

December 2002

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDING
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

**Christmas Potluck, Silent Auction and Gift Exchange
Sorenson Park at 6:30 PM**



ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Hard to believe, but here we are in December, with another year rapidly approaching its end. In the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society this year will be remembered as one that brought us success and good times, and also sorrow.

This year the club continued to sponsor many wonderful field trips. The comradery that has built up over the years between long time members was extended to those new to the club. Faced with the need to find a new venue for our annual show, everyone pitched in and made the show location change a success. These were the good times. Sorrow visited this year in the form of the deaths of several individuals that will forever be a part of the club's rich history and the source of wonderful memories for those left behind.

Those of you that attended our November club meeting know that I was elected to continue as club president for next year. From my vantage point, the good news that came out of the election is that all of the other hard working, dedicated people who served the club so well this year, were elected to serve in their same capacities next year.

With the same people who so competently served as the backbone of the club during the year now ending returning in their same rolls, I can say with confidence that the club has a bright future for 2003. Thank you, each and every one of you, for your contributions that made this year such a success.

Take the time to carefully read this issue of the *Rockhounder* and note the correct date and time for our annual and traditional pot luck/gift exchange for December. I'll see you there, and in 2003.

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

Art

WGMS Annual Potluck and Christmas Party
Thursday, December 19th at 6:30 PM
at Sorenson Park

It is that time once again when we take a local field trip to our usual meeting place to enjoy an evening potluck without the campfire or blowing wind. You can enjoy the same company of the fine people that you have shared so many meals with on those other “*real*” adventures.

Come out and enjoy the food and, to borrow **Art’s** word, comradery, at the WGMS Potluck and Christmas Party. Remember to BYO (Bring Your Own) plates , silverware and drinks. The Club will provide coffee and if you forget to bring those things, come anyway because we have extras and can provide for you. We will have a gift exchange and, as usual, please mark it as his, hers or whatever, er...I mean either. What you bring to exchange is up to you but try to keep it under \$10.00.

A **SILENT AUCTION** will be held during and after dinner. WGMS will set out a few of our remaining items left over from the 2002 Door Prize/Raffle Drawings and we need some good stuff from all of you to make the *action* a success. Anything not auctioned off during the meeting will go into the Club Raffle box as starter prizes for next year’s door prize drawings.

This should be a fun and tasty meeting and I hope to see all of you there.

James LaBorde

Yes, Virginia, There is a Budget!

The annual budget meeting for 2003 was held on November 25th at the home of **Jay and Kathy Valle**. It was attended by **Vern Cliffe**, Budget Chairman, **Art Ragazzi**, President and **Jay Valle**, Treasurer.

After much consideration and taking a hard look at the Club checkbook, we came up with a balanced budget we think we can live with. Copies of the proposed budget will available at the December Potluck/Christmas Party.

I want to thank **Vern, Art and Jay** for their diligence and hard work in performing this yearly chore.

News from around the Club

Clarence Pool had heart surgery on Monday, December 2 at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles. The doctors replaced a heart valve and performed double bypass surgery.

When **Kathy and I** saw him on Friday, December 6 at Whittier Presbyterian, he looked pretty good. He was sitting up in a chair, feeding himself dinner (and complaining about the fine hospital food), and talking about the beautiful nurses.

The heart valve they installed was from a pig heart, and, typical of Clarence, he joked that each time his heart beat, it oinked. He also joked about his dinner being pork and wondered if he and the pork dinner were now related.

As we left, Kathy told him, “Be good!”, to which he replied, “What for?” Like I said, typical feisty Clarence!

Last word I heard, Clarence is in the Transitional Care Unit at Whittier Presbyterian Hospital and I know he could use a friendly phone call or get well card from his friends at the WGMS.

JValle

WGMS Officers for 2003

The following is the list of the WGMS 2003 Board of Directors as accepted by the Club Membership at the November General Meeting.

