

September 2002

WHITTIER



ROCKHOUNDERS

GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

ICE CREAM SOCIAL!!



ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Here we are, already on the back side of August. Where has the summer gone? It is already time to crank up the old **WGMS** machine as we sprint for the end of the year. Please try and join us at the September membership meeting, and/or the September field trip.

Although there were no scheduled meetings or field trips during July and August, it does not mean that nothing has been happening “behind the scenes.” Your Board of Directors has continued to manage the Club’s business, and prepare for our **Annual Show** which will be at the **Whittier Community Center, October 19 & 20, 2002**. Occurring at a new venue, we have great expectations for exposure to some folks that may not have noticed us in the past.

Other “behind the scenes” work that has been underway has been the repair and painting of most of our showcases. A fresh new look for our new venue! A **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone that helped with that multi day project.

With September fast approaching, a field trip has been scheduled for next month. Information for that trip is provided elsewhere in this bulletin. If you have not been out recently on a field trip, consider this one. Give Joe Goetz or Vern Cliffe, our field trip “experts,” a call for additional details. Remember, if you cannot make the entire weekend, you can always show up for a day. If you are planning on making it a day trip however, let Joe or Vern know. You do not want to chance missing the group when they set out from camp to collect material on the day you plan to show up.

That’s it for now. Keep those stones polished.

Art

**Ice Cream Social!!
September 26 at 7:30 PM**

Summer is finally over but it isn't too late for an ice cold treat. After the business meeting, we will be having an Ice Cream Social. Please bring a few snacks to share and perhaps a soda for yourself and the Club will provide coffee and the frozen treats.

James LaBorde

Leadership

What is leadership?

- To know why to do something is **wisdom**;
- To know how to do it is **skill**,
- To know when to do it is **judgment**,
- To strive to do it best is **dedication**,
- To do it for the benefit of others is **service**,
- To want to help others is **compassion**,
- To do this quietly is **humility**,
- To get the job done is **achievement**,
- To get others to do all these things is **LEADERSHIP**

Judy Lloyd, Chairman, California Legionnaire, Jan/Feb 2002

Condolences to Art and Ginger Ragazzi

It is with sadness that I report the passing of **Ginger Ragazzi's father** on Monday, June 24, 2002. I know that many of you were wondering where our President was at the June meeting. Now you know.

Art and Ginger spent that entire week picking up relative and taking care of the funeral details. Please extend your sympathies to them when you see them next.

JValle

Field Trip Info

Joe Goetz is still working on the September field trip(s) even as we speak. Contact **Joe** directly to find out field trip specifics, dates and times. His phone number is: (626) 914-5030.

September Displays

For this month I would like every member to bring in something that you have collected, made or finished during the summer “break”. I’d even like to see photos or brochures from places you may have visited this past summer.

The theme this month is going to be: **“A ROCK FROM MY BACKYARD”**

Every Rockhound (ie. Rock Collector) has or should have, more than one specimen that you can readily lay your hands on and bring them to the meeting.

SO, BRING THOSE “YARDIES” IN FOR US TO SEE!

Sylvia Cliffe

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Here is your chance to let your congressional representatives know what your feelings are regarding current legislation, and the call is free!

Quoted (not verbatim) from a recent article:

“If you don’t vote, prepare to be governed by your inferiors!”

Vern Cliffe

WGMS GEM SHOW UPDATE

Greetings WGMSers! By the time you read this, summer will be almost over. Speaking for myself, I am glad because now we can get back to the serious business of camping and rock collecting. Oh yeah, and let's not forget the Show!

During summer break a couple of important show-related things occurred.

Thanks to the persistence and diligent hard work of **Les Roy**, we have a new contract with the Whittier Community Center where we will be holding our 53rd Annual Gem Show this year. **Les** convinced the Whittier City Council to knock off about \$1000.00 or so. It is a one time deal but it comes at a time when we are starting out at a new location, with all the confusion and uncertainty that entails; and we don't yet know how the new location will work out or be received by either our guests or dealers. I want to personally and publicly thank **Les** for this feat of diplomacy and arm twisting. I don't know how you did it, but you've done a major service to the Club. Thank you!

