



Pretoria Gem and Mineral Club

Affiliated to the Federation of Southern African Gem and Mineralogical Societies

Registered as non-profit organization – SARS 9830/639/14/3

June 2015

Pretoria Rockhound Digest

Pretoria Gem and Mineral Club
P.O. Box 36 888
Menlo Park
Pretoria 0102

Clubhouse: no. 29, 26th St., Menlo Park
Saturdays 11:00–15:00, Thursdays 18:00– 21:00
Website: www.pgmc.co.za
Bank: ABSA Bank, Acc. No. 405 584 9839

Chairman: Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
bernardstrydom@gmail.com
Vice-Chairman: Willem Vorster, 076 612 4888
wcs.vorster@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jeanne Wentzel, 082 449 5450
Secretary: Elmarie Coetzee, elmariec1@gmail.com
Editor: Heidi Naudé, 072 923 2180
heidi.naude@za.bosch.com

Programme Highlights June 2015

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| *** Swop & Sell and Social | 6 June |
| *** Silversmithing Course | 20 June |
| *** Club Outing: Crocodile Lodge for Lapidary Material | 28 June |



Alexandrite

Birthstone of June (together with Pearl and Moonstone)

A relatively modern gem, Alexandrite was first discovered in Russia in 1831 during the reign of its namesake, Czar Alexander II.

It is an extremely rare chrysoberyl displaying chameleon-like qualities. Its colour is a lovely green in daylight and fluorescent light; but it changes its colour to a purplish red in incandescent light (see photos left, some stone viewed under different light).

Due to its rarity, some jewelers stock synthetic versions of this enchanting gemstone. (Synthetic gemstones are man-made alternatives to the natural material, possessing the same physical, optical and chemical properties as the natural gemstone. (Source: www.americangemsociety.org/june-birthstones)

PGMC Programme for June 2015:

(as at 28.05.2015)

Date	Event	Time	Contact Details
4 June	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
6 June	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open Swop & Sell and Social	11.00 – 15.00 11.00 – 14.00	Duty Members
11 June	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
13 June	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open Committee Meeting	11.00 – 14.00 14.30 – 16.30	Duty Members – Short Shift Committee Members
18 June	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
20 June	Silversmithing Course – booking essential! Lapidary Workshop open	10.00 – 15.00 11:00 – 15:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683 Duty Members
25 June	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
27 June	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshops open	11:00 – 15:00	Duty Members
28 June (Sunday)	Club Outing: Crocodile Lodge (Charly Munchardt) for Lapidary Material (Jasper, Rose Quartz, Tiger's Eye, Aventurin, Sodalite, Ocean Jasper, Malachite)	10.00 – 13.00	Lex Krabbendam, 083 449 6812

A very warm welcome to the new members who joined recently:

Gilda & Wikus van Wyk, Kevin, Amy & Jerry Yuan and Riaan Hough.

May your association with the club be enjoyable, long and productive.


Duty Roster: May and June 2015

June	6	13	20	27	N/A
Open – 11:00 am	Lex	Willem	Bernard	Dieter	
Duty Team	Lex Krabbend. Zelda Carey	Willem Vorster Marion Blair	Will v/d Berg Karin Mayerl	Dieter Heinichen Linda Stone	
Close – 15:00 pm	Lex	Committee	Bernard	Dieter	

July	4	11	18	25	N/A
Open – 11:00 am	tba	Heidi	Bernard	Lex	
Duty Team	Len Botha Ada Beresford	Henry Viviers Jean Snyman	Hendrik Swanep tba	Lex Krabbend. Zelda Carey	
Close – 15:00 pm	Lex	Committee	Bernard	Lex	

Please **check the dates assigned to you** and organize “**stand-ins**” for the days you might not be available. We are still looking for **additional duty volunteers (machines & admin.)**, please contact Bernard Strydom if you are willing to help. The Duty Roster 2015/2016 will be reviewed monthly; **please refer to your latest Newsletter for final Duty Team allocations.**

1. Membership Fees 2015

	R 470	Principal Members
	R 415	Pensioners (over 60's)
	R 80	per additional Family Member
	R 30	Joining Fee (new members only)

Bank transfers can be made to: Pretoria Gem & Mineral Club, ABSA Bank, account no. 405 584 9839); cash payments can be made at the club on Thursdays or Saturdays.

