



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

March 2016

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

Treasurer: Lex Krabbendam, 083 449 6812
Secretary: Yvonne Olivier, 076 594 8914
Editor: Heidi Naudé, 072 923 2180
heidi.naude@za.bosch.com

Programme Highlights March 2016

- *** **Swop and Sell and Social** **5 Mar.**
- *** **Silversmithing Course** **19 Mar.**
- *** **FOSAGAMS 50th Gemboree – Prieska, Northern Cape** **25 – 28 Mar.**

Happy Easter Holidays



(all photos courtesy of [www.google/gemstone eggs](http://www.google/gemstone%20eggs))

Wishing all the Gemboree participants a safe and enjoyable return journey.

Please note that the clubhouse will be closed over the Easter weekend.

PGMC Programme for March 2016:

(as at 26.02.2016)

Date	Event	Time	Contact Details
3 Mar.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
5 Mar.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open Swop & Sell and Social	11.00 – 15.00 11.00 – 14.00	Duty Members Open to all
10 Mar.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
12 Mar.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open Committee Meeting	11.00 – 15.00 15.00 – 16.30	Duty Members Committee Members
17 Mar.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
19 Mar.	Lapidary and Silversmithing Workshop open Silversmithing Course – booking essential	11.00 – 15.00 10.00 – 15.00	Duty Members Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
24 Mar.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683
31 Mar.	Silversmithing Workshop open	18:00 – 21:00	Bernard Strydom, 074 850 5683

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

Kobus Moolman and Rita Jordaan.

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

	Duty Roster March and April 2016	
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March	5	12	19	26
Open – 11:00 am	Heidi	Willem	Dieter	Club closed for Easter Weekend
Duty Team	Heidi Naudé Yvonne Olivier	Len Botha Ada Beresford	Dieter Heinichen Linda Stone	
Close – 15:00 pm	Willem	Committee	Bernard	

April	2	9	16	23	30
Open – 11:00 am	Henry	Willem	Lex	Bernard	Peter
Duty Team	Henry Viviers Jean Snyman	Willem Vorster Karin Eggers	Lex Krabbendam Joanne Fidos	Bernard Strydom Karin Mayerl	Len Botha Ada Beresford
Close – 15:00 pm	Henry	Committee	Lex	Bernard	Peter

Please **check the dates assigned to your team** and organize “**stand-ins**” if you are not available; please refer to your latest NL for final duty allocations.

1. Membership Fees 2016

Club memberships expired on 31st December 2015; **please renew your memberships for 2016 now; only fully paid-up members are entitled to use our clubhouse facilities, attend courses and participate in club outings.** The fees for 2016 are as follows:

	R 500	Principal Members
	R 450	Pensioners (over 60's)
	R 100	per additional Family Member
	R 30	Joining Fee (new members only)

Bank deposits or EFT 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



Belated **Birthday Wishes** go to our current treasurer and previous chairman, **Lex Krabbendam.**

Lex we hope you celebrated your special day appropriately with family and friends and wish you all the very best for the years to come.

Photo right: one of Lex' creative cabochons.



"Oom Helmut"

Belated **Birthday Wishes** also go to **Helmut Schönberger**, club member no. 2 since 1960 !

Helmut, we hope you had a wonderful birthday and wish you all the best, most of all good health, for the years to come. Hope to see you and Hannie again at the next swop & sell day at the clubhouse.

Photo right: one of his many masterful cut gemstones.
(all photos courtesy of the editor)



Cerussite, 107.7 cts.



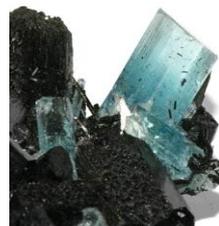
Get Well Wishes go to our members **Yvonne Olivier, Jean Schutz** and **Marie Schoeman**, who are all slightly "under the weather" with their various health problems.

We wish you all a speedy and full recovery.



3. Aquamarine – Birthstone for March

Birthstones by month have been in existence for centuries and as a result, been part of our history. They carry various meanings based on their origins, including the Bible giving them spiritual meanings. From the old Indian to Tibetan times, the main purpose of birthstones has been to uplift people's lives. They can be used for advice, motivation and inspiration and are regarded as essential in today's life, as they help have a different viewpoint of life.



Aquamarine samples, natural and faceted.
(photos/article courtesy of www.wikipedia.com)

4. Swop & Sell and Social – Saturday, 05.03.2016

The next **Swop & Sell and Social** will be held on **Saturday, 05.03.2016** from 11.00 onwards; all dealers welcome. Members are also invited to bring their surplus minerals and/or rock material to swop or sell. Alternatively you may bring your family and friends and introduce them to our hobby.

5. Silversmithing Course, 19.03.2016



The next course is scheduled for **Saturday, 19.03.2016 at 10.00 am** at the clubhouse. Please contact Bernard Strydom at tel. 074 850 5683 regarding the course project, fee and material required and to book your place.

Photo left – project of last month's course – photo courtesy of Bernard Strydom.

6. Silversmithing Tips: 4 Soldering and Pickling Questions Answered by Lexi Erickson

Why Does My Solder Ball Up?

