

2019 Tucson Faceters Frolic

at

The Old Pueblo Lapidary Club

3118 North Dale Avenue

Tucson, AZ 85712

The time is almost upon us for another trip to Tucson. This is the trip that my wife and I look forward to and plan for all year long. The Frolic will again take place at the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club or at least the last three days. This year's Frolic will be another four day event starting with a Gem Rough Buying Tour of the retail shows. It will be followed up by a two day class on Faceting for Beginners, three Gem Cad Classes for beginning, intermediate and advanced applications and three days of exceptional speakers from around the world.

The three days of speakers is free of charge. But the Gem Buying Tour, the Faceting Class and the Gem Cad Classes are available for a fee and they each has a limited number of spaces available.

To sign up and pay for these events you will need to pay in advance by going to <https://usfacetersguild.org/events/> and paying through Pay Pal.

Here are the details and the schedule:

Wednesday, February 6, 2019:

Gem Buying Tour of Tucson

Cost: \$40.00 USD

Tour group size limited to 8 people.

This is the only event that will not take place at the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club. This event will be led by Scott Sucher who will be taking you around to the many retail shows that have gem rough for sale. The time and starting point will be provided once you have paid for the event. When you sign up, be sure to provide your cell phone number and email address so we can get the details to you. The number of participants will be limited to 8 people.

To sign up, please go to <https://usfacetersguild.org/events/> and make your payment through Pay Pal.

Scott Sucher is a retired Air Force Combat Search and Rescue/Special Operations instructor pilot, and was Chief, Air Operations in Kuwait for Operation Southern Watch He is an acknowledged expert in the history and cutting of famous historical diamonds, having published articles on the French Blue, Tavernier Blue, and Koh-i-Noor diamonds in Gems and Gemology, Review de Gemologie in France, plus a few others. Scott was the featured expert gem cutter in

the Discovery Channel documentary "Unsolved History: The Hope Diamond" that first aired in March 2005 and the 2010 National Geographic program "Secrets of the Hope Diamond" with significant on-air time in both programs. As a result of the Discovery Channel filming, he was privileged to be alone in the Smithsonian vault with the unset Hope diamond, the Blue Heart diamond, and Napoleon's Necklace. He has had several international displays, and has codisplayed for the past several years with the GIA at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. He has also guided projects with the National History Museum, London and the Museum national D'Histoire naturelle in Paris. He was the keynote speaker for GIA's 2011 John Sinkankas Diamond Symposium. His work is on permanent exhibit in many museums.

Classes at Old Pueblo Lapidary Club

3118 North Dale Avenue

Tucson, AZ 85712

Thursday and Friday, February 7-8, 2019:

Beginning Gem Faceting Class

Cost: \$40.00 USD

Class size limited to 6 students.

This is a two day event and all students are required to be present on Thursday for the beginning of the class. Class will start promptly at 9:00 AM and it will take place in the faceting room at the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club. The class will be taught by **Jeff Theesfeld, Billy Bob Riley and Dave Richardson**. The maximum number of participants will be limited to 6 people.

To sign up for this class, go to <https://usfacetersguild.org/events/> and pay through Pay Pal.

Jeff Theesfeld started cutting gems in 2016, after meeting his faceting mentor, Ernie Hawes, in Albuquerque New Mexico. Jeff immediately became very enthusiastic about faceting, and the history of faceting. He met Scott Sucher, of Museum Diamonds shortly after beginning faceting, and began learning about the process and joys of researching, designing and faceting gems inspired by historically famous diamonds and colored gemstones. Jeff has written several articles about his researches and experiences in learning the art of faceting. He attained the level of Master Faceter with less than 2 years of faceting experience. He attributes his rapid faceting success to support from a fantastic group of local faceters in the New Mexico Faceters Guild, along with an unusually strong desire to learn as much as possible about the history of faceting designs. He attended his very first USFG TGMS Faceters Frolic in 2018, where he was appointed as the USFG Historian. He was immediately instrumental in organizing and developing the Glenn Klein Historical Gem collection, which became a permanent part of the USFG Museum collection. He was also appointed to the USFG Competition Committee. In the process of researching the USFG history, he began communications with the Australian Faceters Guild. After a short while, he was asked to become a part of the 2019 AFG International Faceting Challenge (IFC) as the USA Co-Coordinator. He will be encouraging all faceters to continue the exceptional competition history of the IFC, as well as competing himself. He specializes in researching and studying all aspects of historical and unique gem designs, and using that information to become the best faceter he can be.

