

# THE VOICE

VOLUME LXII    NUMBER 8    JUNE 2011

NEWSLETTER OF THE EL PASO MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY

P.O. Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931

Membership Dues are due and payable as of December of each year. Dues are \$12.00 for Adults (18 and Over) and \$4.00 for Juniors. Make check out to EPMGS and mail to PO Box 31516 El Paso TX 79931. **Delinquency of over 90 days will result in being removed from the Membership Roster.**

**Meetings will be held on the 4th Thursday of every month at The Memorial Senior Center, 1800 Byron, El Paso TX at 6:30 PM.** Board Meetings will usually be held a half hour prior to the general meeting

## THE VOICE

The Voice is the official bulletin of the Society and is published monthly. All articles must be in the editor's possession no later than the Monday following the monthly meeting. Any articles received after that will not be published until the following month.

E-mail [madtex@q.com](mailto:madtex@q.com) and mailing address: EPMGS, Editor, PO Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931. Members are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Permission is granted to reprint material from other sources provided that credit is properly cited. Ads are accepted from members for publication at no charge for the sale or exchange of items pertaining to the hobby.

**WEBSITE: [www.epmgs.com](http://www.epmgs.com)**

The El Paso Mineral and Gem Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization. The purpose of this Society shall be to increase and

disseminate knowledge about minerals and other geologic materials; to encourage mineral study, collecting and fashioning as a hobby; to conduct meeting, lectures, displays, field trips, and to sponsor shows for the general edification of the public.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

**NOTE: Anyone who has a change in mailing address, phone number, etc. please send e-mails to Judy Herd at [pyritejudy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pyritejudy@sbcglobal.net), or mail to: EPMGS Membership, PO Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931. Thank you.**

**“The sun, with all those planets revolving around it and dependent on it, can still ripen a bunch of grapes as if it had nothing else in the universe to do.”  
Galileo**

## General Meeting

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The next meeting will be **June 23, 2011 at 6:30pm**. This will be a Trunk Meeting! Members are encouraged to bring in some of their rocks, gems, carvings, jewelry etc., to swap or sell to each other. No junk please. All members whose last name begins with A-L please bring in snack or desert items.

**Our July 23, 2011 – Saturday will be our picnic.** It will be held at Alum Park on the east side. Additional information is pending.

## Secretary Report

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Minutes General Meeting El Paso Mineral and Gem Society By, Secretary Teresa Ziraldo.

5.26.2011 Meeting called to order at 6:30

Guests & New Members:

Tom Ontiveros

Tony Rodriguez were given welcoming rock slabs

Minutes from last meeting were read.

Riitta read financial reports from April & May

School Reports given by each teacher,

Mr. Bates – Lapidary class is full.

Peggy announced the special arts class with diachronic glass Tues. & Thurs. Afternoon. 12:30-4:00

Michael discussed casting class with Tues. & Thurs. 9:15-12:15 is using various alloys. Reggie discussed silver smith classes

Monday & Wed morning & afternoon using a lot of copper & brass instead of silver because of the rising cost.

All classes are full with new and continuing students.

Next field trip will be to Williamsburg south of TRC

The second Saturday of June, Meet time 7AM at the What a Burger at the outlet mall For more info see The EPMG website

New Business:

Liz brought the discussion the renewal of insurance that covers club meetings, the December show and the school.

Tom Smith motioned that the Club pay for half and the School pay for half.

The motioned was seconded by many and passed unanimously with a quorum.

It was also moved that inquires be made to hold the Club Picnic at Alum Park.

Valerie is inquiring to see if there are any scheduled conflicts at the park.

Liz asked that any scheduling for programs at general meetings and what will be held should go through Valerie Provencio, the program planning chair person, before it is announced and decided by that committee to allow for proper planning and time consideration.

“The Trunk” show that was announced in the last issue of the Voice will take place at the end of a shortened meeting.

Terry Atkinson suggested that the EPMG Society announce their meetings and field trips

in El Tiempo, El Paso Scene “Things to do” sections.

Michele Nassur will get it into action.

\$100 will be given to our historian, Marty, to update photo albums.

Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

The Scholarship was awarded to Marisa Cameron.

P.J. Explained the scholarship process and the SOP’s that were followed for

information on how and where the selection process is done.

The discussion followed with how and when the money for the scholarship fund is generated.

It was suggested to add "In Lieu of Flowers" for generating scholarship funds along with donation box at the show.

