

# GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

OCTOBER 2009

## Prez Sez ...

I am writing this monthly president's message the morning after our annual picnic.

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY!

The weather turned out to be one of those spectacular days that makes living in the Carolinas special. And I was very lucky to have new members come early and help with the last minute preparations and take over cooking the burgers and hot dogs. Folks brought yummy side dishes and deserts and Jimmy's famous chili along with Ken's baked beans were big hits.

The same junior rockhound who has blessed our meal for years did so again, and it was time or good food and fellowship. I can assure you that no one went hungry.

Shortly after the meal, Linda called her wire wrapping folks downstairs to make a copper bracelet. I am very glad that she brought extra supplies as we had little boys and girls crowding into the room.

One little feller was so proud to show his mom what he had made. Linda is a talented wire artist and we thank her for her service to our club.

We soon moved outside for our mini auction. Folks brought baked goods, rocks and stuff. In addition we had a few items left from previous years that Kathy and I were happy to move them to someone else's home. We raised over four hundred dollars and had a lot of fun doing it.

During the afternoon, I did get time to put one rock on the slab saw and do a small cabochon demonstration.

At the end of the day after everyone had gone, Kathy and I were indeed tired but very rewarded and fulfilled. And there on the counter was one lone slice of the most wonderful key lime pie that was overlooked.

How that single piece got missed is a wonder. To top off the blessings of the day, we had one of the deepest red sunsets that I have seen in a very long time. It looked like the cover of Ron Gibbs' book.

Members both new and old showed that they were willing to volunteer and help our club. We have several areas in which we need committees and workers to make our club better. PLEASE let me, or any officer

or director hear from you if you would like to help our club.

For all those who helped make our picnic a success, THANK YOU!

Don't forget, we will still have our regular club meeting, this Thursday, Oct. 15th at 7:00 P.M. at The Nature Museum.

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# 2009 CGMC Officers & Board

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## CLUB CHAIRPERSONS

### SFMS Contact & Stamp Chair

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### Points Scholarship Chair

open

### Geode Chair

Jimmy Strickland

### Hospitality Chair

open

### Refreshments Chair

open

### Workshop Chair

open

### WebMaster

Ron Gibbs

### Librarian

Pat Walker

### Picnic Chair

open

### Christmas Party Chair

Pat Walker

### Club WEB Site

[www.charlottegem.com](http://www.charlottegem.com)

I hope to see you there! Jimmy Strickland will give a program on the big, Springfield show where he attended with member and dealer Danny Jones.

*Jack King, President*



## *Large Diamond Recently Found*

*article compiled from several sources by ron gibbs*

From the South African, Cullinan Mine, a large diamond the size of a chicken egg was recently uncovered. The Cullinan mine is the same mine that produced the world's largest diamond, the Cullinan Diamond. The largest single cut stone from the original Cullinan diamond is now part of the British crown jewels and resides in the Imperial Scepter.



The new diamond is just over 100 grams in size, weighing in at a very respectful 507.55 ct. It has exceptional color and clarity according to Johan Dippenaar, the company's chief executive. No value has been assigned to the diamond as yet, but it is thought

that it will produce one of the top 20 high quality faceted gems when it is final cut. It maybe worth 20 million dollars.

This 500+ ct. rough is the largest of four recent finds from the mine, the others being stones of 168 ct, a 58.5 ct., and a 53.3 ct. In the past the mine has also produced two of the world's other largest diamonds, the Golden Jubilee (755 ct.) and the Centenary (599 ct.). This single mine produces about 25% of the world's gem quality stones. It remains the only significant source of blue diamonds in the world.



***Field Trip: Cotton Patch Gold Mine  
Junior Rockhounds Activity***

***Open to all CGAM club members!***

***Sunday, October 18, 2009***

***1:00 PM until...***

Group Rates (tell them you are with the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club):

Adults: \$10.50, includes 5 two-gallon buckets of material

Children under 12: \$6.50, includes 3 two-gallon buckets of material

Pans are provided

We will be stillwater panning in open troughs – hats & sunscreen recommended.

Sluicing in the creek is also available, weather permitting.

Drinks, snacks and bathrooms are available at the mine store.

Picnic tables are available – bring your own snacks and drinks, if you prefer!

