annotated on the whiteboard in the lab for everyone to watch for.

Gina, VP Field Trips was absent with no report.

Colleen, Newsletter Editor asked for articles and hobby related sales are available to be put in the newsletter free for members if we would like to sell anything.

Felice, VP GlassCrafters was also absent so Steve reminded us to contact her for any instructional interest.

John, Shop Status Chair updated us on his efforts to update the shop with electrical and many other projects. He has created a plan to execute updates.

The other note on the shop is the clean up date of Sat. Jun 24 at 9 a.m. with breakfast being brought for volunteers by Jacque.

There was no other business or raffle and door prize so the meeting was adjourned with members looking at the Show and Tell and Stump the Expert materials brought in.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jacque*

## Classes

The faceting class is almost over. We have had a challenging time and have learned how to actually cut a faceted stone. Thanks to Robert for instructing us. Paul has started the Silversmithing class. The class promises to be very fun and also challenging. We are planning another General Lapidary class. Watch for it to be posted soon. The mold making class is currently full. I am going to increase the number of seats to 8 this weekend so there will be two more seats available. We are planning a summer camp for children in July. Details are still being determined, but will be posted soon.

*Brad*



Stained Glass Panel made  
by Janet Yockey in  
Tina Moore's Class

# Bench Tips from Brad Smith

## ONE PART DIE FORMING

An easy way to make large and strong components for your jewelry designs while keeping the weight of precious metal to a minimum is done with simple tools in a process called one-part die forming. Complex 3-D shapes can be made quickly from thin gauge sheet with just a piece of plastic and a dapping ball.

I make a forming die by sketching the shape I need on a piece of thick plastic. Then drill a hole and saw out the shape with a jeweler's saw and a coarse blade. When sawing, try to keep edges straight up and down. Refine the cut as needed with a sanding drum or file. Select a thickness of plastic that is just a little more than the amount of doming you want.

> Note: I tend to use 1/4 inch or 3/8 inch plastic that I get as scraps from a local plastics shop.

To use the die, cut a piece of sheet about 3/8 inch wider than the hole in the die on all sides. Anneal the sheet and tape it down on the plastic. Use a dapping ball and hammer to create the domed shape. When the taped down edges begin to warp, planish them flat on the top of the die. Finally, if the sheet is to be domed deeply, you will need to anneal the metal occasionally.

One nice feature of this technique can be seen in the top and left of the picture. If the sawed walls are straight up and down, the hole on the bottom is a mirror image of the hole on the top. This allows you to produce a mirror image shape as needed to make left and right earrings or both sides of an irregular shaped bead as shown.



## OCHRE APPLICATOR

Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder won't flow on an area of your piece while you're soldering another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it

I use recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush applicator. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.



*Smart Solutions  
For Your Jewelry Making Problems*

Pick Up Your Copy on Amazon  
BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com

<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

The image shows a promotional graphic for jewelry making books. It features six book covers arranged in two rows of three. The top row has a yellow cover, a light blue cover, and a light green cover. The bottom row has a red cover, a teal cover, and an orange cover. The text above the books reads "Smart Solutions For Your Jewelry Making Problems". Below the books, it says "Pick Up Your Copy on Amazon" and "BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com". At the bottom, there is a URL: "http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ".

## Design Corner

Here is the stone for the July Design Corner.

Use this stone in a drawing or sketch to come up with a creative way to fabricate a piece - any kind of piece and bring your ideas to the next meeting to share. This should be a fun endeavor and hopefully interesting addition to our meetings.

Don't worry about being an artist - drawing skill doesn't matter! Just sketch the best you can whatever Idea you have will be welcomed!



### Web and Email Addresses

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CowtownGMG/>  
[CowtownGMG@groups.facebook.com](mailto:CowtownGMG@groups.facebook.com)

<http://cera-fw.org/gem-mineral-glass/home/newsletter>

## Thank You!

Many thanks to the 13 volunteers who participated on Shop Clean-Up Day.  
Felice, Janice, Robert, Colleen, Jack, Marda, John,  
Margaret, Carmen, Daniel, Jacque, David, Sharon.  
Special thanks to Jacque for providing a delicious breakfast.



### AREA CLUBS

**Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club**, 3545 Bryan Ave, Fort Worth, TX; forth Tuesday of the month at 7:30.

**Arlington Gem & Mineral Club**, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX; first Tuesday of the month at 7:30.

**Dallas Gem & Mineral Society**,

American Legion Hall, Suite 105, 10205 Plano Road, Dallas, TX; third Tuesday of month at 7:00.

**Dallas Paleontological Society**, Brook-haven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane; second Wednesday of the month at 7:30.

**Oak Cliff Gem & Mineral Society**, South Hampton Community Hospital,

2929 Hampton Rd, Dallas, TX; forth Tuesday of month . at 7:00.

**Dallas Bead Society**, The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lather Dr., Dallas, TX; first Saturday of month at 10:00.

**Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club**, Garland Women's Activities Bldg, 713 Austin, Garland, TX; first Tuesday of month at 7:30.