

June, July, August 2003

WHITTIER  
  
**ROCKHOUNDER**  
GEM & MINERAL  
SOCIETY

**Potluck and Ugly Rock Contest!**  
6:30 PM at Sorenson Park



Object Created by Jay & Kathy Valle for the CFMS Show in Ventura

# ROCKHOUNDER

## THE PREZ SEZ:

**H**ere we are in June! Yes the time indeed does fly, especially when it involves the active people that “rockhounding” seems to attract. As a quick reminder, our General Membership meeting this month starts at 6:30 p.m., at Sorensen Park with our traditional June Pot Luck.

Although there will be no regular meetings scheduled for July & August, your Board of Directors will continue to meet to plan for this year’s Fifty-Fourth Annual Gem Show, **“GEODES: NATURE’S TREASURE CHEST”**, held for the second time at the **Whittier Community Center on October 18 -19, 2003**. There will also be at least one “work day” scheduled to sort club rocks, work on club cases, and handle whatever else is required to continue preparation for our show.

As all of you “seasoned” members already know, in deference to the heat in the desert in July and August, the club does not normally schedule any field trips in those months. If a day trip of some sort does get scheduled, it will be announced in a special edition of The Rockhounder, or a special mailing. For summer fun, however, Jay and Kathy Valle have already offered up their home for a club swim party and pot luck on July 26, 2003. Watch for additional information on this event.

At the last Board Meeting, the latest edition of the Club Membership Handbook was presented. Watch for your copy in the mail. I hope to see you at this month’s pot luck. If I do not see you there, at a “work day,” or the swim party, I will see you in September.

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

*Art*

**June Potluck & Ugly Rock Contest  
Thursday, June 26 at 6:30 PM**

**W**ell, summer is here again and it came with a whimper instead of a bang. Our June meeting is going to be the **annual summer meeting potluck**. Don't forget that it starts at 6:30 pm rather than the usual 7:30. Bring a main dish or desert and come enjoy good food and company with your friends at the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society. As always, remember to bring plates, silverware and drinks.

If you will look at your April Rockhounder on pages 12 & 13, you will see an article about Ugly Rocks ala Dolores Wheeler. Hopefully, this will give you some ideas about your own entry into the WGMS Ugly Rock contest. Your entry should have a name, and if you like, also a story to go along with it. The winner will be chosen by the diners present.

Good luck, and we will see you there.

*James LaBorde*

**Summer Projects & Field Trips**

**T**his summer the WGMS has several projects planned. You are invited to help out or attend any or all of these functions.

A final trip needs to be made to Mary Rose Merten's house to transport rock to Joe Goetz' house for Club use.

A Swim Party/Potluck will be at Jay & Kathy Valle's home on July 26 (see article at top of next page).

The Show Committee will meet at Jay & Kathy's house in August. If you want to participate, Jay call for details. Other Show projects are tentatively planned for summer completion but no final dates have been set yet.

A field trip to pan for gold at East Fork San Gabriel River is planned for the end of June or sometime during the summer. Another field trip is scheduled for Labor Day Weekend and will be to locations in the San Bernadino Mountains. Come to the June meeting for further details or call Joe Goetz at (626) 914-5030.

**Summer Potluck  
July 26, 2003  
2:00 PM**

**T**he Valle family cordially invites you to their house for a **summer swim party, potluck and general get-together on July 26th at 2:00 PM**. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Bring a salad, dessert or, if you wish, another main dish to share with your fellow WGMSers.

A map will be available at the June General Meeting/Potluck. If you need other information or directions, contact Jay Valle at (626) 934-9764.

**How Geodes are Created**

**G**eodes begin as bubbles in volcanic rock or as animal burrows, tree roots or mud balls in sedimentary rock. Over time the outer shell of the spherical shape hardens and water containing silica precipitation forms on the inside walls of the hollow cavity within the geode. The silica precipitation can contain any variety of dissolved minerals, the most common being quartz, but amethyst and calcite are also found. Over a period of thousands of years, layers of silica cool, forming crystals of different minerals within the cavity. Different types of silica cool at varying temperatures thus creating layers of different types of mineral crystals. Each geode is unique in composition and can truly be discovered when cracked open or cut with a rock saw. The size and formation of crystals and different shades of color within the crystal make each geode special. The rough exterior of the geode gives no indication of the secrets held within its core. The anticipation never fades for those who curiously collect buckets full of round geodes and eagerly expose these secrets of each individual sphere-shaped rock. The most prized contain rare amethyst crystals or black calcite crystals.

