

Millennium Edition

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUND
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

Joe Girtner presents
“Stone Knife Handles!”



February 2001

ROCKHOUNDER

FROM THE DESK OF THE PREZ:

Greetings WGMSers,

January was a busy month for the **Valle Family**. We visited Quartzsite twice. The first time was to enjoy the always amazing smorgasbord of collectable rocks and “stuff”, and the second time for the **SCRIBE Bulletin Editors Meeting**. On the first visit, the weather was clear and comfortable, the second was wet but still nice. Early in January, we picked up a new puppy and have been attempting to housebreak the little dickens. He is a lot of fun but seems able to get into a lot of trouble without too much effort. He and our new kitten get along fine and play together amazingly well. Oh, and somewhere in there **Kathy Piechota and I** got engaged. Like I said, a busy month.

On Tuesday, February 6, the WGMS Board met for the **2001 Gem Show Kickoff** meeting. The “**Center of Show**” this year will probably be “**JADE**” or “**PETRIFIED WOOD**”. We are working on an updated Show Manual. Each of the Show Chairmen were asked to define the tasks required to perform their jobs. After the Chairman’s input is received, a “**WGMS Gem Show Operating Manual**” will be produced with the tasks to be performed, a timeline for performing those tasks, and the “rules of the game” for each job. At one time the Club had such a set of guides for each Club position. However, those guidebooks are now gone. If you have any of the WGMS Chairman manuals laying around, please let me know so we can make some copies.

Incidentally, any old WGMS or CFMS bulletins, flyers or literature you may still have would be greatly appreciated by the Club historian. If you have articles of general interest, or bulletins from other clubs that you wouldn’t mind donating, then the Bulletin Editor would also be very grateful. Contact **Jay Valle** and he will arrange to pick it up.

The **Door Prize Chairman** is looking for member donations of items for the monthly Door Prize drawings. If you have something to donate for the monthly drawing, the contact is again **Jay Valle**.

February 22 General Meeting

Our February Program will feature a man who makes and sells stone handles for knives. **Joe Girtner** is a retired teacher of jewelry and ceramics at Cerritos College for many years. He also carved and painted wooden Duck Decoys.

Jack Zywocki

January General Meeting Notes

The January meeting is typically not our best attended meeting of the year because it conflicts with the Quartzsite and Tucson Gem Shows. However, we had a good turnout to enjoy **Fred Elsnau's** slide presentation of *Minerals: Large and Small*.

Fred is an extraordinary photographer of minerals, and he specializes in micromounts and thumbnail minerals. (If you have seen the CFMS poster with photos of the *Golden Bear Nugget* and **California State Mineral and Gemstone**, that is Fred's work.) The slide program featuring Fred's own photographic work with minerals, and accompanied by a running commentary was very entertaining and educational. After the program, Fred answered questions about photographing minerals, enlarging techniques, types of film and speeds, and minerals in general.

We are still looking for someone to be in charge of the monthly door prize drawing. **Joe Goetz** filled in as the "Master of Ceremonies" at the January drawing and has agreed to help out at future meetings as well. What we need, though, is an individual to coordinate donations and to purchase door prizes for each meeting. We also need donations from members for the monthly drawing.

Les Roy is very active in our community and presents several programs for local schools, The Boys and Girls Club, and at other gatherings each year. For most of Les' audience, this is their first introduction to the wonderful world of rock collecting. He needs donations of tumbled stones and jewelry fittings, all of which are given to the kids.

February Calendar

- Feb. 6 WGMS Board Meeting (already past)
- Feb. 17-19 Kramer Hills/Castle Butte Field Trip
- Feb. 22 WGMS Regular Meeting, 7 PM at Sorenson Park

Meeting Notes (Continued)

Jerry Turner, Bylaws & Standing Rules Chairman, showed us a brand new *Membership Handbook*. This document, which is the size of our Club bulletin, contains the up-to-date *By-Laws*, *Operating Rules*, *Membership List*, and *Field Trip Rules* for the **WGMS**. The final version will be issued in April, after the deadline for paying of annual dues is past. As a reminder, if you haven't sent in your dues yet, time is running out to get onto the 2001 published roster.

