

June-July-August 2002

WHITTIER



ROCKHOUND
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

POTLUCK and SILENT AUCTION ACTION!



Weary rockhounds walking into the sunset after a successful dig

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Our ever vigilant editor has called me again and reminded me that he needs this month's President's column for the newsletter. I know that other hard working club officers will be reporting on our last field trip, and Jay will be passing on anything necessary about the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society's Fifty-Third Annual treasures of rockhounding show, "*Gems In Our Backyard.*" As I mentioned last month, this is scheduled to take place in the Whittier Community Center October 19 & 20, 2002, a new show venue.

Last month I discussed fixing showcases, pulling together to help find show sponsors, door prize donors, etc. I think this month, I will devote my column to the game of soccer. Yes, the game of "football" that will hold the attention of so many of the world's population for the next month.

At this time in 1994, The United States was hosting the World Cup. Ginger and I were more than excited. When our girls at a very young age had indicated that they wanted to play this game called soccer, we went to sign up. As with all youth sports, AYSO asks for parental participation. We were told that one of the ways that a parent could participate was by becoming a referee. The organization was prepared to train anyone interested in taking on such a responsibility utilizing an extensive training program which had been fine tuned over time.

Not having a clue about what the game of soccer was about, I figured a quick way to find out was to take AYSO up on their offer to train me as a "referee." And so it happened. I, and the family, became steeped in our knowledge of the game. For several years after our girls stopped playing, I continued to referee. During the 1984 Olympic Games we attended every local soccer game.

In 1994, when the United States hosted the World Cup competition, Ginger and I, having successfully entered the lottery for tickets to all of the games played at the Rose Bowl, were all set. On Sunday, July 3, 1994 we attended

Continued on page 5
The Prez Sez (continued)

**Potluck and Silent Auction
June 27 at 6:30 PM**

Summer is here already and it is time for our annual Potluck Celebration. The food and fun will begin at 6:30 PM. Bring your own plates, silverware and drinks (coffee will be provided). Oh, and bring food. Lots and lots of good, tasty food.

A silent auction will be held during and after dinner, so bring in something to intrigue our members and guests. White Elephant items are welcome.

James LaBorde

May Program Notes

Joe and Marcia brought a video about a Tourmaline mine near San Diego. It was interesting but we only had time to watch half of it. We were serenaded for the first hour of the meeting by a group of mariachis who were very enthusiastic and occasionally loud. However, by turning up the volume on the TV, we were able to get by.

The business meeting portion of the evening was accomplished quickly. We all enjoyed the many displays which had been brought by members for show and tell.

A Word From Flo Piechota

Dear WGMS Friends,

My family and I would like to thank you for your generous donation to the CFMS Endowment Fund, and for the flowers, cards and food you sent to us. Everything was so nice.

Ed really enjoyed the Club and took part whenever he could.

Thanks,

Flo and Family

a game at the Rose Bowl and talked on the way home about how on the next day, the 4th of July, our team USA, was going to play Brazil, at Stanford Stadium.

From our experiences during the 1984 Olympic Games, we had a special appreciation for the Brazilian fans. By the time we arrived at home on Sunday, July 3, the decision had been made. At 9:15 p.m. Sunday, July 3, we set off for Stanford Stadium, knowing that our team needed us Monday, when they would play against Brazil on Independence Day.

One of our fondest odysseys began. We called ahead and found a motel room about 40 miles from Stanford. We arrived there in the early hours of Monday morning and were able to get almost four hours of sleep before it was time to continue on to the Stadium. It was important to get there early because we were going to have to find tickets for the game was sold out.

We had a fabulous time. We parked in the eucalyptus grove where tailgate parties akin to those held on the golf course at the Rose Bowl take place. We connected with a huge contingent of Brazilian fans that included the father of one of the Brazilian players. The Brazilians embraced us, sharing their Brazilian Bar-B-Que, libations, and soccer comradery for the many hours preceding the afternoon game. We purchase one of our tickets from the group, with Ginger using it to sit at almost the center of the stadium. My seat was at one end of the stadium, with a large contingent of AYSO soccer players and their families. A great competition ensued, and Ginger and I ultimately returned home very late that Monday night/Tuesday morning with priceless memories.