Over a weekend in early August, **Art Ragazzi, Jack Zywoicienski, Jay Valle, Vern Cliffe and Joe Goetz** met at the **Goetz** home to paint and repair show cases. On Friday, **Jay and Joe** picked up the show cases from the Club's Whittier storage facility and transported them to **Joe and Marsha's** backyard. Saturday morning, work began on the new cases, also referred to as the "**ORIGAMI**" cases because of the way they fold up (I believe **Joe** coined the phrase). Just to add to the confusion of terms, we also have "**CLUB**", "**SLANTS**" and "**PONY**" cases. Anyway, the job continued through to Sunday when the painting and most of the repairs were completed. Monday morning, **Joe and Jay** transported the finished cases back into storage in preparation for the upcoming Show. While the storage was open, we also reorganized the garage to make it more accessible during the hectic Show loading and unloading operations. Thank you guys for all your hard work.

DONATIONS NEEDED!

We have our **MAIN PRIZES** identified, if not exactly in hand. **George Cyrog** has promised not one but two of his beautiful 14-karat rings. Thanks, George! **Joe Goetz** is once again in hot pursuit of a Global Positioning System (GPS) and is confident that it will be picked up soon. **Vern Cliffe** is trying to locate a metal detector.

The Donation Award Prizes are a big part of our annual budget and we really need your help. We still need many PRIZES from our members. Please contact **Kathy Valle** at (626) 934-9764 and we will arrange pickup of your donated item(s); or just bring it to the September Meeting.

JValle, Show Chairman

2002 Show Display Cases

At this time, with our new place and set up, we will have room for **28** 2'x 4' cases. I am figuring on:

- * **6** self-owned uprights
- * **8** WGMS cases
- * **8** upright folding cases and
- * **6** slants (**4** of which are self-owned).

This will give us a great looking arrangement with “like” cases back-to-back.

If I have not contacted you, please call me with the number and type of case(s) you want to display in.

The theme for the show is “*Gems in our Backyard*”. Think about it!

Call me at (626) 355-6964

Sylvia Cliffe

(The folding cases have been painted inside and out courtesy of **Joe Goetz, Jay Valle, Jack Zywocki, Art Ragazzi & Vern Cliffe**).

Subject: The Rules

Men always hear "the rules" from the women's side. Now here are the rules from the men's side.

- Learn to work the toilet seat. You're a big girl. If it's up put it down. We need it up, you need it down. You don't hear us bitching about you leaving it down.
- Sometimes we are not thinking about you. Live with it.
- Sunday = sports. It's like the full moon or the changing of the tides. Let it be.
- Shopping is NOT a sport. And no, we are never going to think of it that way.
- Ask for what you want! Let us be clear on this one: Subtle hints do not work! Strong hints do not work! Obvious hints do not work! Just say it!
- We don't remember dates. Mark birthdays and anniversaries on a calendar. Remind us frequently beforehand.
- Yes and No are perfectly acceptable answers to almost every question.
- A headache that lasts for 17 months is a problem. See a doctor.
- Check your oil! Please.
- Anything we said 6 months ago is inadmissible in an argument. In fact, all comments become null and void after 7 days.
- If you think you're fat, you probably are. Don't ask us. We refuse to answer.
- Let us ogle. We are going to look anyway; it's genetic.
- You can either ask us to do something or tell us how you want it done. Not both! If you already know best how to do it, just do it yourself. .
- Whenever possible, please say whatever you have to say during commercials.
- Christopher Columbus and Marco Polo did not need directions, and neither do we.
- The relationship is never going to be like it was the first two months we were going out. Get over it. And quit whining to your girlfriends.
- ALL men see in only 16 colors, like Windows default settings. Peach, for example, is a fruit, not a color. Pumpkin is also a fruit. And, we have no idea what mauve is.
- If it itches, it will be scratched.
- If we ask what is wrong and you say "nothing," we will act like nothing's wrong. We know you are lying, but it is just not worth the

hassle.

- When we have to go somewhere, absolutely anything you wear is fine. Really.
- You have enough clothes.
- You have too many shoes.
- Foreign films are best left to foreigners (Unless it's Bruce Lee or some war flick where it doesn't really matter what the hell they're saying anyway).
- I'm in shape. ROUND is a shape.
- BEER is as exciting for us as handbags are for you.

Thank you for reading this; Yes, I know, I have to sleep on the couch tonight, but did you know we really don't mind that, it's like camping.