Billy Bob Riley has been a member of the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club for 22 years. He started cutting cabochons, then moved into silver smithing and became an instructor of silver smithing. He was then asked by the head faceting instructor to help with faceting classes. He has gone on to build his own Monster Faceting Machine shown below. He made this in the metal shop at his home. It was used to cut a 4 pound/9072 carat Topaz. Billy Bob will be assisted by **Dave Richardson**, also a member of the OPLC with experience in faceting



Billy Bob Riley and the Moster Faceting Machine

Friday, February 8:

Gem Cad Classes (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced)

Cost for Each Class: \$30.00 USD

Class sizes limited to 12 students.

Beginning Class will start promptly at 9:00 AM till 11:00 AM

Intermediate Class will start at 12:00 PM and go till 2:00 PM

Advanced Class will start at 3:00 PM and go till 5:00 PM

This class will be taught by the program developer Robert Strickland. Students must bring their own computers and possibly their own extension cords and power strips. The room it will be taught in has limited power outlets, so be prepared to share.

To sign up for these classes, please go to <https://usfacetersguild.org/events/> and pay through PayPal.

Lectures at The Old Pueblo Lapidary Club

3118 North Dale Avenue

Tucson, AZ 85712

Free Admission

Thursday, February 7, 2019:

10:00 AM till 12:00 PM:

Speaker: Dan Lynch and Peter Torraca will be talking about Taking the Step Towards Faceting as a Business.

Ever thought about taking the step into professional faceting? Maybe trying to make some \$\$ in faceting? And, what is the difference between professional and hobby faceting anyway? Dan & Peter will do their best to field your questions while sharing some of the lessons they've learned cutting for the trade, traveling to buy rough, meeting miners at the source and coming home to tell the tale.

Dan Lynch

Dan Lynch has been cutting gemstones for more than 20 years and teaches faceting with the Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society in Nashville, TN. Dan holds a degree in Geology as well as a GIA Graduate Gemologist diploma. Dan is the current Vice President of the United States Faceters Guild and has served as the Guild's newsletter editor for the past two years. ESPCGems.com

Peter Torraca

Peter Torraca is a western NY based colored gemstone faceter and gemologist. Enamored with classic gemstone designs, he focuses on precision cutting and repair of colored gemstone varieties generally used in the jewelry trade. Peter has been faceting gemstones professionally since 2007 and has been involved in the jewelry trade since the late 1980's. Torraca.net

1:00 PM till 3:00 PM:

Speaker: Lisa Elser will talk about her experience with heat treating gems

Heat treating gems can dramatically improve their appearance and value, or it can turn them into shattered ruins. Lisa's spent years experimenting with heat treatment that can be done with a simple home kiln, and will talk about the processes she uses and lessons learned for heating tourmaline, zircons, etc that don't require extreme heat or specialized gasses.

Lisa Elser is a gem cutter trained in Switzerland and living in the Vancouver, BC area. She spent 25 years in IT working for companies like Bell Laboratories, NCR and Sun Microsystems and consulted to some of the largest banks and insurance companies in the world. Lisa holds Bachelors and Masters degrees from Rutgers University, as well as advanced courses on Finance from Edinburgh School of Business. She has lectured around the world on using technology to achieve business goals and was a sought after speaker for conferences and corporate meetings.

She began cutting gems as a hobby when she moved from consulting to managing consultants, finding that it gave her a satisfaction to create something with her own hands.

Lisa trained in gem cutting in Montreux and did her Graduate Gemologist degree with the GIA in Carlsbad, CA. After a number of years of cutting as a hobby she retired from IT and began cutting full time. Lisa now works with custom goldsmiths and jewelry designers in North America and Europe. She and her husband Tom also use their consulting and business skills to work with mining groups and aid agencies, and are sought after speakers for gem events.

She's published articles on topics including rough buying techniques, sawing, faceting "off the diagram" and on the heat treatment of tourmaline. In addition to her own publications, Lisa has been featured in More Magazine, Jewellery Business Canada, Mercedes Benz Magazine, Collection Luxury Magazine, as well as in-depth interviews on CBC radio and for the Digital Dialogue.

Lisa's an AGTA Spectrum award winner, and her work is in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institution.