The CD was discussed as it also contains scholarship monies.

It was suggested to add Jewelry Arts major as a suitable recipient for the scholarship.

The discussion was tabled. Meeting adjourned at 6:30

Followed by Snacks brought by M-Z

## Field Trip

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Round Mountain Field Trip Report - submitted by Sue Critz

June's field trip will be June 11 (second Saturday) to Williamsburg, NM. This is a spot found by Larry Hagar that is rich in agate, jasper, wood and quartz cobbles. It will be HOT so bring a hat, sunscreen, plenty to drink and of course don't forget your collecting bucket. You might also find a rock hammer or digging tool helpful, but most material is exposed at the surface.

We'll take a lunch break at the Denny's just

off I-25 in T or C, so those who have had enough of the heat can eat and sneak back down the highway while the diehards continue to pick up all the good stuff.

We'll rendezvous at our typical west side location: the Whataburger at the Outlet Mall located at the intersection of I-10 and Trans mountain. Those who want to arrange carpooling can do so on the morning of the trip. This location is a safe place to leave your vehicle for the day if you want to double up with another Rockhound and save some gas money. We'll meet at 7:30 AM in order to get a jump on the heat.

See you all there!

-Sue

## FROM THE MINE OF THE EDITOR

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When I go to rock shows or see what craftsmen and artist do with their rocks and minerals I'm amazed at what talent some people have. On several occasions I've

viewed great carvings out of stone, some massive others fine and intricate. I would like to do that I always thought.

At a recent rock show I attended, a dealer friend had a box of alabaster from California. I bought several small blocks of the white with black matrix resembling howlite. I told myself, it's time to stop being a spectator and get dirty.

I have a book of Native Indian patterns. I made a stencil of a bear and copied the pattern on to the stone. Using a Dremel tool, diamond bits, files and sand paper I got to work. There were many learning moments and experience is the best teacher.

In the end, I held a carved bear, fish, snake and crosses. They're small scale but they exists in my hand now not in my mind's eye. Slowly I will improve just as I've done with making cabs and other lapidary skills. Now when I see great carvings, I look to how I can duplicate techniques and ask a lot more questions.



## Shell Jewelry & Bolas



Perhaps the only sea shells you'll find around here are fossilized. The ones you've brought back from the sunny beaches can get a new life when you turn them in to a pendant or bola tie.

Pick out your favorite shell to use, after all you found it and hauled back home! Place the shell on flat hard surface covered with sand paper. Carefully grind it till it's completely flat with no light showing underneath.

Using a mixture of saw dust or light sand and Elmer's glue fill the interior of the shell. Let it harden and sand down flat a second time. This will give the shell a solid core to strengthen it.

Take a thin sheet of copper outline the shell. After cutting to fit, polish the edges, epoxy it to the back of the shell. Epoxy the bola tie clamp on the back. For a pendant, solder the finding of your choice then polish and attach to the shell.

The Santa Domingo Indians of Santa Fe, NM add flattened silver wire, turquoise chips or coral to their pieces. Let your imagination go on decorating them. This procedure will not work will live clams. Hanging live sea life around your neck places you in to "bait" category.

## The Pharaohs Jewelers



Rock Gem Article January 1978 by Zolton Malocsay.

"The jewelry of ancient Egypt is all the more remarkable considering the Pharaohs goldsmiths didn't have the simplest iron tools. Imagine working with no shears or saws or files or metal drills. They used bronze chisels to cut their metal and bow

string bows perhaps tipped with flint to bore holes.

Archeologists have uncovered some of the original tools and wall murals showing goldsmiths at work, but the biggest mysteries surrounded the use of hard solder. How did the ancients manage to do such delicate work with such primitive equipment?

We know that soldering was done by heating the metal on a charcoal brazier, a kind of clay bowl no bigger than a back yard BBQ. Blowpipes made of reed directed more heat on to the areas being joined. The flux was natron a substance composed of sodium carbonate and bi-carbonate and other sodium salts common to Egypt.

But what about the solder? We know that the ancients invented some hard alloy solders, perhaps learning from their experiments with bronze that melting temperature can be changed by adding other metals to the alloys. They used to solder on some pieces, but other pieces are really mysterious.

Many examples of the ancients gold works exists where the gold solder doesn't show at all, not even after all these centuries. Even when studied quite closely, these objects seem to have been welded or fused together somehow, not soldered, yet it's fairly impossible to use reeds and charcoal forges to fuse gold without melting it altogether. So how was it done?

