

WHITTIER



ROCKHOUNDING

GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

**POTLUCK, SILENT AUCTION
AND UGLY ROCK CONTEST**



JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 1999

ROCKHOUNDER

A BUZZ FROM THE PREZ

In the past five months, the members of WGMS have put a significant amount of effort on this 50th Anniversary year. **VP Jack** has provided us with some very informative programs on gold. **Jay** is heading up an enthusiastic show committee. **Vern** is trying to bring some outstanding programs to our show for our members and the people of Whittier to enjoy. **Jerry and Kathy** are thinking of ways to show what has happened to our club in the past 50 years.

We are planning to have new pins that will be different from other clubs. Every member will want to order one of these to wear with pride.

Three months of library exhibits are planned for the uptown library. August will contain information on the importance of mining to California's 150-year history. September will feature the history of our club for these past fifty years. October's exhibit will be about how our club is today. If you would like to supply information or help on any of these exhibits just let me know. Your help will be welcome.

If the few busy workers that we have can find the time we will have a **Fiftieth Anniversary Party** the first part of October.

As the summer months approach, I wish every one a relaxing and fun time.

Izzie



**Program for June 24:
Potluck, Silent Auction and Ugly Rock Contest**

Well friends, it's time again for the annual June Potluck. Dinner begins at 6:30, as does the silent auction. Bring in that extra hammer, chisel, rock, flower, homemade bread, etc. and see if someone will bid on it. All proceeds go to operating the club. The treasures you purchase are yours.

We will also be featuring an **Ugly Rock Contest** after the meal. To enter, bring in a truly "butt ugly" specimen to show to the other guests. There will be categories for the Champion Ugly Rock of 1999 (self-explanatory) and Champion MIMIC rock (looks like a "cow-pie"). To improve your chances of "winning"(?), be prepared to tell the "story" of your "*malignant meltdown*".

Don't forget, potluck starts at 6:30 PM at Sorenson Park so come and prepare to have a good time.

May General Meeting Notes

Our speaker for the evening, **Isabelle Burns**, talked at length about *The Crystalization of Gold*. **Izzy** discussed the physical properties of gold and the characteristics which make it uniquely suitable for jewelry and electronics work. She showed slides depicting the various crystal habits of gold, leaf, dendritic, hexagonal and octagonal. She also handed out crystal patterns which the listeners could take home and create their own crystal models using uncooked potatoes.

After break, the business meeting began. **Sylvia** reported that the migration from Quaker to Bank of America was complete, with all accounts transferred.

Les told us that Sorenson Park had a new manager. **Les** also expressed his thanks (to which we would like to voice our own appreciation) to **Mr. Don DePue**, Production Manager for Diamond Pacific, who donated 6 diamond wheels to be used at the Boys and Girls Club. There were 2 – 220 grit, 6", 2 – 100 grit, 6", and 1 each 8" wheels 100 and 220 grit.

Bill reminded us of the upcoming CFMS show in Turlock. He also told us it was 15 years ago that he and Isabelle started up the Zzyzx workshop/seminar. The Camp Paradise seminar is happening September 12 – 19 and

space is still available (contact **Bill** at (626) 288-2896 for information).

Tony reported that we had received a key to the gate leading to the WGMS onyx claim (see article on page 11).

Angie presented the displays: **Michelle** displayed rocks from Israel, **Bill and Izzy** had a letter from a friend in China, and a specimen of Silver in Chalcopyrite. **Vern and Sylvia** brought a slab of petrified reed collected at Brown Butte during the April field trip (see report on pages 10 and 11).

Joe announced that the field trip for Memorial Day will be to Wileys Well. He still isn't able to participate because of his surgery, but promised to be there for the Labor Day field trip to the Greenhorn Mountains. We may also have a day trip this summer to pan for gold and gemstones; he said he would send out postcards to let the members know. (**Joe** didn't mention it, but he and **Marcia** are to be wed on June 12th, so be sure to call or send a card to congratulate them).

The members present voted to purchase new name badges. The agreed-upon design and information can be seen on page 9. Rock and Gem published four more of **Darryl Futrell's** tektite pictures, though they apparently mislabeled some of them. **Isabelle** called for an inventory of club equipment being stored at member's homes.

JValle

May Door Prizes

MAIN PRIZE: Wild Bird Feeder with Seed, Donated by Michelle Sebresos, won by Marcia Grady.

