

Millennium Edition

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDING
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

May Program:
“Picture Without Film”
Presented by John Brubeck



May 2001

ROCKHOUNDER

From the desk of THE PREZ:

Greetings WGMSers,

There are lots of cool things happening this month. This weekend is the rock c p f " g s w k r o g p v " { c t f " u c n g " c v " v j g " O c w arranged for an interesting program on Digital Cameras, and the Memorial Day Field Trip is to Opal Mountain, one of my personal favorite destinations.

(Continued on Page 4)

Club Sponsored Lapidary Equipment and Gemstone Rock Sale

Walt and Ollie Mae Maurer, long time club members, wish to dispose of their rocks and lapidary equipment and have asked the club to help them.

Where: 9817 Cullman Avenue, Whittier, CA

Time/Date: Saturday, May 12th, 8:30 AM - 12:00 Noon

Directions: The Thomas Guide - See L.A. County Page 708 A3

OR

In the Whittwood Shopping Center Area, drive East on Whittier Blvd. To the Whittier Blvd./Russell St. split. Take Russell East for about 6 blocks to Bogardus, turn left (North). Cullen Ave. is the fifth street on your right. Go to 9817.

SEE YOU THERE!

If you have any questions, call Vern & Sylvia at: (626) 355-6964

May 24 General Meeting and Silent Auction

Presented by John Brubeck of Claremont Cameras. If you were wondering what all the fuss was about, or already have a digital camera and are looking for tips and tricks, this is your chance.

During the meeting, we will also be holding a SILENT AUCTION. Please bring donations to be purchased by members and guests attending. At the close of the business meeting, the fortunate winners of the bidding wars can pay up and collect their prizes. Last year, we had some fine donations and the bidding was hot and furious. In fact, some people get downright ugly during the bidding (shudder). Come and be a part of the fun!

Jack Zywocki

Displays for May

At the April meeting, we had several geodes and nodules brought for display. Dottie displays several lovely 3 to 4 inch geodes; Bill and Izzy Friday Plume specimen; Vern and Sylvia showed a large black chalcedony geode from Wileys Well area and also displayed some purple agate from Burro Creek which was collected this past April and which had been tumble cleaned.

For May . . . gemstones, rough or polished.

Sylvia Cliffe, Display Chairman

From the desk of THE PREZ: (cont.)

Last weekend we were out at the Lancaster Gem Show and the wildflowers were something to behold. If you get a chance, I understand the poppies are really out in force this year in Antelope Valley.

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JValle

**Researcher Says Tons of the Moon Already on the Earth;
Tektite Events May Have Triggered Extinctions**

From Vector Science News Release Monday, March 19, 2001

WHITTIER, Calif. (Vector Science News) - The Moon is not the geologically dead world that most astronomy textbooks claim, says **Darryl S. Futrell**, a California-based petrologist. **Futrell** believes there's strong evidence of massive, lunar-volcanic explosions right here on Earth. The most recent eruption on the Moon, which showered a portion of the Earth with many tons of natural glass, occurred within the past 770,000 years, he notes.

Futrell, who has written about his studies of meteoritic stones called tektites in the journal *Nature*, says he has amassed evidence that strongly suggests these natural glass stones are volcanic material blown off the Moon by eruptions. **Futrell** studied the long-debated tektite origin puzzle under the guidance of the famous Project Apollo lunar scientist **John A. O'Keefe** (1916-2000) beginning in the late 1960s; like his famous mentor, **Futrell** is convinced that the Moon periodically hurls volcanic debris into Earth's gravity well causing climate change and extinctions.

"The Earth has experienced about 12 tektite events in the last 65 million years," **Futrell** says. "The slight possibility that it could occur tomorrow needs to be taken into consideration."

Futrell refutes the popular theory that tektites were formed when asteroids or comets impacted Earth and melted sediments and rocks. He has identified volcanic structures within chunky, layered tektites (called Muong Nong tektites), which cannot be explained in the context of terrestrial impact-melt origin. According to **Futrell**, based on other physical evidence, including the fact that Apollo astronauts found rocks with tektite-like chemistries on the lunar surface, it's now easy to conclude tektites come from the Moon.

"There is another extremely important reason why the scientific community should take a closer look at the origin of tektites," he says. "If the massive biological extinctions do have a tektite association, and tektites are formed within the Moon, then we should be watching our natural satellite for signs of explosive volcanic activity."

For more information: Darryl S. Futrell, 6222 Haviland, Whittier, CA 90601-3735 USA

Our thanks to WGMS Member, Darryl Futrell for submitting this article.