JValle

DUES ARE DUE!

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

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

Thank you.

Dear Editors**By Dee Clason, Bulletin Aids Chair**

Happy New Year! I hope you all enthusiastic and ready for 2001. Hopefully, many of you will be putting out winning bulletins to enter in the next bulletin contest.

There is something that I feel some of you may not be aware of regarding the mailing panel on your bulletins. Some of the bulletins we receive show signs of being almost destroyed by the machinery. Some pieces are only the cover in a see-thru envelope.

The following are excerpts from an article published in the Eastern Federation News, by Jeff Ursillo, who worked in the mailing industry. He is also a member of SCRIBE and is Region VIII Vice President of EFMLS.

"The following is a brief description of what happens when your mail is placed 'into the system.' This applies to First as well as Third Class. When mail is deposited at the Post Office, it is sorted into two categories. Mail such as hand addressed envelopes must be sent to a system that has an operator read the address, key it into a computer, which then applies a bar code to the front of that letter.

"Mail that has computer affixed addresses, either by label or directly onto the mailpiece, are sent to an Optical Character Reader (OCR). The OCR sends the mail through a system of belts at 30 MPH, past a camera lens that "reads" the address. The computer then looks up the address, adds the correct Zip+4 code and sprays the bar code on the mailpiece. (In some cases, when the bottom right corner is not clear, the Post Office sends the mail to an additional step before the OCR, which applies a label over any printing in the "barcode clear zone" (the P. O. terminology for the bottom right corner of your mailpiece!).

"With all that traveling yur mail has to do, it is important that the design of the mailpiece allows it to flow easily through the system. The mail travels

from left to right in the OCR and sorting machines. As you look at the mailing panel of your newsletter, this makes the right edge the leading edge, as the mail speeds along. For this reason, it is important that all the folds of the mailpiece be at the BOTTOM and the RIGHT, and the address should be parallel to the longest dimension. The Post Office allows, but discourages, staples on most mailpieces, as using them can cause injury to mailhandlers, not to mention causing jams in the machines! Mail that is stapled closed is NOT eligible for automation rates. Stapled mail cannot be handled on the automated machinery and must be handled on non-automated equipment. It is to your benefit to use paper tabs (wafers) in place of staples to seal the top of your newsletter.

"If your newsletter is an 11x17 sheet of paper that is folded to 8-1/2 x 11 and then folded to 5-1/2 x 8 for mailing, your mailing panel would be on the top left panel. This would put the folds in the correct places. In the case of those who use 8-1/2 x 11 sheets, then fold to 5-1/2 x 8-1/2, the mailing panel would be at the top of the last page. In this instance, it is not necessary to tab the right edge, but if you have more than 5 sheets in your newsletter, it would be better to do so as a precaution, due to the thickness of the piece."

"Try to keep the bottom 2-3/4inches of it clear of everything except the address. Keeping this area clear gives the Post Office a better chance of putting your mail on their automated equipment."

"Whenever possible, please print them in all Upper Case letters, and do not use punctuation, such as a comma after the city name or between the street name and apartment number. Replace APT with #." I hope the above information will be helpful as you prepare your bulletins. Please keep sending me your bulletins-it's wonderful to see the variety of styles and formats.

Have a very productive year!

CFMS Newsletter 02/01

**Field Trip Report
Quartzsite - January 27-28, 2001**

We left late Wednesday morning and ran out of the rain as we drove south towards Indio and into the sunshine. Getting to our regular BLM Scaddam wash campsite required a minor detour due to upcoming free-way construction. Driving into the campground we elected to find a camping area to accommodate the group before putting out the “**WGMS & Friends**” signs. We were pleasantly surprised to discover one of last year’s signs still in place, “**PLS/W**“, the standard bearer of some great years of collecting and cooperation between two clubs. Those were the days!