Informal stuff for the intro -

- I apply my research background to faceting. Learning how things work and being able to understand what works and what doesn't instead of just following the directions makes me happy.

- sharing what I've learned is a big part of who I am. It was in my former life, and is now.

- I'm not hung up on the "perfect thing." In gems and design it's about getting the very best from the rock I'm given. That means I spend lots of time working out of the box and exploring.

- Seeing the impact of my work on the people I touch matters. Doing client events where I see how buyers responds to my work is great, but so is traveling to buy rough, and seeing how the gem trade impacts the lives of the people in country.

- I run this as a business, and take great pride in the fact that we pay our bills this way but mostly for me this is passion. We work to donate 20-25% of our net profits to support educational, health, and economic development in gem producing countries.

4:00 PM till 6:00 PM:

Speaker: Boyd Fox will talk about gem repair and re-cutting.

Boyd has been cutting since the age of 8. Now a GIA Gemologist, he has been apprenticing under the master cutter Ron Pingenot for 5 years. Ron has been gracious to teach him 60 years worth of cutting

knowledge, including the “art of the Re-Cut”. Boyd will be talking about extracting the most value and beauty out of poorly faceted or damaged high-end gemstones.

7:00 PM till 9:00 PM

Speaker: Mike Grey will be talking about cutting rare gemstones.

Mike started cutting in 1968, growing up around gem mining and cutting. In addition to working the Benitoite Mine in central California, he spent his teen-age years digging out pockets at the tourmaline mines in San Diego County, California. He put himself through college by faceting. After getting his degree, he decided that lapidary was much more fun and profitable. He cuts just about anything and everything from tiny rare stones to gigantic quartzes and topazes. He spent two years in Bangkok, Thailand running a gem cutting factory and has consulted on other mining and gem cutting projects around the world.

DEGREES

1979: University of California, Riverside: B.S. Environmental Sciences (Geology)

1980: Gemological Institute of America, Santa Monica, California: Graduate Gemologist in Residence

ORGANIZATIONS

1980-94: Southern California Chapter Friends of Mineralogy, Founding Board Member, Corresponding Secretary, Vice-President, President

1982-85: California State Mineral Museum, Mariposa, California, Founding Board Member, President, Curator

1986-93: Gem and Mineral Council, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, Founding Board Member, Vice-President

1978-92: Member, Mineral Museums Advisory Council

1995-present: Delegate (United States), International Gemological Conference

MINING EXPERIENCE

1968-2000: Benitoite Gem Mine

1971-80: San Diego County pegmatites, all aspects of mining, especially extraction of pockets, during a very active period of production

1979-85: Colorado Quartz Mine, Midpines, California, crystallized gold specimens

1990-96: Mt. Mica, Paris, Maine, one of the oldest gem mines in North America

General: Mined and field collected at many gem and mineral localities around the world, including North America, Southeast Asia, and Australia.

PRACTICAL GEMOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE

- Learned faceting in late 1960's, worked as lapidary throughout high school and college for tuition and spending money.
- Established Graystone Enterprises in 1978, offering custom cutting and rare gemstones.
- Consultant for New Tiger Consulting (1996 - 1998), setting up cutting factory in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.
- Consultant for Kennecott Exploration and Kennecott Minerals, 1994-1996. Industry analysis, cutting, mining consultant for Red Beryl and Benitoite Projects.
- Managed cutting factory in Bangkok, Thailand, 1988-89. In addition to managing 50 employees, handled all aspects of security, import/export, stone distribution, and public relations.
- Auctioneer for River City Auction House, 1988-89, calling both antiques and gemstone auctions.

- Appraiser at Altobelli Jewelers in North Hollywood, California, 1985-87, mostly valuing donation items under Cosmo Altobelli, Director of Appraisers, American Gem Society.
- Faceted numerous stones now residing in virtually every major and minor museum in North America, and many museums abroad as well.

Friday, February 8, 2019:

10:00 AM till Noon:

Speaker: John Bailey of Faceting Academy fame. John is a professional gemstone artist who approaches the faceting art as being based on reverse-engineering the appraisal process, then using a technical approach to maximize the market value of each rough. He teaches this outcome-focused technical approach at the International Faceting Academy. John has cut world-record-sized gems, and has spoken at faceting guild events from Portland to Tucson. His articles, faceting designs, and work have been featured in trade publications world-wide, and on television.

