

Y2K Edition



**PROGRAM FOR MARCH:
MARCIA INTRODUCES WIREWRAPPING**

MARCH 2000

ROCKHOUNDER

FROM THE DESK OF THE PREZ:

Welcome to March! The Club fieldtrip to Opal Mountain is over. As usual, it was interesting. Saturday was mild and sunny, and we roamed and collected. Sunday was drizzly and wet, but even so, we had fun looking for the Black Canyon petroglyphs and exploring. Sunday night, the skies opened up and left us wondering if we were camped in a safe place (we were). Monday, we ran for the exit, surviving to rockhunt another day

The show committee is meeting for the first time to discuss the Y2K Show, which will be held October 21 and 22 in the usual place. They are meeting at **Dottie Jacobs'** house March 1st and will decide a number of issues so we can get started with the arrangements. To start with, we need a show theme and name. As always, we welcome any ideas or suggestions that you may have. If you are willing to help out on the Show Committee, that is better still.

Joe Goetz presented a Basics of Cabbing program at the February meeting which was articulate and educational. On Sunday, February 27, a special **Rockgabbers** will have been held at **Tony and Sandie Fender's** home to teach hands-on cabbing. Since it will be over by the time you read this, I'll tell you about it next month. Next month, Rockgabbers will be held March 26 at the Covina Library where Marcia Goetz will demonstrate and teach hands-on wirewrapping. The recurring theme here is hands-on. We are trying to make Rockgabbers, the WGMS workshop, more accessible to more members and potential members. As the year unfolds, it is hoped that we will attract a number of you back to workshop.

Several members are under-the-weather this month. **Clarence Pool** spent time in a hospital, as did **Flo Piechota** and **Darryl Futrell**. At this time, we know that **Clarence** and **Flo** are home again, but we've had no word about **Darryl**. If you have any news about members or former members, please let me know, so I can let all of you know.

On page 15, you will find a poem written by **Joan Abramson**, **Walt's** wife which I hope you enjoy. Information about purchasing new badges is found on page 7.

Jay Valle

**March 23rd Program
Basic Lapidary Series: Wirewrapping**

Marcia Goetz is our resident expert on the art of wirewrapping. She will be demonstrating the basics of Wire Art, and displaying the tools of the trade.

The program will be followed by a hands-on wirewrapping edition of **Rock-gabbers** on Sunday, March 26th at the Covina Library at 1 PM. A small fee may be charged to cover the cost of materials.

February Meeting Notes

The February General Meeting began with a presentation of the CFMS Past-President's pin to **Isabelle Burns**. After a few introductory words, **Joe Goetz** swung right into his program on Cabbing. For many, it was, in Joe's words, "preaching to the choir." He showed rough rock in various stages of completion and provided helpful, and often humorous advise on handling problem. One memorable quote involves his special technique for producing random and unusual freeform cabs. He takes the slab of choice gemstone material and, drops it on the floor. The slab, of course, shatters into many unpredictable and uniquely-shaped pieces. You now have any number of oddly-shaped pieces to cut and polish and it didn't require a diamond saw to cut. It was announced after the meeting, that a hands-on cabbing program would be held at the **Fender's** home, Sunday February 27 for those interesting in learning to create cabochon jewelry.

The rest of the meeting went quickly. **Les and Bea Roy**, both of whom have been recovering at home the last few months, were at the meeting and warmly welcomed by all. **Les** filled us in on several local community events going on in Whittier, including the Whittier Family Faire, which we attend each year. Several members displayed "Firsts". They were **Sylvia and Vern Cliffe, Ginger Ragazzi and Dottie Jacobs**. **Bill Burns** talked about the dedication of the Hauser Beds Rockhound Park and the on-going effort to preserve our few remaining collecting areas from government closure. **Joe Goetz** informed us that the next fieldtrip will be the Stoddard Wells Tailgate (see pages 10, 11 and map on page 12.)

