

WHITTIER

**ROCKHOUNDER**  
GEM & MINERAL  
SOCIETY

A  
P  
R  
I  
L  
  
2  
0  
0  
4

April 22 Program: *"How to Identify Natural Amber"*



Ocotillo in bloom near Blythe, CA - it's a cactus, right?

# ROCKHOUNDER

## THE PREZ SEZ:

Hello everyone. It's hard to believe we are already in April. We had a fantastic meeting in March with 8 guests. This is a great development and I hope to see the trend continue. Let's see if we can't get even more guests at the next meeting.

With April comes spring break and Easter/Passover. Opportunities to enjoy the hobby as well as time with our families. May you enjoy that time and take full advantage of those opportunities.

I'll keep this month brief and wish you all a pleasant spring season and I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting later this month.

*James*

### **Cover Picture: Ocotillo**

Picture taken by Lee Valle  
near Blythe, CA

The tall, thorny ocotillo is not a cactus, as many desert dwellers believe, but is a shrub closely related to the primrose and olive. Early Indians ate its lovely red flowers as well as the small seed pods which followed, but most of all they prized its sweet nectar for flavoring a popular drink. This beverage, concocted by brewing the blossoms in water, was the prehistoric man's cola - a spring tonic guaranteed to lift lethargic spirits.

*From Desert Magazine, 12/63*

**WGMS General Meeting  
March 25 at 7:30 PM**

Whittier Community Center  
7630 Washington Ave. Whittier  
(See map on page 15)

**PROGRAM:**

**T**his year we have turned our thoughts to "How do you do..." The monthly program theme should be along this line. We had a video on "*How to Polish Opal.*" I have been thinking about requesting people to share; so when **Allen Burns** volunteered to share with the members and quests "*How to Identify Natural Amber*", I immediately signed him up for a program.

**How do You Tell If Amber Is Naturally Formed?**

I think that this will be a very informative program for us. Most of us never though about synthetic amber. Now we have an opportunity to learn more about a unique stone that was known as the most valuable gemstone in 800 BC. This year one of the stones that was being promoted at Tucson was Amber. Is it making a comeback?

**May - Kartchner Caverns**

**June - Potluck and demo: How Do You Do a "How Do You Do..." Case**

*Izzy*

**California Official "State" Designates**

**Flower:** California Poppy

**Fossil:** Sabertoothed Cat

**Prehistoric Artifact:** Stone Chipped Bear

**Animal:** California Grizzly Bear

**Colors:** Blue and Gold

**Marine Fish:** Orange Garibaldi

**Marine mammal:** California Grey Whale

**Insect:** California Dogface Butterfly

**Motto:** "Eureka" - I Have Found it

**Rock:** Serpentine

**Gemstone:** Benitoite

**Mineral:** Gold

**Bird:** California Quail

**Fish:** Golden Trout

**Reptile:** Desert Tortoise

**Nickname:** "The Golden State"

**Soil:** The San Joaquin Soil

**Tree:** California Redwood

*From Rock Chips 12/02 via The Petrified Log 03/04*

**News From Around the Club**

**T**his column is where we pass on information of interest to our WGMS Club members. The only way we can publish this type of information is if you let someone know what's happening. We publish birth announcements, obituaries, graduations, vacations, etc.; you name it. If you want to share your news with us, let your bulletin editor know and he will gladly put it in the Bulletin. ED

- \* Another Club project has been completed! On Saturday April 3, **Joe Goetz, Jay Valle, Jack Zywoციenski and Jerry & Kathy Turner** met at **Art & Ginger Ragazzi's** Ontario home and installed large shelving units to organize the Club's storage items. This includes most of the cases and equipment needed for the annual gem show. Thank you all for your participation in this important project.
  
- \* Other Club projects still waiting to be done:
  1. The Club equipment removed from the Boys and Girls Club needs to be repaired and refurbished for use at Rockgabbers (the WGMS workshop).
  2. Joe Goetz has a seriously large pile of donated but unsorted Club rock. It needs to be sorted and set aside for sale or slabbing.
  3. Several show cases are in need of repair and painting.

I will keep you informed when project dates are scheduled.

- \* **Flo Piechota** is recovering from a bout with diverticulitis and subsequent blood clots in the Rehab Unit (TCU) at Whittier Presbyterian Hospital. She is doing ok and is expected home sometime during the week of April 12.
  