He plans to talk about "Polish, and how to get a good one" and about "Faceting Material Selection and Project Planning".

1:00 PM till 3:00 PM:

Speaker: Justin Prim will talk about A Brief History of Colored Stone Faceting

Justin is an author and faceting instructor in Bangkok, he explores the history of colored stone cutting in Europe. Beginning in the 1400's and taking us on a visual journey through modern times, the presentation includes many images and videos showing faceted stones in jewelry at various points throughout history and also discusses the development of techniques and machinery through the ages. We will look at the evolution of the gem cutting craft as it has been influenced by the artistic and technological trends of the times from Renaissance to Victorian to the Modern Era, from table cut to concave faceting. Along the way, we will follow the journey of the faceting machine as it migrates and evolves from Turnov, Bohemia to Idar-Oberstein, Germany and Jura, France and finally over to the United States.

Justin K Prim is an American lapidary and gemologist living and working in Bangkok, Thailand. He has studied gem cutting traditions all over the world as well as attending gemology programs at GIA and AIGS. He is currently working on a book about the worldwide history of gemstone faceting. He works as a Faceting Instructor for the Institute of Gem Trading as well as writing articles, producing videos, and giving talks about gem cutting history.

4:00 PM till 6:00 PM:

Speaker: Victor Tuzlukov is a world renowned faceter from Russia

He has a number of projects that he will be covering. They include his Constellation project where he cut designs by recently deceased gem faceters who left amazing marks on the faceting world and he will be talking about his Heritage program, where each stone will be devoted to some culture and, accordingly, each gem design will contain traditional images, symbols, ornaments - typical for this culture...

7:00 PM till 9:00 PM:

Speaker: Scott Sucher will talk on the Art of Grinding and Polishing

Scott Sucher is a retired Air Force Combat Search and Rescue/Special Operations instructor pilot, and was Chief, Air Operations in Kuwait for Operation Southern Watch. He is an acknowledged expert in the history and cutting of famous historical diamonds, having published articles on the French Blue, Tavernier Blue, and Koh-i-Noor diamonds in *Gems and Gemology*, *Review de Gemologie in France*, plus a few others. Scott was the featured expert gem cutter in the Discovery Channel documentary "Unsolved History: The Hope Diamond" that first aired in March 2005 and the 2010 National Geographic program "Secrets of the Hope Diamond" with significant on-air time in both programs. As a result of the Discovery Channel filming, he was privileged to be alone in the Smithsonian vault with the unset Hope diamond, the Blue Heart diamond, and Napoleon's Necklace. He has had several international displays, and has co-displayed for the past several years with the GIA at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. He has also guided projects with the National History Museum, London and the Museum national D'Historie naturelle in Paris. He was the keynote speaker for GIA's 2011 John Sinkankas Diamond Symposium. His work is on permanent exhibit in many museums.

The Arts of Grinding and Polishing

Ever wonder why that stone you are cutting isn't doing what you want it to do? Why isn't the polish good? Why does it want to crack? Learn the answers during a discussion on the two modes of grinding, lap chemistry, how different grit sizes actually work at the molecular level, how to cut stressed stones, the theories of polishing, and using the proper materials for grinding and polishing based on the physical characteristics of your material.

Saturday, February 9, 2019

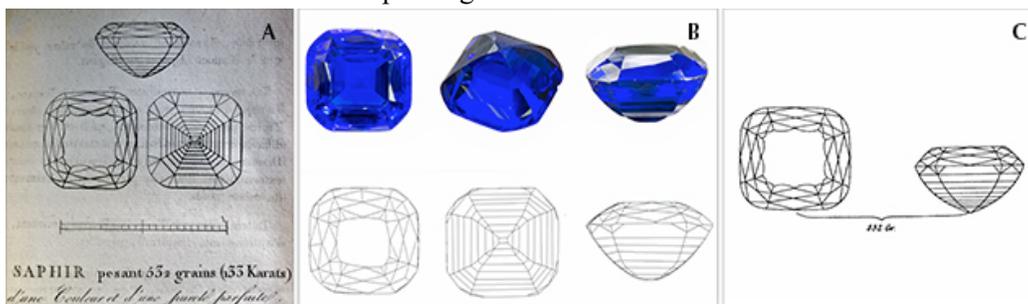
10:00 AM till Noon:

Speakers: Jeff Theesfeld and Glenn Klein

Jeff's Top-Twenty Historical Gem Designs – What great designs can teach faceters today.

