

Millennium Edition

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDING
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

Minerals: Large and Small



Herkimer Diamond in Matrix from Crystal Grove Campground, New York

January 2001

ROCKHOUNDER

FROM THE DESK OF THE PREZ:

Greetings WGMSers,

Welcome to the new millennium! I hope your holidays were both fun and memorable (in a good way). The Christmas party was enjoyable and a good time was had by all. I also want to thank all of our members who agreed to serve on the board or on committees.

Several issues are at the top of this year's agenda. We need to continue the work which was started last year in reducing our Club overhead costs. Last year, the club paid out more in expenses than we took in. One step we took was to raise the club dues in an attempt to help stem the red ink. This was necessary because of a dramatic increase in several of our "fixed" costs. The amount we pay to store our show cases and equipment went up, and both the Sorenson meeting hall and Masonic Lodge show place costs rose. One very large change was the increase in CFMS dues because of insurance changes. This year we will be looking at ways to conserve our financial resources. Other issues include replacing aging show tables and equipment, high-grading the Club rock, reducing the WGMS inventory of both rock and equipment, and moving the Rockgabber's equipment from the Boys and Girls Club to a more user friendly location. None of these issues are new but I hope to deal with some of them as the new year progresses.

Speaking of dues, **DUES ARE DUE!** A mailing label with **Dottie Jacobs** address on it is included on page 4 to make sending in your dues easier.

For your information: **Joe and Marcia Goetz** had a not so minor meeting of minds on the day after Christmas when a red light runner crashed into "Miss Dustbunny" (that's the nickname for their offroad vehicle). They are fine, though and the car is being repaired.

The field trip this month is to Quartzsite on January 27-28. In addition to the outstanding shopping opportunities, **Joe Goetz** will be leading a rock collecting adventure to a local collecting area. This is a really fun trip and I encourage you to come out.

JValle

**January 25 General Meeting
Minerals: Large and Small**

The January program will feature Mr. Fred Elsnau. He will be presenting a program on minerals and mineral collecting.

Jack Zywocki

DUES ARE DUE!

It is dues time again. Seems like only a year ago we went through this before.

The dues schedule is as follows:

Single Adults: \$15.00
Married couple: \$25.00
Junior (<18): \$5.00

Please send your check to our Treasurer, **Dottie Jacobs**. I have attached a mailing label below for your use.

Thank you.

Dorothea (Dottie) Jacobs
9020 Smallwood Ave.
Downey, CA 90806-2633

General Rules for Rockhounding

- When in Doubt, Take a piece home anyway.
- When in doubt, it's feldspar.

Via the Internet

\$50 Winner's Name to be Drawn at the January Meeting

The end of the year \$50 door prize drawing winner should have been drawn at the December meeting, but **Vern Cliffe** forgot them at home. This is the collection of tickets turned in each month from members who purchased 10 tickets or more at the meetings.

So come on out to the January meeting and find out if you are the lucky winner!

Vern Cliffe

WGMS Notes and News

Our December Christmas Party/Meeting was well attended and a good time was enjoyed by all. Ham was provided courtesy of a gift certificate donated by **Les Roy** and all of the other delicious foods were supplied by the party-goers. After the dinner was “put away,” **Vern Cliffe** presented the new slate of Club officers for 2001, or he attempted to. The new officers kept interrupting him during his speech (it was planned that way, honest). The presentation was humorous and entertaining, and I want to thank Vern for being the emcee.

The first WGMS Board Meeting of 2001 was held at **Jay Valle’s** home on January 11. Most of the chairmanships have been filled but we are still looking for someone to take over the door prizes from **Vern**. **Jay Valle** will be show chairman again this year and the first meeting will be held February 6 at the **Turner’s** Whittier house.

In Member News:

Clarence Pool briefly went into the hospital for what was reported as heart problems early in December and is at home recovering. **Bea Roy** had an overnight stay in the hospital January 5th and she is also home. **Les Roy** also was feeling under the weather with tooth problems.

Note: We only report member news that is brought to our attention. Please let us know if you hear of a member who is sick or in the hospital so we can send a card and inform other members who may wish to call or visit.

JValle

The Antiquity of Rings

By Mae Williams

The earliest existing rings were found in the tombs of ancient Egypt. The finest examples date from the 18th and 20th dynasties, and are of pure gold and bearing the name or title of the owner engraved in hieroglyphic characters. The poorer classes wore rings of less costly material such as silver, bronze, glazed pottery, amber, carnelian or ivory.