February Door Prize Winners

MAIN PRIZE: **Donated By** **Won By**

Oil Collecting Pan **Angie Harwood** **Kathy Turner**

ADDITIONAL PRIZES:

Prize **Donated by** **Won By**

Slab of Algae Agate The Cliffes Jerry Turner

Work Gloves Jack Zywoციenski Bea Roy

Gas-Match Lighter WGMS Sylvia Cliffe

Chunk of Blue Tigereye The Cliffes Jerry Turner

Alarm Clock The Cliffes Kathy Piechota

Vern Cliffe

February Displays

Vern Cliffe displayed his first finished sphere, just completed, and his first cab he made back in 1983.

Sylvia Cliffe showed her first cab, carving, intarsia, face and cameo.

Ginger Ragazzi showed her first tumbled stones, beach agates and jasper from the Oregon coast.

Dottie Jacobs displayed her first wire wrap, copper cut out, set cab and silverwork.

Display for March

For our March meeting, please bring something you are working on -- at any stage of completion, from rough with a design through trimmed or ground, sanded or almost polished. I know you must have something that is not finished, so bring it in and inspire the rest of us to get started.

Sylvia Cliffe, Display Chairman

February Field Trip to Opal Mountain

Friday was a blustery day. The drive out to Opal Mountain was windy, but very enjoyable. There was a little confusion for early arrivals, as the main road looked more like a wash. Those coming out on Friday included, **Jay & Jason Valle, Ed & Corrine Imlay, Vern & Sylvia Cliffe, Dottie Jacobs, Tony & Sandie Fender, and Warren Dowler.** Saturday morning saw the arrival of; **Mark, Linda and Heather Abrams, Davis with his sister and brother-in-law, Dan & Diane Stevens, Jerry & Barbara Minear, Bob & Dorothy Brower.**

Dottie and Jay were both sporting new off road vehicles. **Dottie** had a new Chevy Tahoe and Travel trailer, and **Jay** was breaking in (just a figure of speech) his new Ford Explorer.

We started out collecting at the Thompsonite/Saginate area, where we found some very nice rock. Even **Heather** enjoyed the hike up the hill. We came back to camp for lunch. In the afternoon we collected the red/cherry opal with everyone getting some very nice material. We took a side trip to Inscription Canyon and then raced home for dinner.

Dinner was a wonderful treat of Quesedillas, which were prepared to order by **Linda and Jay**, with **Warren** preparing the margaritas. **Linda** had brought most of the fillings, but others added more. Several members left after dinner, due to the threat of rain. The weather was perfect for the campfire, which was enjoyed by all.

The rain did finally arrive at 3 am on Sunday morning. This saw the departure of a few more campers. Later that morning, the **Fenders, Valles and Minears**, with dogs, went to Black Canyon to see the petroglyphs. The petroglyphs in the canyon were somewhat disappointing due to the modern graffiti. We did find a few more sites up side canyons that seemed to be untouched and were very interesting. By Sunday noon, the only ones left were the **Valles and Fenders**, who spent the afternoon driving around to the different opal locations, G.P.S.ing them. Near the orange opal area we were thrilled to see a Pygmy owl who performed for us by bobbing up and down.

We enjoyed a very cozy potluck Sunday night and left Monday Morning.

Web Pages of Interest

Gem and Jewelry Quiz: Fun quiz to test your gemstone and precious metals "savvy". <http://www.metalsmiths.com/quiz.html>

Beadtown.com: Commercial site for "beaders". Has BASICS of stringing beads and HOW TO sections for beginners as well as various beads for sale. <http://www.beadtown.com>

LA-Rocks: This group is made up of interested rockhounds, from many different rock clubs, who hold member-led field trips. The only requirement to participate is that you belong to a rock club yourself. Sign up at: <http://www.egroups.com/group/la-rocks>

To Purchase 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 **Dottie Jacobs** 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 **Dottie Jacobs** to place your order at (562) 928-2637 or mail the name, data and money to:

Dottie Jacobs, 9020 Smallwood Avenue, Downey, CA 90240-2633.

