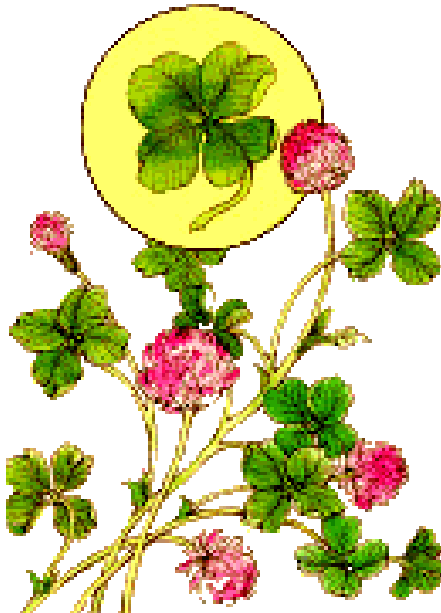


*March 2002*

WHITTIER  
  
**ROCKHOUNDER**  
GEM & MINERAL  
SOCIETY

March 28 at 7:30 PM Nikki Stull Presents:  
Icelandic Volcanoes



# ROCKHOUNDER

## THE PREZ SEZ:

### Greetings:

I asked Ginger (my wife) what I should talk about this month and she said St. Patrick's Day. So, with Ginger and I going to Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club's Tailgate on March 15-17, held off Stoddard Wells Road in Apple Valley, we are going to be thinking green. Although you will probably be reading this after the Tailgate, rest assured that Ginger and I will bring the greenest rock that we can find to the next meeting.

The Board recently met and devoted the entire meeting to start planning this year's Whittier Gem & Mineral Society's Fifty-Third Annual treasures of rockhounding show. We have selected "*Gems In Our Backyard*" as our show theme. All in attendance at the meeting were excited about sharing how many wonderful and beautiful stones can be found in the "backyard" we routinely visit on our monthly excursions.

The thrill of finding "new material" continues to lure seasoned rock hounds back for ever more excursions into our "backyard." Effectively promoting this lure should hopefully also provide us a tool for finding and retaining the new club members that help to maintain a vibrant club.

That's about it for now. Hope to see you at the March General Membership Meeting.

*Art*



**Program for March 28  
“Icelandic Volcanoes” and Silent Auction**

**T**he March meeting presenter will be **Nikki Stull**. She is a recent graduate of UCLA in geology. She will be discussing **Icelandic Volcanoes**. She was able to visit them as part of a geology field trip.

It is also **SILENT AUCTION** time. Each person attending the March General Meeting is asked to bring something to be auctioned off to a lucky winner.

*James LaBorde*

***Dues Are Due!!***

**I**t is March already and some members have not yet paid their dues for 2002. Unfortunately, at the end of the Regular March Meeting, if your dues are still unpaid, you will be dropped from the WGMS 2002 Roster.

The following is the dues schedule for Year 2002. Dues can be paid at the March meeting, or mailed directly to the WGMS Treasurer, Jay Valle (his address is listed below).

- Adult Individuals .\$.15.00
- Married Couples...\$.25.00
- Juniors.....\$.5.00

Dues can be mailed to: **Jay Valle**  
**1421 Latchford Avenue**  
**Hacienda Heights, CA 91745**

**Rockhound Bumper Sticker?**

Seen on the back of a Jeep CJ7. Text was upside-down...

**If you can read this  
please turn me over.**

**2002 Show Kickoff Meeting  
“Gems In Our Backyard”**

**T**he WGMS Show Committee held it’s first meeting February 27. We have a lot of challenges ahead of us this year. First things first, we have to find a new show location or severely cutback our presence at the Masonic Temple where we have been for the past 25 years.

The Whittier Gem & Mineral Society has met in a variety of locations over the past 53 years. We started out in a High School Gymnasium, spent many years at Palm Park in Whittier, lost that location due to the 1987 Whittier Earthquake and ended up at the Whittier Masonic Temple.

This year, circumstances have conspired to make the Masonic Temple much less attractive than it has in the past. Your WGMS Board has been looking for alternative locations and we expect to finalize the Show Place selection within the next couple of weeks.

The following is a list of the Show Committees and Chairpersons.