The first to use the ring as a token of affection were the Romans and Greeks. In Rome, the first gift-ring of a young girl about to be married carried the family seal and was given by the father. Rings came into popular use as a sure way of always having on hand personal seals of title, family and ownership of property.

Poison rings have been popular in fact and fiction. One kind of ring held a fatal dose of poison concealed beneath the bezel. When Hannibal was about to be captured by the Romans, he took his life by swallowing poison carried in the ring he wore.

Birthstone rings had their origin in the ancient beliefs that certain gems were magically influenced by the cycle of the Zodiac. Persons born in particular months felt protected and sure of good fortune and health when wearing the gem of their sign.

A ring has long been a symbol of a ruler's authority. Kings gave their rings to trusted servants. The Bible tells how Pharaoh placed his signet ring on Joseph's finger when he sent him into Egypt. Every official decree of the Pope must be signed with his signet ring.

Wedding rings are worn on the third finger of the left hand because of an old belief that a vein runs directly from this finger to the heart, and thus hand and heart are offered together. When faceting of gems became popular in Europe, the betrothal ring was set with a precious stone, often a family gem.

Rings are signs of title, authority, personal ornaments and love and marriage. Thus, the ring - a circle with no beginning or ending, has come to mean many things through the ages.

From Glacial Drifter 1/98, via CHIPS 12/00

January Birthstone

January's birthstone is the garnet. Ancient warriors believed that garnets brought victory. The Crusaders used them as protection against wounds and accidents during their journeys. In contrast, Asiatic warriors believed that glowing garnets, used as bullets, inflicted more severe wounds. In 1892, during hostilities on the Kashmir frontier, the Hanza tribesmen fired on British soldiers with garnet bullets, believing them to be more effective than lead bullets.

The name "garnet" is derived from the Latin "granatum" meaning "pomegranate" because the crystals resemble the red color and seed-like form of this fruit. Most people think of the garnet as a red gemstone, but in fact, it exists in all kinds of colors, such as black, many shades of red and green, or even colorless. The garnet's variety of colors comes from metals such as manganese, iron, calcium, and aluminum. Some varieties even contain mineral fibers that produce the illusion of a four- or six-rayed star within the stone. Green garnets are most highly prized but are very rare. Emerald green and colorless stones are highly valued, followed by pure red garnets.

Garnets are commonly found as small pebbles in streams, where the igneous and metamorphic rocks that contain them have weathered away. They're found in many places around the world, including North and South America, Australia, India, Asia and Spain.

In the former Czechoslovakia, evidence of garnet jewelry dating to the Bronze age was found -- garnet necklaces were discovered in the graves of ancient lake dwellers. Garnet jewelry has also been discovered dating back to 3100 B.C. in Egypt, 2300 B.C. in Sumeria, and 2000-1000 B.C. in Sweden. Garnets were treasured in 3rd and 4th century Greece, and continued in popularity during Roman times. Across the Atlantic, Pre-Columbian Aztec and Native Americans also used garnets in their ornaments.

As with many precious stones, garnets were once believed to hold medicinal powers. In Medieval times, it protected its wearer against poisons, wounds and bad dreams, and cured depression. Red garnets relieved fever, hemorrhages and inflammatory diseases. To modern users, the garnet symbolizes a light heart, loyalty and enduring affections.

*By Marc Airhart, Deborah Byrd, Shireen Gonzaga, June, 1999
Courtesy of Earth & Sky Webpage*

What is a Phantom Crystal?

A phantom crystal is actually a crystal within a crystal. The makeup of one phantom must be the same as the one which encloses it. There may be more than one inside a single crystal. The usual explanation of phantoms is intermittent growth, growing for a while, then stopping. For a period (of time) the crystal is exposed and a very small amount of a foreign matter (dust, etc.) falls on the surface.

The conditions then change and the crystal starts to grow again., with the possibility of this happening several times. The result is a crystal that appears to have one or more crystals enclosed within it. Sometimes phantoms are oriented the same as the enclosing crystal, at other times, they're not. In clear crystals, such as quartz, the enclosed crystal appears shadowy and faint, and therefore we have the name "phantom". The difference between a phantom and an inclusion is that the inclusion must be a different mineral species.