- \* The **2004 WGMS Membership Handbook** with updated roster is almost done and will be available at the April meeting. If you miss the meeting, don't worry, because we will be mailing a copy out to those who didn't receive it there.
  
- \* **Membership cards are in the mail**, even as we speak, and you should be receiving them soon. The Treasurer apologizes for the delay.

**Lavic Fieldtrip Report  
March 20-21**

**W**e left our house about 12 o'clock having made contact with **Vern & Sylvia** first by cell phone and then by CB radio. We caught up to them about half way between the 57 and the 15 Fwys. It was relatively smooth sailing until where the 15 north merges in the area south of the Cajon Pass before Glen Helen off ramp. While slowly moving up the freeway, who did we see come along side? It was none other than **Ed & Corrine Imlay**. We briefly talked to them via radio and then they passed **Vern & Sylvia** and it was the last we saw them until we got to the camping spot.

We stopped for a bite to eat at Peggy Sue's, so we didn't get out to Lavic until 4 o'clock or so. When we got off the I-40 at Hector we started to put out the signs. When we got to the Lavic and the bridge junction and I was putting up the signs a Ford Explorer stopped at the stop sign and I thought it looked familiar. The person driving was **Jay Valle** (so of course it would be familiar), he pulled up to where Marcia was parked and we talked for a minute or two. Jay told us he had just come from Wiley's Well where he had been for a week.

We finally arrived at camp and Ed was already out collecting. We set up our trailer in twilight of Friday evening, finding out that the front of our trailer canvas had fallen down and we had major air conditioning. Thanks to Vern for his portable power screwdriver and Ed for self-tapping screws we managed to get the canvas back up. Well, as evening was falling we did the typical things that people do to get ready when you first get to camp. Before you know it night was upon us and the stars that shown was a tremendous sight to behold! As Marcia started the campfire **Tony and Sandie** arrived. Marcia had also prepared a little celebration as it was Vern's and my birthday. She had brought out a little cheesecake complete with candles and even the little pointed party hats. It was quite a sight the see **Ed & Corrine, Jay, Vern & Sylvia, Marcia and I** wearing them around the campfire, Jay even took pictures! I took a couple of pieces of cheesecake over to **Tony & Sandie** to have with the dinner they were preparing in their RV.

We chit-chatted around the fire, watched a few falling stars and enjoyed the fire and the company. Before you knew it, it was 8:30 pm and people started

to head for their campers and bed. I pulled the fire apart as we wanted to go to bed as well. Soon the fire was just some embers and the glow was diminishing to barely a dull faint red. As I got into to bed I told Marcia now would be the time for someone to arrive. After a few minutes we heard the crunch sound of tires rolling over rocks, then the braking sound and then voices. It was **Jerry & Katherine Turner**.

Morning always seems to arrive so early the next day. We had heard a few of the trains that passed through the night. When more of us got up we would compare notes. About 7:30, a guest **Rose Marie & Danny Rockwell** rolled into camp. A bit after 8 o'clock, **Frank & Francine** arrived. Tony, Jay and I discussed the day's events, Tony was leading an exploratory trip to some old collecting spots and I was leading a trip to the Baghdad-Chase mine. We agreed that one of them (Jay) would come back at lunch and would lead anyone who wanted to go to the lavender agate area. So with that decided, the Fenders, the Turners and Jay headed off. Shortly after the Goetz', the Cliffes, the Rockwells (guests), Frank & Francine and the Imlays were off like a herd of turtles.

When we left camp, it was approximately 70 degrees, when we got to the mine it was in the 80's and when we left the mine it was close to 100 degrees. On the way to the mine we saw three desert tortoises and two of those were trying to make baby tortoises. And you know Frank he had to stop to watch - I suspect that if he had a camera with him there would now be pictures! We finally pulled into the mine area and went to the ore piles and I believe everyone was able to pick up samples. We then headed back to camp and lunch. On the way back, the cell phone rang and when I answered it, it was Charlene and her boyfriend. In camp Frank discovered he had a flat, so while we waited for Frank to fix his flat, we ate. Jay had come back as promised, so after eating we headed to the lavender agate, Vern & Sylvia went to the Cady's to look for agate Jason told them about, our guests went home and Ed & Corrine stayed in camp.