- President Art Ragazzi
- 1st Vice President James LaBorde
- 2nd Vice President Jack Zywocienski
- Secretary Marcia Goetz
- Treasurer Jay Valle
- Federation Director Bill Burns
- Directors: Les Roy
- Jerry Turner
- Joe Goetz

The new/old slate of officers will be inducted at the December Potluck/Christmas Party.

Gold

By Tony Fender

Technically **Gold** is a face-centered cubic crystal structure, with an atomic number of 79, specific gravity of 19.2 – 19.3 depending on work hardening, atomic weight of 197.2 (although in 1959 the international atomic weight was listed as 197.0, and in 1966 it was re-listed as 196.967). Its symbol is **Au** and it has a melting point of 1063 °C (1945 °F). The thermal conductivity of pure gold is 3.18 Watt/(cm °K) at 273 °K, and 2.51 Watt/(cm °K) at 1300 °K.

Gold artifacts have been found dating back to **3000 B.C.**, making it probably the second metal to be worked by man, after copper.

All the gold ever found, if it were cast into a single ingot would be a block 20 yards cube, and weigh about 20,000 tons.

One ounce of gold when flattened would cover 100 square feet, or when drawn would make a single wire almost a mile long.

Gold purity is measured in **Karat**, with 24 being pure. 12 Karat is 50% gold and 50% alloy material. 50% gold and 50% silver is called **electrum**, and for a gold/silver mix it is the ratio which gives the hardest metal. Adding copper to gold, up to 18%, reduces the melting point of the alloy to 880 °C. To reduce the melt point further add silver.

Gold Filled is a base metal which has been clad with gold, then rolled to make sheets or drawn to make wire. **1/20 G.F.** means that the ingot which was made was clad with 5% gold before it was rolled. Usually this is done by cladding 12 Kt gold 10% by weight on the base metal.

There are numerous different alloys popularly used, some of which are listed here:

22Kt	Yellow	92% gold, 4% silver, 4% Copper
22Kt	Coinage	90% gold, 10% silver
18Kt	Yellow	75% gold, 15% silver, 10% Copper
18Kt	Rose	0% gold, 75% silver, 5% Copper, 20% Zinc
18Kt	White	75% gold, 25% Palladium
14Kt	Yellow	58% gold, 25% silver, 17% Copper
14Kt	Rose	0% gold, 58% silver, 10% Copper, 32% Zinc
14Kt	White	58% gold, 42% Palladium

** Please note that **Rose Gold** has no actual gold in it.



**"Lets all get wired"
Wire Wrapping Classes
Presented by Marcia Goetz
February 20, March 6 and March 20
Location: Whittier Senior Center**

We are doing well at our newly established classes. Izzy has put together a nice package and certainly at a good price for all. Club members are encouraged to enroll in these classes and learn some of Marcia's secrets. We need at least 6 students to keep these classes going. Join now at the senior center and we will see you in February.

Cost: \$10.00 Class Fee when you sign up for the class at the Senior Center
\$10.00 Materials Fee, paid at the class

Les Roy, Community Relations Chairman

Owens Valley Fieldtrip Report Thanksgiving Weekend

As with all plans, there is always the unexpected. Marcia and I left late on Wednesday because I couldn't get the trailer lights to work. After some three hours we got them to work. We finally left at 1:30 p.m. The drive was mostly pleasant (210 at from Santa Anita was congested) and we arrived at 8:30 p.m. at **Big Pine**.

Thursday morning found us in Big Pine and it was cold! **Warren and Louis Dowler** had arrived. So it was decided we would go on a fieldtrip to the **Buttermilk Area** using the guide I had. We went up 168 west and looked around and figured out they may have meant Buttermilk road. So we drove and drove, we came across a rather large group of people near an area of huge boulders. At first we thought it was a rather large group of rockhounds so we stopped and asked. Well they were interested in rocks all right, but not collecting them. Rather they liked to climb them! Later we found out it was an international free climbing competition on Saturday and they were practicing.

