



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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CERA GEM, MINERAL, & GLASS CLUB

Tuesday, September 10 at 7pm
3300 Bryant Irvin Blvd
Fort Worth, TX 76109
Gateway Room

Art Meets Science: Intro to Electroforming

Electroforming is a true art form where two pieces will never look alike. Discover how to use copper electroforming to create unique pieces, how to get started, and tips on advanced techniques.

Presentation by:
Gina Koenig

rocks soothe my soul

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.

President's Letter and Thank You!

As I write this we are just a few days away from our Panther City Expo Gem and Mineral show and sale. We owe "THANKS!" to so many people who helped with our first show planning and execution. As always, Robert Reed has been there to assist with CERA and keep us all on target for budget and representing our members. Carla Lacey and Carmen Sorenson got our Vendors (with some help from others at shows and word of mouth) even having to turn a few away as our space was full. This was a juried show to help us assure variety in our vendor offerings. This made the registration process more complicated, but it worked. Most of our larger vendors were actually "invited" as we had no mailing list to work from.

Marketing included a lot of new activities: expanding facebook and instagram, using event marketing and our postcards, flyers, signs, t-shirts and all print media.

Janice Burns donated hours of her time preparing our scale layout drawing for CERA and our vendors. I hope you saw the layout during your visits in the lobby. Her attention to detail, ADA requirements and traffic flow is incredible.

CERA staff spent a lot of time helping us, answering questions, setting up our tables, pointing us to resources

Commissioner's Report

Hello Gem, Mineral & Glass Members.

It's a wrap! We had a very successful First Annual Panther City Expo Show. We had a good crowd, and the vendors I spoke with are satisfied with the volume of sales at their booths. We even had a couple of vendors asking for contracts to be at next year's show. We couldn't have executed such a successful event without all of your help. Thank you to everyone who volunteered for the event. Some of the volunteers included Show Co-Chairs, Carla Lacey and Carmen Sorenson, Silent Auction, Jacque Brock, facility layout/design by Janice Burns, and Food Concessions, Judy Dobbs. I know there were many more volunteers so thank you to all!

We are capturing lessons learned and documenting contact lists to make this job easier next year. We have a new club web page for the [Panther City Expo](#), and Carmen Sorenson has started an Instagram channel. I have not tried to access that one yet, but promise to do so soon. We need to share and get followers to both of these

available with CERA media vendors and extra security coverage for the weekend.

Jacque Brock volunteered to do the silent auction, organizing your donated items. We budgeted 120 items and received enough for 300+ groups of items to be auctioned. Thank you all for your generosity.

Judy Dobson volunteered to manage our food preparation and sales with nachos, drinks and a sale of baked goods.

Brad has lined up several classes for new members as well as fun classes for all of us.

We have volunteers lined up to assist at the club table, demos and assisting during the show. I'm sure I have missed a number of those who helped behind the scenes.

Without your contribution we could not have organized our show with our short lead time. The first is always the hardest as everything is new.

And if we weren't busy enough....SCFMS (South Central Federation of Mineral Societies) needed updates to our officers and the CERA budget was prepared for submission in early September, our Bride Tribe committee also met to decide how to introduce the Gem and Mineral Club into CERA's venture into wedding hosting.

If you have been bored lately, it is not our fault, as we've keep a lot of you pretty busy!

Thanks again to you all! Hope you \ enjoyed the show!
C J Wright, Pres. *CJ*

social media options. There were also several people that signed up as new members during the show, I think 4 more have paid dues and as many as 10 more are interested and may attend our meeting September 10th club meeting.

One of our vendors has volunteered to offer our October program on fluorites from the UK. Tom Riddick with have these UK fluorites and an assortment of faceting rough available for sale during the meeting at a discount from his normal rates.

As noted in last month's club meeting, CJ Wright and I are working up a 2025 operating budget for the club. Please be thinking about Capital items to add to the budget. We will discuss in the next club meeting on 9/10/2024. I will need to turn in the budget the next day. The revenue we made from the Panther City Expo will build good will with the CERA Board of Directors, so they will be more willing to buy us some capital equipment. The definition of Capital is any equipment

Bench Tips

Last month I started distributing these tips via Gmail rather than MailChimp that I had used for years. One downside is that messages using the Blind Copy feature are sometimes tagged by your email reader as spam. So please let me know if you've received this email and the one last month.

