

NOV. WHITTIER 1997



1997 Annual Gem Show

The 1997 Whittier Gem And Mineral Society annual gem show went off without a major hitch. A couple of minor inconveniences, such as an obstructed circuit breaker panel were discovered and dealt with in a timely fashion. The work crews consisted, for the most part, of seasoned workers with several gem shows under their belts. Setup and teardown went smoothly.

Unfortunately the show was marred by the theft of an expensive rhodochrosite specimen taken from one of the dealers tables. This is not the type of thing that one would expect from rockhounds, and I suspect that the culprit was someone drawn to the show by the lure of jewelry and not a devotee of the hobby. On the positive side we had some very enthusiastic young attendees with a penchant for geodes. **Mike Maneth** cut a beauty for one little girl,



Mike Maneth & a satisfied customer

who, as you can see was just beaming. She said that she was going to give half of her geode to her sister. Now I think that that's the stuff a budding rockhound is made of.



Clarence Pool and Pat Maggs

We want to thank all of the people who made the show successful. **Joe Goetz, Les Roy, Bill Sundgren, David Martinez, and Tony Fender** with the help of associate members **Ernie Gaytan, Jason Badgley, and Oscar** from the Boy's and Girl's Club with his crew of four did yeoman duty in the setup and teardown of the show. **Sandy Fender, Mary Rose Merten, and Ruth Jarrell** as usual, did a fantastic job keeping the show attendees and members well fed.

The sales table was staffed throughout the show by **Joe Goetz, Marcia Grady, and Pat Maggs** assisted by several

“floaters” from time to time.

No good Gem show would be complete without demonstrations, and we are no exception. On stage, demonstrating the various lapidary arts were: **Virginia Pace, Tony Torres, Bob Demid, Jim Akin, Robert Valdez, Jay Manning, and Jason Badgley**. Also assisting with the demonstrations were several members of the Gemcarvers of America **Angie Harwood** and **Amber Harwood** appealed to the gambler in all of us with the spinning wheel, bringing delight to children of all ages. I think Las Vegas ought to take a tip from Angie. A winner on every spin! Not a bad idea! **Clarence Pool** donated the beautiful tumbled rocks, without which, the spinning wheel could not be so successful. Thanks Clarence, your generosity is greatly appreciated

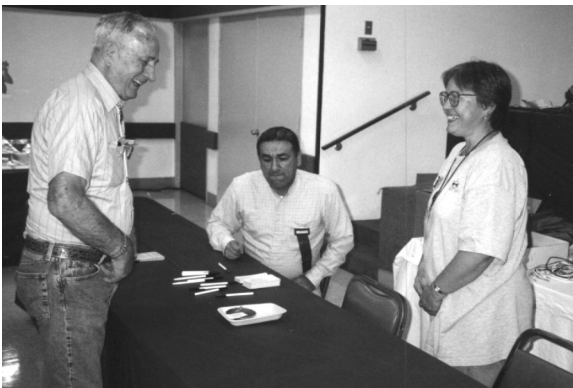


Bob Demid

Not only does the show provide revenue for the society’s activities, a very important, if not primary, aspect of the gem show is to interest new potential members in the hobby and in the Whittier Gem and Mineral society as an organization. Special thanks go to **Mary Maneth** who made the job of

greeting visitors, selling donation award tickets, and extracting the names and addresses of potential members and/or future show attendees while managing a cash box, seem far too easy.

One job that often goes unnoticed, but is so very very important, is that of posting signs to advertise the show and direct attendees to the show location. **Jack Zywocienski** assured



Les Roy, David Martinez, and Michelle Sebresos discuss donation awards

that anyone looking for something to do in Whittier that weekend would be directed flawlessly to the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society annual gem show.

David Martinez and **Michelle Sebresos** did an excellent job with the donation awards. Special kudos to Michelle, who I believe was at first somewhat intimidated by the prospect of a being a Master of Ceremonies. Michelle rose to the challenge, took a deep breath, and performed admirably. In no time at all, the microphone became a routine tool of the trade.