Author unknown, via Rock Chip Reporter 12/99 via The Glacial Drifter 12/00

Believe it or not:

- It may be hard to believe that a scant 100 years ago:
- The average life expectancy was forty-seven.
- Only 14% of the homes in the United States had a bathtub.
- Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California
- With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was only the 21st state in the union.
- The average wage in the U. S. was 22 cents per hour.
- More than 95% of all births in the U. S. took place at home
- Sugar cost 4 cents a pound, eggs were 14 cents a dozen, coffee cost 15 cents per pound.
- The population of Las Vegas was 30.
- Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the corner drugstore
- Coca-Cola contained cocaine instead of caffeine.
- There were about 230 murders in the U. S. annually.

From Rock Chipper, 4/00, via Del Air Bulletin 01/01

Did you know...

During the Upper Pliocene Epoch, 5 to 7 million years ago, the Los Angeles Basin was mostly under water. Some islands protruded above the shallow bay, such as areas that we now know as the Palos Verdes Hills, Beverly Hills, Baldwin Hills, and Signal Hill. Bay waters supported a varied marine life, including many mollusks. Shells of these early mollusks can still be found throughout the Basin, if you know where to look.

As the bay receded, millions of years ago, shells along the water's edge were covered with soil and gravel debris carried down mountains by rainstorms and landslides caused by earthquakes. This material of shells and debris was cemented together through a limestone process, over millions of years, into beds of rock filled with fossil shells. You need to know where to look for exposed remnants of these ancient fossil beds in the Los Angeles Basin.

Major fossil beds have been discovered in downtown Los Angeles in excavations as deep as 80 feet below street level during foundation diggings for high-rise buildings. One such bed was unearthed in 1969 during construction of multi-story buildings at Sixth and Flower Streets. A paleontologist retrieved tons of "fossil stone" from the excavation site. Much of the material was turned into highly polished table tops, bookends, and other objects. Very little rough material remained.

A specimen of rough material from this site will be on display during the 2001 CFMS Show in Paso Robles, June 22-24. Attend the Show and view this remnant of an ancient marine environment. It is a part of California's natural history you won't want to miss.

Bea and Sherm Griselle, Santa Lucia Rockhounds

(Editor's Note: The Santa Lucia Rockhounds are hosting the CFMS 2001 Show and invite all societies' Bulletin Editors to carry this article in their newsletters.)

Del Air Bulletin 01/01

**WGMS/CFMS Member Club Field Trippers
January 27th and 28th, 2001
Quartzsite Area**

Our annual trip to Quartzsite will be over the last weekend of January. We will be camping at the usual BLM location. For newcomers the directions are as follows:

Exit the "10" Freeway at the second Quartzsite exit (Exit 19). Turn right and follow the frontage road as it curves left and continues east along the south side of the freeway. The BLM campground is approximately one mile on the right side of the frontage road (the left side is the freeway). Follow the direction signs, **WGMS & FRIENDS**, south through the numerous motorhomes for several hundred yards to the club campsite.

It's a dry camp, bring firewood and plan on pot luck dinners which will be scheduled for 4:00 PM California time (5:00 PM Arizona time).

A field trip south of Quartzsite is planned for Saturday to an interesting area we heard about recently.

We will be going out Thursday the 25th to set up the campsite, so come join us anytime after that.

WGMS Field Trip Committee:

Joe & Marcia Goetz, (626) 914-5030, joenmar1@gte.net

Vern & Sylvia Cliffe, (626) 355-6964, cliffehouse@earthlink.net

Field trip info cell phone number, (626) 533-9643, Friday nite/Sunday nite.

LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER GREAT WEEKEND.

Show Schedules For Quartzsite 2001

Jan 1 - Feb 15	Desert Gardens Gem, Mineral & Rock Show.
Jan 15 - Feb 15	Cloud's Annual Show (Smaller this year according to Sue Hickman)
Jan 19 - Jan 28	Tyson Wells Sell-a-Rama
MAIN EVENT	Generally held on the last Weekend of January

**WGMS Field Trip Schedule
January through May 2001**

- Jan. 27-28:.....**Quartzsite and area south of Blythe**
- Feb. 18-19: President's Day**Kramer Hills/Castle Butte**
- Mar. 17-18:**Victorville area - Stoddard Wells Tailgate**
- April ?: Easter Week:**Tentatively for Burro Creek, Arizona**
- Apr. 28-29:.....**Last Chance Canyon**
- May 26-28: Memorial Day**Black Rock Desert – Nevada**

Whittier Gem & Mineral Society field trips are planned as gemstone collecting trips emphasizing mutual understanding between all participants. Members of neighboring clubs are most welcome and encouraged to join us on our rock hounding trips...