Mine is open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

*There will be no regular Jr. Rockhound Meeting in the club-house this Month.*

***October Regular Meeting***

***Thursday Oct 15th, 2009***

***7:00 pm - Nature Museum***

***Jimmy Strickland - A Photo Tour of the  
2009 Springfield Mineral Show - 200  
plus dealers & Many Show Cases***

# *Using a Digital Camera to Photograph slabs, cabs, gemstones, minerals and jewelry - Part V* by ron gibbs

There are several types of light that can be used successfully in table top digital photography. The ideal light might be natural sunlight, but it is exceedingly hard to control in the studio situation, and rarely available in the evenings unless you live pretty far north!

Traditionally tungsten based photo-flood lights were/are used in film based photography because there is a film specifically designed to color correct this type of light. Remember from last month that light “color” is measured in degrees Kelvin, with low values associated to red-orange light, and higher values headed toward pure white light. Traditional photo floods have a value around 3400 °K. Providing a warm orange tone.

While it is possible to use these lights with today’s digital cameras (with white balance set to tungsten) there are some disadvantages. First, for a given amount of light you must use fairly high wattage bulbs. The higher wattage bulbs tend to run quite hot and this limits materials that can be used as diffusers, it heats up the studio, it wastes electricity, and they have a tendency to burn skin when accidentally brushed against.

Halogen lights operate in a similar manor although they tend to provide more light for the same wattage, they also run very hot and show all the same types of disadvantages. They can be tamed to a degree when used with fiber-optic light directors as in microscope use, but they are expensive and not used in larger situations. I believe that the best lighting today is either white balanced fluorescent lights or flash. Both can produce excellent color results with minimal color correction needed. Both operate much cooler than the filament type bulbs, and both can be diffused with any number of inexpensive materials. The only real disadvantage to electronic flash is the cost and ease of use.

To get good (consistent) results with a flash set up takes a good deal of practice, and a fairly high expenditure. The flash built-in to most digital cameras is basically useless in all but a few cases, so external units are needed to successfully light most scenes. Studio flash equipment is often as expensive as a camera and can be difficult to “pre-visualize” when used. Under correct use and professional control the results can be excellent. (See most of Jeff Scovil’s work!)

For most of us, the use of medium wattage, color correct, compact fluorescent bulbs are a good choice. They are now inexpensive, have long life times, run relatively cool, and can be obtained with good color balance. After recommending them I have had people show me poor color results, but in nearly all cases I found that the wrong fluorescent bulbs were purchased. Names like “Bright White”, “Cool White”, “Warm White”, etc. are not used consistently throughout the industry and often have a wide color latitude. Always buy bulbs that have a Kelvin



<i>Fluorescent</i>	<i>Equivalent Tungsten</i>
<b>18-20 watt</b>	<b>75 watt</b>
<b>23-28 watt</b>	<b>100 watt</b>
<b>29-30 watt</b>	<b>120 watt</b>
<b>32-36 watt</b>	<b>130 watt</b>
<b>40-42 watt</b>	<b>150 watt</b>
<b>55 watt</b>	<b>240 watt</b>
<b>85 watt</b>	<b>350 watt</b>

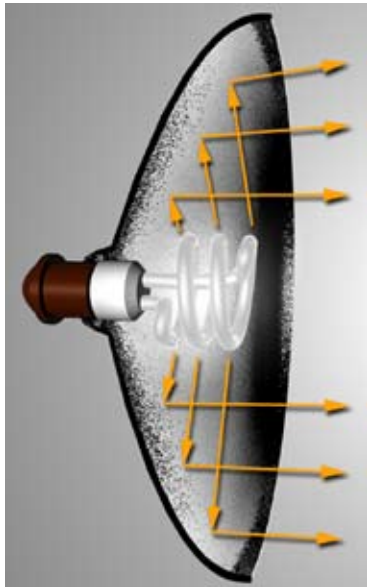
rating on the package. Always buy bulbs that are 5000°K or higher. I also strongly recommend that you always stick with a single value in any given set up. Don't mix 5000°K with 6500°K bulbs. Use all of one or the other.

A variety of sizes and shapes are now available in the compact fluorescent bulbs (see previous page), and their rough watt age equivalents are provided in the accompanying chart. The compact bulbs with wattage values over 40 tend to be larger than their tungsten equivalents in size.



Due to the shape of the compact fluorescent bulbs, the light is designed to be emitted from around the length of the cylinder models. Thus it is most useful to place these bulbs in a reflector to direct as much light as possible in the direction of the subject matter. Even the inexpensive clamp-on work lights work well, or any old photo-flood fixture with a standard screw socket works fine.

