



# The Rockette

MARCH 2017

A Publication of the Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society (SGMS)

P. O. Box 1245, Redwood City, CA 94064

<http://www.sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org>

**MARCH 20 is our next meeting.**

**At the normal location!** Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA 94062  
Program: a member will be bringing her specimens of clear quartz crystals and more to talk about a recent trip to Arkansas.

If anyone has anything rock related they might like to sell, please come early to set up some table space at the meeting.

## SGMS Mission Statement

The Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society serves the community by providing education in the Earth Sciences and training in the lapidary arts and, in doing so, promotes ethical behavior, sound resource stewardship, and good fellowship. The Society fulfills its mission through year-round offerings of field trips, lapidary workshops, outreach presentations, public mineral displays, and monthly informational meetings open to the public.

Member of:

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.  
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
North Bay Field Trip Association

Exchange bulletins are welcome. You are free to reprint if credit or citation is noted.



## Maker Faire 2017

San Mateo County Event Center  
1346 Saratoga Drive, San Mateo, CA 94403

— Friday, May 19, 2017: 1 pm - 5 pm; Special Preview Day

— Saturday, May 20, 2017: 10 am - 7 pm

— Sunday, May 21, 2017: 10 am - 6 pm

Get ready to participate in this years' Maker Faire! Coordinated by Leslie Gordon and supported by other clubs, we will once again teach people how to polish a cabochon. WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Part science fair, part county fair, and part something entirely new, Maker Faire is an all-ages gathering of tech enthusiasts, crafters, educators, tinkerers, hobbyists, engineers,

science clubs, authors, artists, students, and commercial exhibitors. All of these “makers” come to Maker Faire to show what they have made and to share what they have learned. Maker Faire is primarily designed to be forward-looking, showcasing makers who are exploring new forms and new technologies. But it’s not just for the novel in technical fields; Maker Faire features innovation and experimentation across the spectrum of science, engineering, art, performance and craft.

Maker Faire is a gathering of fascinating, curious people who enjoy learning and who love sharing what they can do. It’s a venue for makers to show examples of their work and interact with others about it. Many makers say they have no other place to share what they do. [DIY](#) (Do-It-Yourself) is often invisible in our communities, taking place in shops, garages and on kitchen tables. It’s typically out of the spotlight of traditional art or science or craft events. Maker Faire makes visible these projects and ideas that we don’t encounter every day. Early bird prices for tickets are \$20-\$75 dollars.

## **SMGS and other clubs at Maker faire 2017**

Local gem and mineral societies will be well represented this year at the annual [Bay Area Maker Faire](#), May 19-21 at the San Mateo County Fairgrounds with an exhibit about Gemstone Polishing. We'll teach fellow Makers how to grind and polish gemstone cabochons, using diamond flat laps at different grits. Participants can choose their own stone from hundreds of pre-formed cabochons, and by using finer and finer grits, polish the stone to keep and take home.

The Sequoia club has organized this activity almost every year since 2012. At the 2012 Maker Faire, our exhibit received an Editor's Choice Blue Ribbon, and at the 2013 Maker Faire we received an Educator's Choice Red Ribbon.

So far this year, we have participation from at least 4 clubs in the Bay Area: the [Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society](#), The [Peninsula Gem and Geology Society](#), the [San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society](#), and the [Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley](#). If you know of other folks who would like to join in, all are welcome. We will have room in the exhibit booth for brochures and flyers from all the clubs, to promote upcoming events and/or to recruit new members. There is also room to hang banners for each of the clubs, and there will also be a display case in the booth for anyone who wants to display some of your own original lapidary work.

Our main activity at the fair will be cab polishing as in the past. If you have additional creative ideas or suggestions to make our exhibit better, please let me know. We are limited only by our imagination (and the 30' x 10' space we are allotted). Already, some people have proposed we add some educational display materials, and bring along some inexpensive findings, glue, and ribbons, so participants can make something out of their polished cab. This is your show, if you're willing to help out, we can do it.

Help is needed in at least two areas:

- 1.) staffing the exhibit on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, May 19-21, and
- 2.) preparing hundreds of preformed cabs on dop sticks to use at the fair.