ADDITIONAL PRIZES:

<u>Prize</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>Won By</u>
• Utility knife with blades	Jack Zywocki	Kathy Piechota
• Large Screwdriver	?????	Darryl Futrell
• Geode Slab	Mike Maneth	Kathy Piechota
• Refillable Gas lighter	?????	Tony Fender
• Shaft or pulley Arbor	Pat Maggs	Bea Roy
• Agatized algae slab	The Cliffes	Bea Roy

Vern Cliffe

A Special Call To All Members

As you all know with the passing of Jim Akins, our program at the Boys and Girls Club has suffered a setback. This is a program that was dear to his heart and it is a poor reflection on us if we allow it to fail. He spent much of his time, and a lot of his money, for findings, even at times when wheels (grinding or saw) could not be replaced from other sources. He was very proud of our work with the kids. He and I spent a lot of time working together. I know what he thought about this program. I sincerely believe it would be a dark day if our club allows this program to fall into history because no one is willing to donate a few hours of their time per week. Not only does the Boys And Girls Club Benefit from our work there, our club also gains from it. We have a safe place for our board meetings, a place for our workshop, and a place for our monthly Pot Luck. I hope all of this can resume when we find a volunteer. It will be a big step ahead for us when this happens. I have many other jobs to do for the club and I do not feel I have the time to carry the load of more jobs and do a good job at all of them. Everyone seems to approve of our work, but no one will help. It is not the time to say, "let Les do it". Come out and help! Anyone offering to do this job can rest assured that I will do all I can to make it as easy as possible. The day of the week can be changed to fit anyone's time schedule. Unfortunately, the 4:00 p.m. time slot cannot be. The class usually lasts about an hour and a half. If any of you know of someone who would like to help with the class, and also learn cutting and cabbing, I will gladly donate extra time after classes to instruct them. A thanks to Pat Maggs for the short time he spent working at the shop, but for health reasons had to resign his appointment. This is one thing none of us can foresee. Anyone responding to this urgent plea for help will have my warmest appreciation. Then the club will be able to go ahead with this program for the kids of Whittier. Thank you.

Les Roy

**Members and Friends of the
Whittier Gem and Mineral Society**

This is our Golden Anniversary year: 50 Golden years in Whittier. The time has come for us to begin collecting donations from interested people for our annual show. Donations will be used as door prizes and at the spinning wheel. We need all the help available to make this a big event. This, as you all know, is our one and only fundraiser of the year. Let's make it a good one.

This bulletin is the last one before the summer break. Now is the time to make your donations. If we do this now, we will know where we stand in September when we return for the last half of 1999 and our BIG SHOW in October. We are self-supporting and receive no moneys from anyone but ourselves. We are nonprofit and we are educational, so we meet all the requirements for tax deductible items. All moneys and sale of tickets will become a part of the general fund from which we will budget our next year's expenditures, unless donations are made for a specific purpose. Our Youth Program is in dire need of more and better equipment for the classes at the Boys And Girls Club and also for our continued participation in working with the schools, churches, and Scouts - demonstrations, talks, etc. All activities are instructed. The talks and the demonstrations are done by our own members. Our main costs are for equipment repair and replacement parts (grinding & polishing wheels, saw blades, etc.) Become a donor and have your name listed in the next four bulletins. The donor page, I have hopes, will be full of names. Shortly, tickets for the door prize drawings will be mailed, so return them ASAP - \$1.00 each, or six for \$5.00.

Businesses are encouraged to make donations of the sales promotion variety for use as door prizes and for the spinning wheel. If more information is needed please call me at: (562) 943-8634

Les Roy, Community Relations Director, WGMS

CFMS News

It's getting closer to the "count down" for the Federation show. The saying is ***"Let's all Flock to Turlock"*** on June 18, 19, & 20 and see what they have to present. I have maps and information, just ask me.

As I read the June CFMS Newsletter, an article that caught my eye was **Practice Safety**. Richard Pankey requested that, as our safety chairman, he be advised of club accidents so that he can adequately address rules or other standards that we sometimes forget, leading to accidents. He also had concerns about question 6 on the insurance survey, ***"What precautions will be taken and what safety guidelines will be followed to avoid accidents or injury at the field trip?"*** He refers to the AFMS code of ethics, and both the CFMS and AFMS Safety Manuals for the answer to this complicated question.