The solder balls up and doesn't flow. How can I get it to flow? If you pay close attention to the solder before it flows, you will see that sometimes it does ball up. This can mean that the flow temperature, which is higher than the melting point, has not been reached yet. Usually, if you keep the flame on the soldering area, the solder will flow, but remember to keep the entire piece warm at the same time. If you are using too small a torch head, you are just "barbecuing" and will need more heat from a larger head. Change to the next larger size head. Balling up can also mean that the solder was dirty, so if it doesn't flow pretty soon after balling, it will just be getting dirtier. Try quenching, pickling, and re-soldering.

Why Did My Solder Move from the Join?

The solder moved to one side or the other of the join. What's happening? The hardest rule for me to learn was that both sides of the join must reach the same temperature at the same time. If one side is hotter than the other, the solder moves to the hottest side. Solder flows in the direction of the heat. (Have I ever mentioned that before?) Direct the flame evenly to both sides of the join, not directly on the join. This is very noticeable on bezels or butt joints, so extreme care must be taken with these. Make sure the join is a good fit. Solder won't fill gaps! Also, having too much solder on one side of a bezel join can be unsightly and must be sanded or filed off, which can affect the beauty of the join.

Can You Put Silver and Copper in Pickle?

Can I put silver and copper in the same pickle? Absolutely. You may put silver, copper, and all of copper's alloys, such as brass and "bronze," in the same pickle. (The "bronze" used in most jewelry today is a brass.) You can use the same pickle for gold, too, for those of you who can still afford it, though you need a special pickle for nickel, which we call "Nickel Pickle." It's usually available from your local supply store, and is also available from Rio Grande.

When Do I Need to Change the Pickle?

How often do you change your pickle? When I can't see my piece in the bottom of the crock pot. --Lexi

Tammy



Tammy Jones,
Online Editor
JewelryMakingDaily.com

7. Faceting Classes

Classes are offered on Saturdays - please arrange with Peter Beresford at 012-377 0558; we have 4 faceting machines available for our members and Peter is very willing and able to help you get started. This is a wonderful "branch" of our hobby which everybody can enjoy, no special artistic skills required. So come and book your classes now!



8. PGMC – Golden Oldies



This is quite a rarity – many of our “golden oldies” recently reunited at the memorial service of Erika Windisch (photo courtesy of Este Steyn).

Back (left to right): Douw Steyn, Dieter Schidlowski, Hannie Schönberger, Dieter Heinichen, Anny van den Berg, Linda Stone, Lenie Windisch, Stella-Marie Laredo, Will van den Berg.

Front (left to right): Este Steyn, Helmut Schönberger, Wolf Windisch, Karin Mayerl and Jean Schutz.



9. 50th FOSAGAMS Gemboree – Prieska, Northern Cape

Have you registered for the Gemboree 2016 in Prieska? If not, please do so without further delay. FOSAGAMS is organizing this wonderful event for us; they are celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year and have truly gone out of their way to find various collecting sites which should satisfy all participants. Communiques 1 and 2 have been distributed together with the registration form and other information, if you need additional copies please let me know and we resend the email; hard copies are also available at the clubhouse.

Our new member, Michael de Scande from Frankfort is urgently looking for a lift to this event, he would be able to come to Pretoria or Johannesburg; please contact Ina le Roux at tel. 058-813 1387 or via email at inaleroux333@gmail.com, if you are willing and able to take him along.



The GEM Hunt - TV Show on DSTV Travel Channel

Have you checked this show out already? It is currently repeated on the travel channel, yesterday they showed the ruby and aquamarine “hunt” in Mozambique – they travel to many other African countries (Madagascar, Zambia, Tanzania, etc.) and allow you a small glimpse into their mining operations and gem trading which you will most likely never see otherwise.

Essentially, [“Gem Hunt”](#) follows a team of modern treasure hunters on their search for the world’s most precious gems. The show follows gem dealer Ron LeBlanc, jewellery expert Diane Robinson, and geologist Bernie Gaboury, as they manoeuvre through mines, markets and tense negotiations in search of the world’s biggest, , , brightest, , , and most profitable jewels.

It always seems to have a real-life, Indiana Jones feel to it for me,, because of the back-street deals, gun-toting gangs, murder, and corruption. The “Gem Hunt” show just pulls you in, you feel as though you are right there in some remote village haggling over the price of a rough cut gem, all the while hoping that it isn’t fake, and that it will survive the cutting and polishing process. Tons of twists and turns, just an entertaining, informative, and a revealing glimpse into the way it is for those who search the globe for rare gems.



The team: Diane, Ron and Bernie.



Ron searching for gems in Vietnam

News release – LUCARA makes Diamond History, recovers 1,111 cts Diamond



Lucara Diamond Corp., announced the recovery of the 1,111cts gem quality diamond in November 2015. The magnificent stone originates from the south lobe of Lucara’s Karowe Mine (Botswana). Two additional white diamonds, an 813 cts stone and a 374 cts stone have been added a few days later to the roster of incredible diamonds recovered from this mine.

The weight of the stones recovered might slightly change after they have been cleaned. This has truly been an amazing week for Lucara with the discovery of the second largest and also the sixth largest gem quality diamonds ever mined. For full details on their mining operations and more photos visit their website (www.lucaradiamonds.com).