Some sort of frame work is necessary to aid in positioning the reflectors around the subject. A typical lighting set-up for most work will involve 2 or 3 lamps. Thus the reflectors can each have their own independent stands or can be used in some kind of frame work. Independent stand offer the most flexibility but often take up the most space and can get in the way of one another.



Stands can be made out of anything that offers sufficient support for the reflector. I have used lighting tripods, normal photo tripods, short microphone stands, and even bricks. My favorite stand is now is simple framework built from 1" PVC pipe. It can be customized as needed to hold the reflectors and can be combined with any of the other individual stands as needed.



*reflector provides directed light*

*2 kinds of clamp on lights*



*microhone stand*



*camera tripod*



*brick*



*lighting tripod*



Here is the basic PVC piping set-up I use with the clamp-on lights for most of my table top photography. The two bottom supports are permanently glued as they are basically never adjusted, they simply hold up the rest of the rig. I usually glue the top support at only the cross member to aid in the stability of the set up.

Other joints are just friction fit to allow them to be changed easily as the need arises. I color coded the joints in the diagram to make them stand out for ease of viewing. I use a variety of different tubes connected to the two “T”s on the risers to hold both background materials, lights, and reflectors. These two “T”s can be rotated to hold items in front, behind or to either side of the apparatus. In upcoming articles I will demonstrate some of these set ups.

The clamp lights can be attached to any place on the structure and the system works using the table top as the main surface or by placing a riser of some kind inside the lighting cage. A riser helps maintain the camera at a more comfortable height, and causes less back strain when many samples are being photographed.

I use a wooden structure with a sheet of plate glass on the top. The general design came from Jeff Schovil and his book, *“Photographing Minerals, Fossils, and Lapidary Materials.”* I use this riser for most table top work as it puts the camera viewfinder at a comfortable working height.



The entire pipe frame assembly and wooden support is placed on a large table bringing the glass height to about 46” above the floor.

One other specialty light that I sometimes employ is the LED (Light Emitting Diode). These are fairly new and but not all that expensive. Although it is possible to get nearly pure white (~5000K) LED lights, they are rarely marked, and most have a bit of a bluish color shift. These lights are useful in certain special situations when more “color play” is desired in faceted gemstones, or a very small (directed light) is desirable to light-up the interior of some things. I will cover there use and show some examples when I describe the situations where I actually use them.

The color balanced, compact fluorescent, described above will be used in about 90% of the setups in this series of articles. I would suggest the need to at least two reflectors and third would be handy from time to time. I recommend 25 watt or higher bulbs, and I happen to use the 5000°K variety, but the 6500°K bulbs will work fine too. The wattage describes the overall light output (brightness) of the lam, and the kelvin rating describes the color of the light.

In the next edition of this continuing essay I will discuss the “quality” of the light, and how to modify it by using a variety of diffusers, and secondary reflectors.



## ***Nominated Slate of Officers for the 2010 year.***

Our energetic nominating committee has lined up the following slate of officers for the club in 2010. This groups can be elected (or challenged) when we vote in the November meeting. Anyone interested in joining or replacing any potential officers can add their name to the list in October or November.

President: Jack King  
Vice President: Muary Simon  
Secretary: Pat Walker  
Treasurer: Gayle Blevins  
Editor: Ron Gibbs  
Dir. at Large: Ken Anderson  
Dir. at Large: Scott Stewart

Past Pres: Jimmy Strickland

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## ***Gain some Fame - Win a Prize!***

Every month Rock & Gems magazine offers a prize for the best half page article describing a Lapidary Craft project. Write 500 words and add one or more photos of the results, or process.

Send the article and photo via CD to the Craftsman of the Month, Rock & Gem magazine, 290 Maple Ct., Ste. 232, Ventura, Ca 93003. Submissions re not returned so don't send the only copy you have.

Winners will be notified, and published in an upcoming issue of Rock & Gem. Winners receive a two speed Dremel Model 200 N/40 Multi-Pro kit and a Wall Plaque. Artifices are also posted to their WEB site. ([www.rockngems.com](http://www.rockngems.com))

## ***Calendar of Upcoming Events***

**October 10th, 2009** Club Picnic and Cook Out - From noon till 4 pm. Location Jack King's house on Lake Norman. - More on WEB site.