Below are a couple of my jewelry bench tips to use in your club newsletter next month. All I ask is that you include an attribution below (and the live link if possible) whenever you use the tips in your newsletter.

[See More of my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making Series](http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ)

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

BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com

TAPERED REAMERS

A tool you don't see often these days is a tapered reamer. It's not a tool you'll use everyday, but they're particularly useful for making an irregular hole round or for enlarging a hole to an exact diameter. For example, the small set in the yellow pouch is for holes in the range of 0.3mm to 2.5mm. They are great for sizing a tube to fit a hinge pin. Other times when I'm drilling a hole for riveting and can't find the exact size drill, I simply drill the holes with a slightly smaller bit and enlarge them with a reamer until the wire just fits.

For larger hole sizes in sheet metal up to 14 ga, I really like the reamer with the black handle. It makes quick work of sizing holes from about 3mm to 12mm. You can find them in well-equipped hardware stores.

You may never use the large diameter reamers, but when sawing out a ring from 4mm thick sheet, I found they worked well for rounding and sizing the hole.

TESTING FOR SILVER

Often you need to identify some of those unknown "silvery" pieces of metal in the bottom of the toolbox or some piece of old jewelry that is not hallmarked. Is it silver or is it something else?

Of course, if you need to know exactly what you have, it's best to send your metals off for refining. But inexpensive silver testing solutions can be used to help distinguish higher silver content alloys from alloys that have the same appearance but with little to no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41. It's not a rigorous analytic test, but it lets you know if you're on the right track. And it's inexpensive. Mine was only \$3.

With a fresh solution you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. The procedure is simple - apply a small drop and watch for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish.

If you suspect the object is silver plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface. Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating.

Here's the reaction I got when testing various materials:

- . Fine silver Red/Orange
- . Sterling silver Brick Red
- . 80% silver 20% copper . Dark red changing to gray
- . Brass Yellow changing to blue
- . Nickel Gray-green
- . Copper Yellow changing to blue
- . Steel Black
- . Stainless Steel No color change

Fine silver	Red/Orange
Sterling silver	Brick Red
80% silver 20% copper	Dark red changing to gray
Brass	Yellow changing to blue
Nickel	Gray-green
Copper	Yellow changing to blue
Steel	Black
Stainless Steel	No color change

Caution - If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate.

Wear safety glasses.

Do not get any testing solution on your skin.

Use a solution of baking soda and water to neutralize acid.

Wash and clean up well when you're done.



Continued from page 2

from his normal rates.

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equipment. The definition of Capital is any equipment over \$300 that is expected to have a lifetime of at least 5 years.

Both CJ Wright and Carmen Sorenson will be traveling to the Denver Show during this month's meeting, so I will be leading the meeting.

Best Regards
Robert Reed, Commissioner

Robert

Glass Activity

I always hate to toss pretty glass in the recycling bin when I break something. I had a small green glass mixing bowl that I cracked, so I thought it would be fun to melt it flat in the kiln and the slump it into a new bowl shape. It started out pretty promising. The problem is that it is difficult to know what firing schedule to use when attempting to melt random pieces of glass. My first attempt did not slump the bowl flat. When I tried it again the glass devitrified (became non-glossy) in parts and a giant bubble mysteriously formed. I ended up tossing it in the recycle bin. However it was a fun experiment, so I still count it as a win. If you have a piece of pretty broken glass, maybe don't give up on it right away. Janice makes earring out of crushed broken jars, Amber has made pretty cabochons from embossed glass and quite a few people in the club have made beautiful things from wine and other bottles. If you ever want to experiment with something, let me know, I can promise good results, but it is always fun to try.

For classes I am tentatively scheduling beginning fusing for Wednesday Sept 18th from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm and a patchwork mini bowl class for October 10th from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

Felice



EXPERIMENT



Our thanks are just not enough to Janice Burns!

