



CGMG News

Publication of CERA Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club
Member of Corporate Employee Recreation Association
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Commissioner
Robert Reed
robert.t.reed@lmco.com

President
CJ Wright
505 239-5711
cjzwright@icloud.com

Vice-President, Programs
Program Graphics
Carmen Sorenson
817-528-8297

Vice-President, Field Trips
Gina Koenig
817-480-0569
gkrockhunts@gmail.com

Vice-President, Education
Sharon Williams
214-616-8410
srwms4@yahoo.com

Vice-President, Glass
Felice Moreno
felicemoreno@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor
Colleen Reigh
colleenreigh@att.net

Secretary
Carla Lacey
laceycarla123@gmail.com

CERA GEM, MINERAL, & GLASS ICE CREAM



Social

Bring samples of new gem and mineral finds as well as recent projects to share.

We bring the ice cream and
You bring toppings and sides

TUESDAY, JULY 8, 7PM

The Purpose of the CERA 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.

From Your President

More than I ever expected!

As we anticipate any new venture, new job, volunteer opportunity, responsibility, even a vacation we have expectations. Sometimes they are clearly articulated and sometimes we don't even recognize our expectations. If not met, it can lead to disappointment, but if you open your eyes and minds to see the unexpected, we can often be surprised that our expectations are even exceeded. CERA Gem and Mineral club is no different. Sometimes we don't fulfill your expectations, especially if you don't share what you want and then help us achieve it. And no, I don't hear many complaints, just suggestions to make the club better. However, when you share and help you will likely find your expectations are not only met, but exceed what you thought possible. And you have more fun when you are involved.

Our leaders have exceeded my expectations as well as the volunteers who make the club work. We have so much to offer to members:

- monthly educational programs by those willing to share their knowledge,
- an informative newsletter to keep us up-to-date on club

activities,

- member donations for auctions of really nice materials,
- our show and sale Labor Day weekend and the vendors who make the show what it is,

- Thursday night open shop for members to work on class projects or your own projects with others,

- a well equipped shop available to our members after they have shown competence in using the equipment and open almost all daylight hours, -those who keep the shop equipment working, updated and offer suggestions and proposals for new ways to do things,

- frequent classes, new skills classes and great teachers.

Then when we think field trips are mostly local, although West Texas is hardly "local" even if within our state, we have one that takes us all the way to the west coast with other members.

Thanks to all of you, our Commissioner, Robert Reed, our CERA Board and staff which make the club possible, our officers, vendors, volunteers, and most of all you, our members!

Thanks for exceeding my expectations! And let's have fun!!

C J Wright, President

Does anyone use instagram? I need help in posting things there! I can take care of facebook. But just don't have time to do instagram. PLEASE need HELP! Jacque Brock jacque_brock01@yahoo.com

Commissioner's Report

Fellow Gem Mineral & Glass members,

Since it is hot outside, we traditionally hold an Ice Cream social for our July club meeting! The club will supply the ice cream, drinks, bowls and utensils. We ask members to help by bringing toppings, cookies, and other goodies that go with ice cream to round out the party. We will still hold a business meeting, but this is really a time to get to know each other better.

I would like to recognize Deb Bartlett and Sharon Williams for bringing forward a proposal to get Bullseye fusing glass in bulk for a 50% discount off normal prices. We are replenishing stock for use with upcoming fusing and other advanced glass classes. Instead of adding the material cost to the class fees, there will be a small fee based on the weight of glass in the finished piece for the students. This also helps our glass artists by having stock available, so they do not have to invest in their own personal stock. The proposal went to the CERA Board of

Directors and is approved.

We have less than 60 days left until the 2nd Annual Panther City Expo is in full swing. Please reach out to Show Chair Carla Lacey, our President CJ, or me if you are willing to help with the show. The vendors are oversold, so we need to have a good showing. Please help advertise our show on August 30th and 31st.

SPECIAL REQUEST - Tina Moore is looking for some help slabbing about 90 pounds each of thunder eggs and polka dot agate from the recent club field trip to Oregon. Tina would like to see about cutting some of the thunder eggs in half and cutting slabs of the polka dot agate for sale in the upcoming Panther City Expo with some of the proceeds going to the club. If anyone is able to help Tina out, please let me know.

Thank you everyone for making our club great! I look forward to seeing you at the July 8th club meeting.

Best Regards,

Robert Reed

CERA Gem Mineral & Glass Commissioner

CERA Gem, Mineral, and Glass Club Minutes June, 2025

The meeting was called to order by the President, CJ Wright, with 24 in attendance.

Robert Reed, Commissioner, reported that last month's auction netted \$1040. Board of Directors have issued no new policies or procedures. A request for funds for Glass to purchase product needed for glass classes has been submitted. Rent of Silversmithing tools and product has been approved. David D. is requesting donations of old pillowcases for recycling of saw oil.

The Secretary's report was approved.

Sharon Williams, VP of Classes, thanked the new and existing teachers and reviewed the tool renting proposal for Silversmithing classes. Discussed another Stabilizing class. Paige to do a big saw class. Paige has a class coming, a 5 week Silversmithing Skillbuilder class requiring participants have finished the Beginning Silversmithing class.