March Gemstone Aquamarine: Gem of the Sea

Aquamarine, the "gem of the sea", derives its name from "sea water". The reference is obvious: aqua sparkles like the sea and its color is pale to medium blue, sometimes with a slight hint of green. Aquamarine is the birthstone for March.

Legends say that it is the treasure of mermaids, with the power to keep sailors safe at sea. Aquamarine is said to be a particularly strong charm when immersed in water (which is a good thing, since that is when sailors need its power most!)

Aquamarine was also said to have a soothing influence on land, especially on married couples. Its power to help husbands and wives work out their differences and ensure a long and happy marriage makes it a good anniversary gift. Aquamarine also protects against the wiles of the devil. A dream of aquamarine means that you will meet new friends.

Aquamarine is found in Brazil, Zambia, Mozambique, Angola, Nigeria, and other countries.

Aquamarine is always a pastel blue but the darker the color, the more valued it is. Connoisseurs also prefer a pure blue, with no green in it. If you prefer a greenish tinge, you will find that these stones are less expensive.

Because the color is generally pale, aquamarine should have a good clarity. These stones are often cut in ovals and emerald cuts. More saturated colors are unusual in small sizes: usually it takes some size for the color to hold in a darker shade.

Aquamarine is a durable and lively gemstone that is appropriate for all jewelry uses. Its pale fire is flattering to most skin tones.

<http://gemstone.org/aquamarine.html>

I Didn't Know That!
by Shirley Leeson, AFMS Historian

In searching through the AFMS history I came across the Banquet Talk by outgoing AFMS President Bernice L. Rexin. It was published in the AFMS Education-Information Newsletter, Sept/Oct 1967. It's something. I didn't know and thought you might find it as interesting as I did....

"During the early nineteen hundreds the United States government sent geological survey teams out to map the West. Ranchers were impressed by their enthusiasm and gave them a name to fit their eagerness, "ROCKHOUNDS." With this name they also gave them their respect.

You have inherited this name and it has caught the public's fancy because it is lively and expressive of all facets of our hobby from digging up dinosaur bones to cutting gems. You also have the public's respect because you have made this name a distinguished one by your many worthwhile activities, such as promoting earth science education, giving scholarships, and developing your lapidary skills to the extent that your best is now being shown in museums.

This is your informal name, we are properly known as amateur earth scientists and lapidaries. Both names are needed for there are times when the use of the informal is more effective than the formal, and vice versa.

Because the Rockhounds have made the American Federation an organization to be proud of, I have been proud of the privilege of serving as your president."

We have this information because Dorothy Lee, Past AFMS President donated a number of early newsletters to me as we were putting together the AFMS 50th Anniversary booklet.

Please help me locate other early AFMS Newsletters. If you or one of your "retired" editors have any old copies of the AFMS Newsletter, circa 1950s through 1980s, please send them to me. I am also looking for Earth Science magazines from the Midwest. They seem to have more AFMS information than the others.

I will be doing an article each month about, "Did You Know" or "Speaking of the Past" with someone who has intimate knowledge of the past...

Shirley Leeson
AFMS Historian
6155 Haas St.
La Mesa, CA 91942-4312

Stoddard Wells Fieldtrip
March 18th and 19th, 2000
(see map on pg. 12)

The birth of a new day was still a little ways away. The stars still shown and the first rays of dawn were only now beginning the faint shimmering in the eastern sky. This is how it begins as it has begun for so many eons before. Only this beginning has not been still, all night pairs of lights have been dancing on the road below and with the lights there is a growling sound that becomes a roar of a hungry beast.

Lights fading in and out, disappearing completely letting the darkness cover the area, only to reappear chasing it away even only temporarily. All the lights have turned off the main road, virtually in the same spot. They go up a smaller road stop and go off and the roar is silenced. Peace and promise return again...