Do we in WGMS anticipate potential hazards and give warning to others? Let's try to remember to follow Safety Rules.

Earth Science Studies Classes will be offered at Camp Paradise on September 12 to 19 in Petrified Wood Identification, Faceting, Casting of Gold and Silver, Bead Stringing, Soft and Hard Rock Carving, and Wire Wrapping. There will be field trips for rocks and minerals and for gold panning, Lectures will be presented on various phases of rocks, fossils, minerals and geology. You can attend this week-long camp for \$190.00 which includes all classes, food and room. RVs are welcome.

Bill Bums, CFMS Director

Schedule of Field Trips for 1999-2000

- September 4-6, 1999 Greenhorn Mtns (north of Lake Isabella)
- October 23-24, 1999..... Whittier Claim (Calico/Yermo area)
- November 25-28, 1999..... "Mariposa, CA"
- January 22-23, 2000..... Santa Barbara County Beaches for whale bone
- February 19-21, 2000..... Opal Mountain (east of Barstow)
- March 18-19, 2000..... Stoddard Wells (east of Victorville)
- April 20-23, 2000..... Lavic Siding (east of Ludlow)

Joe Goetz

**Potluck and Pool party
July 18th at 2:00 PM**

WGMS members are cordially invited to enjoy a summer field trip to **Vern and Sylvia Cliffe's** beautiful home in Sierra Madre on July 18th at 2:00 PM. This is **THE** social event of the summer, so bring a swimsuit and food to share (editors note: you don't have to swim if you don't want to).

We are still looking into a location for an August "pool party". If you have a shady backyard, and would be willing to host a potluck, barbeque or ice-cream social, etc. please let me know (editor's other note: having a swimming pool is not a requirement). Contact Jay Valle at: (626) 336-3714.

JValle

New WGMS Badges

New WGMS badges are now available and we want to place the initial order as soon as possible. The badges have a yellow background with blue lettering and include the WGMS logo, member's name, and a place to put a stone of your choice. It is suggested that members who have belonged for 50 years display a gold nugget, silver nugget for 25 year or more, and stone of your choice for members of less than 25 years.

The new badge is pictured below.



The new badge- es cost \$5.00 each and you must provide **Silvia Cliffe** with your name spelled exactly as you want it to appear on the badge.

For Example: **JAY VALLE; JAY D. VALLE; J. D. VALLE**, etc.

Contact **Sylvia Cliffe** to place your order at (626) 355-6964 or mail the name, data and money to:

Sylvia Cliffe, 214 Olivera Lane, Sierra Madre, CA 91024-2100.

Brown Butte Field Trip

April 24 - 25, 1999

The Brown Butte field trip was attended by only 7 people due to a mix-up in the date (several members arrived at camp a week early). Apparently, though, they had an interesting time.

Tony and Sandie Fender were the first to arrive on the scene. They set out the signs and waited for the crowds to arrive. Unfortunately, only Jason Badgley successfully made it out that night. Vern and Sylvia Cliffe experienced some mechanical problems with their motorhome, and had to return home to have it serviced. Repairs were completed in a few hours and they headed out again. By the time they arrived at the turnoff to Brown Butte, it was 9:30 PM and because of cloud cover, was so dark that they couldn't see the signs. They had their 5-year old granddaughter Jessy with them, so they decided to return to Mojave for the night (they camped out behind Macdonald's).

The next morning, they followed the signs (which they could now see) right into camp. Jason led the group back to Brown Butte and they began collecting. Jessy stayed right with Jason as they climbed toward the top. Whenever he tried to stop and check out a likely stone, she would grab his arm and tell him to come on. As anyone who knows Jason will tell you, he can be pretty hard to keep up with. Jessy had no trouble at all! She even beat him to the top (or so I'm told). Everyone found something to bring home, and Jason took the prize with a 50 pound chunk of palm root the size of a basketball.

Back at camp, they did lunch and, as no other members had arrived during the morning, the group set out for Sand Canyon. The wind was really blowing by this time, but blue agate was found by all who looked for it.

After the potluck dinner, a warm campfire was kindled and marshmallows were roasted, and a nice evening was enjoyed by all.

Sunday morning, Warren Dowler arrived just as Vern and Sylvia were leaving and Jason was heading for Gem Hill. Sandie and Tony took Warren down the road to Brown Butte where his right-rear brake discombobulated itself. Tony and Warren took the damaged brake apart, removed all the shattered pieces, and Warren drove the rest of the trip using only his front brakes.