- 1. **Dealers:** ..... Vern Cliffe
- 2. **Demonstrators:** ..... Les Roy, Jack Zywoციenski, and Ginger Ragazzi
- 3. **Display Cases:** ..... Sylvia Cliffe
- 4. **Electrical:** ..... Joe Goetz
- 5. **Flowers:** ..... Marcia Goetz
- 6. **Host/Hostess:** ..... Jack Zywoციenski, Isabella Burns
- 7. **Kitchen:** ..... Kathy Turner, James LaBorde
- 8. **Publicity:** ..... Vern Cliffe
- 9. **Publishing:** ..... Jay Valle
- 10. **Raffle Prizes:** ..... Kathy and Jay Valle
- 11. **Raffle Sales:** ..... Kathy and Jay Valle
- 12. **Children's Programs & Prizes...** Marcia Goetz
- 12. **Sales Table:** ..... Joe Goetz
- 13. **Security Team:** ..... Vern Cliffe
- 14. **Signage:** ..... Jerry Turner
- 15. **Spinning Wheel:** ..... Marcia Goetz
- 16. **Treasurer:**..... Jay Valle
- 17. **Set-up Coordinator.....** Art Ragazzi

*Jay Valle, Show Chairman*

## **How To Be An Authentic Wizard In Dealing With Lapidary Mathematics**

By Dr. Gerald Wycoff

*E*d Note: Your Editor was surprised and delighted to receive an e-mail from Dr. Wycoff in late November offering the FacMath Utilities to AFMS members at no cost. Many readers will know of Gerry because of his excellent faceting book, his newsletter for facetors and his unusual, low cost lapidary equipment. Steve and I have been fortunate to have spent several wonderful evenings with him when he lived in Pennsylvania. He's a delightful and knowledgeable fellow who's interest and research about our hobby has served, and continues to serve us all well.

You can get along in lapidary - even faceting - without a math degree. Still, its also nice if you can solve the complex optical and crystallographic challenges that only advanced math knowledge will allow. Now, there's an easy solution for all facetors and gemcutters. Dr. Gerald L. Wycoff GG CSM, has contributed his famous FACMATH UTILITIES programs for PC computers FREE to the gemcutting community. Now retired in Florida after ill health forced him out of the former American Society of Gemcutters, Wycoff programmed these sixteen amazing software utilities so they'd solve - for non-math types - merely from a few simple typed in parameters.

The programs include:

**YIELD** – this utility will ask for the dimensions of a piece of rough, compare them to your intended cut and then tell you what kind of yield percentage for that particular cut you might expect

**TANGENT** – ever see written instructions for quartz and you want to change the angles so you can cut for topaz? This utility calculates answers using the well-known Tangent Ratio method and does it quickly and simply.

**SNELL** – When a light ray enters a gem material, the ray bends according to the type of gemstone material. This program calculates how much entering and exiting rays bend.

**SPEED** – You have a certain diameter pulley turning at a certain RPM (or SFPM) and you want to know the effect on a different diameter and how fast it'll turn. This utility solves that question.

**ANIMATION** – This short animated utility visualizes the changing side view silhouette of a round brilliant as the angles for the crown and pavilion are changed.

**GOLDEN** – You've heard of the Golden Ratio developed in Ancient Greece, a ratio often described as the most pleasing, esthetic proportions in design. This utility solves for any dimensions.

**NEWCUT** – Want to draw your own design on a computer. This paint program, faster and easier (it really isn't all that easy!) than GEMCAD, enables you to design and draw precise, accurate drawings of your work.

**TEMP** – Need to convert Celsius temperature to Fahrenheit temperature or vice versa? This program does the job in a fraction of a second.

**FRESNEL** – when light rays strike a gem surface, Fresnel's Law dictates how many rays are reflected. This utility will give you the precise percentage reflectivity of every popular gem type.

**RESHAPE** – Unexpectedly, you've run out of material thickness for the crown. This utility does the correct math for refiguring new crown angles that salvage the original plan design.

**WEIGHT** – a carat weight scale is nice but this utility will carefully and quickly calculate the carat weight (and almost all other kinds of weight) of a cut gem just from the measurements that you provide.

**CA** – if you know the Refractive Index for any gem type, feed it to this utility and you'll immediately get the Critical Angle, helpful for figuring out angles.

**ANGLES** – what's the best combination of angles for any gem type? This utility offers you the results of a whole series of sophisticated math approaches for computing best angle.

**GEARS** – if you encounter faceting instructions written for a certain index gear and want to convert to an index gear of another symmetry, this utility will do it instantly.