The dawn is chasing the dark of night to the western horizon. Light from the east shines on anything above the horizon as lavenders to deep reds become orange and then yellows of all sorts. The first songs of the day come emanating from the recesses still in the shadows of awakening birds. The morning lights reveal clouds that seem to be anchored to mountain tops and light lacy mists drifting here and there.

As the day gets brighter and as the mist moves away, the source of the dancing growling lights is revealed. There, below along a small road leading to a shroud covered mountain is an odd gathering of cars, trucks, trailers and RV's. This gathering almost seems magical, much like the swallows returning to San Juan Capistrano each March 19th. Only these are not birds, they are **ROCKHOUNDS!** They seem to migrate at this spot below Stoddard Mountain as if some innate instinct drove them to it. The reason ...**TAILGATE!!!!** A rockhound swapmeet. If you missed Quartzite, then here is where you want to be.

You'll quite possibly find everything from agate to zoisite and then some. Some one will have finished pieces of jewelry, polished flats of petrified wood, tumbled stones, slabs and rough materials waiting for your imagination and skill.

But there is a lot more to this place than the tailgate. There are various materials to collect and places to explore. And when exploring, taking of pictures is highly encouraged especially if the wild flowers are in bloom.

At the end of the day about 4:00PM there will be happy hour and time then to prepare for the potluck at approximately 5:00pm. After dinner, weather permitting, a campfire will be lit. As you sit drinking in the warmth of the fire and the fire light shows tired, but satisfied faces the telling of stories of trips past and bragging about the treasures and rocks that you got and couldn't live without soon starts. Soon you'll get sleepy and go to bed (about 7:30pm) and ready for another day of Promise....

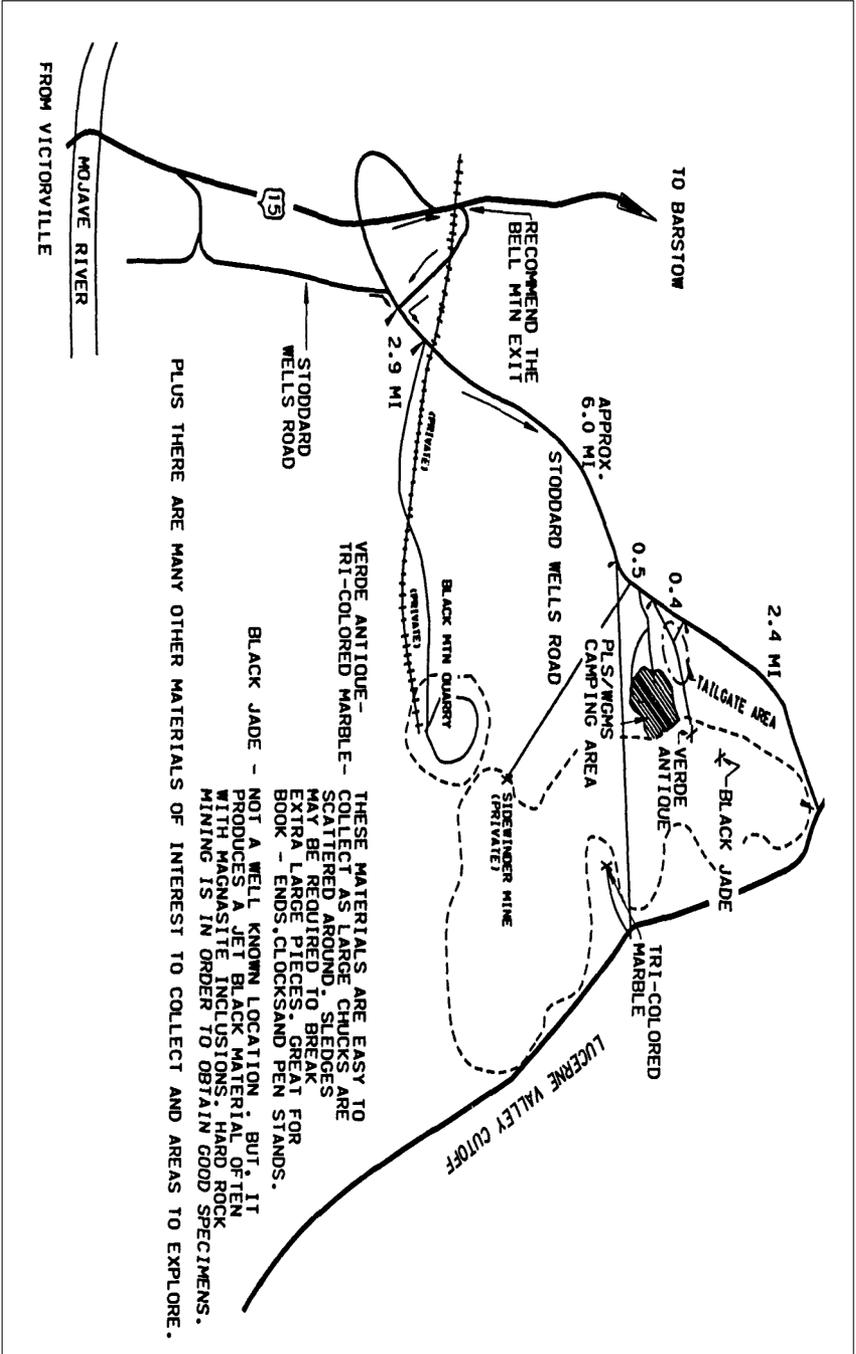
The tentative trip planned for April is going to Castle Butte, more next month.

