



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 43 Number 7 July 2017

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral  
Society Inc.



MGCGMS Established in 1974

## *Presidents Message*

Dear Members,

For the workshop meeting you have several options. You may learn to make the beaded bracelet Barbara will teach. OR if you just want to bring your own project and sit with us, we will find a place for you to work. You can learn how to take a rough rock or stone slab and to polish it to a beautiful cabochon, bring your stone (we also have some extra slabs). Jim will teach you how to use the cabbing equipment. What techniques would you like to learn? We have started to work on some workshop/field trips. What questions on tools, stones and metals do you have? Let us know and we'll try to find a person and equipment to make it happen. It's your club.

Hope your summer is fantastic!

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MGCGMS President  
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## Workshop:

In July Barbara Saavedra will be teaching a beaded bracelet. Jim Kirchner will teach members how to use the club equipment such as the rock saw and cabbing machines.

### Supplies:

28-6mm glass beads or pearls  
56-4mm bicone beads  
#10 or #11 seed beads  
Clasp

### Tools:

Fireline #6 or #8  
Beading Needle

David Cook  
111 White Blvd.  
Ocean Springs, MS 39564-5022  
(c) 228-341-9944  
[dwcook@cableone.net](mailto:dwcook@cableone.net)



# June Meeting Minutes:

**Meeting Called to Order:** 1:17 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:** 22

**Meeting:** President Liz Platt called the meeting to order. She welcomed Jeanene & Miku. Jeanene does a little bit of metal work and spoke with Buddy at the show.

**Minutes to Accept:** A motion was made to accept the May minutes by Vicki Reynolds and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ginger Criss. Motion Carried.

**Treasury Report:** Given by B. Beatty. A motion to accept by A. King and 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Guglik. Motion Carried.

## **Program: Dawn Hill**

Our guest speaker, Dawn Hill is the owner of "My Bead Hangout". She gave a presentation of the items she has made including Bead Embroidery which happens to be her favorite. Dawn worked for over 30 years in the Navy and is a member of Gallery 782 & The Art House. While in Cuba she collected sea glass from the beach from which she designed jewelry pieces. She loves bead weaving and offers workshops at no charge. Materials can be purchased with a 20% discount to gem society members or you may bring your own. Open Tuesday – Saturday and located at 9259-C Woolmarket Road, Biloxi.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Workshop Committee:** Report given by V. Reynolds  
We had 9 members take the Wired Wrapped Necklace with Beads.

**Faceting Committee:** Report given by B. Shotts  
We have a new student; Ed King has begun faceting now. Rosalind finished her 1<sup>st</sup> stone (which she passed around to everyone). Buddy said, When Lettie White feels better we will resume our faceting classes on Wednesday night.

**Equipment Committee:** Report given by J. Kirchner.  
Everything is ok and the equipment is working good.

**Show Committee:** Report given by B. LaRue.  
We have only one contract back so far. Contracts are due by August 31st and I will start making calls then on the ones I haven't received. Vicki Reynolds volunteered to line the display cases.

**Library Committee:** Report given by Liz Platt.  
President Liz Platt asked everyone to check it out. Please sign card and return item after 30 days.

**Projects:** Report by Liz Platt  
Pres. Liz Platt asked Natalie Webb to check out the acid needed to do the "Copper Etched bracelets". Buddy said, "its sulfuric acid". Natalie said, "that safety goggles and a mask is needed".

**Publicity:** Report by Natalie Webb  
Natalie has gotten some responses from the local papers such as The Ocean Springs Gazette, The Ocean Springs Record and the Sun Herald where she listed our announcements. Patrick Barrett explained the app "Meet Up" with no contract required and only \$10.00 per month. Lisa Fitch made a motion to join and Patrick Barrett 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. A vote was taken 8/6 with 8 in favor. Motion carried. After a brief discussion of the length of usage, Lisa Fitch made a motion for 6 months and Buddy Shotts 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor. There is room for 4 members to be listed. Patrick Barrett will track it, Barbi 2<sup>nd</sup>, Pres. Liz Platt 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Natalie 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunshine Committee:** Report by R. Shotts.  
Reba sent a card "get well" card to Lettie White.

## **Communication:**

**SFMS Meeting:** Report by Ms. State Director B. Shotts  
Meeting went well, one of the subjects was getting youth organizations started in these clubs. We need to get young people interested but it's hard to do because they need transportation to get here.

**SFMS Raffle:** Reba Shotts represented our club and reminded everyone to sell the SFMS raffle tickets. Each ticket is \$5.00 or 6 tickets for \$20.00. They are due by September or no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition to being able to win prizes yourself you are also supporting the scholarship fund which the SFMS gives to clubs who sell the most tickets.