Carla Lacey, Chair for 2025 show, reviewed progress and made suggestions for consideration.

Gina Koenig, VP of Field trips, was not in attendance. The upcoming Oregon trip was discussed. Also, we can get a carpool going for the Intergem Show. A trip to Turkey, TX is planned for the weekend of 6/28 to collect alabaster.

Felice Moreno, VP of Glass, asked for any glass donations—including clear glass. Beginning Fusing class has moved to July and will start with Glass 101 then progress to Glass 201.

Neither co-chairs for the shop were present. Discussed the air conditioning problem, where are the blades for the metal shears, should new shears be purchased.

New and Unfinished Business. Carmen brought up safety meetings and asked for suggestions as to how to make the class less boring

Carmen Sorenson, VP of Programs, presented a show and discussion regarding Agates. Very interesting and informative.

Respectfully submitted,

Bench Tips by Brad Smith

DO BEZELS SHRINK

The engineer in me says there's no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone won't quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering.

If that ever happens to you, here's a fix that usually works for those times when there's just a minor problem. I file or sand the stone down a little around its base. For soft cabs like Turquoise, Lapis, Jet or Howelite, you can use a sanding stick. Harder cabs like jasper or agates will require a diamond file. In a pinch, a ruby nail file from the drug store will work.

There are two important things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment to the stone's size. All filing or sanding has to be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone.

Secondly, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder at the bottom joint of your bezel. Any

problem with the fit in this area might break the stone as you burnish the bezel down onto it.

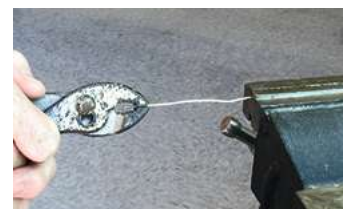
STRAIGHTENING WIRE

Have you ever reached for your silver wire only to find that it's all bent up? The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit.

Simply put one end in the bench vise and grab the other end with a pair of serrated tip pliers. Then pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band. This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16 ga.

Be careful if you are trying to pull hard on a thick wire. Brace yourself in case the wire breaks or pulls out of the pliers.

See More of my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making Series <http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>



Tips from Jacque Brock

Use worn down bristle brush to create texture from Ganoksin. Good way to protect fingers and delicate bezel wire while filing. Use an eraser. Courtesy of fb



Glass Activity

I have had a couple of people ask me recently why I like to fuse glass. For lapidary, I love the process of turning rough rock into polished stone, but it is very deliberate somewhat tedious process. With silversmithing, I like the planning, the problem solving, the construction, and of course the end product. Glass on the other hand for me is all about the speed of creation. I know with that the lack of precision that I put into my work that I am not going to be creating the kind of art that the glass artists in our shop are producing, but I am completely fine with that. Sometimes I just feel the need to make something pretty. A lot of my glass winds up with a hole drilled in it hanging from my trees or the trees of my relatives, but in the winter when all the flowers are gone, they really look bright and colorful. Also, nobody cares, or has commented that I apparently still cannot cut a straight line. So, I would again encourage you to give fusing a shot, it doesn't have to take over your life, it might just be something for you to pick up when you want to create a lopsided bowl. Not that I have ever made one or more of those. This is also something that really fun to do with friends. Bring a friend and take a class. Felice

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>

Classes

Hello Gem, Mineral and Glass Members,

The following classes are scheduled for July:

Introduction to Fused Glass: Kiln Forming Basics – Instructor: Deb Bartlett

Dates: July 9th – July 30th, Wednesdays, 6pm to 9pm

Students will create test tiles to comprehend the varying fusing ranges of the kilns. As a final project, each student will produce either an 8-inch glass tile or two 4-inch glass tiles. All materials will be provided.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be authorized to use the glass equipment independently for their individual projects.

General Lapidary – Instructor: Paige Pauley

Dates: July 15th – July 17th, 6pm to 9pm

This intensive three-evening class will introduce students to trim saws, Covington combination grinder, sander, and polishing machines. By the conclusion of the course, students will have completed two cabochons. Supplies will be provided.

Upon successful completion of the class, students will be authorized to utilize the lapidary equipment independently for

their projects.

Silversmithing 101 – Instructor: Paige Pauley

Dates: July 21st – July 23rd, 6pm to 9pm

The focus of this class is to learn soldering using a butane torch. The course will cover simple texturing, cutting, measuring, sawing, filing, and making a bezel. Each student will complete a cabochon pendant. Sterling silver and cabochon will be provided.

Students who complete Silversmithing 101 can join the weekly skills and project classes starting in August.

Tool Rental: Tool rental package is available for silversmithing classes and Thursday Open Shop Night. Perfect for students without tools or those not ready to invest.

Open Shop Night: Every Thursday night, 6pm to 9pm

Daniel, Felice, and I will be available to assist with your projects. If you have taken a class and need assistance with a project or equipment one of us will be able to help.

If you have any questions, need additional information or assistance, you are welcome to contact me.

Call or text: 214-616-8410

Email: srwms4@yahoo.com

Sharon

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.