We followed Jay over hill and dale crossing over the railroad tracks, making turns first left then right. We went into a canyon and came to stop just below a hill. As we were going getting to where we stopped Marcia noticed what

(Continued on Page 8)

looked like a sudden cloud of dust and said Frank just blew another tire! While Jay was discussing about going up the hill, Marcia was talking to Francine and told her about Frank's tire and when we looked it was only flat at the bottom. Frank said since we were already here, we may as well just go ahead and rockhound, then come back and fix the tire. It was very warm that afternoon and the trail went through a small waterfall that was easy to climb over. It seems that when it is hot you're always going uphill no matter which direction you go! We got a fair amount of the lavender agate and Jay did some scouting around and I found some red and white agate. Jay and I headed back to the vehicles.

When we got there, Marcia was sitting there having a cold drink and Frank was checking his tire to see just how bad it was. There was a gash in the tread area of the tire (that is if there had been any tread there). We tried putting our spare on his truck but though the bolt pattern was the same, the radius was smaller. So the holes didn't line up, all that remained was to use a can of fix-a-flat that Jay had. It went in all right but when Frank started to roll you could see it squish out. Well Jay and I watched as Frank was following Marcia and I was with Jay following Frank. About halfway out it seemed the tire was sealed and was inflating. We made it over to a gas station that had a service bay and Frank was told they could fix it. So this is where we bid Frank and Francine a fond farewell, as they would go into Barstow and buy a couple of tires after they fixed the flat tire.

It was getting late as we headed back to camp, along the way we tried to call Sylvia on her cell phone and evidently they had not turned it on. Suddenly there was a white truck going quite fast in the other direction. It was Vern & Sylvia and we turned on our CB and verified it was them. They had gotten back to camp and talked to Tony and Sandie only to find out we hadn't returned to camp so they went looking for us!

We found out they hadn't turned on their phone and we hadn't turned on the CB. We all made it back to camp and had potluck a little late. We were able to convince Charlene and her boyfriend to stay and join us. As always it was a great meal, followed by a nice campfire. Charlene went home between dinner and the fire as did Jay Valle also. Jerry told of their adventure of getting stuck in deep sand near the silver lace onyx. Ask him or Kathlene about when you see them. All too soon the call from our bed was calling to us and we were too tuckered to resist.

Sunday morning seemed to get there much too quickly. Marcia and I had decided to head home as soon as possible. So after coffee and a quick breakfast we started to pack. All seemed to go well until we tried to lower the trailer roof and only the left side would go down. I thought there goes the chance to go home early as I thought I had to crawl under the trailer to try to figure out why it wouldn't go down. Just then Marcia said with excitement in her voice we had forgotten to take out the door frame. Now that was an easy fix. With the door frame out the roof went down just fine.

With the trailer folded-up and hitched to the truck we went to say our goodbyes. All in camp had gathered over by Vern and Sylvia's rig and we talked and wished Vern and Sylvia to have a safe trip to Burro Creek. And good collecting to Tony, Sandie, Katherine and Jerry as they were going over to the Baghdad-Chase to do a little collecting. Ask any of them of what they found when they were on their way back.

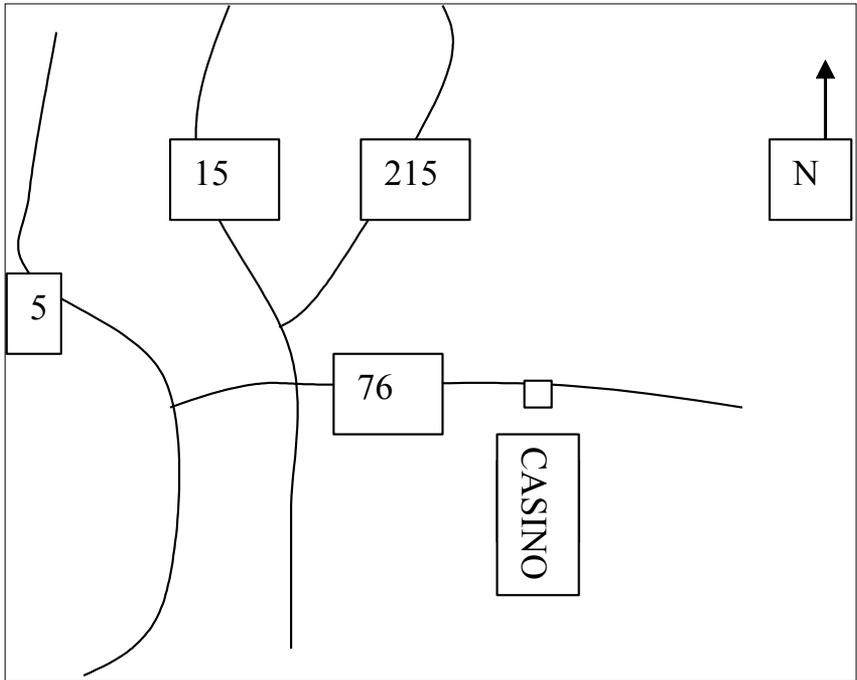
All in all I believe despite the numerous "adventures" we all shared, we had a great time. Sorry you missed out.