2. Personals



- to **Kevin Yuan** for donating “doppies” or cartridge shells for the use in the Lapidary section.
- to **Peter Beresford** and **Willem Vorster** for fixing various bearings at the Lapidary table
- to **Lex Krabbendam** for custom making covers for our faceting machines
- and to **Anton Jordaan** for bringing his generator on Thursday evenings to the clubhouse to enable the club members to continue working during load shedding sessions.

3. Reminder –

We are still waiting for your replies regarding the planned Hobby Booster !!!

We plan to re-activate the **Hobby-Booster**, possibly as early as August this year.

For our new members, these are two days (Sat./Sun.) where the club will be open for very special training sessions only. No, we are no talking about the normal silversmithing and cabochon training but something out of the ordinary, such as Beading with Gemstones, Gem Tree making, Gem Box making, Competition Cabochons, Silversmithing Inlay Project, Faceting, etc. we are “open” for any suggestions and requests from our members.

Please let us know

- Which project/s mentioned above would interest you?
- Have you got any other project idea/s?
- Would you be able to attend one or two days?
- Would you be able and willing to train our members on one of these projects?

Please send your replies by email to bernard.strydom@gmail.com or heidi.naude@za.bosch.com; or complete the form provided at the duty desk and submit to the member on duty. We will compile the responses received and get the “ball rolling” from there.

Please note that the clubhouse will not be open for any other club activities on those days to allow course participants to finish their various projects on time.



4. Swop & Sell & Social

The next **Swop & Sell and Social** has been scheduled for Saturday, 06.06.2015 from 11.00 onwards. Please bring your family/friends and introduce them to our hobby.

5. Silversmithing Course, 20.06.2015

The next course is scheduled for **Saturday, 20.06.2015** (10h00) at the clubhouse. Please contact Bernard Strydom regarding this course project, fee and material required. Remember to book your place in advance as space is limited.



6. Club Outing: Charlie Munchardt – Crocodile Lodge, Midrand

This outing is always a winner, especially if time or other constraints keep you from joining our weekend outings. Charlie has kindly agreed to open his rock yard again for us on **Sunday 28.06.2015**.

We will **meet at 10:00** am at the **entrance gate** of the premises, situated at no. **24 c/o Pfitzer Road and George Street, Glen Austin, Midrand** (the premises are also known as Crocodile Lodge). GPS coordinates are as follows: S 25° 58' 11" and E 28° 8' 55".

This is a wonderful outing for the whole family, as rock hunting through the piles of various rocks is very easy and enjoyed by young and old alike. The material available is high grade lapidary material, already pre-selected by the expert himself and ready to be exported to his various overseas clientele mainly in Europe.

On previous visits we found beautiful jasper varieties, aventurine (both green and pink), buddstone, ocean jasper (green, pink, blue), sodalite (nice rich blue), rose quartz, tiger's eye, fluorite, amethyst crystals and many more. The rocks are available in small to very large pieces.

Charlie will weigh them and establish a price per kg. Payment is **strictly cash**, there are **no ATM facilities** nearby. You also need to bring your own **crates, boxes, buckets or sturdy carry bags** – and bring enough!!!. For soft hands bring your **leather gloves**, some stones have quite sharp edges and you will scratch through the rock piles, because the "really nice pieces" are always hidden below (or so we think).

Remember to book your place with our outing leader Lex Krabbendam at 083 449 6812.



Photos from previous visits to Charly Munchardt's place (from left Rose Quartz, Ocean Jasper, Malachite).





The competition will be known as: “THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN GEM CUTTING CHALLENGE 2015”

Competition entries to be in by Tuesday, 24th November, 2015.

The competition this year will require an entry fee per stone entered of R50.00 (\$6.00) non-refundable per person – contact the organizer for deposit details. (Please note for this year-Pensioners will pay a flat fee of R50 regardless of number of entries)

Competition is open to –

“ANYONE WHO WISHES TO CONTRIBUTE TO RAISING THE STANDARDS OF GEM CUTTING IN THE REGION AND BEYOND”

Note: Southern Africa includes all countries bordering South Africa as well as Zambia/Malawi/Tanzania.