Well we never did find the area they described in the book so we thought we would go to some of the mines on **Tungsten Mountain**. As we headed back we came across the rock climbers again and I saw an outcropping of quartz. So I stopped to take a peek. It turned out to be white quartzite. So Marcia and I got back into *Miss Dust Bunny* and headed for the mine. We assumed **Warren and Louis** and **Vern and Sylvia** were right behind us. We got to the mine and waited, but no one showed up. Thank heavens for the CB radio. We called and an answer was heard. Warren was having problems; the doors of the Ford he was driving locked when he got out and his keys were in the Ford! We headed back to them not knowing how we would be able to help.

The back window was open just a crack, **Marcia** came up with the suggestion of fishing for the keys. We used the antennae from **Warren's** CB but it wasn't long enough. Earlier **Marcia** had found some wire of heavy gauge so we attached some to the antennae with the fix-all invention of duct tape. A hook was fashioned into it and **Marcia** went fishing. At first she could not get close because a thermos was in the way. Well, she was able to hook onto it and move it out of the way. Then she went after the keys. The hook had to be adjusted a few times and finally she hooked them and ever so carefully got the keys out. As we were getting ready for **Marcia's** fishing, **Warren** had called the Auto Club and had gotten someone to come out and open the door. **Warren** led off and just a short distance we met with a tow truck. **Warren** stopped and took care of the fees with the driver.

So finally we got to the mine, we looked around and found a rotary roaster and a loading bin of recent vintage. We saw samples of many kinds of rock and possible ore samples. **Marcia** not being in the interested in the machinery walked around and found **epidote crystals!** When I got down and saw what she had, I looked and found a rather large rock that had a layer of **blue calcite crystals and epidote crystals** both! As it was getting dark we headed back to camp to discover **Kris and Marlene Kyte** had arrived. **Thanksgiving potluck** was in **Vern and Sylvia's** fifth wheel and everything tasted so good!

Friday morning found **Bob and Dorothy Brower** in camp, raring to go. **Warren and Louis** were back with us and **Geoff Caplette** was there. **Vern and I** had to run a couple of errands in Bishop, we got back and hurried to get going. We brought up the rear and we were off! Because of traffic we got separated from the group and we weren't paying attention and missed the turn off. After turning around and one more false turn and correction we found the right turnoff and followed **Vern and Sylvia** in. Thank goodness someone knows where they're going! We found **Dan and Diane Stevens** as they were looking for us as well. We all got to where **Geoff** had found those large quartz crystals and began to work. After about an hour or so not much of anything was found with the exception of **Marcia** as she roamed around she went down a drainage as she reasoned that some crystals washed down. She was right, she found a doubly terminated crystal that goes from translucent quartz to a smoky quartz about an inch to inch and a half long. After having lunch we headed across the valley toward where we had found crystals in previous trips. When we got to the base of a hill it was found the road up was narrower than what we had remembered, so some of the vehicles were be too wide to go up. In the area where we had found smoky crystals before we found diggings which were quite extensive. The original rock had seemingly disappeared. **Dan** had gone on to the smoky quartz mine at the very top and came back saying they had not found too much up there and wily smiling held up a 3" smoky crystal. We did find some crystals and after a while headed back to camp. We found **Frank and Francine** had arrived. Dinner was split up between **Vern and Sylvia's rig and Frank's motorhome** and it was excellent.

Friday morning found us with raindrops falling on our heads, so we had a POW-WOW to decide what we were going to do. Since we had seen as many as four snowplows head up 168 east, we decided we couldn't head over to Nevada to collect OPALIZED wood. With that decided and not knowing if the rain would let up, **Geoff, Warren and Louis** left. After just a little while we decided to go to the **Rossi Mine** for geodes. We left with **Marcia and I**

in the lead. We turned off at the right place and promptly turn the wrong way! After turning around and heading in the right direction, **Kris** was having problems with his vehicle and headed into **Bishop** to see if it could be fixed and **Vern** followed just in case. We couldn't find the **Rossi Mine** and the next mine looked like it was being worked. We found one that wasn't and explored the area where the mill had been for clues as to what they were mining. After not finding much of anything, not even a tunnel we decided to go and find the garnet area that we had been to before.