Spent Thursday visiting the new “**Desert Gardens Gem Show**” in the morning and a very much smaller “**Clouds**” where we talked for awhile with **Sue Hickman**. We also ran into **Ruth & Vince Jarrell** and **Sammy Florida** from **Gem Carvers**. Thursday evening, **Fred & Jean White**, members of **Gem Carvers and Kaiser Rock Club** stopped by for a visit.

On Friday we visited the ever-popular “**QIA**” and explored the great displays inside the building. One of the dealers at the PLS show, **Roger & Carol Bartels** of **Rocar Gems and Minerals**, had a space next to the building. Dealers throughout all of the shows were extremely upset due to the **Arizona State Weights and Measures** descending from all corners. These State officials notified everyone that their weigh scales weren’t State approved, and unless they had approved scales, they would not be allowed to quote a price per pound. Dealers retaliated by putting up notices that stated “weights are approximate”. Later in the morning, **Mark, Linda & Heather Abrams** arrived and set up their tent. It was an hour or so before dark when **Jay Valle & Kathy Piechota** rolled into camp and set up the tent trailer. **Jay’s** primary purpose for this trip, his second to Quartzsite, was to attend the **SCRIBE** meeting on Saturday morning.

After dark, **Fred White** stopped by and asked us if we wanted to go with their group the next morning to collect agate, jasper, turquoise and malachite at a location about 35 minutes away. We accepted their invitation and agreed to meet them at 8 AM (California time). In the wee hours of Saturday morning, **Art & Ginger Ragazzi** drove in and joined us the next morning on the field trip. During the outing, everyone found what he or she was looking for,

although occasional sprinkles kept the temperature on the cool side.

Saturday evening a potluck was shared inside the **Ragazzi's** motorhome along with the **Abrams** and the **Cliffe's**. A bonfire was lit and the skies even cleared enough for us to see stars. Overnight some light rain dampened the ground.

Sunday was going home time for the **Abram's** and the **Cliffe's**. The **Ragazzi's** were staying overnight, but welcomed the opportunity to visit Graham Pass with the **Abram's** before returning to Quartzsite.

It turned out to be a great trip, but it was too bad the weather and other factors discouraged others from joining the trip this year.

Vern & Sylvia Cliffe, Field Trip Assistants

**Museum Exhibit
A 'T. Rex' Named Sue**

Now on display through April, 2001. Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County:

Get up close and personal with the 42-foot-long cast skeleton of the dinosaur, Tyrannosaurus Rex named Sue. The story behind its 1990 discovery in South Dakota, and the subsequent controversy around its \$8.4-million purchase by Chicago's Field Museum is just part of the exhibit. Through interactive displays, touchable casts of bones, video, and the simulated fossil site where you can dig for bones, the visitor can get a unique perspective of fossil hunting, fossil preparing, and the study of these fascination extinct creatures.

The museum is at 900 Exposition Blvd., Exposition Park, Los Angeles, CA 90007. For more information about the exhibits and their programs please call (213) 763-DINO or visit their website:

www.nhm.org.

Submitted by Vern Cliffe

**Kramer Junction Field Trip
President's Weekend, February 17 - 19, 2001**

The next WGMS field trip will be to **Kramer Hills** near the junction of Highways 395 and 58, approximately 120 miles from Whittier.

See accompanying map for directions. For those of you who joined us on the Memorial Weekend last year it's the same campsite.

GPS coordinates are: N 34 56. 609 W 117 30. 086

There will be potluck dinners at around 4 PM on Saturday and Sunday evenings. This is a dry camp, so bring firewood, water, food and yourselves.

Materials: Several kinds of agate, (including a new location discovered by **Sylvia & Vern** last May), yellow jasper and petrified wood. Algae agate and California bloodstone (these last two will be collected on our trip to Brown Butte and Castle Butte).

Field trips start at 8:00 AM, so don't be late!

Tentative collecting schedule: Saturday - Kramer Hills and vicinity
Sunday - Brown Butte and Castle Butte.
Monday - Kramer Hills and scouting.