Les Roy
Jerry Turner

LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

- 1) - Used 20" Slab Saw with diamond blade and motor and 2 extra blades.
Older commercial model needs cleaning.
\$750.00
- 2) - DIAMOND PACIFIC "TITAN" cabbing unit with 2 lights, polishing pad,
"Gyroc" cab maker and cabbing blocks. Good condition.
\$1000.00
- 3) - GRAVES 4" trim saw with motor, thin blade and foot pedal rheostat.
Good condition.
\$115.00
- 4) - GRAVES Mark IV Faceting machine with laps, transfer block, and
dop sticks. Excellent condition, looks brand new.
\$400.00
- 5) - Combination silicon carbide (2 wheels with polishing pad) and
8" trim saw with rock vice. Both items on a single metal bench and
powered by separate motors. Good, older unit.
\$250.00
- 6) - DALMAR MFG CO. Electroplating and electroforming unit with
solutions and instructions. Commercial (The Ultimate) model.
Excellent condition, looks brand new.
\$400.00

Contact: **Mary Rose Merton** at (626) 338-3459

Change of Address

Terry & Betty Roller
9760 Pine Drive
Lakeside, CA 92040
(619) 561-9546

Be sure to update your membership lists.

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP TO WHITTIER CLUB CLAIM

October 26, 27, 1997

Friday found us arriving in camp and Vern and Sylvia and Ed and Corinne were already there. Vern did a magnificent job as always of putting the signs out...we didn't get lost. Vern and Sylvia decided to go to the agate area later, with Marcia and I following a shortly after. Vern and Sylvia went one way, Marcia and I the other. We all found material. Soon after we got back to camp Tony, Sandie, Sue (Tony's mom), Bruno, Sitka, and Jason had arrived the last three are four-legged children). Jason Badgley arrived moments later. Jay, Jason, and Erin Valle showed up just prior to dusk (we were still on daylight saving time so it was around 7:00). Jay Valle had a brand new tent trailer and I helped him figure a few things out. Later, in the darkness of night everyone's face was awash with warm orange glow from the campfire.

Saturday morning brought **Hank and Agnes Debeck, Michelle Sebresos, and Dorothy and Bob Brewer** and guests from the show **Cindy Keith, Pat Biswell and Bruce Tod**. We first headed back to the red agate area for the first trip of the day. Everyone found material. Marcia and I had found some old diggings and were picking up nice pieces of plume, moss, some jaspers and crystals. When lunchtime arrived we all headed back to camp.

The afternoon trip was to, as I call it, "Jason's Chipped Rock Area" because if you can find a rock that hasn't been chipped it is a rare find Everyone found something - chalcedony, palm, bog, wonderstone-like material, and agate.

Potluck was good as usual - lots, of food, Lots of laughter - or so we assume, since we were eating in the trailer watching our carbs for the day. **Dave Kelty** arrived while people were eating and when he rounded the corner of the RV to where people were seating he received a mighty round of applause and cheering. Soon dishes and soon people left one-by-one, and soon no one was left except Jason.

Sunday morning **Giuseppe Montalto** arrived to spend the day with us. He was driving his new Jeep Cherokee. We headed to Mule Canyon and Tin Can Alley. Marcia found a small piece of very nice orange sagenite agate on her way back from a calling of nature. This led to a massive search by many and the source still waits to be found (it was probably dug up by some animal). Basically we found chalcedony. At about 10:00 a.m. people started drifting back to camp then home. The end of another great field trip.