We drove back to the main road only to back up the road we had just gone up. This time we took the right forks in the road instead of the left. **Kris and Marlene and Vern and Sylvia** came back from Bishop and met up with us at the garnet area. The rain had stopped and it was overcast, but it had not dampened our spirits to find garnets. I thought I might find something on the lower hills, but found nothing. So I decided to walk up the road a bit and around a curve just off the road. I found a piece of **OPALIZED wood!** I looked around some but didn't locate the source so I headed back. As I rounded the curve, **Marcia** called to me and she was on the North face of the hill and was going to come down. Then I suggested she go across the face if possible and I'd walk up to her after I got our stuff. We worked our way toward where everyone else was and we were finding garnets in the soil. We finally got to where everyone else was and started working. Everyone found quite a bit, since there were a lot of heavy bags carried down that day. Getting back to camp we all enjoyed a great potluck and afterwards played several games of **ZILCH**. **Vern** won most of them!

Sunday morning we all went to breakfast at the **Country Kitchen in Big Pine**. After breakfast **Frank and Francine** and **Chris and Marlene** left for home. **Vern and Sylvia** and **Marcia and I** headed out to look at the other **tungsten mine** up another valley off 168 west of **Bishop**. Mostly what we found were great views. We stopped at an interesting area and **Sylvia** found a pile of rocks dumped on a sandy mound. We picked through them and found sparkly stuff, pyrite, etc. A Ranger came by and told us there was a large mine up the canyon and we may want to check it out. We did. At the tungsten mine we found massive **garnet and epidote**. We hung around there a while and started back stopping at the first place again hoping to find more "pretties".

Back in camp we had dinner and played some more *Zilch* which was very funny because **Vern's** dice kept bouncing off the tabletop. The nighttime temperatures were down in the low 20's, but we survived.

We left camp on Monday around 7:30 after a successful fieldtrip.

No fieldtrip in December, Fieldtrip to Quartzite in January.

Upcoming Fieldtrip Committee meeting in January.

Your Man in the Field, Joe Goetz

**QUARTZSITE AND DESERT AREA SHOWS
JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2003**

- JAN. 1 - FEB. 2** DESERT GARDENS – QUARTZSITE
- JAN. 3 - JAN. 12** TYSON WELLS GEM & MINERAL SHOW – QUARTZSITE
- JAN. 4 - JAN. 9** CLOUD’S – LAUGHLIN
- JAN. 10 - JAN. 19** CLOUD’S – AVI – INDIAN CASINO
- JAN. 17 - JAN. 26** TYSON WELLS SELL-A-RAMA – QUARTZSITE
- JAN. 18 - JAN. 26** SPORTS/RV SHOW – QUARTZSITE
- JAN. 18 - FEB. 2** MAIN EVENT – QUARTZSITE
- JAN. 29 - FEB. 2** POW-POW – QUARTZSITE
- FEB. 1 - FEB. 12** TYSON WELLS ARTS & CRAFTS – QUARTZSITE

Courtesy of Vern Cliffe

Elephant Stew

Ingredients:

- 1 large elephant
- Brown gravy
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 25 bushels mushrooms (fresh)
- 6-1/2 bushels of Armenian onions diced in quarters
- 17 bushels celery, diced
- 2 rabbits (optional)
- 7-1/2 gallons whale oil

Cut the elephant into bite-sized pieces. This should take about 2 months. Add brown gravy and simmer. Salt and pepper to taste. Heat whale oil to brown mushrooms, celery and onions. Mix all ingredients and cook over kerosene fire for four weeks and 465 degrees. Yields 3,800 or more servings. If more guests are expected, two rabbits may be added, but do this only if necessary as most persons don't like to find hare in their stew.