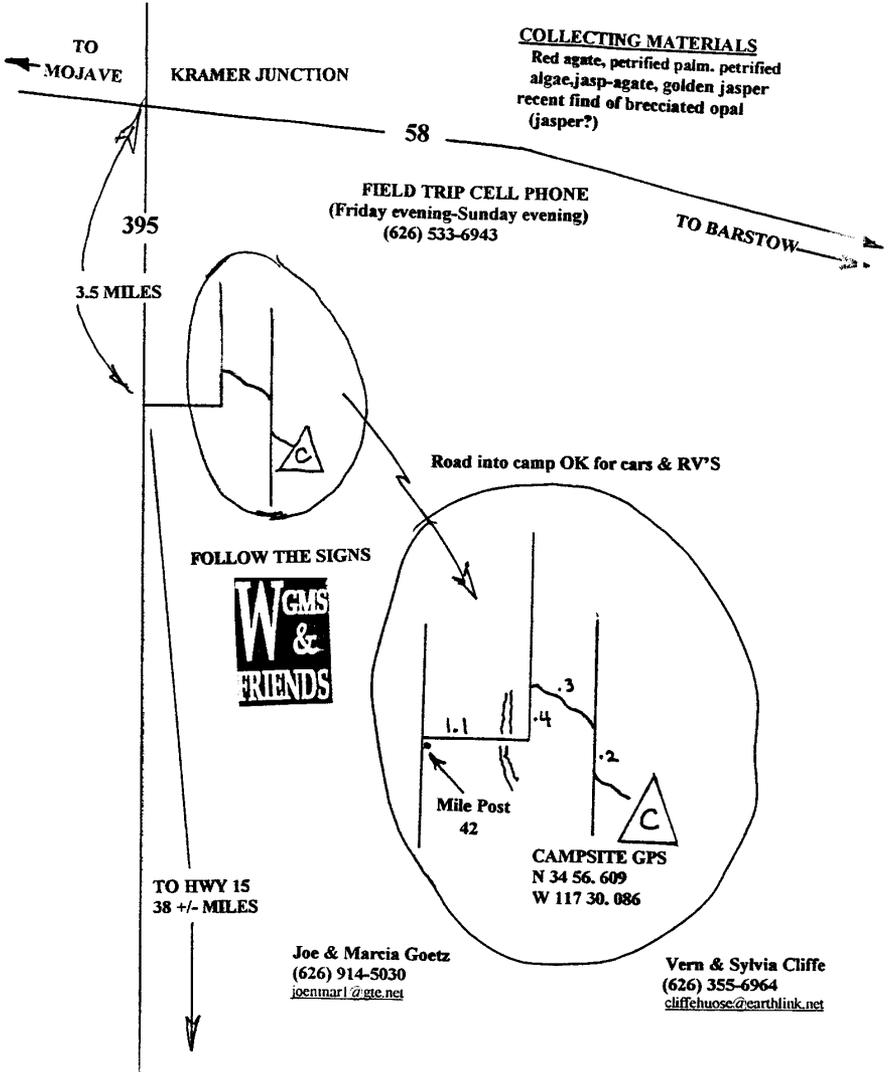
Field trips and outings like this are gatherings among friends. Participants should provide for their own support, such as water, food, first aid kit and insurance, etc. Whittier Gem and Mineral Society is not in any way responsible for the personal safety or personal property of any participants in these events.

Field trip cell phone number (weekend of the trip, only!): (626) 533-9643

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

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

Kramer Hills Field Trip February 17 – 19, 2001



CFMS Field Trip to Davis Creek/Lassen Creek

July 6 - 8, 2001

Hosted by CFMS Field Trip Chairman - North

This is the first stop of our OBSIDIAN BONANZA to Davis Creek/Lassen Creek and to Glass Butte. Davis Creek is the premier California obsidian collecting area with an abundance of a great variety of beautiful obsidian. This area is located on Buck Mt. in the heart of the Modoc National Forest. The altitude ranges from 5000 to 7000 feet. A free permit is required for collecting which will be available at camp.