By: Jeff Theesfeld

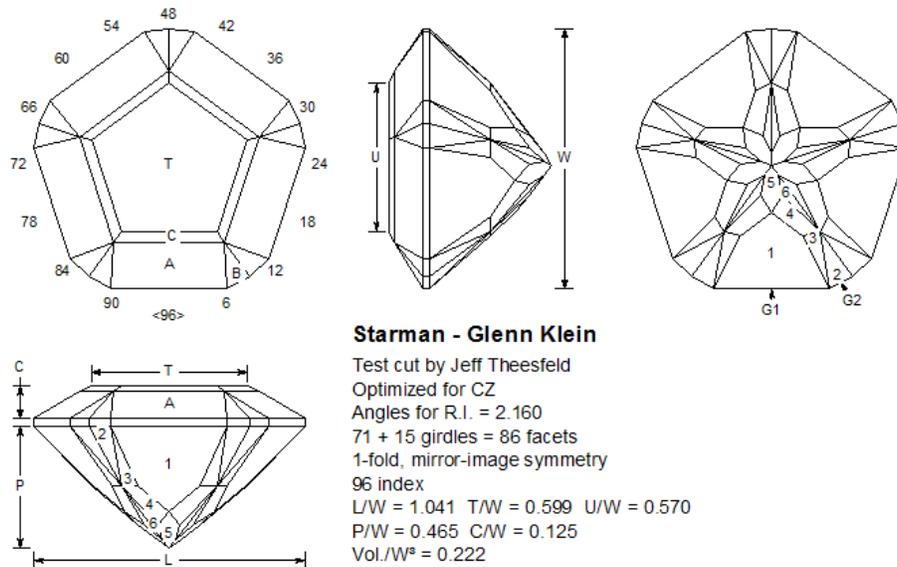
Special guest: Glenn Klein



Jeff will draw from many historically significant gem designs to demonstrate many unique gem characteristics. He will use information from Glenn Klein's book "*Faceting History: cutting diamonds and colored stones*" to relate the evolution of gem designs. He will use information about the history of

faceting machines to discuss the recent development of designs. He will introduce several historically famous gems, and unique aspects of gem replicas.

Several of the historical designers/owners will include: Attaway, Goldstein, Hawes, Klein, Kotlowski, Mazarin, Sucher, Tavenier, Tuzlukov, Van Sant....and others.



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ORGANIZATIONS

2016: New Mexico Faceters Guild

2016: United States Faceters Guild, 2018, USFG Historian

2016: Los Alamos Geological Society

2019: Australian Faceters Guild, USA Co-Coordinator – International Faceting Challenge

FACETING EXPERIENCE

2016: Began Faceting at the Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Expo, under the instruction of Ernie Hawes.

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2016: Began designing gems with GemCad and GemRay.

2017: Competed in the 2017 USFG Single Stone Competition at the Master Level with only 1 year of faceting experience. Certified at the Master Level.

2018: Competed in the 2018 USFG Single Stone Competition at the Grand Master Level with only 2 years of faceting experience. Did not certify in 2018

General: Has completed over 200 unique gem designs and cuts. He is in the process of developing his own business, "Pure Brilliance Gems"

Glenn Klein is a founding member of the United States Faceters Guild (USFG), and a previous USFG Historian. Glenn is well known for having published several books and articles, including: *Faceting History, Evolution of Faceting Machines, Luck & Timing*, and *Faceting Articles, Designs, & Pictures*. Glenn was an original member of the 1986 United States Faceting Team, which won the International Challenge Cup, hosted by the Australian Faceters Guild.

He is a photographer, historian, Graduate Gemologist GIA, and winner of many National and International faceting competition awards. In his earlier years, he was also a Commercial Pilot with Flight Instructor, Land & Sea Airplane ratings. Glenn has created many original gem designs, which can be found throughout his articles and publications. Information on Glenn and his publications can be found at www.glennklein.com.

1:00 PM till 3:00 PM:

Speaker: Rej Poirier will discuss his new gem design software Gem Cut Studio.

Rej is a French-Canadian from Montreal but has been living in Brisbane, Australia for 11 years. He is a computer programmer by trade and has been making software tools for most of my career. He's worked creating technical training simulators, ultrasound scanners, video games and music creation apps before getting into gem cutting a few years ago. He works part-time from home and is a stay-at-home dad to 2 boys.