You can also donate prizes but must be worth at least \$25.00 in value. Barbi Beatty explained the program again. The SFMS will give a scholarship(s) to clubs who sell the most tickets. This particular scholarship(s) can **ONLY** be used during *Federation Week*, **NO Exceptions!**

Buddy explained Federation Week being a block of dates reserved by the SFMS. The SFMS is billed for any empty seats not filled. It includes your lodging, three meals a day, and your workshop. Only your materials are not included. Lisa added that it is also cheaper too, \$370.00 versus \$395.00 you will pay for non-federation weeks.

**Announcements / Events:** Report by V. Reynolds, P. Barrett and N. Webb

**Walter Anderson:** 2-day Beginning Wire Workshop by Vicki Reynolds \$200.00

June 24-25, 2017 9 am – 4pm Contact: Heather Rumpfeld  
Max # of People: 8 / Minimum: 4. Tools available for use. Materials included for ring, bracelet, and a pendant. Time permitted more can be made. You can bring some of your own material if you choose.

**Insurance:** Patrick Barrett announced that he sells insurance to supplement your Medicare, etc.

**Gallery 782 & Art Studio:** Natalie announced she is now a member of these businesses.

**Old Business:** Report by President Liz Platt

**Welcome Center:** They are wanting us to demo 1-2 hours per day. John Guglik said, "you may put some of your pieces in the display case and it's a great place to advertise". The case needs to be cleaned too.

Natalie volunteered to do it.

**Ocean Springs Library:** They want us to have a fair with them. Maybe April or May of next year? Not May because the HCGMS has their show.

**New Business:** None

**Show and Tell:** Report by Liz Platt

Vicki R. showed her Black Pearl from Tahiti.

President Liz Platt announced that Lisa does the newsletter for the gem society in Gulfport. Lisa will send a complimentary copy to everyone next month.

**Adjournment:** 2:28 p.m. Motion made by Vicki Reynolds and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbi Beatty. Motion carried.

**Disclaimer:** MGCGMS is bound by our By-laws dated March 11, 2012 Article V, Number 6-2 Acceptance of Minutes. Minutes are subject to corrections (additions or retractions) and are not accepted until majority vote of the members at the next meeting. Your participation in any way as a member(s) is sincerely appreciated.

Lisa Fitch  
MGCGMS Secretary

# Happy Birthday!



Ed King

Jeneane Wendling

## RUBY

July's Birthstone

By

John M. Wright, RPG



### Physical Properties

**Family:** Corundum

**Chemical Comp.:** Aluminum Oxide  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$

**Crystal system:** Trigonal (bar 3 2/m)

**Crystal Habit:** Typically a six-sided elongated tapered crystal with close transverse striations that resemble a bipyramid (barrel shape that's been stretched a little); sometimes hexagonal prisms; can also be tabular.

**Birefringence:** (0.4)

**Reflective Indices:** *ne* 1.760, *nw* 1.769  
(+0.009, -0.005)

**Density:** 4.00 (+/- 0.05)  $\text{g/cm}^3$

**Hardness:** 9

**Cleavage:** Absent, sometimes there is parting which occurs in three directions.

**Fracture:** Conchoidal

**Pleochroic:** Variable from different viewing directions. Red color intensifies in strong artificial light, ultraviolet  
Light or direct sunlight.

Rubies are now and have throughout history been one of the most popular, highly prized, and valued gemstones. The name comes from the Latin word "rubrum" for red. It is considered an emblem of authority by some and because it is the red color of blood deemed a symbol of passion by many. Ruby was said to be the most precious of the twelve stones God created and one was placed on a chain around Aaron's neck by God's command. Rubies are extremely hard and durable (exceeded only by diamond) making them well suited for jewelry and many other applications that benefit or enhance our lives.

The colors of rubies can range from fiery vermilion to a deep ox-blood red. They often have other colors that are subservient to the red which can add to an overall tonal quality that may significantly enhance or detract from the stone's appeal. Violet is the most common subservient color and if prevalent enough becomes an undertone that will darken the stone. If the violet or another color is predominant and red is subservient, then the stone is not ruby, but a sapphire. In a faceted ruby, these colors can be seen as "flashes" when the ruby is rotated or moved around in the light source.

If you were to say that a ruby is just a red sapphire you would probably be more correct than not, but for the sake of this article we are going to treat rubies as much as possible in the time honored fashion as an independent gemstone in its own right. Actually, it like the other sapphires is a variety of the mineral Corundum, so there will be distinct similarities. Even the lighter shades of red are not considered to really be rubies and are usually classified as pink sapphires. If it's opaque (cloudy), it is also a sapphire no matter how red it is.



