

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

Program: Karchner Caverns!

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Stained Glass Window from The Prospector Restaurant

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Wow, May already! The year is flying by and we seem to be having a very good one. We have had more visitors at meetings than I can remember having for a long time. We have had some great presentations and I am looking forward to each and every one. The Board will soon be meeting to discuss the Show and we would love to hear from anyone who is interested in pitching in or even taking on a responsibility for the show.

With so much going so well I hope to see it continue. Let's all do our part and bring in a friend or offer an inactive member a lift to one of our meetings so they can get reacquainted with everyone. On a side note, I haven't seen too many people bringing in displays. I would like to ask everyone to try to bring something to display at the next meeting. I want to see a full table of displays from a variety of people.

Have a great month and we'll see you at the meeting,

James

As a Rockhound Sees It

Sheer Luck - someone else's good find.

Hard work and brains - your own good find.

Greed - someone else's large quantity of one specimen.

Foresight - your own large quantity of one specimen.

Bunch of junk - someone else's collection.

Museum pieces - your own collection.

Stinginess - someone else's refusal to share good rock locations.

Shrewdness - your own refusal to share good rock locations.

Botched up job - someone else's first lapidary attempt.

Promising beginning - your own first lapidary attempt.

From Cross Timbers Talks 10/89 via NOC News 04/00

**WGMS General Meeting
May 27 at 7:30 PM**

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

PROGRAM:

Kartchner Caverns: The Video

Last month, **Al Burns**, our *Internet Rockhound*, presented an interesting and very entertaining program on the identification of REAL amber. He brought along several of his acquisitions and detailed his attempts to authenticate the amber carvings he had purchased on "the Web". The audience was allowed to perform a few of the non-destructive methods of testing. It was fun and educational.

This month we will be featuring a special video about the world famous Karchner Caverns, courtesy of **Bill and Izzy Burns**.

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

Izzy

**Learn something new;
The parents of the Grand Canyon**

Have you ever marveled at the incredible variations of color in the layers of sedimentary rock in the Grand Canyon? Ever wondered where the sand came from to make those layers of sandstone?

For years geological theory held that 300-150 million years ago a large mountain range ran from Colorado to New Mexico. As the mountains eroded, they deposited sediment across the Colorado plateau that would eventually be eroded by the Colorado River.

However, new technology has found another source for the sediment.

Gift of Rocks and Minerals to WGMS

Several weeks ago, Sylvia and I received a letter from Ollie Mae Maurer stating that she would like to donate the last of Walt's rocks and minerals to WGMS. Sylvia and I made arrangements to pick them up in early April. The materials consisted of rocks and minerals from a corner display case.

Ollie Mae donated the best of them for the club to use to its advantage. Sylvia sorted through them and into categories of door prizes and show prizes. We delivered the materials to Joe & Marcia's home several days later so they can offer door prizes at the meetings and save others for the October Show. There was even one or two that could be slabbed for the sales table.

Ollie Mae Maurers' memories of her husband, and his membership in WGMS, was undoubtedly the reason for her generous donation of materials to the club.

Vern & Sylvia Cliffe

Learn something new (continued)

Using uranium-lead dating processes, two researchers have discovered that nearly 50% of the sedimentary rock of the Grand Canyon can trace its origins back to a spot much further east. These particles of sediment are 1.2 billion to 500 million years old and originated in the Appalachian Mountains. The other half of the sedimentary layers are composed of older particles from an ancestral Rocky Mountain range, approximately 1.5 Billion years old, and from an even older section of the Canadian Shield north of the Great Lakes.

The new theory holds that as these ancient mountains eroded, great rivers carried their sediments across the continent to the Colorado Plateau, laying down the layers that we know and admire as the Grand Canyon.

*By Keri Dearborn, Del Air Bulletin 02/04
via The Palomar Gem 02/04*

How Do You Do ...
Quartz Art: Pierced or Intaglio Work
By Sylvia Cliffe

The simple equipment needed for the following work is diamond tipped rotary tools used in a hand held rotary piece or a flex shaft such as a Dremel or a Foredom

Pierced Work

To carve a figure inside a clear quartz crystal, choose a crystal at least one inch high and three-quarters of an inch wide. Choose a prominent side to be the front and be sure it is clear. If the side to be the front is not clear, it can be ground and polished to make it so.