Safety - Be A Life Saver

By Chuck McKie, CFMS Safety Chair, 2001

Perhaps you can save your own life or the life of someone close and dear to you. HOW? By cleaning out your medicine cabinet. Most of us have bottles, boxes and tubes of medicine in our cabinets which have been there for years.

According to Capt. Elizabeth Caplener of the David Grant Medical Center, some medications change over time, losing their potency or turning into toxic compounds. If common antibiotics such as tetracycline degrade, they can cause life-threatening skin disorders.

Where to begin?

Caplener points out that all prescription drugs have an expiration date on their labels. Over-the-counter medications have this information stamped on the package. If you can't find the expiration date, this may mean that you purchased the medication before the expiration-date law was enacted in the mid 1980s. If you can't remember what a prescription was for, you should also toss it -- even if its expiration date is still good.

"Once an infection has cleared, any antibiotics should be discarded immediately," Caplener said. "People who self-medicate using leftover antibiotics can build resistance to the prescription and mask the symptoms of their new problem. Furthermore, any old medications given to friends or family members can cause serious allergic reactions."

She cautions against throwing old medications in the wastebasket, where they can endanger children and pets. Instead, they should be flushed down the toilet in small quantities to ensure that no plumbing emergencies occur.

Out with the old

The next step is to get rid of anything that's cracked, chipped, tipped or dirty. Now is the time to dispose of adhesive tape that's turned yellow and sterile gauze in tattered packages. The same goes for pills that are powdery,

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syrups that have separated, bottles with unreadable labels and any medicine

Last Chance Canyon Field Trip Report

April 28 - 29, 2001

A group of eleven persons journeyed out to Last Chance Canyon for what we thought was going to be a memorable field trip (guess in a way it was!). We knew that a portion of the area had become part of Red Rock Canyon Park a number of years ago. Apparently the state and the BLM also traded land in the Last Chance Canyon area for other land somewhere else. The result of those changes means that all the old rock collecting areas are now inside the Red Rock Canyon State Park where NO ROCK COLLECTING is allowed. Fortunately our group ran into a state Ranger who was informed us of the extent of the Red Rock Sate Park boundary property. (We had heard of someone whose rocks were confiscated in the area, but we thought that some of the area was open to collecting). Turns out that the Bur- t q " U e j o k f v ø u " v w p p g n " k u " q w v u k f g " v j g " v j c v " E H O U " y c u p ø v " c r r c t g p v n { " c y c t g " v area so they could inform their member clubs.

So, our trip turned out to be a sightseeing trip among friends from three clubs, as well as a great potluck dinner and roaring fire before retiring for the night. The weather was beautiful with a slight breeze throughout the trip. For those who had the time, a side trip to the Lancaster show was made on Sunday.

Vern and Sylvia Cliffe, Field trip assistants.

May Calendar

- May 12 T q e m " (" G s w k r o g p v " { c t f " u c n g " c v "
- May 24 WGMS Regular Meeting, 7 PM at Sorenson Park and Silent Auction
- May 26-28 Field Trip to Opal Mountain (see pages 8 & 9).

**Memorial Day Weekend Field Trip
Opal Mountain
May 27 - 29, 2001**

The Field Trip Committee has been forced to change the Memorial Weekend Field Trip from the planned trip to the Black Rock Desert in Nevada to a closer area in well-known location, Opal Mountain. We can all thank (?) ex President Clinton for adding the Black Rock Desert to the millions of acres he had already closed to recreation throughout the nation.

The club will be putting up signs, Wgms & FRIENDS, on Friday afternoon the 26th. See the map on another page for directions. There will be potlucks on Saturday and Sunday, most probably around 6:30 shortly after happy hour. Bring wood for a fire and look forward to having a great time.

Materials that can be collected: Agate, amber opal, orange opal, cherry opal, thompsonites (a short walk away from camp), geodes (a new find) and a glimpse into the past by visiting petroglyphs.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

*Joe & Marcia Goetz
Vern & Sylvia Cliffe*

Driving Tips for the Desert

- Carry enough water to drink, as well as for your radiator.
- Let someone know where you are going.
- In case of breakdown, stay near your vehicle. Rescuers can find you more easily, and the vehicle provides shade all day. Many fatalities have resulted when people left their vehicle and remember that extreme heat has more effect on older people. Protective clothing helps to shield you from the sun.
- Desert service stations are infrequent. Start with a full gas tank, fill up as often as possible, check oil and water at the same time.
- On the desert itself, it is recommended that the following survival items be carried:
 - ⇒ Extra water and food, oil and gas, pliers, shovel, blankets, radio, first aid kit, snake bite kit, rope or chain, map, and compass.