Later this month, on the 18th in fact we will be going to the OCEANVIEW MINE for a tourmaline hunt. This is a fee dig, but all you need do is to find one good crystal and it will be well worth it. Bring plenty to drink, lunch, a shovel and something to put your finds into. We will be meeting in the employee parking lot at the casino. The meeting time is 10:00AM; this is 45 minutes earlier than the last time. This of course means more time to dig and sift. Please call me at (626) 914-5030 or e-mail to let me know if you are going to come or not, as they will be calling me soon to get an idea as to how many are going to show. If 25 or less go the cost is \$50/person at 26 or more the cost is \$40/person.

In May the fieldtrip is to the CFMS show in Mariposa over Memorial Day weekend. This promises to be a great show and there is plenty to do and see while there. The State Mining Museum is right there on the County Fairgrounds and rock hounding trips can be interesting as well.

*Somewhere in California*  
*Joe Goetz*

Ocean View Fieldtrip  
April 18, 2004



To get to the meeting place for the **Ocean View** trip, go south on the **I-15** or the **I-5** freeway to **State Route 76**. Go East to **Pala**. Just before the gas station in front of the **Pala Casino** there is a driveway, make a right turn on to the driveway, and at the first right make another right turn into the employee parking lot. Stay to the right side of the parking lot and look for a gray van with the words “**OCEAN VIEW MINING COMPANY**” on the side of it. There may be a man with a hard hat on. Have the **LIABILITY FORM** filled out and your fee (IN CASH) ready. It is very important that you get there no later than **10:00 AM**. It is better to be a little early; allow 2 hours for the trip. If you own steel toed shoes and want to take the mine tour, bring them, though they do have steel toed shoes available. We will be led to the mine from there.

**Important phone numbers:**

Until 2:00PM on Saturday you can reach Lisa @ 1-760-489-1566

Jeff’s cell phone @ 1-760-415-9143

Lisa and Steve’s home phone @ 1-760-745-2950

**Great Truths You Learned in Childhood**

- No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- Never hold a cat and a Dust-Buster at the same time.
- You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- Don't wear polka-dot shorts under white shorts.

**Great Truths About Growing Old**

- Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

*From The Petrified Log 03/04*

**Come to the**  
**CFMS & Mariposa Mineral & Gem Show**

**Goldbug**  **Gala**

**May 28-30, 2004**

**At the**  
**Mariposa County Fairgrounds**  
**1 hour from Yosemite National Park**

**Dealers • Exhibits • Speakers**  
**Educational Activities**



For Information or a Dealer's Packet, contact  
California State Mining and Mineral Museum, P.O. Box 1192, Mariposa, CA 95336  
(209) 742-7625 Fax (209) 966-3597 Email: [mineralmuseum@stl.net](mailto:mineralmuseum@stl.net)

**Vern & Sylvia's  
Burro Creek Field Trip Report**

Sylvia and I left the Lavic Siding, after the PLS show field trip, on Sunday morning and headed for our, up to now, annual trek, to Burro Creek. While listed as a joint PLS/W field trip, no-one else joined us in our venture. Due to that fact, next year, if we journey to Burro Creek, it will not be announced as a club trip.

The weather was a little warm for the first two days, and then cooled off. The creek was low on water which allowed “passage” over to the bedrock at what we have called the “swimming hole”. There wasn’t that much material worth picking up as others had apparently crossed over also. We did run into a man who had visited the area forty years previously and remembered the road (since washed out) on the other side of six-mile crossing that lead to a house about a mile upstream. Our camp host, after using our hand-drawn map to get to the “swimming hole” and let his three dogs swim, crossed over and found the remains of that same house.

As far as the rest of the trip, it was checking out different spots and walking several washes that crossed the road, but pickings were indeed slim. We think that the area is pretty well scoured and other than a few small pieces of blue agate, our only comment was that it was nice to spend time together and get away from everyone. We decided to skip the Cottonwood Show this year, primarily because I believe that our close and dear friend, Pat Smith, had passed away several months after our visit last year.