Carving a figure inside the crystal, choose an image that is larger on the bottom than the top - a snowman is a good beginning figure to use. Always use diamond tipped tools. For a snowman choose three or four balls of graduated sizes. A small cylinder, a long pointed tool and a small reverse cone. Use largest ball to carve the body, medium ball for center of the figure, and the small ball for the head, each time carving to the length of the ball with slight over laps and slightly rounding/enlarging center of each carved ball. Using the small cylinder carve upward from the head to begin the hat, then using a reverse cone give the hat a border. Using long pointed tool add arms upwards. Using the smallest ball add eyes, mouth and buttons, give him a little snow by roughing the bottom if necessary and you have a beautiful snowman. Do not polish the inside as that will "obliterate" the figure!

Any figure that is largest on the bottom and graduates to the top of the figure can be carved. I have carved teddy bears, Christmas trees, reclining cats and other animals. It's necessary to choose tools to meet the needs of the shape you wish to create. Try drawing the figure first to see if it meets these requirements. You can't readily carve something larger on top than the bottom. The tools will not fit in the first carved part. I like quartz crystal because they are natural, but other quartz can be used such as tumbled ones, pre-shaped cubes, etc.

Intaglio Carving (Relief carving)

Choose a cabochon, flat crystal or piece of crystal. Be sure the quartz is clear, nearly clear is ok if it doesn't hide your design. The top side should be highly polished while the backside can be polished or sanded. The design should be figured before hand to be sure it will fit on the reverse side of your piece. Choose tools applicable for your design and make the tools work for you and the idea is to get a reverse relief figure.

Relief carving is more than scratches on the back surface, the tools actually go into the stone to give a 3-D effect. Just about any figure or design can be used for intaglio. Remember you are working in reverse from regular relief carving, so think in reverse. In working on the piece, you cannot go back and correct a mistake, you can only make (the spot) larger. With intaglio start with a simple design. If needed write the design on the face of the material with permanent pen, then transfer to the back of the stone. If the material is polished on both sides, make a small dot where you want to begin. Use a firm but light touch as tools easily slip on a polished surface. A simple daisy-like flower or group or flowers is a good beginning and can be done with two tools, a small ball and a reverse cone. Again use your tools, make them work for you. A group of daisies is enchanting and intriguing to friends. Stems and leaves can also be cut with the same tools.

Do not polish your intaglio or the design will not show.

The grit size of tools should be 100 – 150. New tools work the best. Use finer tools (150 to 600 grit) to clean up any part that seems too rough. Do not use tools of grit rougher than 100 grit because they tend to chip the quartz outside the desired design area.

Piercing and Intaglio are fun carving projects and can be completed in minutes instead of hours, faster and more satisfying the more you do.

The May Fieldtrip

CFMS SHOW – MARIPOSA


May 28 – 30, 2004

The trip for this month is to the Federation show being held in Mariposa at the Fairgrounds. We have had two trips to this area in the past and it is a very interesting and beautiful area. There is a lot to see and do even without the Show going on. The State Mining Museum is at the fairgrounds, there are cross rocks not far away. The Mariposa Club will be leading trips over the weekend, who knows where they will go but, I believe wherever it is, it's going to be fun.

There will be camping at the fairgrounds, so make your reservations real soon. Call your Federation Representative (Bill Burns - WGMS or Vern Cliffe – PLS) for further details. Hope to see you there!