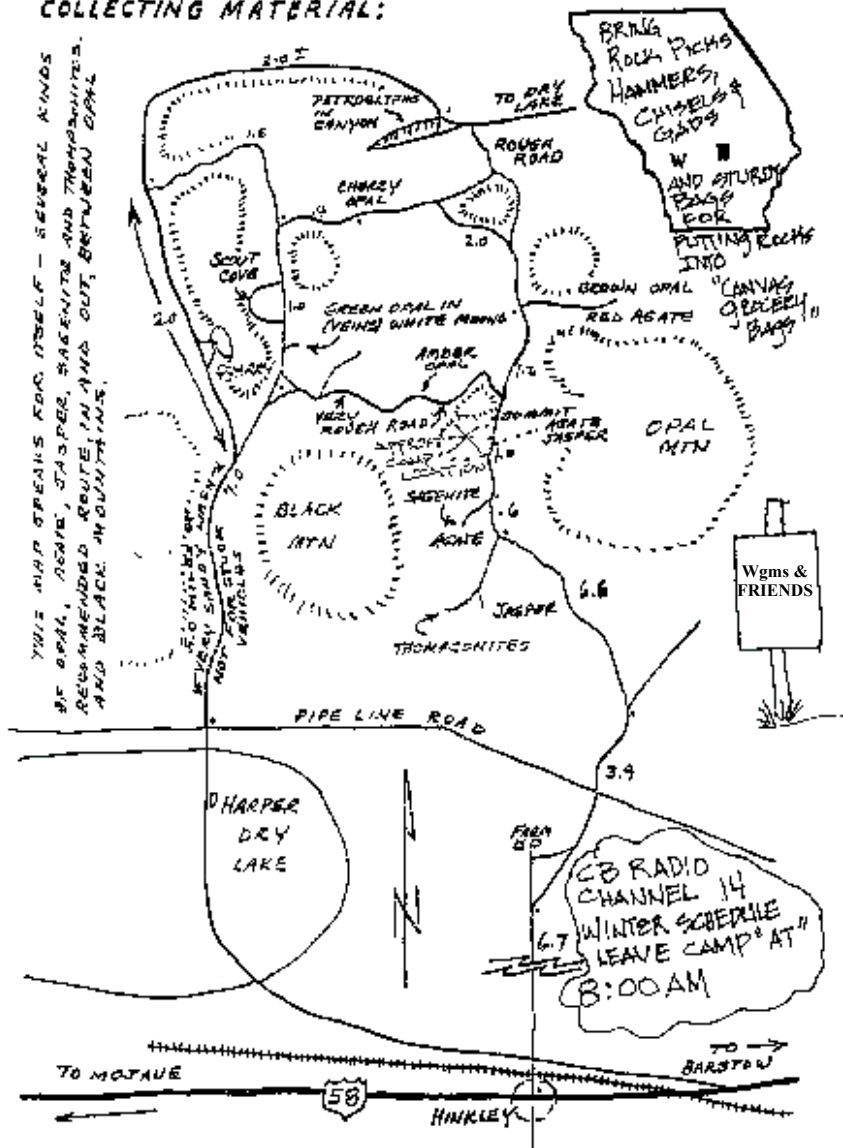
Excerpted from The Rock Bag 05/01

OPAL MOUNTAIN

APPROXIMATELY 110 MILES FROM WHITTIER

COLLECTING MATERIAL:

THIS MAP SHOWS ROAD ITSELF - SEVERAL KINDS OF OPAL, JASPER, SAGEHITE AND THOMASITES. RECOMMENDED ROUTE IN AND OUT BETWEEN OPAL AND BLACK MOUNTAINS.



that's changed color or developed an odor. You should also examine any tweezers and scissors in your medicine cabinet, making sure they're still in good working condition.

In with the new

It's time to restock your cabinet. To prepare for minor mishaps and colds, consider purchasing the following supplies: acetaminophen, aspirin and non-aspirin pain reliever, activated charcoal, antibiotic cream, antacid, anti-diarrhea medication, antiseptic solution to clean cuts, bandages, gauze and adhesive tape, calamine lotion, cold and cough medications, cold pack, cotton balls and swabs, ipecac syrup and thermometer.