Continued on page 4:



# Ruby

Continued from page 3:



How do you determine where the change in color zone and/or clarity versus opaqueness is? (Note: The clarity I am referring to here is the crystalline properties and is not to be confused with the content of inclusions or specks of contaminants which most rubies have.) In most cases, the color or clarity is pretty obvious, but for those stones bordering on the “zones of transition” it’s really a judgment call which often results in disagreement even among certified professionals. Rule of thumb: If questionable and you are the buyer, it’s a ruby of course, but if you are selling, it’s unquestionably an el-cheap-o pink sapphire.

Okay, so now we have some general idea of how to determine a ruby from a sapphire. Basically it is red and crystalline, but there are a lot of other stones that fall into this category, so how do we know which ones are rubies? Probably the safest way is to have it checked by an expert gemologist, but this could be expensive. If you wish to gamble and make your own decision, I recommend that you start by using corundum as your basic reference in determining the distinct physical properties that will be necessary to differentiate the ruby and/or sapphires from other similar materials.

Corundum crystals in most cases are normally pretty easy to spot because of their unique shape (looks like a barrel that has been stretched a little bit) and that would be the key factor” that I would use in the field for initial identification. If the crystal doesn’t have a shape that is easily recognizable, pick it up anyway (as if I had to tell you), as there are other ways to check it out.

Corundum is second only to diamond in hardness, so a scratch test would be another good field check. I definitely don’t recommend the scratch test method if you are shopping or checking out a red gemstone that was inherited from someone’s grandmother.

You can also do a streak test. It should be “white” for corundum. I usually carry a small piece of tile with me on field trips for streak test and the one I now have is beginning to look like it’s been used for playing tic-tac-tow.

Specific gravity would be another test that could be used under proper circumstances if the stone in question is not mounted as part of an item of jewelry. I would recommend using a gemstone heavy liquid test kit if one is available or if you know how to prepare our own. Many of your better gemological books cover in detail the chemicals you need and the directions for properly preparing your own heavy liquid kits and their use. Using scales and a

container of water will get you in the ballpark, but unless done under strict laboratory conditions, the results will not be accurate enough to be of real value. If you are fortunate enough to own a gemological refractometer, binocular microscope, optical spectroscope, or other specialized instruments, you will be able to do additional very in depth testing. The rest of us will have to depend on some of the other well known visual characteristics that will assist the careful observer in making a reasonable distinction as to whether or not the stone in question is indeed a rub, or to put it another way, we can learn to make a somewhat enlightened guess.

Because of their hardness, rubies take a really fine surface polish which gives it a **very high luster**. The luster may be further enhanced by color flashes, sheen, and a few other physical factors.



**Rubies are pleochroic** (display more than one color due to the different absorption of light in different directions), so as you view the stone in one direction it may be a bright red, but in another direction appear dull and you may also see a hint of color changes (in this case more like a spark or flash of color over a large area). The appearance of changes in color tones may also occur (i.e., ox-blood to burgundy or vermilion to carmine, etc).

Rubies are fluorescence and turn a **brighter red under strong light** and particularly when exposed to the ultraviolet rays of direct sunlight. Even the purplish ones (strong violet undertones) are “redder” under bright light.

**Some rubies have a very distinctive silky sheen** caused by the interference with light in areas containing minute rutile needles (sort of like fiber optics). Using the visual characteristics that I have in **bold**, let’s compare rubies to a few other red crystalline gemstones:

Spinel can be similar in color and luster, but it is not pleochroic and never has a silky sheen.

Red garnets can also be similar in color and luster, but are not pleochroic.

Red tourmaline is usually a completely different shade of red from rubies, but has pleochroism and luster similar to ruby; however, tourmalines do not brighten in strong light and the physical properties are very different.

You should now have a very general but reasonable idea of how to proceed in using the visual characteristics and physical properties of a ruby to separate them from sapphires and the many other red crystalline gemstones.

Continued from page 4:

In the year 1837 rubies became the first synthetic gemstones to be man made. You may be surprised to learn that they were not intended for jewelry, but to be used in clocks and watches. These early stones contained a lot of impurities, but around 1900 a Frenchman named Verneuil perfected the “drip” or flame fusion method and produced beautiful transparent ruby boules suitable for use as gemstone material. This method is still in use today and although much improved, these rubies can usually be identified with an eye loop by their internal growth rings or platelets, which resemble saucers or shallow bowls that have been stacked up-side-down.

A modern day laser’s performance ability is in a very important way directly linked to the purity of its ruby rod (sometimes referred to as a lens or cylinder). Intensive research for methods to meet the requirements for purity has in recent years led to some new and very guarded or secret manufacturing process that produce “almost perfect” distortion free, optically correct, rubies without inclusions or any undesirable contaminant. This material is available in the market place and you stand a really good chance of finding some of the boules (synthetic rough) at one of the local gem and mineral shows.

Very little if any synthetic ruby is produced for the gemstone market. The synthetic material that is available has more than likely been rejected for technical or industrial use. So if the ruby is “near perfect” and especially if more than a couple of carats, it’s probably synthetic, unless of course it’s one you found on a field trip and in that case, I get a percentage for the technical assistance. Happy Hunting!!!