Your Lost Fieldtrip Chairman, *Joe Goetz*

Rocks & Equipment for Sale

- 1) 135 pound block of bullion mountain plume agate- first \$175 takes it!
- 2) Misc. rough rock, howlite, agate, petrified wood, etc. \$1.25/pound.
- 3) Mark IV Faceting Machine, in excellent condition with laps, transfer piece, etc. Asking \$900 or best offer.
- 4) 8-track player with tapes. Make offer
- 5) Lapidary Journal sets - 1966 thru 1988. Make offer.
- 6) Other items: 20 - 30 copies of Rock & Gem, about the 70's. Misc. rock-hound hardbound books)

Contact: Mary Rose Merton
West Covina. (626) 338-3459
(If no answer, leave a message)



As A Rockhound Sees It

Sheer Luck - someone else's good find.

Hard work and brains - your own good find.

Greed - someone else's large quantity of one specimen.

Foresight - your own large quantity of one specimen.

Stinginess - someone else's refusal to share good rock locations.

Shrewdness - your own refusal to share good rock locations.

Bunch of junk - someone else's collection.

Museum pieces - your own collection.

Botched up job - someone else's first lapidary attempt.

Promising beginning - your own first lapidary attempt.

Via Cross Timbers Talks, August 1989, via AFMS Newsletter 03/00



Hard at work at the Opal Mountain area Cherry Opal diggings

A Lesson in Gemstone Inclusions

Almost all gemstones have some type of inclusion, which a lot of people look at as a "flaw". This "flaw" is an important characteristic of the gem material as it often proves to be an indicator of the type of gem that you are looking at, as well as, the genuineness and sometimes even the country of origin of the particular stone. A jeweler's loupe or a microscope is all that is needed to view the internal world of the gemstones.

LILY-PAD INCLUSION looks like a lily pad and is found in peridot.

HALO OR DISC-LIKE INCLUSION looks like a flat, disk-like shape and resembles a halo. Very often this inclusion will contain a black mark in the center which could be a zircon crystal. This inclusion is found in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) sapphires.

FINGERPRINTS small crystal inclusions that are arranged in curved rows and look like a finger print.

HORSETAIL INCLUSIONS, consist of hair-like fibers, arranged together and resemble a horse's tail. This is indicative of demantoid garnet.