**October 15th, 2009** - Regular Club meeting - Nature Museum - 7:00 pm Jimmy Strickland, "Springfield Show 2009 - report"

**October 16-17-18, 2009** - Western Piedmont Mineral & Gem Club Show, Taylorsville NC.

**October 18th, 2009** - Jr. Rockhound & Club Fieldtrip to Cotton Patch Gold mine. (See page 3 and WEB for further info.)

**October 18-18-29, 2009** - Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin Show, Franklin NC.

**November 19th, 2009** Our November regular meeting (November 19th) is our annual auction. Please bring any extra goodies: rocks, slabs, jewelry, tools, minerals, etc to donate to the auction. The proceeds from this auction are used to help fund the club and it's activities.

**November 13-15, 2009**, Louisville, KY – KYANA Geological Society. Annual Mineral, Fossil, Gem, and Rock Show. Resurrection Lutheran Church Gym, 4205 Gardiner View Ave. Hours: 13th, 10:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.; 14th, 8:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.; 15th, 12:00 Noon – 6:00 P.M. Contact: Mike Whitehouse, 4304 Winter Park Dr., Louisville, KY 40218; 502.905.4988, or [kyanageo@gmail.com](mailto:kyanageo@gmail.com)

**November 27-29, 2009**, Columbia, SC—Columbia, SC Gem and Mineral Society. 42nd Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show, South Carolina State Museum, 301 Gervais Street. Hours: 27th & 28th, 10:00 A.M.– 6:00 P.M.; 29th, 12:00 Noon– 5:00 P.M.; Contact: Sue Shrader at 803.736.9317 or [ashrader@mindspring.com](mailto:ashrader@mindspring.com) and Sharon Sterrett at 803.356.1472 or [ssterrett@sc.rr.com](mailto:ssterrett@sc.rr.com).

**December, 2009** - Date/Location to be determined - Our Annual Christmas Party and the awarding of both the club scholarships, and the University of Charlotte sponsored scholarships for 2009.

**2nd Saturday of each Month** - Wirewrap instruction, Expressive Impressions at 2215 Ayrslley Town Blvd., Suite G. - 10:30 am - 2:00 pm. - Contact Linda Simon ([lsimon1@carolina.rr.com](mailto:lsimon1@carolina.rr.com)) for more information.



## ***Trip to the Houston Gem and Mineral Club***

*by ron gibbs*

In September I made a trip to the Houston Gem and Mineral Club and gave a presentation on the "Genesis of a Book." The Houston club is well over 500 members and continues to grow with a very active Jr. programs that runs in many locations throughout the city.

The club owns it's own building with specialty rooms for jewelry making, cabochon cutting, fossil cleaning, a nice library, a general meeting room and a snack room.

Besides their monthly general meeting they also support several special interest groups, including a Mineral Section, Beading Section, Lapidary & Silversmithing Section, Faceting Section, Youth Section, and a Paleo Section.

I am including several photos of their club house and some of their many facilities.

The current president of the club "Terry" Proctor, owns his own Museum in the Houston area,

(<http://www.proctormuseum.us/>) the Vice President, Matt Dillon, has a great agate collection specializing in Texas and Mexican agate ( <http://www.flickr.com/photos/97769244@N00/sets/72157619550070276/> ). and

their newsletter editor, Phyllis George, is also the chairperson for the AFMS WEB site competition. (The HGMS newsletter: (<http://www.hgms.org/Backbender%27sGazetteIssues.html> )



***General Meeting Room***



***Jewelry Making Room***



***Lapidary Workshop***



***Fossil Cleaning***



*They call it the "super grinder" and it's made up of 9 6" tile cutting saw blades mounted side by side on a rotating shaft. It provides roughly a 40 grit grinding surface for really fast stone removal.*

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## ***Club Dues - Early Reminder***

Your club dues are good through December of 2009, then it will be time to pay for 2010. Dues can be paid anytime for 2010, but next year those who are not current by March will be dropped from the club E-Mail list and Newsletter List.

More reminders will come in the next few months.

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## ***Club Library "Almost" Up-to-Date.***

*by Pat Walker*

All but one of our long missing books have been found. Please check around and see if you have "Advanced Odeas with Square Wire Vol III," by D.& J. Kelly. This is a small loose leaf notebook.

Also missing is our new "Wirewrap Club" notebook. It is a little loose-leaf book. Whoever borrowed it forgot to leave the library card.

Please call Pat Walker at 704 523-5261 so we'll know the location of the book.