The Register 5/83

TUMBLER HINTS

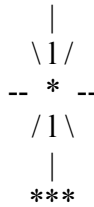
By using small pieces of Styrofoam plastic, instead of the hard round plastic beads, your polishing agent will do a better and quicker job. Those hundreds of polish-impregnated little Styrofoam pieces will really put a shine on everything in the tumbler and will disappear from sight by the end of the polishing cycle. *From the Rockcollector 4/01*

How to Burp a Tumbler: If you're running a tumbler and it keeps burping out gas and making a mess in your shop, here's a tip that I discovered several years ago. I even got it published. The burping is due to gas generated by acids and metals. A common example is the iron in a stone (say bloodstone) reacting with the weak acids formed by grinding other rocks. Simply drop a couple of antacids in the tumbler and the problem will be reduced or go away. Tums for the tumbler, so to speak.

From Canaveral Moonstone 04/00

Via Gneiss Gnews April 2002

A YEAR-ROUND RESOLUTION



- Listen
- Be_gentle
- Have__faith
- Be____patient
- Speak_the__truth
- Find____the__time
- Laugh____a__little
- Speak____your__love
- Speak____it____again
- Mend____a__quarrel
- Keep____a__promise
- Encourage_____others
- Develop_____tolerance
- Share_____some____treasure
- Give____a__soft____answer
- Laugh_____a__little_____more
- Welcome_____a_____stranger
- Express_____your_____gratitude
- Gladden_____someone's_____heart
- Apologize____if____you____were__wrong
- Seek_out_a_forgotten_friend_or__relative
- Take__pleasure_in_the_beauty_and_wonder__of_life
- Try_to_understand_&_accept_the_differences_in_others

MOST OF ALL
 ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULLEST

Via S.C.R.I.B.E. Bulletin Oct Nov Dec 1995

Upcoming Gem Shows

- Jan. 11-12** **Exeter, CA.** Tule Gem and Mineral Society
Exeter Memorial Building
324 North Kaweah
Hours: 10-5 both days
Don Vieira (509) 732-7739
- Jan. 31**
-Feb. 1-2 **Redlands, CA.** Southern California Micro-Mineralogists
38th Annual Pacific Micromount Conference
San Bernardino County Museum
2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands, CA
Beverly Moreau (714) 577-8038
bcmoreau@4dnet.com
- Feb. 14-23** **Indio, CA.** San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival;
Gem & Mineral Bldg. (on the Fairgrounds)
46-350 Arabia Street
Hours: 10 am - 10 pm
Don Grisham (909) 795-7289

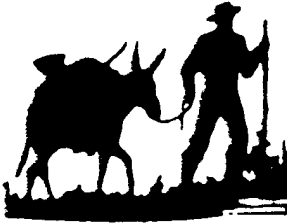
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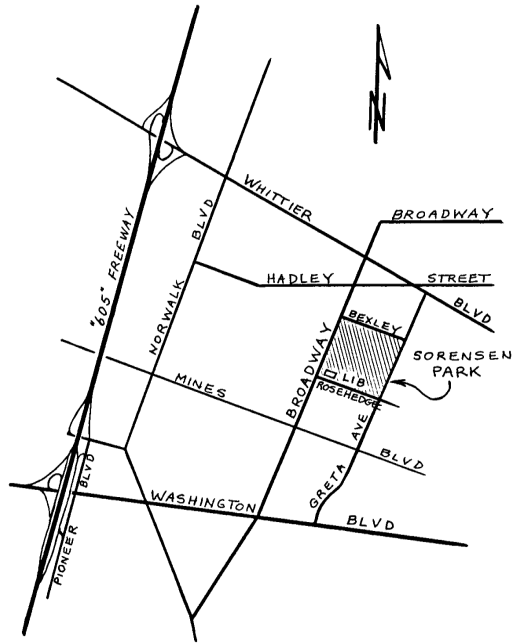


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Meeting Date: **December 19 at 6:30 PM**
Location: **Sorenson Park**