**APEXES** – when you want more than a flat table, try apex crown facets. This formula will figure out the math for producing the optimum angle for those famous apex facets.

**CONVERT** – this utility will convert accurately all weights and measures from one scale or reference into another.

(continued on page 13)

**Free Math Programs**  
(continued from page 7)

**Stoddard Wells Fieldtrip  
March 16 -17, 2002**

**T**he 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, silently. Only this beginning has not been still, all night pairs of light have been dancing on the road below and with the lights there is a growling sound that's becoming a roar like a hungry beast.

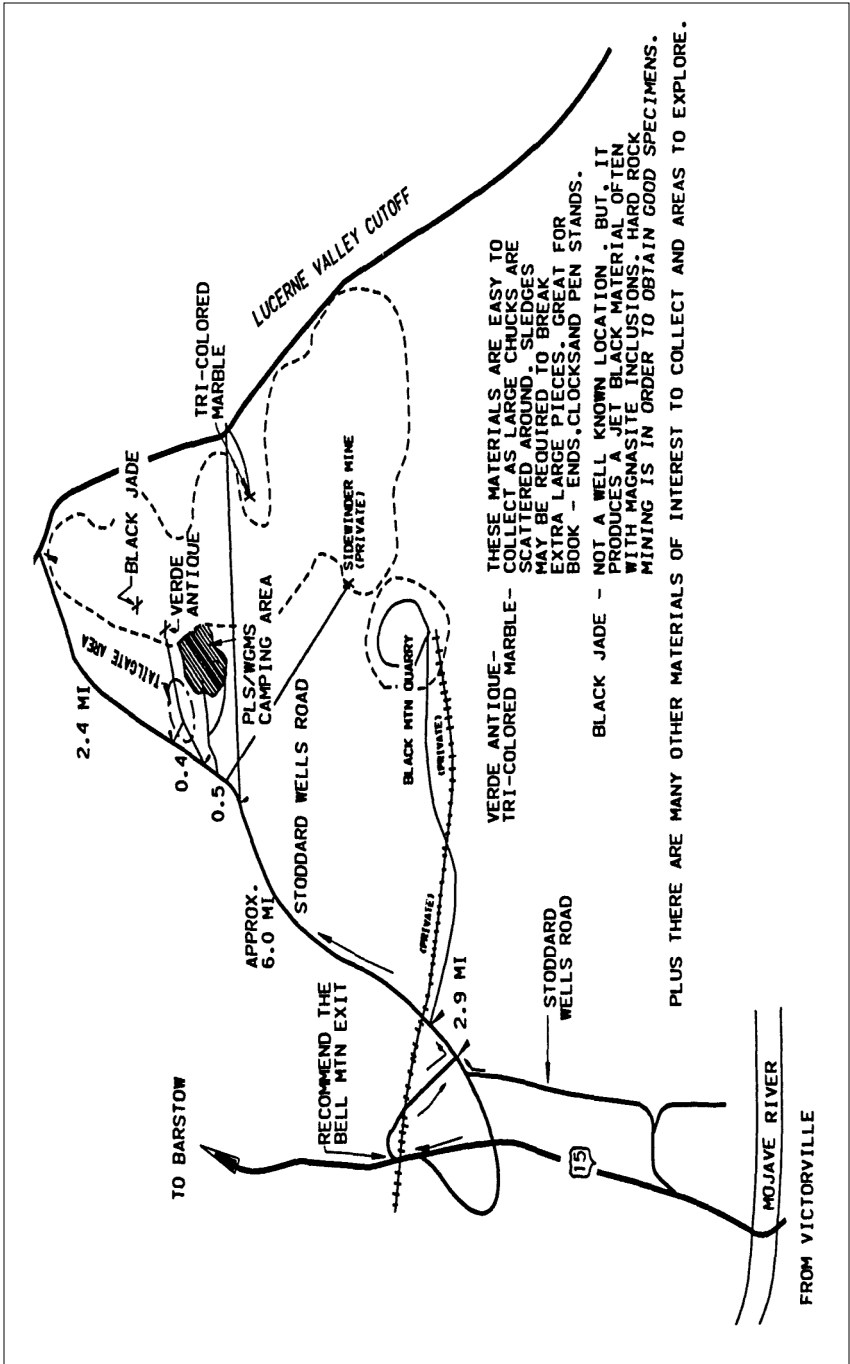
Lights fading in and out, disappearing completely letting the darkness cover the area, only to reappear chasing it away even only temporarily. All the lights have turned off the main road, virtually in the same spot. They go up a smaller road stop and go off and the roar is silenced. Peace and promise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

The dawn is chasing the dark of night to the western horizon. Light from the east is show on anything above the horizon as lavenders to deep reds becoming orange and then yellows of all sorts. The first songs of the day come emanating from the recesses still in the shadows. The light reveals clouds that seem to be anchored to mountaintops and light lacey mists drifting here and there.