Directions: Take your favorite route to Alturas, CA in the far northeast corner of California. From Alturas, go north on US Route 395. Approximately 22 miles from Alturas is the small town of Davis Creek (stop here to visit the Davis Creek Mercantile, a very interesting little store). Continue another 11 miles to South Willow Ranch Rd. where you should see the first orange paper plate with arrows that direct you to camp. Turn right and follow this road and the orange paper plates 5.5 miles. Turn right and cross the small bridge. After you cross the bridge you will see the Lassen Creek Campgrounds on your left, turn left into the campground.

Facilities: The campground is a large meadow with some large pine trees and two small streams. This is a "dry camping" area with one very nice pit toilet. It can accommodate all sizes of motorhomes and trailers and is also very good for tenters. At Davis Creek there is gas and some groceries, and a great place to get ice cream on a hot afternoon. At Alturas there is gas, food, motels and medical facilities.

Collecting Trips: The organized collecting trips will start on Friday morning. All trips will leave at 8:30 AM, SHARP, from the campgrounds. Assemble at 8:15 for details and instructions for each day's trip. We will be collecting at 5 major sites: Rainbow, Electric Blue, Pink Lady, Needles, and Mahogany Gold Sheen. You have to dig for the biggest and the best, but there is a lot of good obsidian to be found as float and in the discards from previous diggers. Because of the expected size of the group and limited parking at the collecting sites, we will divide up into small groups, each going to a different site. Everyone will get to go to every site.

Thursday	July 5	Arrive at camp
Friday	July 6	Daily collecting trips
Saturday	July 7	Daily collecting trips

Sunday July 8 Daily collecting trips
Monday July 9 Depart to Lakeview, OR

Plan on several potluck dinners and daily happy hours. Bring firewood for evening campfires. We plan on having a good time and collecting some great obsidian. Come join us for a great rockhound time of collecting, fun and fellowship.

Safety Note: Obsidian is Mother Nature's glass and like glass it shatters and is extremely sharp. Goggles or safety glasses, long sleeve shirts and gloves are strongly recommended.

Please notify me by 7/2/01 if you plan to attend, call if you have questions or need more information:

Dick Pankey
Ph. (925) 439-7509
4310 Kingsly Dr.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
E-mail: dickpankey@juno.com

CFMS Newsletter 02/01

CFMS Field Trip to Glass Butte

July 13 - 15, 2001

Hosted by CFMS Field Trip Chairman - North

This is the second stop of our OBSIDIAN BONANZA field trip. Located in central Oregon Glass Butte is only 200 miles from Davis Creek, our first stop. Glass Butte is Oregon's premier obsidian site. With the exception of the Davis Creek, no other area can match the variety that is available here. Within a small radius you can find gold sheen, silver sheen, mahogany, red, flame, lace, double flow, brown, green and rainbow obsidian.

Directions: Take US Route 395 north out of Lakeview, OR. 120 miles to US Route 20 at Riley. Turn left on to US 20, west. Go 28 miles and turn left 0.1 miles west of Milepost 77 onto Obsidian Rd. where you should see the first orange paper plate with arrows that direct you to camp. Follow this road and the orange paper plates 3 miles to camp.

Facilities: There are no established campgrounds at Glass Butte, but there are many good places to "dry camp". There is no problem getting any size rigs and passenger cars to the campsite, which is in walking distance to several collecting sites. Gas is available at Riley and in Hampton about 15 miles west.

Collecting Trips: The organized collecting trips will start on Friday morning. All trips will leave at 8:30 AM, SHARP, from the campgrounds. Assemble at 8:15 for details and instructions for each day's trip. We will be collecting at 6 major sites: Rainbow, Midnight Lace, Mahogany/Red, Flame, Mahogany Gold Sheen and Green/Silver Sheen. You have to dig for the biggest and the best, but there is a lot of good obsidian to be found as float and in the discards from previous diggers. Collecting sites are all within 3 mile of camp.