Purpose:

The idea behind this challenge is firstly, for everyone to have fun. We want to encourage participation with a view to improve the (novice) or hobbyist standards of excellence in stone cutting in our region. Everyone is invited to enter, as indicated above, regardless of skill levels. As the saying goes – unless you are challenged, you will not necessarily improve.

The judging panel will consist of veteran cutters from various backgrounds to ensure that the entries are judged fairly. The final panel will be announced in due course.

So, now you know its happening, prepare to start cutting... We look forward to your entries, **Fay Pierides**.

“SOUTHERN AFRICAN NOVICE GEM CUTTING CHALLENGE”

ENTRY FORM

Competitor's name : _____

Address : _____

Name of competitor's club: _____

Stone description and weight: _____

Section being entered – faceting / cabochon: _____

Has the stone being entered been enhanced in any way? Yes/No: _____

+Note: If the stone being entered has, in any way been treated i.e. heated/irradiated or artificially enhanced in any way, this point must be declared above.

++The competition is for amateurs in South/Southern Africa and beyond which also includes all countries bordering South Africa as well as Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania.

Condition of entry:

-For purposes of confidentiality and impartiality, it is a condition of entry that the participant will not divulge his/her entry particulars to anyone else prior to the competition. I hereby agree to abide by the conditions as set out herein and declare that the stone I have entered is **entirely** my own work and has not involved outside assistance what-so-ever.

Name in full: _____

Signature: _____

Date : _____

(Form size reduced due to limited newsletter space, original form available from Fay at pierides@mweb.co.za).



Faceted Stone Challenge: Competition Rules.

- 1) One stone per competitor may be entered
- 2) The stone entered for 2015 is any stone **except quartz**.
- 3) The required shape is for each contestant to choose as they wish.
- 4) Entrants are allowed to slightly alter certain angles on the prescribed design should they feel that this will enhance the character of the stone
- 5) Overall size of the stone to be within a 1mm tolerance of **7mm** diameter.
- 6) Entire stone to be polished, although the girdle can be excluded. This is therefore optional to the entrant.
- 7) Entrants must please supply a self-addressed and postage paid envelope for purposes of return mail.
- 8) **The Southern African Gem Cutting Challenge** and its members take no responsibility for loss or damage to entrant's stones, although the utmost care will be taken to ensure that nothing untoward happens to the competition stones whilst in the care of the **The Southern African Gem Cutting Challenge**. This equally applies to postage to and from the event.
- 9) **The Southern African Gem Cutting Challenge** reserves the right to display and photograph the entries for advertising and promotional purposes before returning them to entrants. In so doing, **The Southern African Gem Cutting Challenge** may promote the winner and runners up in the competition.

Cabochon Stone Challenge: Competition Rules

- 1) One stone per competition entrant per division i.e entrants may enter both divisions as each division will be treated separately with their own prizes.
- 2) There are 2 divisions in the cabochon section now:
 - a) Division A : for cabs entered that have a hardness level of 7 or more and
 - b) Division B : for cabs entered that have a hardness level of less than 7.
- 3) The entry may be of any type of stone e.g. jasper, agate, sodalite, sugilite, garnet, tourmaline, etc.....
- 4) Only standard forms will apply, i.e. oval or round shape
- 5) A condition of entry is that the stone must be entirely hand worked i.e. no tumbling or use of machine faceting assistance will be accepted.
- 6) Entire stone can be polished, although polishing of the flat back is optional.
- 7) The entered stone must have -
 - . flat back, i.e. the bottom of the stone must be entirely flat
 - . a back bevel
 - . symmetrically domed top.
- 8) Entrants must please supply a self-addressed and postage paid envelope for purposes of return mail.
- 9) **The Southern African Gem Cutting Challenge** and its members take no responsibility for loss or damage to entrant's stones, although the utmost care will be taken to ensure that nothing untoward happens to the competition stones whilst in the care of **The Southern African Gem Cutting Challenge**. This equally applies to postage to and from the event.
- 10) **The Southern African Gem Cutting Challenge** reserves the right to display and photograph the entries for advertising and promotional purposes before returning them to entrants. In so doing, **The Southern African Gem Cutting Challenge** may promote the winner and runners up in the competition.