NEEDLE INCLUSIONS resemble fine needles and are found in garnet, sapphires, aquamarine, andalusite and exclusive to Burmese rubies.

TWO-PHASE INCLUSIONS resemble a frankfurter in outline that has a bubble enclosure. This bubble may or may not move when the stone is tilted. Topaz, quartz, some tourmaline, as well as, synthetic and genuine emeralds exhibit this inclusion.

THREE-PHASE INCLUSIONS look like irregularly shaped pea pods and contain a bubble, cube shape or rhomboid solid next to the bubble. These inclusions may be solid, liquid or gas. Found in emeralds from Columbia.

BUBBLES look just like what you think. This type of inclusion indicates that you are looking at synthetic material, glass or a piece of genuine amber.

DARK BALL-LIKE INCLUSIONS look like a dark opaque ball surrounded by irregularly shaped, wispy, brown cloud-like formations. These inclusions are exclusive to Thai rubies.

FEATHER is actually a crack in a gemstone that looks like a feather. This inclusion is observed in sapphires, rubies and diamonds.

ZEBRA STRIPES look just like a zebra's stripes and are indicative of quartz.

SWIRL MARKS look like serpentine, curved shapes or curlicues and usually appear as a darker shade of color than the material that you are looking at. This indicates that you are looking at a piece of glass.

VEILS look like bubble-like inclusions that are arranged in layers and resemble a wispy veil. This is common in your synthetic emeralds and synthetic rubies.

COLOR BANDING looks like concentrated color resembling bands in a

gem material. This is caused by changes in temperature, pressure and chemicals during the growth period. Straight color banding indicates a genuine stone and curved color banding indicates a synthetic stone.

From The Rock Rattler, via Chips October 1999, via Delvings 01/2000

AMETHYST

By Joan Abramson

From deep within a distant mine
Brazilian geodes hugged their gems.
Such amethysts of brilliant shine
Soon graced fair royal diadems.

The purple sought by ancient kings --
Rich color from sea mollusks low --
Was rivaled only by the rings
And pendants setting queens aglow.

Valued more than gold by some,
Placed in crowns or scepter head,
This color of a ripened plum
Was both pursued and coveted.

Purple shadows, violets,
Have kinship with this lofty hue,
But far more lasting briolettes
Of amethyst stay bright and new.

Other gems may now be sought
With greater eagerness than these,
But amethysts have always caught
Both prince and pauper loyalties.

"Precious" is a faulty term --
A matter of a Mohs' degree.
Each finder must himself affirm
This lovely stone's pure majesty.

Via NOC News 2/2000

From the web...

Rockbusters' Publishing
148 Sandy Creek Dr.
Leland, NC 28451

Dear Rock and Gem Enthusiasts:

We would like to take this opportunity to announce to all our fellow rockhounds the debut of the all new fiction novel, "Human Inclusion." This exciting book is the latest work of author/miner Barry S. Moore (Herkimer Diamonds: A Complete Guide, "Project Sunburn," and much more.)

This is a book written by a rockhound, for the rockhounds. The story revolves around the life of a fictitious main character, "Roy Austin," who is a professional gem stone miner. An intriguing story unfolds as the author follows Roy on an international quest for the "big find." While sharing much factual information on the gemstone mining business, the author spins what could be the biggest "mining yarn" told to date. This one is a "must read" for rock, gem and mineral enthusiast!

For those of you who are not familiar with Mr. Moore, he has been involved on a full time basis with the rock and gem business for almost two decades now. He has spent a great deal of time dredging for gold in Northern California and many years mining the famous Herkimer Diamonds in Upstate New York. For the past ten years, he has been an acting manager and guide for the world famous Emerald Hollow mine in Hiddenite, NC, the only emerald mine still open to the public for digging. He has always been very actively involved in the furtherment of the educational and recreational aspects of the rock and gem business.