Thursday	July 12	Arrive at camp
Friday	July 13	Daily collecting trips
Saturday	July 14	Daily collecting trips
Sunday	July 15	Daily collecting trips
Monday	July 16	Depart for home

Plan on several potluck dinners and daily happy hours. Bring firewood for evening campfires. We plan on having a good time and collecting some great obsidian. Come join us for a great rockhound time of collecting, fun and fellowship.

Safety Note: Obsidian is Mother Nature's glass and like glass it shatters and is extremely sharp. Goggles or safety glasses, long sleeve shirts and gloves are strongly recommended.

Please notify me by 7/2/01 if you plan to attend, call if you have questions or need more information:

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Ph. (925) 439-7509
4310 Kingsly Dr.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
E-mail: dickpankkey@juno.com

CFMS Newsletter 02/01

**Brain Food
(Quips from many years)**

If people were not meant to have late night snacks, why did God put a light in the refrigerator? *HEALTHY BITES*

One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors. *Plato*

“What do you mean we don’t communicate? Just yesterday I faxed you a reply to the recorded message you left on my answering machine.”

The most important trip you may take in life is meeting people halfway.

Thanks to our industrial ingenuity and know-how, we live longer, better, and more enjoyable these days. Science, electronics, and such march on - but still nobody has been able to figure out a better way for a fireman to get down-stairs faster than sliding down a brass pole. It began in 1889.

We have to learn how to be our best friends because we fall too easily into the trap of being our own worst enemies.

Talk is cheap because supply exceeds demand.

It’s easy to be an angel when nobody ruffles your feathers.

To err is human: to blame it on someone else is even more human.

“I’m sorry if our hammering disturbed you. We were hanging a picture.”
“Oh, that’s perfectly all right,” said the neighbor. “I just came over to ask if it was okay if we hung a picture on the other end of the nail.”

One sign of maturity is the ability to be comfortable with people who are not like us.

As soon as the second person appeared on earth, the rights of the first person were cut in half. Now divide your rights by the total population, and that explains every thing.

Submitted by Vern Cliffe

February Birthstone

February's birthstone is the amethyst. It's said that the signet ring worn by Cleopatra was an amethyst, engraved with the figure of Mithras, a Persian deity symbolizing the Divine Idea, Source of Light and Life. It is also said to be the stone of Saint Valentine, who wore an amethyst engraved with the figure of his assistant, Cupid. Saint Valentine's Day is still observed in February.

The word amethyst comes from the Greek word "amethystos" meaning "not drunk", and was believed to prevent its wearers from intoxication. The following is a story from Greco-Roman mythology as quoted from "Birthstones" by Willard Heaps:

"Bacchus, the god of wine in classical mythology, was offended by Diana the huntress. Determined on revenge, he declared that the first person he met as he went through the forest would be eaten by his tigers. As it happened, the first person to cross his path was the beautiful maiden Amethyst on her way to worship at the shrine of Diana. In terror, she called upon the goddess to save her, and before his eyes, Bacchus observed the maiden changed to a pure white, sparkling image of stone. Realizing his guilt and repenting his cruelty, Bacchus poured grape wine over her, thus giving the stone the exquisite violet hue of the amethyst. The carryover to nonintoxication was quite logical, and in ancient Rome, amethyst cups were used for wine so drinkers would have no fear of overindulgence."

The early Egyptians believed that the amethyst possessed good powers, and placed the stones in the tombs of pharaohs. During the Middle Ages, it was used as medication, believed to dispel sleep, sharpen intellect, and protect the

wearer from sorcery. It was also believed to bring victory in battle. In Arabian mythology, the amethyst was supposed to protect the wearer from bad dreams and gout. The amethyst was also the stone of royalty, representing power.