As the day gets brighter and as the mist disappears to where mists disappears to, 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 19<sup>th</sup>. 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. That innate instinct is a ...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.

**(continued on page 13)  
Stoddard Wells Fieldtrip  
(continued from page 8)**





**Castle Butte  
(The Trip)**

**A** bell sounds and you're out the gate shushing down the mountain slope heading toward the first gate. As you are approaching the gate you eyes are not on the gate but rather scanning the ground for rocks to collect. There is a ringing in your ears and it seems to be getting louder (a mental note no spicy foods for a mid-night snack), but your brain tells you to focus, where are the rocks? Your eyes scan the snow for collectable rocks as you go shushing by at an ever-increasing speed. It's then you realize the rocks are under the snow somewhere on the course and your score is based on the number of gates you correctly go through, and your technique of skiing, and the type and quality of rock(s) you collect on your way down. This is no easy sport of Slalom Rockcollecting, new this year in the Winter Olympics....

You awake as the alarm ringing stops, and except for the ticking of the clock, all is quiet, it's dark, and you think 'What a wild dream!' The day starts, the meaning of that dream, if any, will have to wait. You got to clear the cobwebs from your head. It's 4:00 am or so you think...

The coffee is started, the calling of nature answered and you have splashed water in your face, and you look at the clock hanging on the wall and realize you goofed in setting the alarm clock last night. It not 4:10 AM IT'S 5:10 AM! Oh fiddle sticks, now you sound like the white rabbit in Alice in Wonderland, "We're late, we're late for a very important date."

I woke **Marcia** up, told her what time it really was, and she was up and moving. I got dressed when **Marcia** told me to call **Vern and Sylvia** hoping they haven't left yet. The phone rings and rings and the answering machine answers, 'Oh Drat they've left already,' I hang-up and continue to get ready. By the time I am finished dressing the coffee is ready. I grab some coffee and Marcia is not only dressed she is already got the lunch packed and heating water for oatmeal. I put things into the truck, attach the antenna, and get other things ready. I grab a bowl of oatmeal and start eating only to decide it would be better if I added the hot water to it first. After all is said and done we're in the truck and heading out at 5:53.

Compared to that first hour the trip was almost boring. We stopped for fuel in Lancaster and figured we might get to Castle butte by about 8:15. As we approached the turn off at Clay mine road we started calling on the CB radio for **Vern** or other club members. It typically goes like....Break-break for Vern, you got your ears on? come on back...(now for someone who doesn't have a CB to ask whether someone has their ears on really must sound very silly, of course for those who do, know this means do you have your radio on and can you hear me). No answer; we'll wait until we're closer to try again. We head north and we make the turn off at the right spot, however, there isn't a sign out (this is strange Vern said he'd put out signs). We see a dark vehicle approaching our prior camping location. When we get closer we aren't sure who it is but they've stopped and are waiting for us to drive up to them. It turns out to be **Warren & Louise Dowler**. We greeted each other and **Warren** asked,

“where is everyone?” We tell him **Vern and Sylvia’s** rig gave them trouble so they were coming out for the day. We had called the **Cliffes** and had got their answering machine so we figured they had left before us, but may have stopped in Mojave to have breakfast. We told **Warren** that **Marcia** had found chalcedony roses in the area before, so we may as well just hunt while waiting for others to show up. Before we could get started **Gerry Minear** showed up and told us he had been at Castle Butte that morning already. We recanted the story. While looking we found thin chalcedony, and thicker larger ones that could be slabbed and cabbed - almost all had very pretty patterns. Those that we didn’t cut would make nice additions to grab bags.