If you are not yet a soccer fan, take advantage of the exposure that the sport will be getting this month and learn what it is all about. Better yet, track Ginger or me down and we will assist you with your conversion.

That's it for now. Keep those gems polished!

Art

Mother Lode of Jade Found in Guatemala

The Olmecs flourished on the southern Gulf Coast of Mexico and highly prized a beautiful blue jadeite that they carved into thousands of artifacts, including human forms and masks. The Maya prized jadeite as well, making use of it in funerary suits, jewelry, and even inlaying it into their teeth! These jade items are found all over Mexico, Costa Rica, and Honduras. But where was the original source, or sources? Was there any jadeite left? And how did knowledge of the source get lost?

The last question was most easily answered. With the coming of the Spaniards in 1519, a people who craved gold and had no use for jade, the indigenous pre-Colombian civilizations fell victim to the diseases of their foreign conquerors, and the knowledge of jade carving, mining, and mine locations disappeared.

But what about the source of the material? Scientists and archaeologists have been looking for the original source of Olmec-style jadeite for decades. Jade hunting parties were sponsored by the Peabody Museum at Harvard, the American Museum of Natural History in New York, several universities, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and even a well-to-do jade collector, among others.

By the 1950s, geologists had studied Burma and other jade deposits enough to know that jadeite occurs in association with serpentine. They also knew that much serpentine is found in the Sierra de Las Minas and the nearby Motagua River valley in Guatemala. By the 1970s, low-quality jade outcrops had been identified near the river. But it took the hurricane destruction of 1998 to set off floods, start landslides, expose veins of jadeite, and wash new chunks of it into rivers.

In 1999, one of the original jade hunters, Russell Seitz, was on vacation in Antigua when he spotted a very translucent hunk of blue jade about the size of his hand in a local jade shop. The shop owners did not know where the jade came from. So, in 2000, Seitz returned to Guatemala several times, climbing higher into the mountains north of the Motagua, finally reaching a vein uncovered by local workers which was six feet wide and 50 yards long! Samples tested out as high-quality jadeite. In 2001, Seitz and a team of university archaeologists returned to Guatemala to find an ancient stone pathway, an old mining area, a habitation, and a tomb site.

So there is jadeite left. South of the Motagua, giant boulders of blue jadeite were found, and the extent of the deposit is said to rival that in Burma. And just think, the Motagua deposit was worked for millennia, rather than the mere centuries in Burma.

Summarized by A. Schafer from info in article by William J. Broad in the *New York Times*, 5/23/02.

Via The Pegmatite, June-July-August 2002

**In Memoriam: John Sinkankas
1915 - 2002**

Born on May 15, 1915 in Patterson, NJ, John Sinkankas passed away 88 years later on May 17, 2002, after a brief stay in the hospital. John was very proud of his 25-year career as a navy flyer (retired Captain); however, he is best remembered for his literary career.

He published 15 books on gems and minerals, as well as numerous articles in various journals. John was a much-requested speaker on these topics and his world class library of 13,000 items now resides at the Gemological Institute of America. His monumental work, "Gemology: An Annotated Bibliography," documented a lifetime of work and offered insight into his immense love of books.

John earned an honorary Doctor of Philosophy from William Patterson College in 1982. Sinkankasite was named in his honor in 1984, and in 1988 he received the first individual Carnegie Mineralogical Award. He was a bookbinder, artist, lapidary, historian, and always a raconteur. In short, John Sinkankas was a renaissance man who had a tremendous impact on everyone he met.

He is survived by Marge, his wife of 62 years, and their four children - two sons and two daughters. He will be missed by all who knew him.

From Brad Smith, LA-Rocks

**Memorial Day Weekend Fieldtrip Report
Rainbow Ledge**

The best-laid plans of mice and men often go asunder. When we arrived Saturday morning, **Vern & Sylvia, Dan & Diane, Ed & Corrine,** and **Frank & Francine** were already there. After saying our hellos and did a little catching up, we set up our tent.