Vern and Sylvia continued to have problems with their motorhome on the way back. The motorhome broke down again near Lancaster, and they had to leave it to be repaired. They continued on home in the "Jimmy". Everyone else made it back ok.

As reported to JValle

News about the WGMS Onyx Claim

The owner of the property surrounding the WGMS onyx claim, **Brubaker-Mann**, has had a running battle with the BLM concerning trash on his property. Apparently, rather than pay the rising trash disposal fees at the nearby landfill, certain people are depositing their debris on public and private lands. Since the BLM now is managing this property, they decided to clean up the trash and then presented **Brubaker-Mann** with a bill for the cost. Needless to say, **Brubaker-Mann** was less than thrilled at receiving a bill for cleanup work it did not contract for, of a mess they didn't make.

To prevent unsavory types from leaving any more garbage on his property, they have installed a gate across the access road which also leads to our claim. This gate, however, was not installed to keep rockhounds out. In fact, they like us because rockhounds take care to maintain their campsites and diggings in a neat and clean manner (Mr. Mann is a rockhound himself). They gave us a key and we have made copies. These keys are in the possession of President **Isabelle Burns** and Claim Secretary **Tony Fender**.

Any member who wishes to camp at the claim may pick up a key from **Tony** for the duration of the trip. The key must be returned to maintain positive control of access into the area.

Clubs wishing to visit the onyx claim or use it as a base of operations must contact Tony Fender and arrange to pick up a key for the duration of the trip. A fully-refundable deposit will now be required to ensure the return of the borrowed key.

For information contact **Tony Fender** at: (626) 798-3913.

Bee Alert: Africanized Honey Bee Facts

Cooperative Extension, University of California,
Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Bee Prepared

Africanized honeybees (AHB), also called "killer bees", became established in Texas in 1990 and are spreading to other southern states. AHB entered Southern California in 1994 and will eventually migrate throughout the state. Although its "killer" reputation has been exaggerated, the presence of AHB will increase the chances of people being stung. Learning about the AHB and taking certain precautions can lower the risk of being injured by this new insect in our environment.

The Africanized honey bee is closely related to the European honey bee used in agriculture for crop pollination and honey production. The two types of bees look the same and their behavior is similar in many respects. Neither is likely to sting when gathering nectar and pollen from flowers, but both will sting in defense if provoked. A swarm of bees in flight or briefly at rest seldom bothers people. However, all bees become defensive when they settle, begin producing wax comb and raising young.

Africanized and European Honey Bees

- Look the same
- Protect their nest and sting in defense
- Can sting only once
- Have the same venom
- Pollinate flowers
- Produce honey and wax

Africanized honey bees are less predictable and more defensive than European honey bees. They are more likely to defend a greater area around their nest. They respond faster in greater numbers, although each bee can sting only once.

Africanized Honey Bees

- Respond quickly and sting in large numbers
- Can sense a threat from people or animals 50 feet or more from nest
- Sense vibrations from power equipment 100 feet or more from nest

- Will pursue an enemy 1/4 mile or more
- Swarm frequently to establish new nests
- Nest in small cavities and sheltered areas

AHBs nest in many locations where people may encounter them. Nesting sites include: empty boxes, cans, buckets or other containers; old tires; infrequently used vehicles; lumber piles; holes and cavities in fences, trees or the ground; sheds, garages and other outbuildings; and low decks or spaces under buildings. Remove potential nest sites around buildings.

Be careful wherever bees may be found.

General Precautions

- Listen for buzzing indicating a nest or swarm of bees
- Use care when entering sheds or outbuildings where bees may nest
- Examine work area before using lawn mowers, weed cutters, and other power equipment
- Examine areas before tying up or penning pets or livestock
- Be alert when participating in all outdoor sports and activities
- Don't disturb a nest or swarm - contact a pest control company or an emergency response organization
- Teach children to be cautious and respectful of all bees
- Check with a doctor about bee sting kits and procedures if sensitive to bee stings
- Develop a safety plan for your home and yard
- Organize a meeting to inform neighbors about the AHB to help increase neighborhood safety

Bee-Proofing Your Home

- Remove possible nesting sites around home and yard
- Inspect outside walls and eaves of home and outbuildings
- Seal openings larger than 1/8" in walls, around chimneys and plumbing
- Install fine screens (1/8" hardware cloth) over tops of rain spouts, vents and openings in water meter/utility boxes
- From spring to fall check once or twice a week for bees entering or leaving the same area of your home or yard

As a general rule, stay away from all honey bee swarms and colonies. If bees are encountered, get away quickly. While running away, try to protect face and eyes as much as possible. Take shelter in a car or building. Water or thick brush does **not** offer enough protection. Do not stand and swat at bees;

rapid motions will cause them to sting.