For my talk, I plan to show Gem Cut Studio running live as I explain its features and usage. I will go over the real-time interface and show the basics of cutting a tier in the software. I will then move on to show a more complete example of cutting a SRB, followed by a rundown of some of the tools available, including optimization. Participants will be encouraged to ask questions, and I can perform live demonstrations on other topics of interest. If there's time I can also demonstrate upcoming feature developments and gather input and feedback on people's priorities into what they would like to see in the next version.

3:00 PM till 5:00 PM:

Speakers: Tom Mitchell and Jeff Theesfeld will lead a panel discussion on past, present and future plans for the USFG.

Tom Mitchell is a charter member and three time past President of the Villages Gem and Mineral Society in The Villages, Florida. He began faceting in 2008 shortly after a 4 day camping trip to a fee mine in Northern Georgia. During this camping trip he spent 3 days going through buckets of rocks and taking his finds up to the office where several of his stones were picked out to be faceted by the fee mine people. Once he received the cut stones back from the fee mine, he had them appraised and realized that he wanted to learn how to facet. So he called the mine and they referred him to William Holland School of Lapidary Arts also in Northern Georgia.

Tom signed up for a one week faceting course, taught by Bill Compliment and fell in love with the art. Shortly thereafter he contacted Ultra Tech to purchase one of their V2 Digital models, which he has since converted to their V5 digital model. He is now a sales representative of Ultra Tech. About a year later he took the Faceting 2 class from the late David Corn, who after observing Tom's enthusiasm and skills encouraged him to apply to be a faceting instructor at the school.

Tom applied and was accepted as a new instructor. He then began looking for a book to provide to his students, but was unsuccessful in finding one which he felt would be of maximum benefit to his students. So he began writing his own, "Faceting 1, Learn the Fine Art of Gem Faceting, It's Easy!". Before publishing his book he asked Don Cameron, then President of the Tomoka Faceting Guild, of which he was also a member to review the book. Don asked him "Do you want me to read it and say you did a good job or do you want me to really review it?" Tom said he wanted him to really review it. It turns out that Don was a technical writing editor by profession and he reviewed the book carefully. About 3 days later Don called to discuss some of the procedures that I had come up with. He then said "Tom, I have been the President of the Tomoka Faceters Guild for the entire 12 years of its existence. I'm tired and I would like you to take over as the new President." Tom was flabbergasted, but accepted and has been the guild President now since 2011

A few months later Tom got a call from Will Smith, the then President of the United States Faceters Guild, who invited him to become a member of the Board of Directors of the USFG. Tom served for 3 years on the Board and eventually stepped into the position of Acting Vice President when then President Tom Maxwell passed away. A few months later he became Acting President when then President Diane Eames stepped down. During the elections in January 2018 he was elected President of the USFG.

Tom has continued to teach faceting at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, Georgia, from 2010 to the present and hopes to continue for many years to come. He is working on a gemologist designation through the International Gem Society.

Tom also has the title and responsibilities of Assistant Florida State Director for the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies. In this capacity he visits gem and mineral clubs throughout Central Florida to provide the support of the Southeast Federation.

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***The United States Faceters Guild – Past, Present and Future:
Museum Project, Faceters Hall of Fame, The 2019 SSC featured designers,
Future SSCs, much more!***

By: Tom Mitchell and Jeff Theesfeld

***Ask the Panel discussion (Topics include: USFG History, Competitions,
Advanced Skills)***

Panel guests: Glenn Klein, Scott Sucher, Dan Lynch, Robert Strickland, Robert Long, Ernie Hawes, and Any or All 2019 Frolic Speakers)

Tom and Jeff will discuss many aspects of the USFG History, where the USFG is today, and visions for the future.

Tom will talk about some of our efforts to establish a faceting museum

Jeff will start with a summary and dedication of the Glenn Klein Historical Museum Gem Collection. He will introduce the USFG Museum Committee, and advocate for future museum donations and acquisitions.

Together, they will present plans for the development of the USFG “Hall of Fame”.

Tom and Jeff will lead an “Ask the Panel” discussion, featuring several key members of the USFG. Several topics will be included, but the focus will be on topics of interest as suggested by the audience. The “Ask the Panel” discussion will be limited to 1 hour.