Your intrepid lost man in the field,

Joe Goetz

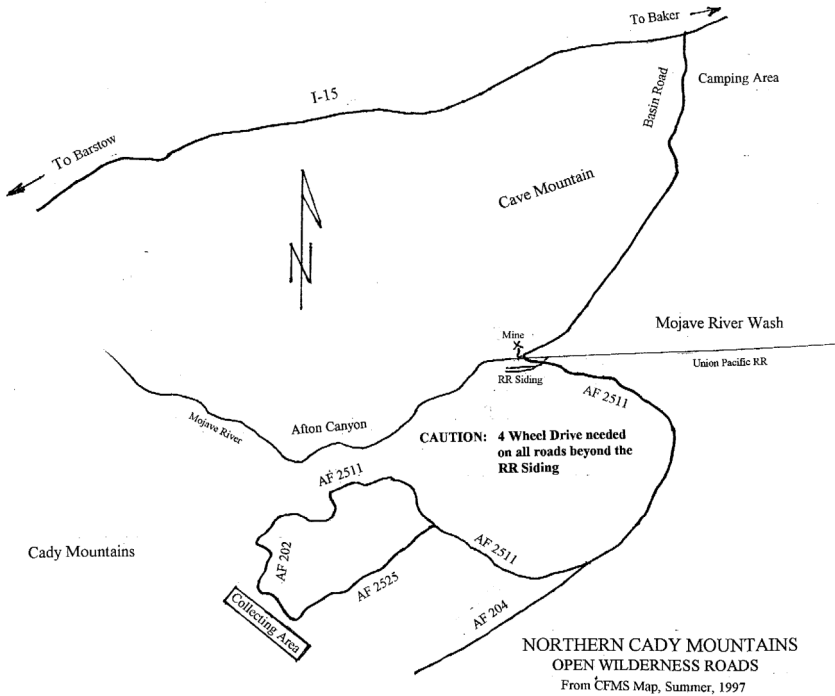
THANKSGIVING FIELD TRIP

AFTON CANYON

Thanksgiving on the desert in the wilds

The field trip for the Thanksgiving weekend of November 27, 28, 29 and 30th. We will be going to Afton Canyon. It will of course be dry camping. Map shows to get off at Basin Road and then follow the signs to camp, because as of this writing camp hasn't been chosen yet. Potluck will be on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Since it is getting darker sooner, we will eat at 4:30 p.m. and since we have a happy whatever with the time left prior to eating, leftover from when we got back to camp; otherwise, happy hour is at 3:30 p.m.— maybe, Tony and Sandie will park close to the blender again.

Joe Goetz



CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION UPDATE

The Sovereignty Protection Act, HR-901, was authored by Rep. Don Young (R-AK) to require congressional approval for all future land designations within U.S. borders. It guarantees that local citizens and public officials will participate in designating any land for inclusion in U.N. land reserves that are near their homes or communities. Currently, U.N. World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves within the U.S. are designated without the approval of Congress and without consultation with the public and local governments.

The National Monument Fairness Act, HR-1127, was authored by Rep. Jim Hansen (R-UT) in the wake of President Clinton's designation of 1.8 million acres in the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. It would change the 2906 Antiquities Act by requiring the President to get approval of Congress for proposed monuments larger than 50,000 acres in a single state in a single year. It would also require the President to seek written input from the governor of the affected states.

Property bill clears hurdle - The House Judiciary Committee on October 7 approved the "Tucker Act Shuffle Relief Act," a bill by Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX) to make it easier for property owners to mount legal challenges against Federal an action that reduces the value of their property. It is named after the 1887 Tucker Act which has forced property owners into a costly, time-consuming- "shuffle" between two federal courts that have jurisdiction to hear their cases. Smith's bill would allow both the Federal Claims Court and the Federal District Courts to hear takings Cases, ending waits of a decade or longer for property owners seeking their day in court. By Jeff Harris, Executive Director, National Coalition for Public Lands and Natural Resources, as reported in the Alliance for America's publication, Alliance News, October, 1997.

“KID SMARTS”

Grandpa's stroll along the Beach with his young grandson was slowed considerably by the youngster's frequent stops to pick up stranded starfish. Finally, mildly exasperated, Grandpa said to the boy "Son, there has to be thousands of these starfish left behind by the waves. You can't possibly save all of them, so what difference does it make?" Smiling, the child stooped to toss one more sea creature back into the water. "I know" he replied, "But it made a difference to that one".



PROGRAMS

The program for the October 23 meeting was supposed to be a video by David Attenborough, a prominent naturalist, describing details of how fossils, imprints, and remains came to be imbedded. The program would have discussed amber formation, fossil reconstruction and locations where fossils are found, including Illinois, Arkansas, New Mexico, England, and Scotland. Les Roy made a special trip to Sorensen Park to deliver the video equipment, and make arrangements with the custodian to assure that the storage area where the equipment was to be secured until the meeting would be unlocked and available. The old cliché that “The best laid plans of mice and men oft times go astray” proved to once again be unavoidable. The custodian forgot to leave the area unlocked! Thanks Roy, we appreciate your effort. The program sounds very interesting, perhaps we can schedule it again next year.

The following programs have been identified for the next three meetings:

- **November 22, 1997** - a program by Arlene and Harry Billheimer of the Pasadena Lapidary Society. The program “Carvings - Miniature to Monumental” will feature carvings of all sizes, emphasis is on the Lizzadro Museum collection. They will bring carvings for display.
- **December 18, 1997** - Our annual Christmas dinner meeting.
- **January 22, 1998** - Floyd Zukas presents “Diamond Replicas”. This Floyd will describe world famous diamonds including a brief history. He will also show us replicas of several famous diamonds that he has cut.

The availability of program material is fairly diverse, I would like your assistance is helping to plan future programs that will be of interest to the majority of our members. This edition of the Rockhounder contains a pull out insert containing a questionnaire regarding your program preferences. If you will please complete this questionnaire and mail it back to the Society P.O. Box, I will use the information to plan future programs.