**Vern and Sylvia Cliffe** arrived and **Sylvia** asked if we had called them that morning? Well, it turns out they had overslept as well and our phone call woke them up; I became their coo-coo clock. **Vern** went back to the road to put out some signs as we were expecting a few people to show up before we headed out for a day of collecting. We waited and then decided to go to the purple agate area, we left at about 9:30 to head over there.

When we got there, the area where I remember had been dug by many other people and they went deep in spots. Now the thing is, purple agate is found in the first 8” to 12”, not at 3’ deep. Although whoever they were, they did find other types of agate and opalite at that depth. **Marcia** went looking more in an area to the west. Shortly she showed me a piece of agate that showed purple and a very nice purple at that. She showed me where she had found it. She had dug it out of the road. I went along side the road and dowsed the immediate area using two rock picks as dowsing rods and they moved to a X position and I looked down and I found a piece virtually on the surface! **Marcia** started to dig that spot while I went to the truck to deposit our two pieces in the bucket. I decided to drive the truck back over there, as it would be easier to put the rock we might find in the bucket, rather than having to make several trips to the truck. By the time I got back to the area **Marcia** uncovered three or four more pieces all nice size and showing various shades of purple and mottling.

Before too long **Vern** had driven his truck over and **Sylvia** got out a chair and coached us in finding the agate. Then **Warren and Louise** drove over and watched while **Marcia** filled a canvas bucket as did I. When we would chip a rock to see if it was what we were looking for **Sylvia** would want the chip for tumbling. **Marcia** had decided she had to sit down and told **Warren** where to dig. **Sylvia and Marcia** kinda became the cheering section as **Gerry** also began to dig.

While we were doing our search we heard the sound of an engine. We all looked in that direction and saw a red mini van drive up and park. It was **Ed and Corrine Im-lay**. After the howdy’s **Ed** got his rock pick and I told him where to do some digging. While **Ed** was digging we broke to have lunch. As **Ed** was digging **Marcia**

(continued on page 12)

### **Castle Butte (continued from page 11)**

made the comment that **Ed** could come over and dig our garden patch as he was doing such a good job of loosing the soil. While this was going on **Dave Kelty** arrived and was he ever amazed at what we had found. The discussion as to where we

would go next started and after looking at maps and talking it was decided we would go to the bloodstone area that **Dave** had been given coordinates to which was not far from the area that **Vern** had coordinates to as well. So we were off like a herd of turtles following **Dave**.

We got into the general area, then traveled in the type course. Left then right then left again. **Vern** took the lead and we went to the area that **Vern and Sylvia** had dug in some twenty years ago. There were little bits of green jasper and some showed the red spots, which makes it the familiar bloodstone. After a bit **Dave, Warren and Gerry** went to look for the bloodstone area some 3-tenths south of our position. Not much was found, oh well, perhaps another time and more looking around will reveal more bloodstone. **Vern** did make the comment the even in the desert with time an area can change drastically. The little breeze that started about noon was now a strong wind. Perhaps not where the sand was being blown to sting your face, but your hat coming off your head and give you a run for your money. At about 2:30 PM **Gerry** had come back to our location, he stopped and told us he was going to go home, "he wasn't feeling like himself". I wonder who was on the fieldtrip if not **Gerry Minear**? It was then that **Marcia and I** decided we would also go home, so we said our good-byes and we were off. After **Joe & Marcia** left, the remaining group decided to explore several areas that **Dave Kelty** had marked on his Delorme map as bloodstone. Turns out that we were not able to locate any of the illusive material, which means that we can cross off those areas for any future exploration. As it was getting close to 3:30 the group decided to call it a day and head back to the original meeting place (where we normally camp) to pick up the PLS/WGMS (home made like last month) and Wgms & Friends signs. Just prior to leaving the old site, **Joe & Marcia's** friends showed up. They had gotten out there late and not being able to locate the group, had let their kids ride their bikes around for exercise. Well, next time they said. Sylvia & I, along with Dave Kelty stopped in Mojave for dinner before heading south for home.

The next fieldtrip will be to **STODDARD Wells**, which will be **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002**. This is the annual tailgate and rock hunt at this time of year. It is 1 week after the PLS Show.

**Vern & Sylvia** will be heading for **Burro Creek in Arizona** for a few days before heading over to Cottonwood to visit their show on the last weekend of March. They welcome others who want to find out what is at Burro Creek to join them. If you haven't been there, don't plan on going alone as it almost impossible to locate the different collecting sites without help.