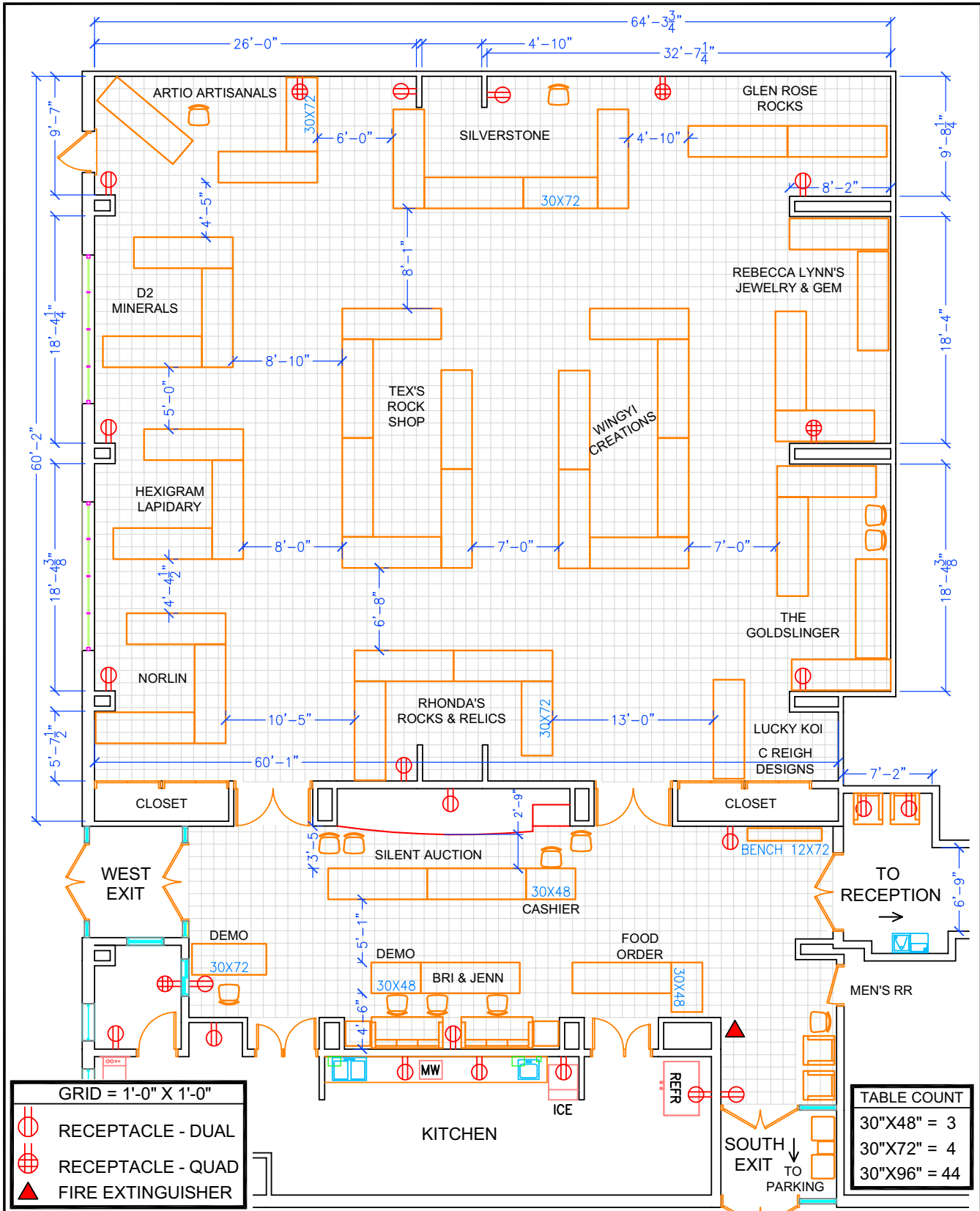
She spent many hours getting our floor plan for our Panther Expo ready for our show and table placement. Her attention to detail is incredible. If you have a need for a drafter to layout space for a new build, remodel or a project like our show, contact her. She has been a design draftsman since 1975, operates her own business, Project Details since 1992. See an example of what she did for us on the next page!

