



# CGMG News

Publication of CERA Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club  
Member of Corporate Employee Recreation Association  
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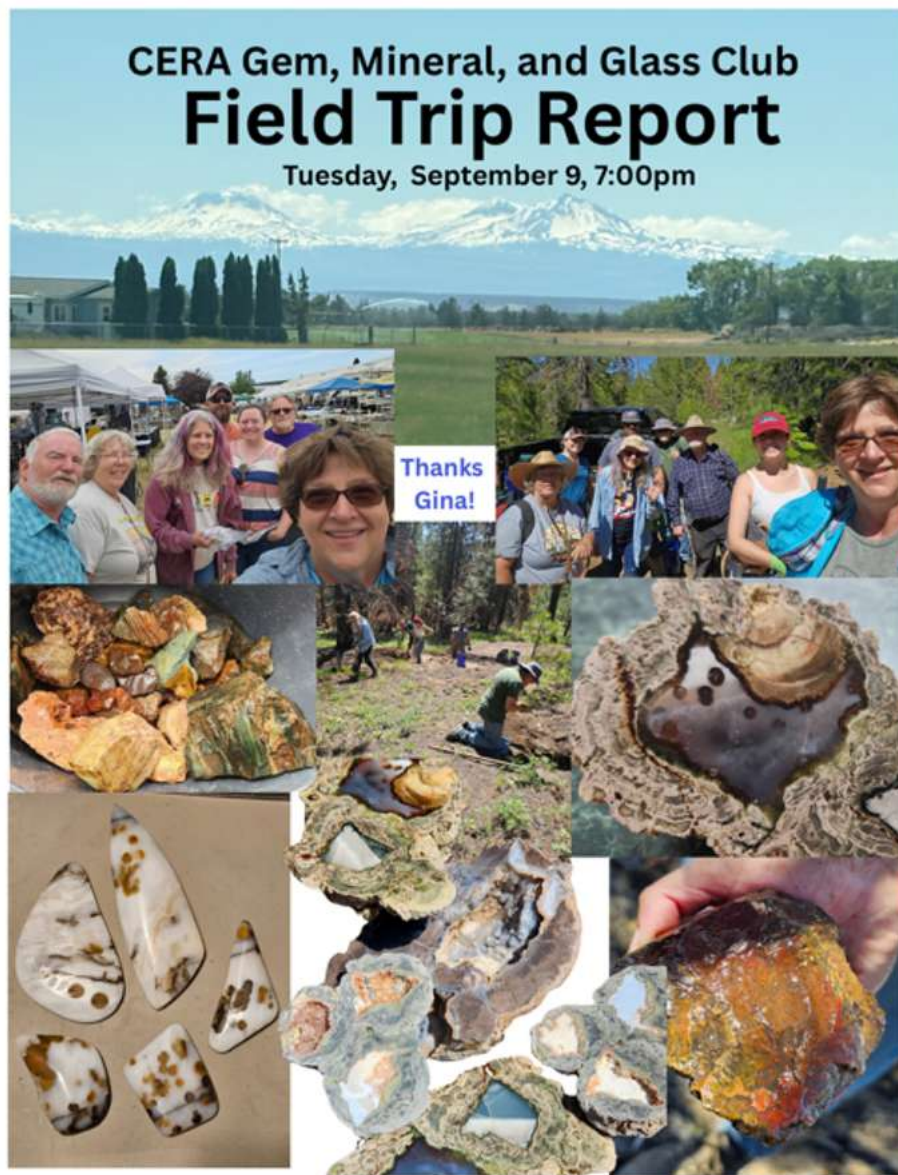
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## *The Purpose of the CERA Gem Mineral & Glass Activity*

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

What a great show we just completed!

Thanks to our vendors with a wide variety of materials, members with finished jewelry and gem, mineral and glass items. And most of all to Carla Lacey for coordinating the show and all of you members who showed up to help. I hope all of you are getting rested (my body says, please), and geared up for another great year. It looks like we will have the gymnasium for next year - a bigger and maybe even better show as we continue to grow our following and our club.

Shows are great fun, an excellent way to spend a holiday, and the opportunity to buy some exciting material to continue and enhance your hobbies. It is fun to see what beautiful things the vendors have to inspire us.

During the show, I observed the interactions with club members from CERA, Fort Worth, Arlington, Dallas and some friends from clubs farther away. Most hobbies are just better with friends. What I saw was a club that was engaged!

Enjoying seeing friends, sharing your experiences, what great materials you found and pitching in to help with whatever we needed to help the show run smoothly.

I love watching members tell about what the club has to offer, showing off what they have made, talking about new classes, showing off our shop and what we have to offer. A group that is not just about themselves, but about how we can help others expand their skills and use their talents within the gem, mineral and glass community.

Robert tells you how our club has grown in the last couple of years in his Commissioner's Report. Give yourselves a pat on the back! It shows, as we have known for a long time, that we are a welcoming, friendly, sharing group. A group proud to be members of CERA Gem, Mineral and Glass!

