

*October 2002*



# ROCKHOUNDER

## THE PREZ SEZ:

**W**hen you receive and read this message, it will be early October. Have you set aside the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> of this month, or at least a portion of one or more of those days, to help with this year's **Annual Show**? Remember that we will be at a new venue, the **Whittier Community Center**. If you have not yet spoken with Jay Valle, this year's Show Chairman about what you can do to help out, contact him without delay.

I know that most of you understand that income from our **Annual Show** represents, financially, the life blood of the club. As such, this is that one time each year when every club member has an opportunity to help ensure that the club remains the strong, viable organization that we each want not only for this year, but for many more years to come. Please do your part.

In addition to sharing your time on show weekend, you can also contribute by providing one or more raffle prizes. These can be items that you have made or purchased, or perhaps solicited from a merchant, or someone you know, as a donation. Kathy Valle is collecting these donations. If you do not have any idea about how you might help in this area, give Kathy a call. (See phone listing on page 2.)

It seems to be the case in most organizations that the work required to sustain the organization's day to day needs and ensure continued organization viability is carried by a core group. Our club is no different. I want to conclude my message here by **thanking** that core group that has been working, with Jay Valle's leadership, for months to prepare for our show. At the same time, please know that those of **you** that were not part of the planning effort – can still participate in the **execution** of the show. Call Jay today and discuss your show participation opportunities!

Thank you, and keep those rocks polished.

*Art*

**Post-Show General Meeting  
October 24 at 7:30 PM**

**W**e will be having our October Meeting at the Whittier Community Center. This is due to the annual loss of Sorenson Park for their *Haunted House*. We are still in negotiations for an fine October Program and will have it “in hand” soon.

*James LaBorde*

**It’s Show Time!!!**

**O**ur new location at the **Whittier Community Center** has been finalized and we are ready to put on our **53rd Annual Gem Show** the weekend of October 19th and 20th. We are in the final stretch. Donations of prizes for the Donation Award Table have begun to arrive and money from raffle tickets has also been coming in. Setup will begin at 3 PM on Friday, October 18 and will continue until 9 PM. Setup of cases or dealers tables will not be allowed after 9 PM due to our contract with the City of Whittier. The doors will open promptly at 9 AM Saturday morning to allow final preparations for the Show.

If you want to maximize your participation in the Club, come and help out at the Show. We have a few members who can’t make it to the Club very often, but they try to get their hand in once a year in October; we appreciate it so much – it keeps you in our minds as “active” members even if you can’t come to meetings. This annual contribution of your time is vital to the existence of the Club, because the annual show is our major fundraiser, and we can’t operate the show without willing volunteers!

The following are short descriptions of the types of jobs we do at the Show.

**Set-up** – We need able-bodied people to help unload the moving van into the Community Center on Friday afternoon and then again to repack the van after the Show on Sunday. Display tables need to be assembled and skirting installed. The display cases must be installed and the front glass of each cleaned. Power cords will need to be run out and taped down. Look for **Art Ragazzi** as he directs the activity.

**Greeters Table** – **Isabella Burns and Jack Zywocienski** meet the guests as they arrive and make sure they have the show bulletin and answer any questions they may have. They need relief on and off throughout the Show.

**Donation Award Table** – **Kathy Valle** can easily be overwhelmed while simultaneously coordinating the incoming prize donations, selling raffle tickets, selecting prizes for the hourly drawing and carrying out the raffle. It’s a big job and any help will be gratefully accepted and appreciated.

**Kitchen** – Work in the kitchen includes preparing and handing out food, taking the money and cleaning tables under the close watch of **Kathleen Turner**.

**Spinning Wheel and Magazine Sales** – **Marcia Goetz** spins the wheel here. We need people to rotate in and give breaks to the volunteers. And not only kids buy chances on the Spinning Wheel!

**Sales Table** – This is where our fine selection of slabs and rough material can be purchased. This is the purview of **Joe Goetz** who is always looking for a few good men and women (to help out).