Courtesy of LaVera Valle

The positive side of life

- Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.
- How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.
- Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live.
- Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.
- Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?
- Most of us go to our grave with our music still inside of us.
- If Wal-Mart is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?
- You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
- Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.
- Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.
- We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors....but they all exist very nicely in the same box.
- A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Courtesy of LaVera Valle

INSECT BITES

By Chuck McKie CFMS Safety Chairman, 2002

City of Phoenix Source 1996-97, last modified 06/20/2000 00:10:24

Insect bites and stings are common, and most are considered minor. It is only when the insect is poisonous or when the patient has an allergic reaction and runs the risk of developing anaphylactic shock that the situation becomes an emergency. Even under those conditions, accurate diagnosis and prompt treatment can save lives and prevent permanent tissue damage.

The normal reaction to an insect sting is a sharp, stinging pain followed by an itchy, swollen, painful raised area. The swelling may be there for several days but usually goes away within 24 hours. Local reactions are rarely serious or life threatening and can be treated with cold compresses.

However, there are some people who have allergic reactions to "normal" insect stings. Approximately 50 people die each year in the United States from insect stings. This is more than all other bites combined including snakebites. Thousands of people are allergic to bee, wasp, and hornet stings. Insect stings can be deadly for those people, on the average, within 10 minutes of the sting but almost always within the first hour.

The stinging insects that most commonly cause allergic reactions belong to a group of the hymenoptera, the insects with membranous wings. These include bees, wasps, hornets, and yellow jackets. Stings from wasps and bees are the most common.

Black Widow Spider

The black widow is a spider with a shiny black body, thin legs and an hourglass shaped red/white mark on its abdomen. The female is much larger than the male and is one of the largest spiders in the United States. Males generally do not bite. Females bite only when hungry, agitated or protecting the egg sac. The black widow is not aggressive. They are usually found in dry, secluded, dimly lit areas. More than 80 percent of all bite victims are adult men.

Black widow spider bites are the leading cause of death from spider bites in the United States. The venom is 14 times more toxic than rattlesnake venom. It is a neurotoxin that causes little local reaction but does cause pain and spasms in the larger muscle groups of the body within 30 minutes to three hours. Severe bites can cause respiratory failure, coma and death. Those at

the highest risk are children under age 16, the elderly, people with chronic illness and people with high blood pressure.

Signs and symptoms of a black widow spider bite:

1. A pinprick sensation at the bite site, becoming a dull ache within 30 to 40 minutes
2. Pain and spasms in the shoulders, back, chest, and abdominal muscles within 30 minutes to three hours
3. Rigid, board like abdomen
4. Restlessness and anxiety
5. Fever
6. Rash
7. Headache
8. Vomiting and nausea
9. Flushing
10. Sweating
11. Grimacing.

The symptoms usually last 24 to 48 hours.

Treatment:

1. Treat for shock
2. Apply a cold compress but do not apply ice
3. Transport to hospital as quickly as possible

Brown Spiders

There are two types of brown spiders or brown recluse spiders in Arizona. They often are called violin spiders because of the characteristic "violin-shaped" marking on the upper back. They are generally brown but can range in color from yellow to dark brown. They are timid with webs in dry undisturbed areas. The Arizona species is not the same as the brown recluse spider in the Midwest.

The bite of the brown spider is a serious medical condition. The bite is non-healing and causes tissue death. Sometimes surgery is necessary.

(Continued on next page)

The bite causes only a mild stinging sensation if any at all. Victims often are unaware they have been bitten.

Several hours after the bite, the following signs and symptoms begin to result:

1. A small white area appears surrounded by a margin of redness which may produce a mild itching pain.
2. A blister appears surrounded by mild swelling and redness.
3. A "bull's-eye" or "target" lesion develops
4. There may be fever, chills, rash, hives, nausea and pain in the joints over the next few days.

The target lesion will enlarge over the next few days and produce extensive tissue death. There is no antivenom. The lesion will have to be soaked in antiseptic and possibly antibiotics. Surgery may be necessary to cut out the dead tissue.

Scorpions

There are many species of scorpions found in Arizona but only one is potentially lethal. This is the bark scorpion. It is one of the smaller species being one to one and a half inches long. It prefers places dark and cool, wood piles, palm trees, decorative bark. The severity of the sting depends on the amount of venom injected but scorpion stings can be fatal. Ninety percent of all scorpion stings occur on the hands.