Amethysts contain the second most abundant mineral found in Earth's crust - quartz. Quartz is often found lining the insides of geodes. So it's no wonder that geodes sometimes contain amethysts too. Like quartz, amethysts are a transparent form of silicon dioxide (SiO₂). An amethyst's color can range from a faint mauve to a rich purple. It's not clear why they're purple. Some scientists believe the purple color arises from the amethysts' iron oxide content, while others attribute the color to manganese or hydrocarbons.

Amethysts are very sensitive to heat. When heated to 400 or 500 degrees Celsius, an amethyst's color changes to a brownish-yellow or red. Under some circumstances, the stones can turn green when heated. Heat may even transform an amethyst into a naturally-rare mineral called citrine. And even without heating, the violet color of an amethyst may fade over time.

Commercial sources of amethyst are Brazil and Uruguay; while in the US, most amethyst is found in Arizona and North Carolina.

The amethyst has a rich history of lore and legend. It can be traced back as far as 25,000 years ago in France, where it was used as a decorative stone by prehistoric humans. It has also been found among the remains of Neolithic man.

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

CFMS Gem & Mineral Shows

February-Early March 2001

- Feb. 16-25 **INDIO** - San Gorgonio Gem & Mineral Society
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival
Riverside County Fairgrounds, Gem & Mineral Building
46-350 Arabia. Hours: 10 AM - 10 PM
- Feb. 24-25 **NORTH HOLLYWOOD** - San Fernando Valley Gem Fair
Hosts: Del-Air Rockhounds, Sierra Pelona Club,
Woodland Hill Rock Chippers
Valley Plaza Recreation Center, 12240 Archwood Street
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
- Mar. 3-4 **ARCADIA** - Monrovia Rockhounds Inc.,
The Arboretum of Los Angeles County
201 N. Baldwin Avenue
Hours: 9 - 4:30 both days
- Mar. 3-4 **VENTURA** - Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 W. Harbor Blvd., (Seaside Park)
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 9 - 4
- Mar. 10-11 **SAN MARINO** - Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Temple
3130 Huntington Drive
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6, Sun. 10 - 5

Vern Cliffe

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
62nd Annual Show and Convention

GEM, JEWELRY & MINERAL SHOW

June 22, 23, 24, 2001
Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5



**PASO ROBLES
OR BUST**

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Paso Robles, California

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Sharks Teeth 150 Exhibits *50 Dealers*
Lectures Demonstrations *Food & Beverage*
Campground Raffle *Much More

ADMISSION: \$4.00 ADULTS-\$3.00 UNDER 18 & OVER 55-FREE UNDER 12 AND SCOUTS IN UNIFORM.

HOSTED BY THE SANTA LUCIA ROCKHOUNDS. CO-CHAIR BEA AND SHERM GRISELLE,
2401 NIDERER ROAD, PASO ROBLES, CA (805) 238-4366 E-mail thegriselles@tcsn.net

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

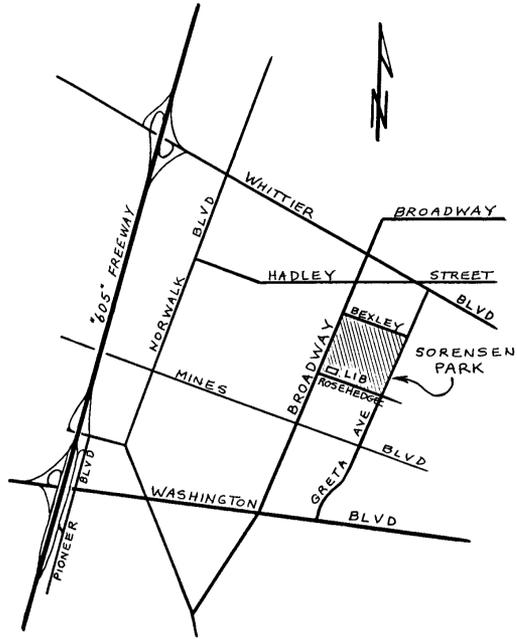
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Meeting Date: **February 22 at 7:30 PM**
Location: Sorensen Park (See Map)