What To Do If Stung

- Go quickly to a safe area
- Remove stinger as soon as possible
- Don't squeeze stinger; pressure will release more venom
- Scrape stinger out with fingernail, knife blade or credit card
- Wash sting area with soap and water like any other wound
- Apply ice pack for a few minutes to relieve pain and swelling
- Seek medical attention if breathing is troubled, if stung numerous times or if allergic to bee stings

Contributions of European Honey Bees

- Provide 80% of the bee pollination required for fruit, vegetables, flowers and seed crops
- Pollinate forage crops such as alfalfa and clover which are fed to dairy and meat animals
- Produce honey, wax and other products

Hives of European honey bees (EHB) managed by beekeepers play an important part in our lives. These bees are necessary for the pollination of many crops. One-third of our diet relies on honey bee pollination.

Efforts taken to control Africanized honey bees (AHB) must assure the continued maintenance of beekeepers' hives. If EHBs were eliminated in an area, the wild Africanized honey bees would quickly fill the gap.

People can coexist with the AHB by learning about the bee and its habits, supporting beekeeping efforts and taking a few precautions.

If attacked by bees, leave the area quickly and find shelter in a building or car!

Honey bees are not the only stinging insects people may encounter. People are often stung by other bees and wasps that look and behave differently from honey bees.

Africanized honey bee (AHB)

Emergency/information telephone numbers

Who to Call

For multiple stinging emergencies (Victim Involved): Call 911

Honey bee swarms/nests (Outside/Not on a Structure):

* Note: The 1-800 telephone number and the other telephone numbers listed in this section will not be in operation until the Africanized Honey Bee has been officially declared to be in LA County

1. Mosquito Abatement Districts (MAD) and Vector Control Districts:
For the district serving your community Call 1-800-925-3800

If you live in one of the following areas:

2. City of Pasadena Public Health Department (626) 744-6004
3. City of Long Beach Dept. of Health & Human Services
(562) 570-4132
4. City of Vernon Fire Department (323) 583-8611

Honey bee swarms/nests (inside/or on a Structure): AHB HOTLINE 1-800-BEE WARY (You will be referred to a licensed pest control operator)

Medical information (for physicians and bee sting victims): Los Angeles Regional Drug & Poison Information Center - Call 1-800-876-4766

ABH information/speakers bureau: AHB Hotline at 1-800-BEE-WARY; (TTY) (626)575-5520

(This information available in alternate formats at the above numbers)
California Relay Service (800) 735-2929 (TTY)

County of Los Angeles, Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department, Department of Health Services, Fire Department

Display Tips, Part 3

By Pat LaRue, Rules Committee Chairman

Last month I discussed some ideas to assist with the display of mineral specimens. This month I'll continue with the "how-to" theme by discussing lapidary. Regardless of what you decide upon, the same basic principles apply as far as showmanship and how well the display is presented to the viewers.

Lapidary is the broadest category available to the competitive exhibitor. It includes classes for cabochons, faceted stones, specialized techniques such as flats and spheres, carving, intarsia, to name a few. If you excel in a variety of lapidary techniques there is even a class that allows for a variety of work.

Exhibitors are encouraged to read the rules which apply to the class which they plan to enter. Be sure to read the definition of what the technique is which you plan to display and what can be shown in those classes without incurring a penalty (points off for an item being out-of-class). Lots of things are out-of-class in lapidary classes. Examples include dyed materials, glass (unless allowed), entries with more than 50% of the specimens being petrified wood. Each out-of-class deduction will cost 5 points!

Labeling counts only 5 points in these classes and a one point deduction is allowed for each error up to the full 5 point limit. Make sure you proofread those labels and have them in front of the right specimen. Check the AFMS list of approved lapidary names if in doubt.

Most of the points available in the lapidary classes fall into two categories: workmanship and quality of material.