Cyril Aldred, author of the book “Jewels of the Pharaoh” is certain that “the ancients soldered their gold work with a process known as colloidal hard soldering, which was re-discovered in recent times. If properly done it has no peer in strength.

Here’s how it’s works: Powdered malachite (copper carbonate) is mixed with gum or glue, and then used to stick the various pieces of gold together. Thus the sticky “solder” itself acts a binder until the heating can be done. The work is placed on bed of coals and heated with a blow pipe.

At 100 degrees C the copper carbonate changes to copper oxide. By 600 degrees C the adhesive carbonizes, and at 850 degrees C the carbon starts combining with oxygen from the copper oxide to vaporize as carbon dioxide. This leaves only the slightest traces of copper remaining in the joint. Now ordinarily copper melts at 1063 degrees C and gold at about 1083 degrees C, but in this process a strange thing happens. When the metal reaches only 880 degrees C, the

gold in contact with the copper melts to form a welded join!

Since this happens at a temperature some 200 degrees C below the melting point of gold, there is little chance of melting the entire piece, and because the join is welded and not just soldered, the piece may heated over and over again to add more parts without risks of any previous joins comes apart”.

I don’t think there was a friendly return policy yet invented.



## SCHOOL INFORMATION AND CLASS ENROLLMENT

**Call 915-562-4268 for information and to enroll in Lapidary and Jewelry-craft classes.** The Instructors are volunteers from the school committee of the Society and are not paid in any way by the Society or the students. If you want to enroll in one of the classes, all you have to do is sign up at the Memorial Park Senior Center which is located at 1800 Byron Street, El Paso TX. It is important that you register early because a minimum of three students is needed for a

“Go” with a maximum of six students per class. Sign up well in advance as there are usually waiting lists. Each Class has a \$20 fee plus a Lab Fee and any other material costs. The \$20 fee payment is to be made on the first day of the class to the Senior Center, and the Lab Fee will be paid to your instructor. All other material purchases should be paid for at the time of purchase or delivery.

#### SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The meetings are all held at noon in the conference room at the Memorial Park Senior Citizens Center. Anybody who wishes to sit in on any of the meetings is welcome. We recommend that you call Rose Strong at the Center first to make sure that the meeting date has not changed. Her number is 915-562-4268.

Wed Jan 26	Tue Feb 22	Mon Mar 21	Tue Apr 19
Wed May 25	Tue Jun 21	Mon Jul 18	Tue Aug 23
Mon Sep 19	Tue Oct 18	Mon Nov 14	Tue Dec 13

#### 2011 CLUB OFFICERS

President Liz Kosturakis (915)595-1413	Vice President P.J. Schabacker (575)589-5068
Treasurer Riitta Gillespie (915)821-4273	Secretary Teresa Ziraldo (915)526-9445
Historian Marty Gaugler (915)859-6634	Editor Matt Durning (915)491-3244
Field Trips Sue Critz (915)203-4783	Membership Judy Herd (915)821-7818

3 Year Trustee Tom Smith (915)778-5240	2 Year Trustee Miguel Chrisman (915)740-0301
1 Year Trustee Matt Durning	Show Chair Harry Bruntz (915)345-2415
Assist. Show Chair Jeanette Carrillo (915)533-7153	Webmaster Matt Durning

**Area shows, additional shows dates [www.rockngem.com/showdates](http://www.rockngem.com/showdates)**

**JUNE 24-26—COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO:** 3rd annual rock fair; Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies; Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 N. Gate Blvd., I-25 exit 156A; Fri. 9-4, Sat. 9-4, Sun. 9-3; adults \$5, children \$2; dealers, gems, minerals, jewelry, fossils, talks, gold panning demonstration, rock identification, Kids' Area, noncompetitive displays, silent auction, exhibitors, equipment demonstrations; contact Ronald Yamiolkoski, (719) 488-5526; e-mail: [info@csms.us](mailto:info@csms.us); Web site: [www.csms.us](http://www.csms.us)

**JULY 1-3—FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO:** Annual show; San Juan County Gem & Mineral Society; Farmington Civic Center, 200 W. Arrington St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; silent auctions, prize drawings, raffle Sun.; contact Mickie Calvert, 5986 Hwy. 64, Farmington, NM 87401, (505) 632-8288; e-mail: [mickie2@earthlink.net](mailto:mickie2@earthlink.net).