And that's the way it was, somewhere in California

*Joe Goetz & Vern Cliffe*

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 4:00 PM there will be happy hour and time then to prepare for the potluck at approximately 5:00 PM. After dinner, weather permitting, and 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 you'll get sleepy and go to bed (about 7:30 PM) and ready for another day of Promise...

We will be camping at Snob Hill; you can follow the signs into camp. If this is your first trip, stay on the main road. Signs will be placed at strategic locations to get you there.

The tentative trip planned for April is going to Burro Creek, if you are or are **NOT** interested in going to Burro Creek please call me at (626) 914-5030 or Vern at (626) 355-6964 and let us know so we can plan an alternate trip.

*Your Which Way Did They Go Fieldtrip Chairpeople  
Joe & Marcia Goetz  
Vern & Sylvia Cliffe co-chair*

All of these utilities - and each opens with a mere mouse click — can be downloaded FREE from Dr. Wykoff's website, [www.mbawiz.com](http://www.mbawiz.com). Once copied to your computer - or to a handy floppy disk - you merely mouse click on the program you want and it goes to work for you, solving difficult lapidary math problems. With these utilities, even if you have no math background at all you can still compute answers with the brainiest—and you'll never be wrong!

*AFMS Newsletter 2/02*

**Upcoming CFMS Shows**

- Mar. 15 – 17**     **Stoddard Well, CA.** Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club
- Mar. 16 – 17**     **Hawthorne, CA.** Northrop Grumman Gem & Min. Club  
12329 Crenshaw Blvd. (Gate 16)  
Hours: Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5
- Mar. 23 – 24**     **Boron, CA.** Mojave Mineralogical Society, Inc.  
Boron High School Multipurpose Room  
Prospect Street. Hours: Sat 9-5 Sun 9-4
- Mar. 23 – 24**     **La Habra, CA.** North Orange County Gem and Min. Soc.  
La Habra Clubhouse, 200 W. Greenwood  
Hours: Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4
- Mar. 23 – 24**     **Torrance, CA.** South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society  
Ken Miller Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd.  
Hours: Sat 10 - 6 Sun 10 - 5
- Apr. 6 – 7**        **Hacienda Heights, CA.** Puente Hills Gem & Min. Club  
Steinmetz Park, 1545 Stimson Avenue  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
- Apr. 6-7**         **San Diego, CA.** San Diego Mineral & Gem Society  
Al Bahr Shine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Rd.  
Hours: Sat 9:30 - 5 Sun 10-4  
Web Site: <http://www.sdmg.org>
- Apr. 27 – 28**     **Lancaster, CA.** Antelope Valley Fairgrounds  
155 East Avenue, Hours: 9-5 both days
- May 4 – 5**        **Anaheim, CA.** Searchers Gem & Mineral Society  
43rd Annual Show, America's Treasures  
Brookhurst Community Center  
2271 West Crescent Ave.  
Hours: Sat 10-6 Sun 11-4:30
- May 4 – 5**        **Kern County Mineral Society**  
Kern County Fairgrounds  
Hours: 10-5 both days

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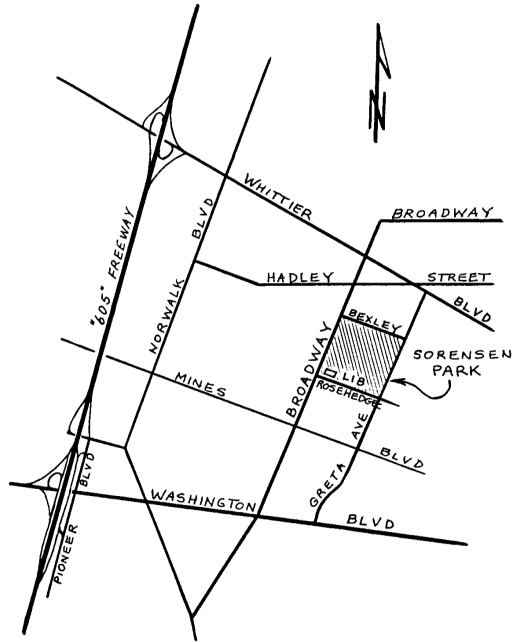
**Affiliations**



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**Hacienda Heights, CA 91745**



Meeting Date: **March 28 at 7:30 PM**  
Location: **Sorensen Park** (See Map)