PROJECT DETAILS A-E-C
Field Tech and Drafting Services

Applications: Facility Operations Support - Create CAD drawings convert to PDF = Electronic communication with departments and the trades
Bldg Plans, Production Lines, Safety Equipment, Evac Plans, Etc.

Janice Burns
817.773.4528

ALSO... New Design...Remodel...or...Reconfigure Your Space!
RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL - ENVIRONMENTAL - CIVIL
project-details@att.net 087



NOTE: TABLES 30"X96" UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

PROJECT DETAILS	
A-E-C & FACILITY SUPPORT SERVICES 3036 Yucca Rd, Willow Park, TX 76087 project-details@att.net Ph: 817.773.4528	
DRAWN JLB	DATE 8/27/2024

2024 PANTHER CITY EXPO	
8/31/2024 - 9/1/2024	
CERA Gem, Mineral & Glass Club	
3300 Bryant Irvin Rd, Fort Worth, TX 76109	

TITLE	TABLE LAYOUT TRINITY ROOM, CERA COMPLEX		
SCALE	3/32 = 1'-0"	DWG NO.	CGMG-24-01
REV			

August 13, 2024 Minutes

C.J. Wright, President, Called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Robert Reed, Commissioner, discussed the budget by month as required by CERA, He and CJ will write and submit. He also mentioned the larger dollar items needing to be worked into the plan such as diamond replacement wheels for cabbing machines and saw blade replacements.

Daniel, shop co-chair, brought up the need for a 10" saw blade, one of the 20" saws has been modified to accept an 18" blade, refrigerator has stopped working as a/c drip shorted it out so needs replacing. The faucet in the cutting room needs replacing as can no longer be fixed.

Robert and CJ introduced the Bridal Package concept as presented to them by Crissy. CERA is wanting to rent out the Trinity room as a wedding venue and would like to offer packages like table toppers, rentals of decorations, etc. There will be a meeting in 2 weeks to further explore. Tina Moore, Judy and Carmen volunteered to be on the committee to explore bridal package offerings.

Brad, Class Chair, said that we would be starting Faceting 301 the week after the show. When that class is over, Faceting 101 will start again – probably early November. Need to set date for second Stabilizing class. Glass Slumping class is in the works. Need to get another Silversmithing class started – probably will have longer hours so as to finish the class more quickly. Judy volunteered to teach! We will implement a 2 week advance announcement for classes.

Gina, Field Chair, said program is in the works for meteorite presentation.

Colleen, Newsletter Coordinator, said she has nothing new – same request for articles, pictures etc to put into the monthly letter.

Felice, Glass Chair, spoke about the Slumping class and said the class will be limited to 5-6 people and product will be supplied for the class.

Carla, Show Chair, spoke about our needs for the show and briefly "introduced" the vendors which would be attending. There was much input and discussion on this topic.



Web and Email Addresses

GMG main page <http://cera-fw.org/gem-mineral-glass/>

Registration page <http://cera-fw.org/gem-mineral-glass/home/registration/>

Newsletter

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

Link to Facebook [HTTPS://www.facebook.com/CERAFortworth](https://www.facebook.com/CERAFortworth)

Gem & Mineral Shows

September

28-29—LUBBOCK, TEXAS: Show and sale; Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society; Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Lane; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; \$5 Age 12 and up, \$3 age 6 - 12, 5 and under free; contact Walt Beneze, (806) 797-5832; Email: walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org; Website: www.lubbockgemandmineral.org

12-13—TEMPLE, TEXAS: Annual show; Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society; Frank W. Mayborn Civic and Convention Center, 3301 N. 3rd Street; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; \$5 Adults, \$3 13-17 years, children free when with adult or guardian; contact Lois Ruth Rolston, (254) 718-2559; Email: Irolston@hotmail.com

October

18-20—AUSTIN, TEXAS: Annual show; Austin Gem and Mineral Society (AGMS); Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$8, Seniors and Military ID \$7, Ages 13-18 \$2, Children ages 12 and under free; Over 30 vendors contact Laird Fowler, (512) 458-9546; Email: show_chairman@austingemandmineral.org; Website: www.agms-tx.or

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.