(This article is a reprint of the July 2005 Snoopy Gems. Sources of information contained in this article are: The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals by Charles W. Chesterman, a Borzoi Book, published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc, 1978 and Simon & Schuster’s Guide to Gems and Precious Stones, by Curzio Cipriani and Alessandro Borelli; Kennie Lyman, U.S. Editor, 1986. Also Simon and Schuster’s Guide to Rocks and Minerals, 1977, 1978.)



## Bench Tip:

File Force: Using a file to expand a ring

To make a ring larger, normally you just add a piece of metal or stretch the ring. But what if you need to go up half a size on a heavy gent's wedding band, and you don't want to add more metal? Or maybe you're sizing band with an outside pattern that you don't want to ruin, which either of the above options would do. If you have a ring stretcher, this would be the perfect time to use it. If not, and you need to coax the ring up the mandrel a little bit. There is another way. Use a file as a hammer! That's right, as absurd as it may sound, you can effectively stretch a ring by hammering it with a file.



Here is how:

Prepare an old, large, heavy flat file by grinding the teeth off of the edge; bring it up to about a 240-grit finish. Now place the ring on the mandrel and brace the mandrel firmly. Place the file/hammer on the large flat surface on the mandrel, with the finished edge against the ring. Now slide the file/hammer up to the small end of the mandrel and with a bit of force, quickly back down against the ring, forcing it up the mandrel. It is amazing how much force this can carry and how effectively you can move metal. When finished, you need only to touch up and resurface the edge of your enlarged ring.

Source:

These tips are excerpts from 101 Bench Tips by Alan Revere, published by MJSA (<http://mjsa.org/>). Illustrations by Sean Kane.

## **Snoopy Gems**

Official Publication of

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Member of

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors)

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<b>Member at Large</b>	Buddy Shotts (601) 947-7245

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<b>Historian</b>	Lettie White (228) 875-8716
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<b>SFMS</b>	Barbi Beatty	Assistant Treasurer (228) 238-9900
<b>SFMS</b>	Buddy Shotts	Long-range Planning & Past President (601) 947-7245

**Annual dues are:**

**\$16 Individual**

**\$20 (2) Members in same house hold**

**\$6 Junior**

## **2017 Workshop/Meeting Dates**

January 14 OS Library 9:30-4:45

February 11 OS Library 1:00-4:45

\*March 11 930-4:45

\*April 8 Club Picnic

May 13 OS Library 9:30-4:45

June 10 OS Library 9:30-4:45

**July 8 OS Library 9:30-4:45**

August 12 OS Library 9:30-4:45

September 9 OS Library 9:30-4:45

October 14 OS Library 9:30-4:45

November 9 After Vendor Dinner 7ish

December 9 Christmas Party TBA 11:00am-4:00pm

\*Be sure to check Dates each month! \*

\*\*The November meeting is the Thursday evening of the gem show after the dinner for the dealers at the Jackson County Fairgrounds Civic Center Building. December will be our Christmas Party and Installation of Officers \*\*

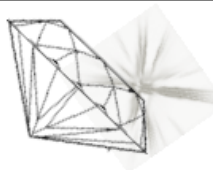

## **July 2017**

**Su M Tu W Th Fri Sa**

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

# We always welcome new members! Tell a friend!

Date: **Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society**

<a href="http://www.mgcgms.org">http://www.mgcgms.org</a>		<b>Application for Membership</b>	
Individual: \$16.00		Individual +1 relative Same Address: \$20.00	
		Junior Under 18: \$6.00	
Name: _____		Home Phone: _____	
Address: _____		Cell 1. _____	
City: _____		Cell 2. _____	
State: _____		Email 1: _____	
Zip: _____		Email 2: _____	
<b>Members in the Same Household</b>			
Adult: _____		Birthday M/D: _____	
Adult: _____		Birthday M/D: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
<b>Please Check All Applicable Interests</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Beading <input type="checkbox"/> Chain Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips <input type="checkbox"/> Fossils <input type="checkbox"/> Others: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Cabbing <input type="checkbox"/> PMC <input type="checkbox"/> Faceting <input type="checkbox"/> Wire Wrapping		<input type="checkbox"/> Jewelry Making <input type="checkbox"/> Lapidary <input type="checkbox"/> Minerals <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Smithing
How did you hear of us? _____			
<b>Please check the following:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I understand that my picture or likeness may be used in Society promotions. <input type="checkbox"/> I authorize MGCMS to include my contact information be included in Society listings for members to contact each other only.			
Signature: _____			
Signature: _____			

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<http://www.mgcgms.org>



The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society is a Non-profit Organization Dedicated to Education, Science, and the Lapidary Arts and Crafts

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