Somewhere in California
Joe Goetz


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**

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For Information or a Dealer's Packet, contact
California State Mining and Mineral Museum, P.O. Box 1192, Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 742-7625 Fax (209) 966-3597 Email: mineralmuseum@stl.net

The Ten Commandments of Mineral Collecting

*A*n incident occurred recently on a field trip led by a local Club where a visitor reached into the bucket of a collector and helped himself to one of the better pieces. As rockhounds on group field trips, we need to adhere to some rules of behavior so we can collect together in peace. This article was written for mineral collectors but could equally apply to rockhounds. ED

1. Thou shalt not touch thy neighbor's minerals unless he places them in thy hands.
2. Thou shalt not test the strength of crystals by pushing, squeezing, or biting.
3. Thou shalt not drop thy neighbor's fossils, for many do not bounce properly.
4. Thou shalt not place thy neighbor's specimens in thine own pocket.
5. Thou shalt not test thy neighbor's agates for hardness by rubbing them together.
6. Thou shalt not argue the name of a mineral too violently; sometimes thou could be wrong.
7. Thou shalt not climb above thy neighbor's head when on a field trip lest thou are willing to spend the day digging him out.
8. Thou shalt protect thine eyes, hands and feet so that they can enjoy many field trips.
9. Thou shalt not encroach upon thy neighbor's diggings lest his hammer be dropped upon thee.
10. Thou shalt neither complain about nor denounce thy club officers under the penalty of being elected one thyself.

<http://www.pennminerals.com/articles.htm>

Our Mysterious River

Perhaps the most misunderstood phenomena within the vast Mojave Desert is its only river. Dubbed with many names in the past, this wrong way water course rises in the San Bernardino Mountains near Lake Arrowhead. Defying the natural divide of the mountains, it is flowing generally north, turning east at some point of its travel while playing hide and seek. Appearing above ground here, disappearing there, it also reels backwards at times in its unorthodox route of more than 120 miles across the desert.

Rolling along in its underground bed, the "Inconstant River" was named as such by mountain man Jedediah Smith who first observed this upside-down desert treasure in 1826. Many 1800's map makers used trapper Smith's choice of name for this river in their charts. The Spanish priest, Padre Garces, who crossed this "rio" in 1776, called it "Arroyo De Los Martires."

River water flow depends on the weather's whims. Heavy rain fall or melting snow causes a rushing cascade above ground along the entire course. At drier times Old Mojave is seeking refuge underground, meandering through granite basins, to pop up again where the rock is nearer the surface. At all times, a constant flow of life giving water is refreshing the desert, even though the river seems void of moisture. All early desert travelers relied heavily on this water life line for survival.

Many municipalities, including Los Angeles, Pasadena, and San Bernardino attempted to divert "Rio De Las Animas" (another name) waters to their own use. Law suits and court decisions stopped these actions. It was John C. Fremont, U.S. Government explorer, who in 1844 gave the Mojave River its lasting name. Fremont learned about this waterway from the Mojave Indian tribe in Needles. To spell Mojave as Mohahve is as correct as any other guess, for these Indians

had no written language. Fremont used Mohahve.

For its first fourteen miles, our river of mysteries tumbles to Victorville passing through a 1000 feet long rocky gorge. From these straits, known as "Upper Narrows," the flow continues three miles to enter the area called "Lower Narrows," near Oro Grande.

The late Fred Holladay, author and noted historian, called the bend in the river "Remarkable," in colorful language, Holladay told of the river's sweeping curve past Helendale, resembling the configuration of an Indian bow. Here once stood the Cottonwood Stage Station, where in 1875, Tiburcia Vasquez's outlaws plundered.

Passing through Barstow and Daggett, the water flow continues through another 90 miles of open desert to reach Afton Canyon. Fourteen miles further, now reduced to a rivulet, it disappears for the final time, losing itself into Soda Lake.

The late Victor Valley author Minter J. Steorts wrote an outstanding humorous poem about "The River That Retired" (another moniker).

The poem ends with:

"Most rivers at times
go crazy, they say.
But you, Old Mojave,
are always that way."

Crazy? Perhaps, but without the blessings and benefits of this water, the beloved Mojave Desert would be void of much which made it great.

From John M. Swisher's book, "Bits 'N Pieces of the Mohahve Desert's Weathered Past."