Field Trip Committee Members: *Joe & Marcia Goetz, Vern & Sylvia Cliffe*

Keep Your Eyes Open

If you were driving across a frozen lake and saw several chunks of dark rock scattered over the white ice, what would your first thought be? Would you think meteorite?

On January 18th, 2000 a fireball raced across the sky over northwestern Canada. Witnesses heard two sonic booms, saw a flash of light, smelled a "foul odor," heard a sizzling sound, and watched a trail of glowing vapor trail stream across the sky. U.S. defense satellites calculated that the meteor exploded with the power of "two to three kilotons of TNT." Scientists quickly informed Canadian residents to keep their eyes open for fragments of the meteor that was estimated to have been larger than two Winnabagos put end-to-end and weighing more than 55 tons when it struck the Earth's atmosphere.

Fortunately a resident of Tagish Lake (that's right, all of you that have trekked north with Bill and Gert Miner are familiar with this beautiful lake and river) anyway, this local man had heard about the meteorite and as he drove across the frozen lake on his way home, he spotted several dozen chunks of crumbly black rock that looked like "charcoal briquettes." It had the weight of pumice and still smelled slightly of sulfur. He followed the directions that had been publicized by the scientific community and scooped the fragments into clean plastic bags without touching them. The specimens were then kept frozen.

The Tagish Lake Meteorite is the only freshly fallen carbonaceous chondrite to ever be recovered **uncontaminated** and transferred to a laboratory **without thawing**. Why is this important? Carbonaceous chondrites are rare meteorites that are made up of carbon and other organic materials. Only 2% of the meteorites that have fallen to the Earth are of this type. Most break down completely when entering the atmosphere. If they do reach the surface they weather severely. If they come in contact with water, they become mush.

Scientists at NASA's Johnson Space Center believe that the Tagish Lake Meteorite is 4.5 billion years old. Cosmic mineralogist Dr. Michael Zolensky calls it "a snapshot of the original composition of the entire solar system before the planets formed." Analyzing this discovery may give us untold information about-the beginnings of Earth and the other planets.

And to think, none of this great scientific discovery would have been possible if a man in a remote place hadn't kept his eyes open for the unexpected. Keep Your Eyes Open, what you find might change what we know about

world. - Keri Dearborn

From Del Air Bulletin 11/00

Bushy Tailed Miners Squirreled Away a Hoard

In 1856, prospectors in search of gold in Nevada found traces of pale yellow gold in the earthen mounds of ground squirrels. They traced the gold to its source only to encounter heavy black sand. The gold ore, when assayed, proved to be worth a few hundred dollars of gold to the ton, but the black sand turned out to be rich in silver chloride worth \$3,000 a ton in silver.

From Cowtown Cutter, via Pick & Pack 11/98 & The Glacial Drifter 12/00

How Silicon Chips are Made

How does silicon dioxide (beach sand] become an integrated circuit, one of man's most intricate and finely crafted devices?

Growing silicon crystals from a single seed crystal is the most important part of the process. This takes place in a furnace which is heated to about 1,5 00 degrees celsius. In the furnace is a container filled with molten silicon and a secondary element such as phosphorus or boron. The seed crystal is dipped into the molten material. It is then withdrawn with a rotating motion, similar to making candies by dipping them in hot wax.

Solidifying on the seed, the molten material takes on the same atomic structure as the seed. This molecular symmetry distinguishes a single crystal from unstructured or non-symmetrical material. Each finished crystal cylinder is approximately six inches in diameter and about four feet long. Using a high speed diamond edged saw, the cooled glass-like cylinder is sliced into wafers. All silicon wafers are not the same, each manufacturer's wafer varies in thickness and surface finish due to their unique specifications.

It takes about 50 complex steps to convert wafers into integrated circuits. The final step is cutting the wafer into hundreds of tiny circuit chips.