Editors note: The previous article concerning geode formation pertains not to the geodes of Indiana. The Hoosier ones were all at one time animals. The geodization process actually starts inside the animal, grows and eventually splits the animal apart. Sometimes leaving enough shape and/or remains of shell for the original animal to be identified...

*Rock Pickings, from the Rockwood Rockhound News 9/99, via Opal Express 6/03*

## **Enameling**

**By Rosemary Combs**

**B**rilliance of color and an air of elegance characterize enameling, an art that has a history of more than 2000 years, originating, probably, with the Mycenaeans in Cyprus, around 1000 B.C.

Basically, "enameling" consists of applying ground glass to a base metal, usually copper, silver, gold, steel or other, and heating in a kiln or by torch until it fuses to the metal. Fusing temperatures vary, depending on techniques used, and effect desired. The enamels are ground to varying degrees of fineness, and may be transparent, opaque, or translucent, and come in a wide range of colors. Colors do not mix with each other to form another, as in oil, watercolor, or acrylic painting, but must be fused in superimposed layers generally.

The five basic techniques employed most are:

- 1. CLOISONNE** -- Art of enclosing each color in a "cloison" (wire shape), made by bending fine silver, gold or copper wire into desired shape and fusing to base metal, then wet-inlaying each color.
- 2. CHAMPLEVE** -- Areas are gouged or eaten out by acid in the base metal and the depressions are filled with enamel.
- 3. PLIQUE-A-JOUR** -- Means "similar to a membrane (plique) stretched so that the light of day (a jour) shows through". This is usually done by sawing or piercing the design in the metal and filling, through capillary action, with transparent enamels.
- 4. LIMOGES or PAINTED** --Finely ground glass mixed with a solution such as water, oil of lavender, or squeegee oil is applied by brush.
- 5. BASSE-TAILLE** -- Means "low cut". The metal base is raised or depressed by chasing, carving, stamping, engraving, then enamel is applied where desired.

Since 1930 enameling has become very popular in the United States and work being done today is certainly derived from the work of the past. However, the "experimental" approach is a distinctly contemporary contribution, and within the limits of the very definite physical laws of making an enamel, the range of possibilities has been extended, perhaps more in the United States than in any other country.

*From THE CONGLOMERATE 7/85, via The Glacial Drifter 05/03*

## **THE CABOCHON CUT**

**T**he word cabochon comes from the French en cabochon, meaning "like a bald head". The similarity of a bald, shining pate to the rounded top of a gem stone is sure apparent.

In cabochon cuts, the curving of the upper surface is commonly convex and varies from curves that are nearly flat to those which are very high. The widest portion of the gem is called the girdle; that portion above the girdle is the top; that portion below, if there is any, is the bottom or back.

All cabochons must be polished all over the top. However, some materials are markedly enhanced in their beauty if the back is likewise given a polish. In general, that applies to all translucent cabochons, especially the harder ones. Also, polishing the back will help to protect the stone from absorbing body oils, etc.

There are many different styles of cabochons:

**SIMPLE CABOCHON:** It has a flat back and a simple, curved top. The stone may be round, when looked at from above; or it may be elliptical, oval, rectangular, or any other shape.

**LOW CABOCHON:** This has a much flatter top than the simple cab. It is suited for softer stones, such as turquoise, where a high protruding top is apt to be chipped and worn dull in a comparatively short time.

**HIGH CABOCHON:** It has an especially high top and is thus particularly suitable for a hard stone. Translucent material such as chalcedony or rose quartz is well adapted to this style because it preserves the greatest depth of color and at the same time acquires a deep glow from within the stone in addition to a high surface polish.

**HOLLOW CABOCHON:** The hollow cab has a concave bottom or back. This way of cutting is used for transparent stones which are so dark in color that light is largely lost in passing through unless the gem is cut in this way.

(Continued on Page 11)

Carbuncles, or deeply colored garnets, have their beauty materially

**NO. 5004**

**ORIGINAL**

**CITIZEN  
PARKING  
VIOLATION**

**STATE**

**LICENSE NUMBER**

**TIME**

**MAKE OF AUTOMOBILE**

THIS IS NOT A TICKET, BUT IF IT WERE WITH-  
IN MY POWER, YOU WOULD RECEIVE TWO.

BECAUSE OF YOUR BULL HEADED, INCON-  
SIDERATE, FEEBLE ATTEMPT AT PARKING  
YOU HAVE TAKEN ENOUGH ROOM FOR A 20  
MULE TEAM, 2 ELEPHANTS, 1 GOAT AND A  
SAFARI OF PYGMIES FROM THE AFRICAN IN-  
TERIOR.