The lethal scorpion is very slender and streamlined. It is straw-colored or nearly opaque, small, less than two inches long.

Signs and symptoms of scorpion stings include:

1. Sharp pain at the site of the sting
2. Swelling that gradually spreads
3. Discoloration
4. Nausea and vomiting
5. Restlessness
6. Drooling
7. Poor coordination
8. Incontinence
9. Seizures

Treatment:

1. Apply ice to relieve the pain of the sting

2. Be sure the victim's airway stays clear.
3. Transport to a hospital. A specific antivenom is available.

CFMS Newsletter 09/02

Flash Danger Danger Danger --- Static Electricity Can Kill You

By Chuck McKie, CFMS Safety Chairman 2002

This is NOT a myth!

I just saw a news flash on television. A car at a gasoline station burst into flames. This news flash said billions of cars are gassed up yearly safely but several dozen have caught fire. I don't wish to be in the minority to die in a fire.

The reason for the fires. Static electricity. It has been mostly ladies because they place the hose nozzle into the gas tank, then return to their car seat - for what ever reason. When they slide across the seat to get out of the car, static electricity is generated up to thousands of volts.

And when they touch the nozzle, the static discharges a spark which ignites the gas fumes. The solution is simple, **touch some metal on your car before you touch the nozzle!**

I drove the Seattle Transit City buses for ten years. When I would slide on the seat, the static would build up until I touched someone or some metal. The spark would jump about 3 inches and my passengers would jump. I did also until I learned to touch some metal with my hand before I touched anybody. And by holding onto some metal as I moved I could avoid the static.

Touch your keys in the ignition, the metal door handle, **but not the nozzle**, until you have discharged the built up electricity. Some people just don't get back into their car until after they finished gassing up. One other thing, that charge will go through your clothes also.

CFMS Newsletter 09/02

CFMS Shows

- Sept. 21-22 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
- Oct. 2-13 Fresno, CA.** Fresno Gem & Mineral Society
Fresno County Fair Grounds, 1121 S. Chance Avenue
Fair Theme: Cow'ifornia Dreamin'
Hours: Mon.- Fri. 11:30-10:30
Hours: Sat. & Sun. until 10:00 p.m.
- Oct. 5-6 Vista, CA.** Vista Gem & Mineral Society
Brenge Terrace Community Recreation Center
1200 Vale Terrace, Hours: 10 - 5 both days
- Oct. 12-13 Trona, CA.** Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Society
Gem and Mineral Building, 13337 Main Street
Hours: Sat 8-5 Sun 8-4
<http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/tronagemclub.html>
- Oct. 19-20 El Cajon CA.** El Cajon Gem & Mineral Society
El Cajon Valley Masonic Hall Association
695 Ballantyne, Hours: 10-5 both days
- Oct. 19-20 Whittier CA. Whittier Gem & Mineral Society**
"Gems In Our Back Yard"
NEW LOCATION!! 7630 Washington Ave.
(Corner of Mar Vista and Washington Ave.)
Hours: 10-5 both days

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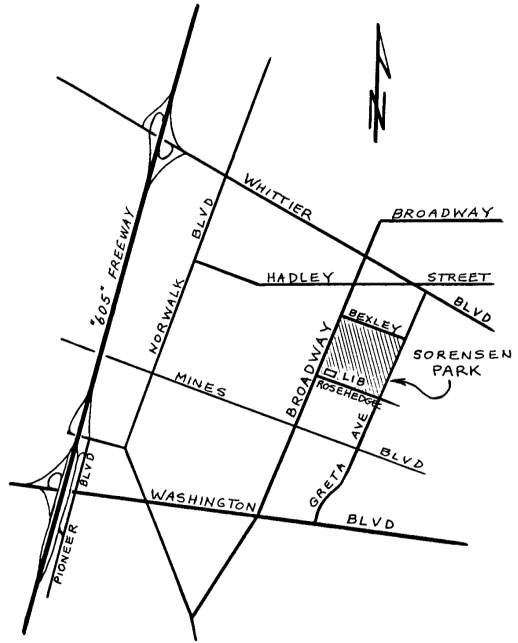


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Meeting Date: September 26 at 7:30 PM
Location: Sorensen Park (See Map)