Keeping medications safe

Your bathroom and kitchen are the worse places in the house to store medications. "The heat and humidity in these rooms can quickly degrade over-the-counter and prescription drugs," Caplener said. For example, nitroglycerin, used for chest pain, breaks down quickly when combined with moisture. Caplener suggests that all medications be kept in a cool, dark place, away from sunlight, heat sources and children. Although child-proof caps may make it difficult for youngsters to open containers, Caplener recommends keeping medications under lock and key if little ones are around.

Read the small print

Make sure to read the instructions on all medications, including over-the-counter preparations. This will ensure that you take them properly. For example, if you combine certain laxatives with milk, you can dissolve the pill's coating before it gets to the lower intestines where it does its work. The result: possible stomach irritation and discomfort -- plus poor results.

How much do you know?

Are you savvy when it comes to medications? Take this quiz and find out.

1. Ipecac should be given to a child at the first sign of poisoning.

False. Ipecac, a drug used to induce vomiting, can cause great damage if the poisoning is caused by corrosive or petroleum-based substances. Before administering ipecac, always call 911 or poison control center.

2. **The best place to store nitroglycerin is high in a closet away from children.**

False. People who take nitroglycerin for angina pain should have quick and easy access to it at all times. The best place for this medication is in the patient's pocket.

3. **It's dangerous to share medications.**

True. Although you may think your illness is the same as a family member's, you may be wrong. The medication may not be effective, allowing the problem to escalate.

4. **Generic over-the-counter drugs are as good as their branded counterparts.**

True. Generic drugs are generally just as effective as brand names and much less expensive.

5. **Herbal preparations are safe to take with prescription drugs.**

False. Just because they're "natural" doesn't mean herbal remedies aren't powerful. In fact, many of them have side effects and some can cause trouble when combined with mainstream medications. Tell your doctor you're taking herbal supplements when medication is prescribed for you.

Results: Five correct: You're well informed about medication matters.

Three to 4 correct: It's important to exercise more caution when taking and storing medications.

Zero to 2 correct: You should discuss medications with your doctor. Poison Prevention Medications are too often linked to accidental poisoning in young children. America's poison control centers are contacted approximately 1.3 million times annually regarding potentially toxic drugs.

References:

"Children Act Fast ... So Do Poisons"

For more information on Poison Prevention, call the Poison Prevention Council at (301) 504-0580 or go to their Web site at www.cpsc.gov. The California Poison Control System's number is 800-876-4766.

Via "Tailwind" March 16, 2001, CFMS Newsletter 05/01

May Birthstone

May's birthstone is the emerald. Several famous historical artifacts were made of emeralds. Among them was the Crown of Andes, said to be worn by the last Inca king of Peru who was taken prisoner by Conquistador Pizarro in 1532. The crown was said to be set with 453 emeralds, collectively weighing 10 ounces (1523 carats). In the 1940s, the crown was sold to, then broken up by, an American syndicate. Many of its stones are probably in the jewelry collections of wealthy Americans today.

Emeralds vary in color from light to deep green. It's commonly thought that an emerald's color derives from the presence of chromium and / or vanadium, replacing some of the aluminum in the mineral's structure. The stone can, however, lose its color when heated strongly.

The emerald belongs to the beryl family of minerals that include aquamarine (the March birthstone), heliodor andmorganite. Beryl, or beryllium aluminum silicate in chemical jargon, is a six-sided symmetrical crystal. Beryl contains beryllium, aluminum, silicon and oxygen.

The synthetic manufacturing of emeralds was achieved by German chemists shortly before World War II. But growing synthetic stones of fine quality began in the United States in 1946. There are also excellent imitation emeralds on the market made of colored cut glass.

Emeralds are most frequently found inside a form of shale -- a fine grained sedimentary rock. Emerald-bearing shale has undergone recrystallization due to changes in the physical environment such as pressure and temperature. Colombia produces the largest and highest quality emeralds. They were also discovered, and subsequently mined, in the Ural Mountains of Russia around 1830. In the United States, emeralds can be found in North Carolina. Around the world, they also occur in Zambia, Brazil, Pakistan, Norway, Austria, India, Malagasy and Australia.

The emerald's name is indirectly derived from the Greek word "smaragdus,"

a term ambiguously applied to several kinds of green stones. The history of emeralds can be traced back to antiquity. They were worn by royalty in Babylon and Egypt. Tools dating back to 1300 B.C., during the reign of Rameses II, have been found in emerald mines in Egypt. Queen Cleopatra's emeralds were believed to originate from mines in Southern Egypt, near the Red Sea.