From Mineral Mite 11 /95, via NOC News 01/01

The Strange Language

- No word in the English language rhymes with month.
- "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".
- The word "set" has more definitions than any other word in the English language.
- "Underground" is the only word in the English language that begins and ends with the letter "und".
- The longest one-syllable word in the English language is: "screeched".
- There are only four words in the English language which end in "-dous". - Tremendous, horrendous, stupendous and hazardous.
- The longest word in the English language, according to the Oxford English Dictionary is: pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis.
- There is a seven-letter word in the English language that contains ten words without rearranging any of its letters, "therein": the, there, he, in, rein, her, here, ere, therein, herein.
- No word in the English language rhymes with orange, silver or purple.
- "Stewardesses" is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.
- To "testify" was based on men in the Roman court swearing to a statement made by swearing on their testicles.
- The combination "ough" can be pronounced in nine different ways. The following sentence contains them all: "A rough-coated, dough-faced, thoughtful ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough,- after failing into a slough, he coughed and hiccoughed."
- The verb "cleave" is the only English word with two synonyms, which are antonyms of each other: adhere and separate.
- The only fifteen-letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is uncopyrightable.
- Facetious and abstemious contains all the vowels in the correct order, as does arsenious, meaning "containing arsenic."

From the Internet, via CHIPS 12/00

Calling All Editors

By Shirley Leeson, CFMS Regional Vice President

- Who: SCRIBE (Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors)
- What: A Symposium
- Where: Senior Citizens Community Center, Moon Mountain Rd., Quartzsite, Arizona
- Date: Saturday, January 27, 2001
- Time: 9:00 a.m. to Noon, Arizona Time

The International organization of SCRIBE will hold their annual meeting at the SENIOR CITIZENS Community Center, Moon Mountain Road at 9 a.m. Arizona time on Saturday, January 27, 2001. There is a small registration fee of \$2.50 to cover expenses and refreshments. You can reach the Center off of Main Street between Highway 95 and the overpass near Main Event.

All current, past and prospective editors should make an effort to attend this meeting. We will share information on the editor contests, and problems that editors may have. Those of you who have solved all your problems, please come and tell us how you did it!

For the past several years, Kitty Starbuck, AFMS Publications Chairman and several of the Regional Bulletin Aids Chairmen have attended and have given important input into the regional and national bulletin contests. Be there to offer your ideas.

CFMS Newsletter 01/01



CFMS Earth Science Studies

March 25 - April 1, 2001

Zzyzx Road, Soda Springs, California

A CFMS Earth Science Seminar will be held at Soda Spring (Zzyzx) which is located 50 miles northeast of Barstow on I-15 at Zzyzx Road.

These desert studies offer instruction in our hobby/craft, field trips to historical and collecting sites, and discussion of flora and fauna of the area. Our primary goal is to provide a congenial learning experience.

The facilities are rustic with dorm style rooms and rooms with double beds or cots. Rest rooms and showers are provided in a separate building nearby. No pets are allowed.

Register for this educational and fun filled week by completing the form below, with a check for \$220 per person by March 1, 2001. An administrative fee of \$25.00 will be assessed for any cancellation prior to March 1. There will be no refund for cancellation after March 1 unless you can provide a replacement. The fee includes instructions, quarters and meals.

Send form and payment made out to CFMS to:

Florence Meisenheimer
101 N. Wake Forrest Ave.
Ventura, CA 93003-2246
(805) 642-3155

Cal & Dee Clason (661) 589-4189

Ray & Florence Meisenheimer (805) 642-3155

AFMS Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

Revised July 7, 1999 at the AFMS Annual Meeting



Uninvited guest at a WGMS field trip

Editor: Jay Valle, 1421 Latchford Avenue, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
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Bulletin exchanges are welcome and should be sent to the editor.

Affiliations



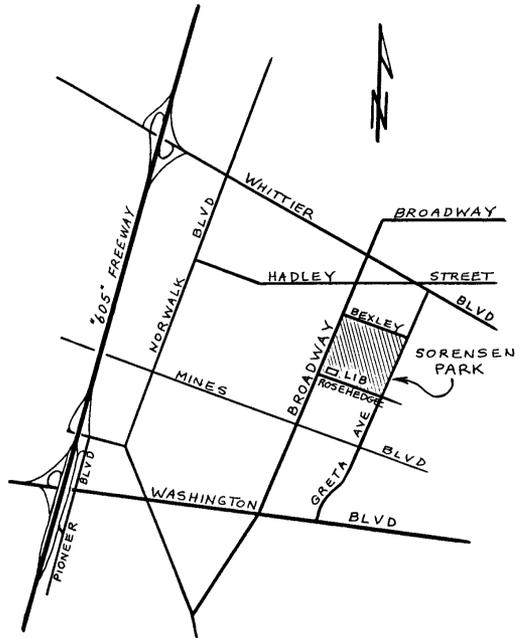
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors



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Hacienda Heights, CA 91745**



Meeting Date: **January 25 at 7:30 PM**
Location: Sorensen Park (See Map)