The first place we went was to the dendritic green opalite. The road was barely 3/10^{ths} of a mile south of camp. We drove and drove at a breakneck speed of 5 mph and finally got to the where the road went into the wash. We stopped and got our stuff to start collecting. Ed went one way, Frank and Francine another, Diane, Marcia, Dan, and I kinda went in the same direction. There were little bits of opalite, and some larger pieces, but nothing really big. A little further up the hillside there was nothing. I continued up the hill and caught up to Dan, but he hadn't found much either. We talked and wondered what someone was digging further up the hill. As we got closer to the dig we began to find pieces of opalite. When we got there we found out what it was they (whoever they were) digging...you guessed it!! There was dendritic green opal everywhere and not little chips either. I found some white chert a little to the east along the cut. But the opalite was in big pieces on the surface. Dan & I took out two larger pieces and also picked up a piece from the surface and headed down the hill.

Back at camp we had lunch and decided where we would go in the afternoon... drum roll please... we went to Sheep Spring. Many went out, few found anything. I found more black agate in the wash right by the trucks than up on the hill. Dan and Frank were way back in the canyon. After a bit they started to walk back. Using some binoculars, Diane could tell Dan and Frank wanted a ride back. Vern went and got them, Dan had found the seam of agate at the base of the mountain. He said the rock was very hard and didn't want to come loose from the seam at all.

On our way back, most of us headed into Ridgecrest for fuel and ice for our icebox, as it was a very warm day. Getting back to camp, we had a bit of a happy hour while dishes were being readied for potluck. It had been a bit windy at times during the day, and when you sweated it felt cool. Now as dinnertime drew near it was just plain hot. Where we had camped would have blocked any wind coming from the east; of course the wind came out of the west. Fortunately, when the potluck started, the wind died down to a gen-

tle breeze. Soon it was dark and time to dream.

Sunday morning found us all too soon and we bid Ed and Corrine a fond bye-bye and safe trip home. Within an hour **Art and Ginger** arrived in camp, raring to go. Close on their heels were two new members of PLS, **Rick and Jan Jones**. So it was decided we would head out to rainbow ledge and get some of the colorful jasp-agate from the Indian Wells claim.

Dan led the group, now numbering twelve, to the claim. We got there about 9:00 AM and started to scatter in various direction, but mostly up hill. I went over a small rise and down below was a boulder of the jasp-agate. It was of the size that if somehow it were put into the bed of Dan's truck, it would cause the truck to pop a wheelie and not go anywhere. Upon closer examination, there was a piece that with enough determination could come off as it had a small hairline crack all around it. Well, after some three hours of hitting a chisel with a cracking hammer, I finally won - off came the piece I wanted and once the stress was relieved another piece popped off the top as well. A little earlier, Marcia came to see what I was doing then went and brought the Jimmy back around to where I was. Boy, I'll tell you, Gatorade that's ice cold and when you're hot sure does taste good. Well, after putting the pieces into the back of the Jimmy, I was standing 5 to 6 feet behind the Jimmy, and Marcia came over and told me she knew that I was tired, so I should stay right there and she'd back-up the truck... wait that didn't come out right.

We went back to camp for lunch. From there we took the four new people to the green dendritic opalite. This time instead of wondering around I took them straight up the mountain to the diggings so they could get larger pieces of opalite. Dan walked up the wash, he hadn't walked very far and found a mine and there was agate in the tailings.

Now it was staring to get late. We headed back to camp for some happy hour and then potluck. Marcia and I started to tear down our camp, as we weren't going to stay another day. So it was decided we would all leave and caravan out. Vern had damaged the motorhome when they went through a gate

(Continued on Page 12)
Memorial Day Field Trip Report
(Continued from page 9)

going into camp. So Art and Vern used the campers' friend - duct tape - to

**California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS)
63rd ANNUAL SHOW & CONVENTION
July 12, 13 & 14, 2002 - Placerville, California
*Treasures of the Sierra Nevada***

C FMS SHOW STAKES ITS CLAIM IN THE GOLD COUNTRY.
"Treasures of The Sierra Nevada" is the theme of this year's California Federation of Mineralogical Societies Show and Convention. This statewide Rock and Gem Show will be held in **Placerville, California, July 12, 13 & 14, 2002**, and will be hosted by the El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society.