Michelle Sebresos

NOSTALGIA

At the last board meeting **Les Roy** gave me some past editions of The Rockhounder from the collection of **Art Logue**. I enjoyed reading the Rockhousers, and would like to share that experience with you as I invite you to join me while we take a brief trip through time.

It is fall, specifically October. The year is 1968, and the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society is preparing for it's 19th Annual Gem and Mineral Show at Palm Park in Whittier California. The president of the Society is **Bill Burns**. **Frank Hewlett** is the bulletin editor. In the October edition of the Rockhounder, Frank writes:

“It has become almost traditional for **Sol Stern** to write an article for our October Rockhounder which is our “Show Bulletin” and is given to each visitor to our Fall Gem Show. Sol is one of our most experienced lapidary artists and speaks with authority on matters of lapidary technique. This year his subject is obsidian. Our cover photo shows five of Sol's obsidian stars in “snow flake, silver sheen, double flow, mahogany and smoky” and a gold sheen pendant by Frank Hewlett”

The article by Sol Stern in the October 1968 Rockhounder is reprinted in this issue for those who knew Sol, to remember, and for those new members who did not have the privilege of knowing this fine gentlemen to enjoy.

Obsidian

Obsidian is a natural glass which occurs in all areas which have been subjected to volcanic eruptions, and is referred to as volcanic glass. Obsidian is not a mineral but rather is classified as a rock. Technically obsidian is a granite with the minerals which are common to granites. These are silica feldspar and mica. Actually obsidian is very low in mica and consists mostly of silica and feldspar. Obsidian is always found in an amorphous form. This means that it is never in a definite crystalline form. Since obsidian is extruded from volcanoes with lava flows, it cools relatively very rapidly when exposed to the open air and this rapid cooling prevents the formation of crystals. When obsidian as extruded in a lava flow contains bubbles it is called Pitchstone. When the bubbles are so numerous that the stone seems to be nothing more than solidified froth it is called Pumice.

Some of the main physical properties of obsidian are: Hardness 5 on Mohs scale, specific gravity about 2.4, index of refraction 1.5. It has a vitreous luster and a conchoidal fracture. Being a glass, obsidian will fracture with razor sharp edges and extreme care must be used in handling this material to avoid

being badly cut. Probably more accidents have happened to Rockhounds in collecting and working obsidian than that of any other material.

It naturally follows that being of volcanic origin obsidian is abundant in most of the western states where the most recent volcanic action has taken place. No obsidian is found in the eastern states because the volcanic action there has occurred in more ancient times. Obsidian is not nearly as stable a material as agates for example and will deteriorate and break down in time. This indicates that all obsidians are of recent geological times. While obsidian is distributed widely through the western states and Mexico, some of the more widely known locations are at Montgomery Pass, Nevada; Mammoth Lake area, California; Superior, Arizona; Alturas, California; Bend, Oregon; Garrison, Utah, just to name a few places where good quality obsidian can be collected.

Most obsidians are very attractive with some being quite striking in color and pattern. While obsidian is too soft to make a durable ring stone, it can make beautiful jewelry in things that are not subject to hard wearing conditions such as earrings and pendants. It is also an ideal material for carving. Some of the most beautiful obsidians are the double flow from Oregon, the gold sheen from Mexico, the snow flake from Utah, the rainbow colored obsidians from Alturas, California and the silver sheen and mahogany sheen from Oregon. The smoky clear Apache Tears from Superior, Arizona make beautiful jewelry when tumbled and polished.

Obsidians are quite easy to cut and polish into finished gems. While obsidian is actually a glass, I find that it is a lot tougher and not quite as brittle as most man made glass. Being a hardness of 5, it cuts rapidly

and easily. I have had no problems with scratching of the stone in sanding, by using well worn 220 grit sanding paper. Cerium oxide on felt will bring up a very high polish. Again I would like to caution about the sharpness of rough obsidian and the danger of being cut.

Because of its compact and uniform structure, obsidian can be chipped and flaked into sharp pointed and sharp edged implements, This fact was utilized by primitive man to make cutting utensils and arrow and spear heads. Many locations have been found at obsidian collecting areas where large quantities of obsidian flakes are scattered around. At these locations primitive man collected obsidian and worked it into useful objects. Many obsidian artifacts have been found widely scattered throughout the country. Evidently the obsidian and the finished articles were used as trading material by the American Indians.

Sol Stern



Whittier Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

P. O. Box 865

Whittier, California 90608-0865