We came home via the “southern” route, spending Saturday night at the BLM Scaddam Wash campground before fueling up on the last leg of the way home. Fuel prices are twenty-five cents a gallon cheaper in Arizona.

*Vern & Sylvia*

**Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows**

- Apr 24-25 Hacienda Heights, CA.** Puente Hills Gem & Mineral Club  
Steinmetz County Park, 1545 S. Stimson Ave.  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
- Apr 24-25 Lancaster, CA.** Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 W. Avenue H  
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
- May 1-2 Anaheim, CA.** Searchers Gem & Mineral Society  
Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W. Crescent Ave.  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5 Sun. 10 - 4:30
- May 1-2 Bakersfield, CA.** Kern County Mineral Society  
Kern County Fairgrounds, Ming Ave. & P Street  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
- May 1-2 Bishop, CA.** Eastern Sierra Gem & Mineral Club  
Tri County Fairgrounds, Sierra Street & Fair Drive  
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
- May 15-16 Conejo, CA.** Conejo Gem & Mineral Club  
Borchard Park Community Center, 190 Reino Road  
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 -5
- May 15-16 Yucaipa, CA.** Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Yucaipa Community Center, 34900 Oak Glen Rd.  
Hours: 10 – 5 both days
- May 22-23 Escondido, CA.** Palomar Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show  
Escondido Army National Guard Armory  
304 Park Avenue, Escondido  
Hours: 9-5 Sat. & Sun.
- May 28 Mariposa, CA.** Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club  
Mariposa County Fairgrounds  
California State Mining and Mineral Museum  
P.O. Box 1192, Mariposa, CA 95338

**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](mailto:calgold@earthlink.net)**

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

SporTrak™ Pro



**NEW!**

**MAGELLAN**

**The Ultimate  
 In Lightweight GPS**

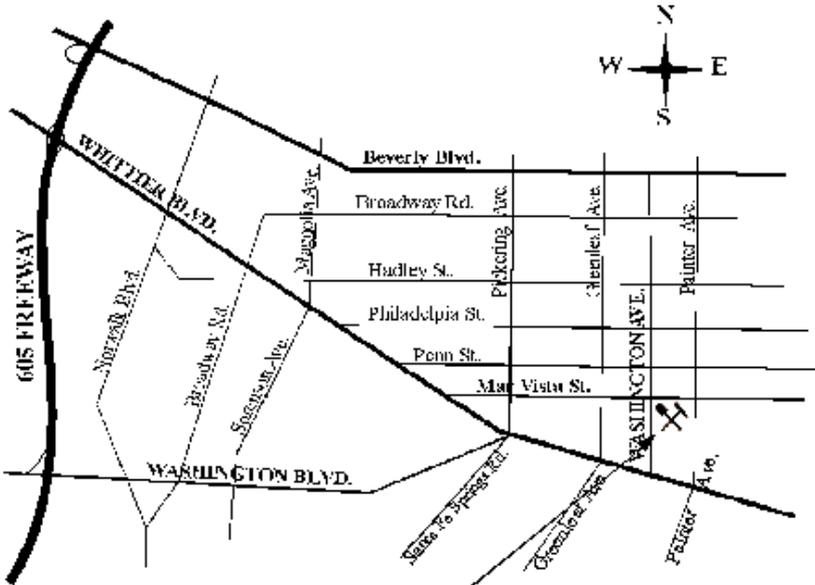
- 9 MB North American basemap of roads, waterways, parks airports...
- 23 MB of built-in memory for additional detailed map downloads
- Large LCD Display
- Rugged, waterproof & lightweight (6.1 oz)
- 3 meter accuracy via WAAS

**MAGELLAN**

Thales Navigation  
 960 Overland Court, San Dimas, CA 91773  
 Tel: 909-394-5000 ● Fax: 909-394-7070  
[www.magellangps.com](http://www.magellangps.com)

© 2002 Thales Navigation, Inc. All rights reserved. Magellan is a registered trademark of Thales Navigation. SporTrak is a trademark of Thales Navigation.

**NEW MEETING LOCATION!**  
**Whittier Community Center**  
**7630 Washington Ave. Whittier**



**MAR VISTA & WASHINGTON AVE.  WHITTIER COMMUNITY CENTER**

**Editor:** Jay Valle, 1421 Latchford Avenue, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745  
Home: (626) 934-9764; E-Mail: [jvalle@aqmd.gov](mailto: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: April 22, 2004 at 7:30 PM**  
**Location: Whittier Community Center**  
**(see page 15 for map)**