All activities will be held at the **El Dorado County Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Drive, Placerville, California** (exit Highway 50 at Forni Road/Placerville Drive).

You will find over **fifty dealers and hundreds of exhibits** featuring gems, minerals, jewelry, beads, fossils, lapidary material, equipment, and geodes (the rock with a surprise within).

Enjoy gold panning, watch artisans give demonstrations and attend some lectures at your leisure. There will be special activities for children throughout the show. Great food and beverages will be available.

The Placerville Arts Association will present an Art Show at the County Fairgrounds in conjunction with the CFMS show. The Art Show will have the same theme as the gem show.

Enjoy the Show, Enjoy the Area

Take in the splendid Gold Rush countryside while you visit. Just a few minutes' drive from the show, you'll find historical sites including mines, recreational areas, and beautiful scenery along back roads leading to orchards and vineyards. You will be at the gateway of the Sierra Nevada and its treasures – past and present.

Show Schedule

Set up	Dealer and Exhibitor Thursday, July 11, 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Show Hours:	Friday & Saturday 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Admission	Adults: \$4.00 (3-day pass, \$10.00)
Advance Registration	Seniors (55/over): \$3.00
is available	Ages 12-18: \$3.00
	12 yrs & under: Free
Parking	Free Parking on Fairgrounds
Camping	\$17/day on Fairgrounds; based on availability**
CFMS Banquet	Saturday, July 13, 7:00 p.m.
CFMS Editor's Breakfast	Sunday, July 14, 8:00 a.m.
Show Takedown	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Contact Information

For information about the show, write to CFMS Gem Show, P.O. Box 270, El Dorado, CA 95623, or email gemshow@hotmail.com. To contact the El Dorado club about other matters, write to El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society, P. O. Box 950, Placerville, CA 95667; Tele (530) 676-2472; email edcgemclub@hotmail.com; or visit EldoradoMineralandGem.org

make temporary repair. During potluck the wind came up and it made eating dinner interesting. Though the wind blew, it didn't blow away the fun or enthusiasm about being there sharing a meal with friends. I only wish it could have been a gentle breeze as it had been the night before.

About 7:30 PM we headed out. Thus, another fieldtrip had come to a close. Memories were made that will last a lifetime. And, as Ed Imlay had said, "it was a great trip."

For those who went to the claim, there is a \$5.00 charge per person to collect. Marcia and I paid the Indian Wells club the fee for all and would like to be reimbursed please.

The next trip will a day trip out to Lonely or Brown Butte, led by Dave Kelty. I'll find out when and where he'd like for us to meet up. The trip will be on June 29th.

The easiest way is to go to **Mojave** and catch **Hwy 58**. Go 8 miles to a road on the right, stay on the main road heading south. At about 1.4 miles you should come to a railroad crossing. Continue south for another 1.2 miles. There should be a road junction and you're in the middle of the collecting area! Map is on page 48-in the *Desert Gem Trails* book.

The fieldtrips for the rest of year are as follows:

- July 13th**A day trip up to the East Fork of the San Gabriel River to pan for gold (there is a \$3 to \$5 entrance fee)
- August** off
- Aug 31st to Sept 2nd** Labor Day weekend, the Green Horn Mountains – rose quartz, epidote and garnet.
- Oct 26th and 27th** Whittier Club Claim.
- Nov 28th thru Dec 1st** Thanksgiving weekend - Owens Valley for beryl and quartz crystals.

Somewhere in California
Joe Goetz

Hints for Rock Collectors

U.S. Geological Survey

Mineralog Index

Label specimens as they are collected. Identification can wait until later but the place where rocks were found should be recorded at once. Many collections have become mixed because the collector did not do this.

For displaying your specimens, trim rocks in the collection to a common size. Specimens about 3 by 4 by 2 inches in size are large enough to show rock features well. Other display sizes are 2 by 3 by 1 inch, or 3 by 3 by 2 inches.

Ask for permission to collect rocks on private property. The owners will appreciate this courtesy on your part.

Be careful when collecting rocks. Work with another person if possible and carry a first aid kit. Wear protective clothing, safety glasses, hard-toed shoes, hard hat and gloves when dislodging specimens. Avoid overhanging rock and edges of steep, natural or quarried walls.