**Security** – We have a security man on site at all times under the guidance of **Vern Cliffe**. We need helpers to watch out for shoplifters and potential sources of trouble (martial arts training is not required).

**Show Cases** – **Sylvia Cliffe** is in charge of the Display Cases and assistants are needed to make sure the case fronts are clean and to act as guides, fielding questions from non-rockhound visitors.

**Demonstrations** – **Les Roy, Jack Zywoციenski and Ginger Ragazzi** head up the all-star cast of characters who will be demonstrating the lapidary Arts this year. Come and lend your talents to this select group.

**Publicity** – Get the word out to your friends and acquaintances that a great Show is expected this year.

As always, please bring: **2 PIES and a Six-Pack of name-brand sodas** for the kitchen to sell. If you want to bring more, that’s ok too.

<b>SHOW</b>	<b>Friday:</b>	<b>Setup .....</b>	<b>3 PM to 9 PM</b>
<b>SCHEDULE:</b>	<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>Show .....</b>	<b>9 AM to 6 PM</b>
	<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>Show .....</b>	<b>10 AM to 5 PM,</b>
	<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>Teardown ...</b>	<b>5 PM to 8 PM</b>

## **Hints on Setting Up Your Display Case**

- If you are going to wash your specimens, do it two or three days in advance because the heat from the lights can cause moisture to steam up the inside of the glass.
- Be sure whatever you are displaying is clean, polished, dusted or whatever applies to the item. A silicone cloth or paper used just as stones are placed in a case gives last minute brilliance.
- A soft thin glove worn when placing specimens in your case will prevent finger marks on polished surfaces.
- Don't crowd your case. If you are new at this use the show as an opportunity to evaluate other cases and take note of how many items are in the best cases.
- If you are displaying silver pieces, conceal a camphor bar in your case to delay tarnish time. Be sure to place it in a small dish, as it bleeds.
- Arrange your items so the eye easily goes from one piece to another or from one group to another. If arranging groups of items, one large specimen can be balanced by a group of smaller ones. The eye is trained to read in a straight line or follow a curved, graceful line. The case should look uncluttered and uncomplicated. Large items should go toward the back, the more spectacular specimens toward the center and small items in the foreground.
- Labels are important because they provide the information for the viewer and make the case more educational for children. Labels might be used to tell what the item is, what it is made of, where it is from, etc. Labels should be uniform in size and typed or neatly printed. They should be placed parallel to the front of the case if it is not a

competitive case, but if you don't want your name there that's okay too. Names cannot go in competitive cases.

- If your case does not have a liner and you are covering the inside with cloth, don't use bright or printed colors as it takes attention away from the specimens. However, rules can be broken and you may sometimes see an outstanding exhibit of Jade carvings against bright red satin. An off-white is usually used but some other pastel shade may be more to your liking.
- If your items need stands, you can purchase stands or make them. If the bottom of your case is covered with cloth you can slip an appropriate size object such as a block of wood or a can under the cloth to make a riser. You can make stands out of 4-prong drapery hooks. You can take both ends of out of tuna cans and spray paint them off-white. You can heat plastic cups until they start to soften and mold them into stands. Stands can be made out of coat hangers. (These ideas are for noncompetitive displays.)
- Here is a list of supplies you might find handy when you set up your case: Polishing cloth, glass cleaner, paper towels, push pins or tacks, scotch tape, lint-free gloves for handling display items, scissors, and an extra light bulb. The club cases have overhead lights put in, but if you are putting in extra lighting you may need a multi-outlet plug and extra extension cord.
- Anyone putting in a competitive case should consult rules for competition and suggestions specifically for competition. Suggestions given here are for non-competitive cases in which instance you can really do anything you want. The cases that get the most attention and give the most pleasure are the most original ones, so if you are displaying for the first time, feel free to act on your own instincts.

*From NFMS Newsletter 11/01; via Choo-Choo Chatter 03/02*

## **Halloween Safety Tips for Kids and Adults**

**By Chuck McKie, CFMS Safety Chairman 2002**

**P**arents (and grandparents) here are some safety tips to help prepare your children for a safe and enjoyable trick-or-treat holiday. Halloween should be filled with surprise and enjoyment, and following some common sense practices can keep events safer and more fun.