When the conquistadors first arrived in South America from Spain, they saw native rulers wearing emeralds. Large quantities of emeralds were taken from Peruvians during the invasion but the source of the emeralds were never discovered. Then in 1537, the Spaniards found Chivor in Colombia, now the location of an important emerald mine. They also took over the Muzo mine following the defeat of the Muzo Indians. Mining operations at Muzo have continued almost uninterrupted since the Spanish invasion. It is now perhaps the most famous emerald mine in Colombia and is said to produce the world's best emeralds.

There are many myths associated with the emerald. The stone was once believed to prevent epilepsy, stop bleeding, cure dysentery and fever, and protect the wearer from panic. Its magnificent green color was said to rest and relieve the eye. To the ancient Romans, emeralds were dedicated to the goddess Venus because it symbolized the reproductive forces of nature. Early Christians saw it as a symbol of the resurrection of Christ. In the Middle Ages, emeralds were believed to hold the power to foretell the future.

The Holy Grail Cup at the Cathedral in Genoa, Italy is said to be over 700 years old. Legend has it that it was taken from King Herod's banquet table by the Disciples to be used by Jesus at the Last Supper. In the twelfth century, Crusaders returning from the Holy Land brought the Grail to Genoa.

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

CFMS Gem & Mineral Shows

- May 5 - May 6 **ANAHEIM** – Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Brookhurst Comm. Center, 2271 W Crescent Avenue.
Hours: Sat. 10 67, Sun. 10 64:30
- May 5 - May 6 **BAKERSFIELD** 6 Kern County Mineral Society.
Kern County Fairgrounds. Hours: 10 - 5 both days.
- May 19 - May 20 **NEWBERRY PARK** – Conejo Gem & Min. Club
Borchard Park Community Center, 190 Reino Road.
Hours: Sat. 9 65, Sun 10 65.
- May 19 - May 20 **YUCAIPA** – Yucaipa Gem & Mineral Society.
Scherer Community Center, 1st St & Ave B.
Hours: Sat. 10 66, Sun. 10 65.
- June 2 - June 3 **GLENDORA** – Glendora Gems,
Goddard Middle School, 859 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Hours: Sat. 10 65, Sun. 10 64.
- June 2 - June 3 **SAN DIEGO** - San Diego Lapidary Society
Al Bahr Shrine, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road.
Hours: Sat. 10 66, Sun. 10 - 5

Vern Cliffe

Untried Shop Tips


Stabilizing porous stones: If you would like to try your luck at stabilizing porous stone, such as turquoise, so that it can be cut and polished, the Silvery Colorado Rock Club offers the following advice: Take a jar with a lid and add one pint of acetone. To this, add the complete contents of both the resin and hardener tubes of epoxy glue. Mix well. Add well-dried stones. Cover the jar and let it sit for at least four days. Remove the stones and allow a week for them to dry. They should now be stabilized and ready to work.

Original source unknown, *via The Pegmatite 05/01*

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 ON BUST

CALIFORNIA MID-STATE FAIR
2198 Riverside Avenue
Paso Robles, California

Gems Jewelry *Minerals* Fossils *Rocks*
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Sharks Teeth 150 Exhibits *50 Dealers*
Lectures Demonstrations *Food & Beverage*
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2401 NIDERER ROAD, PASO ROBLES, CA (805) 238-4366 E-mail thegriseselles@csn.net

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

Affiliations



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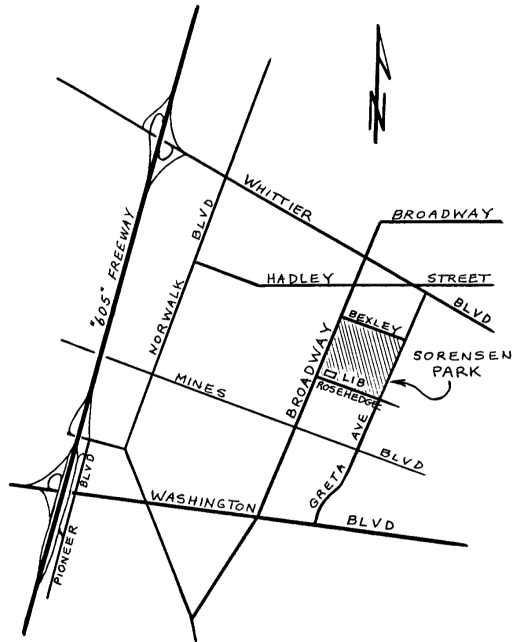
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Meeting Date: **May 24 at 7:30 PM**
Location: **Sorensen Park (See Map)**