Contact: Leslie C. Gordon     [lesliec.gordon@gmail.com](mailto:lesliec.gordon@gmail.com)

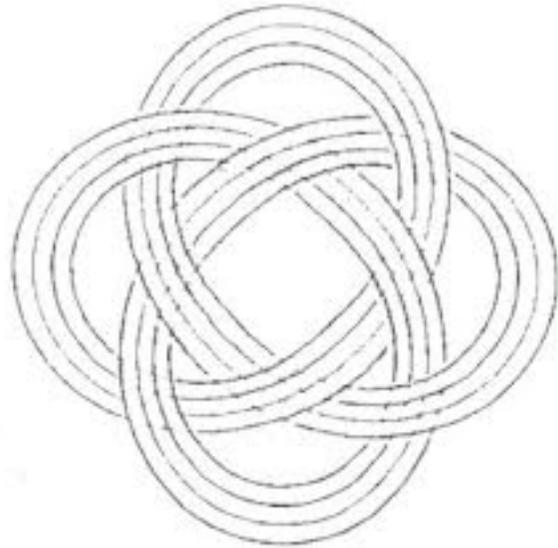
# Turk's Head Knot Classes

**Monday, March 27 or Saturday, April 1  
from 9-noon--either day**

**Location: Lapidary Shop**

Cost is \$60 with checks made payable to PGGGS and deposited at the shop by 3/16

Learn how to make a Turk's head knot with the pins, wraps, weaves and everything else you'll need. All tools and materials included. We're lucky to have Larry Schemel, a wonderful, patient instructor and skilled artisan, to lead this workshop. Space is limited to 5 students for each day. Contact Larry for more info.



## Recap Feb. 27

### meeting about our clubs future

If you missed it, you missed voting and participation in a serious event for our club. After much discussion of the pros and cons of merging the clubs, the Final Proposal and Motion was unanimously voted in favor of a merger.

This is the proposal SGMS voted upon: April will start the joint meetings. We have to figure the days and alternate locations. PGGGS is a Wed. meeting while SGMS is a Monday.

We will, upon approval of PGGGS, combine our board meetings

The 2017 show, our 50<sup>th</sup>, will be held as usual. Bill Spence (our hero) stepped up to become the Show Chairperson. In 2018 our show will be combined with that of PGGGS

All to work on the Maker Faire

Merge the newsletter

Results of that meeting were brought to the PGGGS board, who voted against the merger. There were certain elements they liked, but not enough to create a merger. We will continue to have social events and other things with PGGGS, but at this time there will be no full merger. What does this mean to our club? There needs to be more interest in participation of all we do. Presentations, field trips, leadership and more. **YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU**

## WANTED: CLUB OFFICERS for 2017

We still have openings for officers for this year. Please offer your assistance!!!

Thanks to Bill Spence for becoming Show Chair

Doug Gottschilch as Treasurer and Susan Bellera as Secretary.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Show

Mark your calendars for September 16-17 as those will be the dates of SGMS 50<sup>th</sup> annual show. We need all hands on deck to assist with the work—set up, tear down, working the show, taking tickets, selling food, displaying their wares...the list continues...let's all put forth a great effort to make a fantastic show. If you know of any vendors who might want to participate, have them contact Bill Spence. [bill.spence777@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bill.spence777@sbcglobal.net)

## WANTED:

- does anyone have a genie for sale for about \$600 that is in good condition?
- looking to buy rough ruby crystals to make into an egg.

Contact Peter Adams



## Notes on a visit to the Castro Valley club show

By Peter Adams

Note that John Dabney has a slab of rhodochrosite in his hand. That man does like that pink rock. Spotted David Dai and Peggy Lu (both former members) who stopped by and said hello. One set of display cases featured some really fine siuseki, which is the art of stone appreciation. John Garsow had some really great crystals and rough. The jade dealers continued to offer all manner of top-quality jade for sale. I bought a piece of Big Sur jade that will make a great marble. June Harris had a great booth where she was selling specimens. One dealer was offering Dino-lite USB microscopes that are much better than my digital microscope, but at a much higher price. The cost of laborite rough continues to increase. One dealer mentioned that at the Tucson show, the newest discovery was emeralds in Ethiopia. The weather was for the most part good, but

occasionally a little rainy, but rocks don't melt in the rain. The rain on the Dumbarton Bridge was downright scary.

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## Membership Dues are Due!

Please bring a check to the next meeting made payable to SGMS or send to our PO box. **They are: \$25 individual, \$40/couple in same household, kids free.** Make checks payable to the Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society. OR Send a check to: Membership, P. O. Box 1245, Redwood City, CA 94064. Please review the membership list to make sure we have your correct information. If you've made a change over the past year, then it might not be in the system. If you have not paid your dues you will not be able to attend any field trips...and there are many in the works!

## Dates of SGMS meetings for 2017:

March 20, April 17, May 15

Unless specified, the meetings will be held at the usual place, The Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society holds its General Meetings from 7-9pm on the third Monday of the month (with exceptions for holidays, or during July and December). Each meeting features a presentation, raffle drawings for specimens, a member Show & Tell, and access to the club library. **Guests are welcome to join us!**

Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA 94062

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If you are interested in providing material for our next newsletter, please contact your editor. If you have anything for sale that would be of interest to our club members, you can post that here too!