Quality of material refers to color, color pattern, freedom from flaws, freedom from undesirable inclusions, and suitability of the material for the use to which it is put. Natural materials are to be used unless other materials are allowed by the class, i.e. synthetics in a faceting class for synthetic materials.

When purchasing lapidary material for your projects, buy the best. I recommend examining slabs only when they are completely dry. They may look pretty laying in that dishpan, but all that water conceals cracks and pits that will detract from the beauty of your finished piece.

Workmanship refers to shaping, symmetry, and polish, etc. Variety of shapes is considered in cabochon classes as well as size of the pieces. The person who demonstrates the ability to work a greater variety and hardness of material generally receives a higher score than the person with a more limited display. It is my opinion that the most important aspect of workmanship is the polish. The quality of the material you use will in most cases determine how well you can finish the piece. Some materials are simply not going to take a really good polish. One example is a material called "wonderstone", actually a type of rhyolite. As attractive as this material is, it really should not be included in a competitive lapidary display. Most experienced lapidaries like to see light reflect off the surface of the material as the sign of a good polish.

CFMS Newsletter 04/99

No Kidding?

Five animal surprises

- 1. Aardvark can claw through concrete
- 2. Cockroach rests 18 hours a day
- 3. Wallaby will drink salt water
- 4. Armadillo can hold breath for 6 minutes
- 5. Mole runs backwards as fast as forward

Source - World Features Syndicate Via San Gabriel Tribune 5/5/99

Sizes of 5 animals at birth

- 1. Kangaroo size of a lima bean
- 2. Koala size of a grape
- 3. Honey possum size of a grain of rice
- 4. Tasmanian devil size of a raisin
- 5. Platypus size of a jelly bean

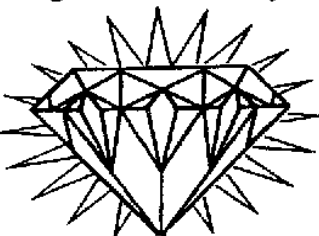
Via San Gabriel Tribune 5/13/99

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
60th Annual Show & Convention

GEM & MINERAL SHOW

"Diamond Jubilee of Gems"

County
Fairgrounds



Turlock
CA

"Y'all flock to Turlock"

JUNE 18,19,20, 1999

Fri. & Sat. 10-6 Sun. 10-5

Hosted by: Mother Lode Mineral Society

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<http://www.bell21.com/motherlode/>

GEM AND MINERAL SHOWS

- June 5 – 6** **Glendora** - Goddard gems, Goddard Middle School
859 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Hours: Sat 10-7:30, Sun 10-4.

- June 5 – 6** **San Diego** - San Diego Lapidary Society Inc.
Al Bahr Temple, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road
Hours: 10 - 5 both days

- June 5 – 6** **West Hills** - Rockatomics Gem & Mineral
Boeing Recreation Center, 8500 Fallbrook Ave.
Hours: 10 - 5 both days

- July 9 – 11** **Arroyo Grande** - Orcutt Mineral Society
Arroyo Grande High School, Fair Oaks & Valley Rd.
No hours listed

- July 10 – 11** **Culver City** - Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Culver Blvd. &
Overland Ave. Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5

Vern Cliffe

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Bulletin exchanges are welcome and should be sent to the editor.

Affiliations



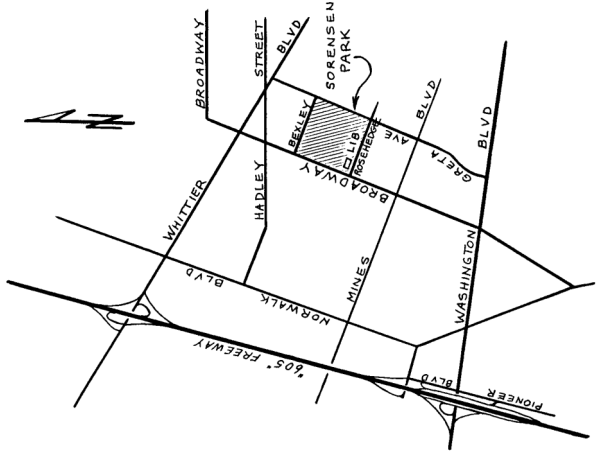
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Whittier, California 90608-0865

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Meeting Date: June 24, 1999 at 6:30 PM
Location: Sorensen Park (See Map)