But at all times, remember how much we have been hearing in the news about child abductions. So be double careful and don't let your very young children out of your sight. An adult or an older teenager should accompany them on the trips.

- Let them walk, slither, and sneak on sidewalks, not in the street.
- Teach them to look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks, and low-flying brooms, to cross the street only at corners.
- Don't hide or cross the street between parked cars.
- Have them wear light-colored or reflective-type clothing so they are more visible. (And remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards, and brooms, too!)
- Plan their route and share it with your other family members also.
- Have them carry a flashlight to light their way.
- Caution them to keep away from open fires and candles. (Costumes can be extremely flammable.)
- They should only visit homes that have the porch light on.
- Treats should only be accepted at the door and never go into a stranger's house.
- Use face paint rather than masks or things that will cover their eyes.
- They must be cautious of animals and strangers.
- Have a grown-up inspect the treats before eating. And no one should eat candy if the package is already opened. Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.

**FIELD TRIP**

The weekend of **October 26 & 27**, WGMS will host the annual field trip to the WGMS Honey Onyx Claim. This outing is suitable for beginning and experienced rockhounds.

**LOCATION:** Barstow area, approximately 2 hours drive.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Regular car.

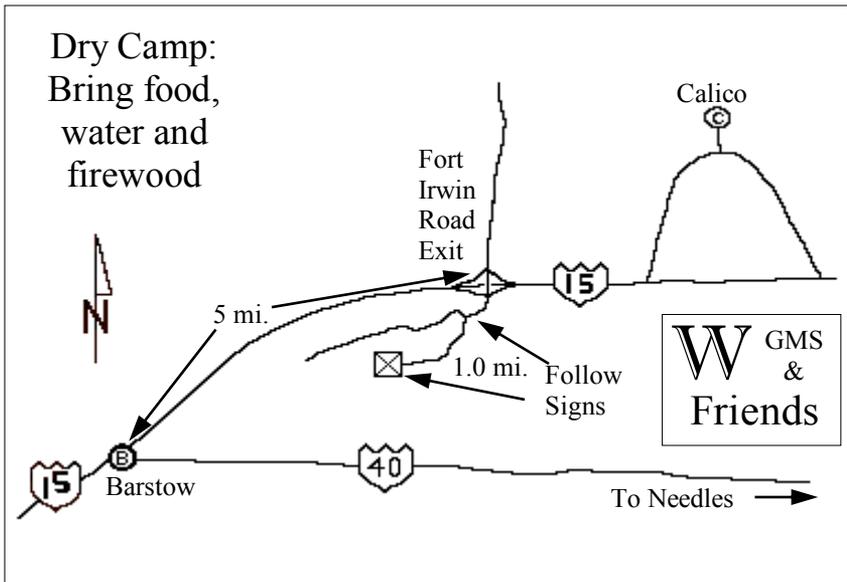
**COLLECTING MATERIALS:** Honey onyx, jasper, palm root and red moss agate.

**TOOLS:** Rock hammers, pry bars, sledges, chisels and shovels.

**SUPPLIES:** BARSTOW. (For interested beginning rockhounds, people spend the nights sleeping in sleeping bags, tents, campers, or even in a motel in Barstow.) If you don't wish to camp, you can come out just for the day, dig rocks, join us for pot-luck dinner, then travel home after dark. It's a great way to get an introduction to rockhounding & the great outdoors with friendly people.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: JOE GOETZ AT (626) 914-5030, FOR THIS AND FUTURE FIELD TRIPS.**

**\* Potluck Saturday - 5:00 PM, Campfire after dark.**



*May Richardson  
14424 E. Broadway  
Whittier, CA 90604*

*September 11, 2002*

*Dear Jay and Kathy Valle,*

*I am in receipt of your tickets to the W.G.M.S Annual Show.*

*As you know, I am a certified care giver – homemaker – companion and have lived with and looked after Cecil M. (Zeke) Wilder for eight and one half years.*