Mr. Moore is also an educated, professional writer. He has uniquely combined his writing and mining experience to write Human Inclusion. In the book, many secrets of the rock and gem business, that only an insider would know, are shared with the reader. Incredibly, he does this while weaving a simply bizarre and amazing tale.

First edition copies of Human Inclusion are now being offered through our web site at: <http://www.rockbusterspub.com> (\$12.99 + \$4.00 shipping and handling.) Also, download copies are available for \$7.99. For more info about the book and ordering, please visit our web site. We hope you tell all your fellow rockhounds, club members, friends in the business and also the Tucson crowd about this new book which promises to be very entertaining for all rockhounds. All e-mail forwarding or posting of this announcement appreciated.

Yours truly, Rockbusters' Publishing

March 2000

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 Board Meeting at Dottie Jacob's, 7 PM	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Stoddard Wells Tailgate
19 Stoddard Wells Tailgate	20	21	22	23 WGMS Regular Meeting 7:30 PM	24	25
26 Rockgabbers at Covina Library, 1 PM	27	28	29	30	31	

CFMS Gem Shows

- Mar. 3-12 **Imperial, CA.** Imperial Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Gem & Mineral Building, CA Midwinter Fair & Fiesta Grounds, 200 East 2nd
Hours: Fri 12-10, Sat& Sun 10-10, Mon-Thurs 4-10
- Mar. 4-5 **Arcadia, CA.** Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc., Arboretum of LA County at Ayers Hall, 301 N. Baldwin Ave.
Hours: 9 to 4:30 both days
- Mar. 4-5 **Ventura, CA.** Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Seaside Park (Ventura Co. Fairgrounds), 10 W. Harbor Blvd.
Hours: Sat 9-5 Sun 9-4
- Mar. 11-12 **San Marino, CA.** Pasadena Lapidary Society, San Marino Masonic Temple, 3130 Huntington Dr.
Hours: Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5
- Mar. 18-19 **Hawthorne, CA.** Northrop Grumman Gem and Mineral Club, NGRC Clubhouse, 12329 Crenshaw Blvd., Gate 16
Hours: Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5
- Mar. 25-26 **La Habra, CA.** North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society, La Habra Clubhouse, 200 W. Greenwood
Hours: Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5
- Mar. 25-26 **San Diego, CA.** San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Al Bahr Shrine, Village, Balboa Park, San Diego, 5440 Kearny Mesa
Hours: Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5
- Apr. 1-2 **Angels Camp.** Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society, Calaveras County Fairgrounds.
Hours: 10-5 both days
- Apr. 8 **Escondido, CA.** Palomar Gem & Mineral Club, Inc., Redwood Senior Center, 13th Avenue & Redwood Street
Hours: 9-6
- Apr. 8-9 **Hacienda Heights, CA.** Puente Hills Gem & Mineral Club, Inc., Steinmetz Park, 1545 S Stimson Ave.
Hours: Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4

Vern Cliffe

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

Affiliations



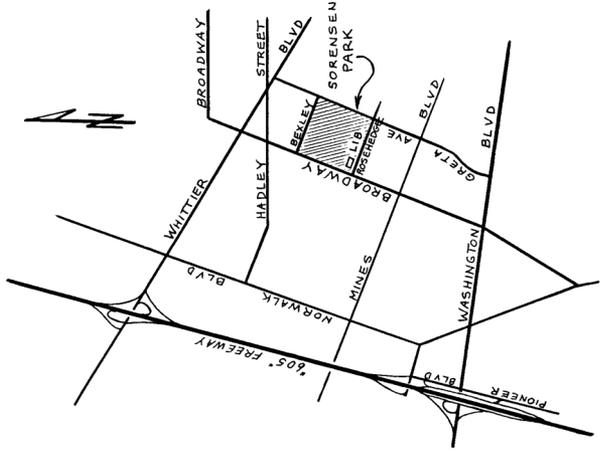
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Whittier, California 90608-0865

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Hacienda Heights, CA 91745**



Meeting Date: **March 23th at 7:30 PM**
Location: Sorensen Park (See Map)