THE REASON FOR GIVING YOU THIS IS SO  
THAT IN THE FUTURE YOU MAY THINK OF  
SOMEONE ELSE OTHER THAN YOURSELF. BE-  
SIDES, I DON'T LIKE DOMINEERING, EGOTIS-  
TICAL OR SIMPLE MINDED DRIVERS AND  
YOU PROBABLY FIT INTO ONE OF THESE  
CATEGORIES.

I SIGN OFF WISHING YOU AN EARLY TRANS-  
MISSION FAILURE, (ON THE EXPRESSWAY AT  
ABOUT 4:30 P.M.) ALSO MAY THE FLEAS OF A  
THOUSAND CAMELS INFEST YOUR ARMPITS.

**WITH MY COMPLIMENTS**

**Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows**

**June 21-22 La Habra, CA.** North Orange County Gem & Min. Soc.  
La Habra Community Center  
101 W. La Habra Blvd.  
Hours: Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4

**June 28-29 Culver City, CA.** Culver City Rock and Mineral Club  
Veterans Memorial Auditorium  
Corner of Overland Avenue and Culver Blvd.  
Hours: Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5

**July 19-20 Escondido, CA.** Palomar Gem & Mineral Club  
Escondido Army National Guard Armory  
304 Park Avenue  
Hours: Sat 9-6; Sun 9-5

**August 8-10 Nipomo, CA.** Orcutt Mineral Society  
Saint Joseph's Church  
298 S. Thompson Avenue  
Hours: 10 - 5 all three days

**Sept. 3-7 San Bernardino, CA.** The Orange Belt Min Society of SB  
2nd Annual Tail Gate Event  
You are invited to come & sell your rock-related merchandise  
KOA Campgrounds in San Bernardino, CA  
For reservations & information please call:  
Lyle Strayer (909) 887-3394 or Tony Gilham (909) 820-2122

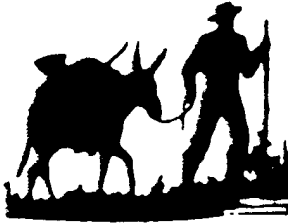
**Words To Live By**

- Given the choice of two theories, take the one that is funnier.
- It is good to have an end to journey toward, but it is the journey that matters in the end.
- If the weather didn't change once in a while, many people couldn't start a conversation.
- Always and never are two words you should always remember never to use.

Collected by Wayne Ehlers  
*From Rockhound Rambling, 3/03*



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enhanced when cut this way.

**DOUBLE CABOCHON:** This is a style where both top and bottom are convex; the curvature on the back is less than that on the top. It is useful where the stone is translucent, or where it has certain inclusions, as in a moss agate, which will add to its beauty if retained rather than cut away by flattening the bottom. Double cabochons should always be polished on both sides.

**LENTIL CABOCHON:** a lentil cab is one which has identical curves on top and back. Opals, when cut this way, often present two sides which may be equally beautiful and yet quite different. Such stones when set in a pendant can be worn with either side presenting, as the wearers fancy dictates. Hearts, as well as other pendants, are favored by many cutters for this style of cutting. Like double cabochons, lentils should always be polished on both sides.

*From "Gem Cutting" by J. Daniel Willems, via Rock Rollers 1/03, via Delvings 6/03*

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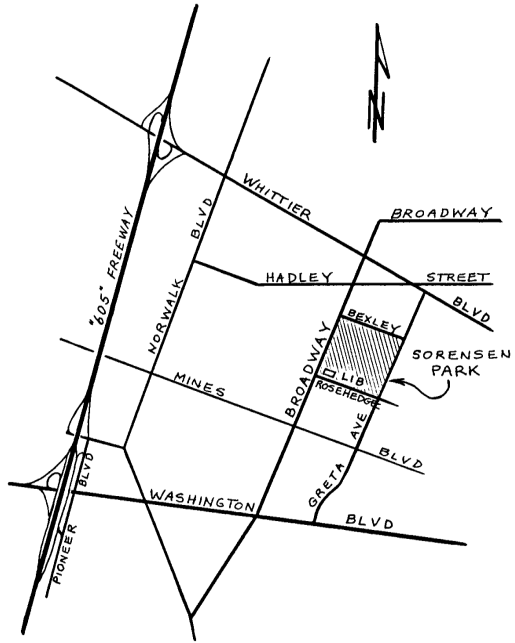
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Meeting Date: **June 26 at 6:30 PM**  
Location: **Sorenson Park**