*Since I am no longer driving, I have had to depend on L.A. County Dial-a-Ride for public transportation M-F from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM and unless someone takes us, we have had to stay home on the weekends.*

*Because he could no longer feed, dress or bathe himself (and I couldn't do it either), "Zeke" was placed in the Royal Court Nursing Home (formerly Beryman West, next to the Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital) on August 16.*

*His address is:       Royal Court Health Care, #3130  
                              12385 East Washington Blvd.  
                              Whittier, CA 90606*

*He is getting so much better care than I could possibly give him but, due to existing circumstances, at the age of 91, he possibly could be in his last days and "on his way out."*

*Much to my regret, I am returning tickets number 0204 through 0215 to you in the hope that someone else can use them.*

*Kindest Regards and Best Wishes to you and everyone of the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society, as always, for a profitable, successful, and prosperous 53rd Annual Show in your new location.*

*Sincerely,  
May Richardson*

**New Field Trip Book**

**A** new guidebook has just come onto the market and could be very useful to the GPS equipped rockhound. It is written by Dave Kelty, a member of the Pasadena Gem Club who should be well known to any WGMS field trippers.

***"The GPS Guide To Western Gem Trails", by David A. Kelty***

It covers rockhound sites for Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. The book gives the name of the site, waypoints, and Delorme map page. It would be best used in conjunction with a rockhound book, like *'Gem Trails'* for that area, as specifics (camping, collecting material, etc.) and local maps are not provided. Supposedly, all sites were checked-out just before printing. It retails for \$14.95 and can be purchased via:

Mail: P.O. Box 8007; Calabasas, CA 91372  
Phone: 818/591-7001  
Fax: 818/225-1353  
E-mail: [lapidarybooks@aol.com](mailto:lapidarybooks@aol.com)

**Websites of Interest to Rockhounds**

- AFMS website - [www.Amfed.org](http://www.Amfed.org)
- CFMS website - [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)
- CA BLM website - [www.ca.blm.gov](http://www.ca.blm.gov)
- American Land Access Assoc. - [www.amerlands.org](http://www.amerlands.org)
- Lapidary Journal - [www.lapidaryjournal.com](http://www.lapidaryjournal.com)
- Bob's Rock Shop - [www.rockhounds.com](http://www.rockhounds.com)
- U.S. Geological Survey - [www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov)
- Rocks & Minerals Magazine - [www.mineralart.com/rocks\\_and\\_minerals](http://www.mineralart.com/rocks_and_minerals)
- Rock & Gem Magazine - [www.rockhounds.com/rockgem](http://www.rockhounds.com/rockgem)
- Agates with Inclusions - [www.agateswithinclusions.com](http://www.agateswithinclusions.com)
- Mineral and Gemstone Kingdom - [www.minerals.net](http://www.minerals.net)
- For Opal lovers - [www.opalmine.com](http://www.opalmine.com)
- For tools and supplies – [www.jtz.com](http://www.jtz.com)

## **Fireplace Safety**

**By Chuck McKie, CFMS Safety Chair 2002**

**I**nspect Fireplaces. Have your chimney inspected by a professional prior to the start of every heating season. Creosote, a chemical substance that forms when wood burns, builds up in chimneys and can cause a chimney fire if the chimney is not properly cleaned.

**Always** protect your family and home by using a sturdy screen when burning fires. Remember to burn only wood--never burn paper or pine boughs, which can float out of the chimney and ignite a neighboring home.

**Never** use flammable liquids in a fireplace. If you are purchasing a factory-built fireplace, select one listed by a testing laboratory, and have it installed according to local codes.

**Watch** Your Wood Stoves. Be sure your wood or coal stove bears the label of a recognized testing laboratory and meets local fire codes. Follow manufacturers' recommendations for proper use and maintenance. Chimney connections and chimney flues should be inspected at the beginning of each heating season and cleaned if necessary.