Thanks from a pleased President,

CJ Wright

Pres, CERA GMG

## 2025 CGMG Show



## Door Prize Winners



## Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

### 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 isn't 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

Sterling silver

80% silver 20% copper

Brass

Nickel

Copper

Steel

Stainless Steel

Red/Orange

Brick Red

Dark red changing to gray

Yellow changing to blue

Gray-green

Yellow changing to blue

Black

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.



### REMOVING SOLDER FROM A BEZEL

Sometimes when you solder a bezel to a base plate you end up with excess solder that needs to be removed before setting the stone. My choice of a tool bit for this is an "Inverse Cone" bur used in a motor tool or flexshaft.

The nice thing about this bur is that it cuts on the bottom and the side and is shaped so that there's less chance of it cutting into the bezel wall than if you used the more common cylinder bur shape. I find the 2 mm size useful for almost any bezel.

There's hundreds of different tool tips for your Dremel or Foredom. Get Brad's guide on choosing the best one for the job at [amazon.com/dp/B074LG35ZV](https://amazon.com/dp/B074LG35ZV)

See More of my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making

[http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ](https://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ)



## Commissioner's Report

Fellow Gem Mineral & Glass members,

Thank you all for chipping in to help with the successful 2nd Annual Panther City Expo! We couldn't have done this without our Show Chair, Carla Lacey. A big shout out to Carla for all her efforts. We have several new members that joined during the show, and I deposited about \$800 in cash on the last day. There were also credit card charges that went straight to the accounting department, so it will take some time for a complete accounting for the show. We are open to feedback on how the show went and will discuss during the September 9th monthly meeting.

It is time to start thinking about the 2026 club budget and officers for next year. If you have any ideas that need to be considered for capital investment or operations of the club, please let me know. I also ask you to consider teaching a class, running for an office or leading a committee. We have grown a lot in 2025 from 55 to about 80 members at of the show! The more we come together for new offerings the more we can grow.

Thank you everyone for making our club great! I look forward to seeing you at the September 9th club meeting

Best Regards,

Best Regards, Robert Reed

CERA Gem Mineral & Glass Commissioner



Check out the class offerings on the CERA website.

You are welcome to contact Sharon for additional information or assistance.

Call or text: 214-616-8410 Email: [srwms4@yahoo.com](mailto:srwms4@yahoo.com)

Sharon Williams VP Education

## CERA Gem, Mineral, and Glass Club Minutes August, 2025

CJ Wright, President, called the meeting to order with 32 in attendance.

Robert Reed, Commissioner, spoke briefly about the CERA Square, a credit card reading device, that should be turned over soon for the show.

CJ Wright, President, informed us that she will be having knee replacement surgery Sept. 16. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Sharon Williams, VP of Classes, was running late so Felice Moreno, VP of Glass, spoke for her. Tina Moore will be having a stained glass class 8/27-9/10. Plans are underway for a Fused Glass 2 class for advanced students. Many new and exciting classes are being offered in the next few months – go to the Classes/registration page on our website for a complete list. We are all thrilled to have new teachers with extensive backgrounds offering to teach new skills. Many of the Glasscrafters got together and organized their area and it looks wonderful. The silversmithing rental program is working well.

Gina Koenig, VP of Field Trips, had nothing new in the

works. Janice Bowen bragged on the Oregon trip that was offered in June. A great time was had by all.

Colleen Reigh, Newsletter Editor, reminded us that the deadline for submissions for the newsletter is the first Monday of the month.

David Morgan, Co-Chair of Shop Status, has just come back into town and found that 2 of the 20” saws are down as well as other minor repairs needing attention.

Carla Lacey, Chair of the 2025 Show, spoke of the need for volunteers to work the show and passed around a sign-up sheet. Donations for the Silent Auction were requested – please make a note as to the origin and suggested price starting point if you donate special items. Donations should be left in the shop with a note as to their purpose. Many small matters pertaining to the show were discussed as well.

Carmen Sorenson, VP of Programs, introduced Debra Limbocker, a member and glass worker extraordinaire, who did a wonderful presentation with examples of Bullseye Fusible Art Glass creations.

Respectfully Submitted, Carla Lacey



## 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>

Doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will. Unknown

## Glass Activity

Deb is offering a couple of really neat intro level classes glass fusing classes that are coming up. You probably saw the sample pocket vases at the show. They were really pretty and attracted a lot of attention at the show. The class to create those is called Fused Glass Pocket Vases and it being offered on Saturday, Sept. 13th, 9am - 1pm OR October 18, 2025, 9am - 1pm. I believe right now there is only one spot open for the September class.

The second class is a fused glass nightlight, Deb brought samples to the last meeting and they were cute and colorful and looked great with a light

shining behind them. Both of these classes are intro level and do not have any prerequisites.

The second class is Fused Glass II. If you have already taken the beginning fusing class with Deb, this will take you to the next level in glass fusing. I am not entirely sure what Deb has up her sleeves, but it is sure to be cool.

For all three classes all materials are provided.

During the show Janice also provided a sneak peek at fused some garden stakes she has been working on. Keep an eye on the class listings and newsletter for more details about that.

Felice

## Area Clubs

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

**Oak Cliff Gem & Mineral Society**, South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 Hampton Rd, Dallas, TX; first Tuesday of month at 7:00.

**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**, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley

View Lane; second Wednesday at 7:30.

**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.