Do not collect rocks in national parks or monuments, not in state parks; it is illegal. Similar rocks commonly crop out on land nearby.

Look for unusual rocks to study in large buildings or in cemeteries. Dimension stone blocks and monument stone are often transported long distances from where they are quarried. Polished stone sometimes looks different from unpolished rock. This provides good identification practice.

Join a mineral club or subscribe to a mineral magazine--a good place to discuss and learn about rocks.

Collecting rocks from each state or country has no scientific significance. The distribution of rocks is a natural phenomenon and is not related to political divisions.

Via SFGMS Webpage

Upcoming Gem Shows

- June 15-16** **Cayucos, CA:** San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club
Cayucos Vets Hall at the Pier, Cayucos Drive.
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5
- June 29-30** **Culver City, CA:** Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
Veteran's Memorial Auditorium
Culver Blvd. & Overland Avenue
Hours: Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5
Web Site: <http://www.gembiz.com/ccrnc/fiesta.htm>
- July 12-14** **Placerville, CA:** CFMS 63rd Show & Convention
Treasures of the Sierra Nevada
El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society
El Dorado County Fairgrounds
100 Placerville Drive
Website <http://www.CFMSgemshow2002.org>
- August 9-11** **Nipomo, CA:** Orcutt Mineral Society
St. Joseph's Church, 298 S Thompson Avenue
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
- Sept. 20-21** **Fontana, CA:** Kaiser Rock Club
California Speedway, 9300 Cherry Ave.
Hours: 9-5 both days
- Sept. 21-22** **Paso Robles, CA:** Santa Lucia Rockhounds
Pioneer Museum, 2010 Riverside Ave.
Hours: 10-5 both days
- Sept. 28-29** **Downey, CA:** Delvers Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Woman's Club of Downey
9813 Paramount Blvd.
Hours: Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4
- Sept. 28** **Los Altos, CA:** Peninsula Gem & Mineral Society
Rancho Shopping Center
Foothill Expressway and Springer Rd.
Hours: 9:30 - 4:45

**MINING AND PROSPECTING EQUIPMENT
DREDGES & GOLD PANNING EQUIPMENT
GOLD & METAL DETECTORS – GPS UNITS
ROCKHOUND TOOLS AND SUPPLIES
BOOKS & MAPS – CALIFORNIA & USA**



CAL-GOLD ENTERPRIZES

10 – 6 M-F — 10 – 4 SAT

**2569 E. COLORADO BLVD.
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91107-3745
Email: calgold@earthlink.net**

**(626) 792-6161
FAX (626) 792-1226
Web site: www.calgold.net**

Editor: Jay Valle, 1421 Latchford Avenue, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
Home: (626) 934-9764; E-Mail: jvalle@aqmd.gov
Bulletin exchanges are welcome and should be sent to the editor.

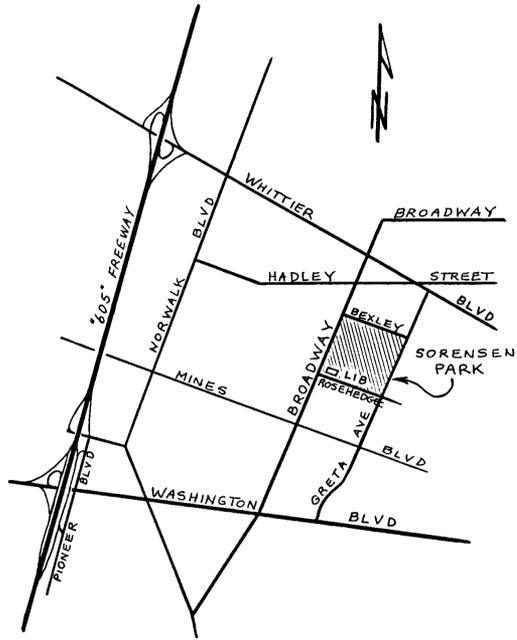
Affiliations



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



Whittier Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Post Office Box 865
Whittier, California 90608-0865
Editor: Jay Valle, 1421 Latchford Ave.
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745



Meeting Date: **June 27 at 6:30 PM**
Location: **Sorensen Park** (See Map)