**Follow** the same safety rules for wood stoves as you would for space heaters.

**Burn** only wood, and be sure the wood stove is placed on an approved stove board to protect the floor from heat and hot coals. Be sure to check with your local fire department and check local codes before having your wood stove installed.

**Be Cautious** With Portable and Space Heaters. Place space heaters at least three feet away from anything combustible, including wallpaper, bedding, clothing, pets, and people.

**Never** leave space heaters operating when you are not in the room or when you go to bed.

**Don't** leave children or pets unattended with space heaters, and be sure everyone knows that drying wet mittens or other clothing over space heaters is a fire hazard.

**Cook with Care.** When cooking, do not wear loose fitting clothing, which can be ignited by hot burners.

**Always** turn pot handles in.

**Don't** store items on the stovetop; they could catch fire. Keep kitchen appliances clean and in good condition, and turn them off after use. Don't overload electrical outlets, and don't use appliances with frayed or cracked wires.

**Prepare** a Winter Storm Plan. Have extra blankets on hand, and ensure that each member of your household has a warm coat, gloves or mittens, hat, and water-resistant boots.

**Stay tuned** for storm warnings by listening to NOAH Weather Radio and your local radio and television stations for updated storm information.

*CFMS Newsletter 10/02*

### **Old Rockhounder Issues Needed!**

We are in the middle of an ambitious project to scan every issue of the WGMS Newsletter, *The Rockhounder*. The goal is to eventually make the entire collection available to our members on CD. We need several issues in order to complete the collection.

1958: Need all except May and June.

1959: Need only May and September.

1962: Need January, March and September.

As you can see, we are very close to completion. If you have any of these issues, we would like to borrow them and scan them. They will be returned to you, unharmed and in the condition in which they were received.

We are also interested in any pre-1959 bulletins in any condition, old show flyers, CFMS Bulletins, etc. We will even pay postage if it is not convenient for local pickup. The historian is also interested in scanning field trip pictures, original bulletin artwork, such as the fine sketches of Herb Schmidt and others, meeting notes and agendas, etc.

If you can help us with our Club project, contact Jay Valle at (909) 396-2332, or at 1421 Latchford Ave., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745.

**Go Visit a Gem Show!**

- Oct. 5-6**            **Vista, CA.** Vista Gem & Mineral Society, Brengle 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
- Oct. 19-20** **Whittier, CA. Whittier Gem & Mineral Society**  
**“Rocks In Our Back Yard” - The 53rd Show**  
**7630 Washington Ave. (Corner of Mar Vista**  
**and Washington Ave.)**  
**Hours: 10-5 both days**
- Nov. 2-3**            **Anaheim, CA.** The American Opal Society  
Quality Hotel Maingate, 616 Convention Way  
Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5
- Nov. 2-3**            **Oxnard, CA.** Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society  
800 Hobson Way, Oxnard, CA, Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4  
Web: <http://www.ogms.net>
- Nov. 2-3**            **Ridgecrest, CA.** Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society  
Desert Empire Fairgrounds, Mesquite Hall  
520 S. Richmond Road, Hours: Sat 9-5 Sun 9-4  
Field Trips leave at 9:30
- Nov. 2-3**            **San Diego, CA.** Palomar Gem & Mineral Club  
Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road  
Hours: 9-6 both days
- Nov. 16-17**        **Palmdale, CA.** Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club  
California Elks Lodge, 2705 E. Ave. Q  
Hours: 9-5 both days
- Nov. 30 - Dec. 1** **Barstow, CA.** Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society  
Barstow Community Center, 841 South Barstow Road  
Hours: 10 – 5 both days

**MINING AND PROSPECTING EQUIPMENT  
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 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](mailto:calgold@earthlink.net)**

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

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**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



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**Hacienda Heights, CA 91745**

**SPECIAL LOCATION!**  
**WHITTIER COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**7630 WASHINGTON AVENUE**  
**WHITTIER, CA**



**Meeting Date: October 24 at 7:30 PM**  
**Location: Whittier Community Center**