Sunstone Collecting Opportunity

The following e-mail was sent out on LA-Rocks which I thought might be of use and interest to our members. It is reprinted here for your information. ED

From: tourmalineminer [tourmalineminer@aol.com]

Sent: Sunday, May 02, 2004 10:18 AM

To: LA-Rocks@yahoo.com

Subject: [LA-Rocks] FREE OREGON SUNSTONE DIG

Once again, High Desert Gems and Minerals will be offering the public the opportunity to come to our 5 colored sunstone mines near Plush, Oregon and dig their own sunstones for free. Unlike most other privately owned gemstone mines, there is no entry fee to dig and there is no fee to keep whatever you dig. If you do not feel like digging, at the mine, we will also be selling red and green sunstone for \$.50-2/ct depending on size and color intensity. Schiller sunstones for \$.10-1/ct and clear sunstones for \$4/lb. We will also give one free faceted sunstone to every digger that comes up here and mentions this posting. We will also have available at the mine, tourmaline from our San Diego CA mine, the Himalaya mine as well as a variety of other gemstones. Due to recent sunstone discoveries at our mines, we are now finding colored sunstones up to several hundred carats in size. It is now a common opinion that our sunstone mines are the richest in the Plush area. We plan to be open from June 15 through the end of October. For more information on how to get to the Plush Oregon sunstone area, look up the Dust Devil Mine website which is a "purchase what you find" sunstone mine about a mile south of us. They have a good map on how to get to the area. The reds at the Dust Devil Mine are very similar to what we are getting. We also are getting lots of dichroic and green stones from one of our other sunstone mines, the Spectrum Mine. Hope to see you up there.

Chris Rose--High Desert Gems and Minerals

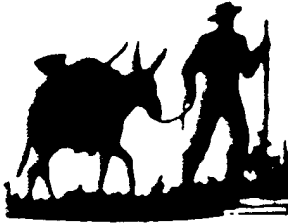
tourmalineminer@aol.com

775-772-7724

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- 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
- June 5-6 Glendora, CA.** Glendora Gems
Goddard Middle School, 859 E. Sierra Madre
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
- June 19-20 Cayucos, CA.** San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club
Cayucos Veteran's Hall, 10 Cayucos Drive
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
- June 19-20 La Habra, CA.** North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society
La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd.
Hours: Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4
- June 26-27 Culver City, CA.** Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
Culver City Veterans Memorial Complex
4117 Overland Ave., Culver City,
Corner of Overland Ave. & Culver Blvd
Hours: Sat. 10-6 Sun 10-5
- Aug. 6-8 Nipomo, CA.** Orcutt Mineral Society
St. Joseph's Church, 2985 S. Thompson Ave.
Hours: 10-5 daily

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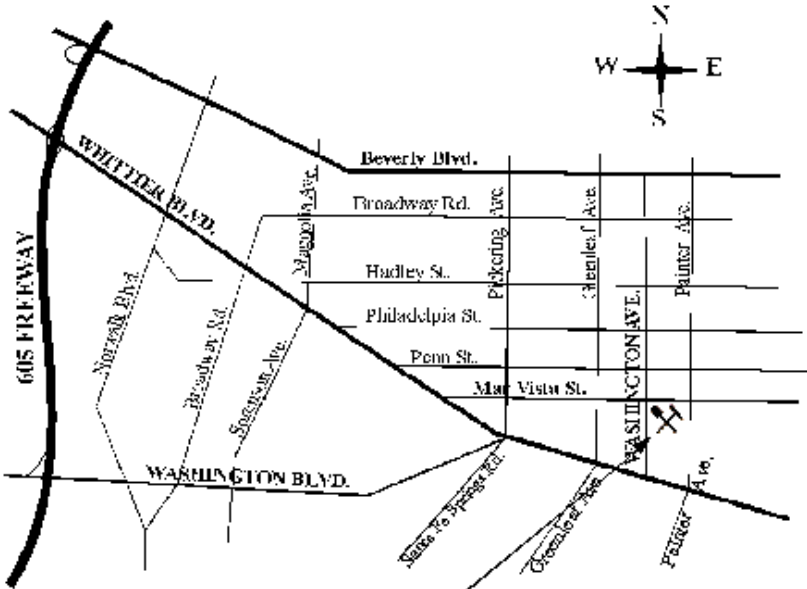
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NEW MEETING LOCATION!
Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Ave. Whittier



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
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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Location: Whittier Community Center
(see page 15 for map)