

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER

GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

POTLUCK!! SILENT AUCTION!!
(and a program)

J
U
N
E

2
0
0
4



WGMS Charter Members - Circa 1974 - See article on page 11

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Hello Everyone.

Summertime has reached us already. Summer is a time to relax and enjoy yourself and a time to catch up on some of the work you let slide around the house while the weather was less than stellar. Please remember safety first. Heat can be a very dangerous foe.

The club is no different. We have a number of projects we will be working on this summer. We have the Case Ornament Contest as well a number of other on-going projects with the club's equipment and rocks.

Help is always appreciated so if anyone is able, please see Jay, Joe or myself during the June meeting or contact us via email or phone. We'd love to see you.

Everyone please enjoy your summer and we will see you in September.

James

Cover Picture:

This picture of Charter Members (see article on page 11) appeared on the cover of The Rockhounder, October 1974. I am reprinting it here in honor of the passing of Blanche Hutcheson, who is seated in the bottom left.

Back row, from right: Ken Tharp, George Cyrog, Howard Lucy and Walt Abramson. Seated, from right: Olin Armstrong, Claude Hutcheson and Blanche Hutcheson.

**WGMS General Meeting
June 24 at 6:30 PM**

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

**Potluck
and**

Demo: How do you do a "How Do You Do..." case

You don't want to miss the upcoming June General Meeting on June 24 at 6:30 PM. Not only are we going to enjoy a culinary feast courtesy of the WGMS members, but there will be a **SILENT AUCTION** and a program which will hopefully demonstrate how to do a **"HOW DO YOU DO..."** case. Please bring a personal "How To..." book to show off at the display table.

We will be holding our June **SILENT AUCTION**. Please bring something to be auctioned off to some lucky auction action winner (it could be you!) All proceeds go to support the Club and anything un-auctioned at the end of the evening will be given to the Door Prize Chairman for use upcoming meeting door prizes.

We are also kicking off a **CONTEST** for the design of this year's **CASE ORNAMENTS**. The object is to come up with an original creation which can be duplicated to provide the needed number of ornaments. The designs will be presented and judged at the Summer Potluck/Picnic by the members present. The winner will receive 1 year free dues, or 1/2 off a couples dues.

FYI: At the annual **WGMS GEM SHOW**, a **Show Memento** is placed in each show case. These objects have included small wooden mine carts and miniature crystal-lined geodes. They have been created by many different individuals over the years and a display of case ornaments from the collections of **Kathy Valle** and **Vern & Sylvia Cliffe** will be on hand at the meeting for your viewing pleasure (if you have any old case ornaments you would like to show as well, by all means bring them to the meeting.)

So come to the **June POTLUCK** and enjoy the food and fun.

Izzy

CFMS Show Winners

Several of our WGMS members were winners at the CFMS Show held at Mariposa this year. Congratulations to all of you!

Joe Goetz - Won 2 trophies in the Capping Competition, the CFMS Trophy and the Diamond Pacific trophy.

Marcia Goetz - Took First Place for her Jewelry.

Isabella Burns - received the AFMS Scholarship Trophy for her participation in education and scholarship programs.

Vern & Sylvia Cliffe - were the Pasadena Club Rockhounds of the Year.

SUMMER PICNIC/SWIM PARTY

Saturday, July 31

A summer picnic/pool party is planned for July 31 at the home of Jay & Kathy Valle. It is potluck but hamburgers, hotdogs, coffee and iced tea will be provided. We will also be judging the CASE ORNAMENT contest entries at this party.

By-Laws Change Proposed

The WGMS Board has voted to change when dues are due. Currently, dues are payable from January 1 until the last General Meeting in March. This has always been a problem for calculating annual membership with respect to CFMS Dues, and a budgeting problem for the Treasurer.

It is therefore proposed that the By-Laws be amended to change the DUES ARE DUE date from the end of March to December 31, the actual end of the year. Our By-Laws already stipulate that new members who join at the October Show are paid up for the following year. We wish to extend this same privilege to our own regular members.

A copy of the By-Laws and proposed changes will be available at the June Potluck. At the September General Meeting, the proposed changes will be discussed then the vote will be taken to approve or disapprove the DUES date change.

**FIELD TRIP REPORT
MARIPOSA
MAY 28-30, 2004**

The May fieldtrip was special as the **CFMS Show** was held at the fairgrounds at Mariposa. The setting was perfect for the show, as if someone brought a Currier & Ives postcard to life.

If you went as a spectator, it was very relaxed. If you were putting in a non-competitive case, you only had to worry about setting up at the right time. But if you were competing, well, that was a different story.

Setting up a case for competition can be nerve-racking. While you're putting up your case, others are doing the same. Hopefully you don't bump someone else's case, or trip on all the various things that are in the aisle or each other.

Once you've successfully set-up your case you hope nothing moves while you put the case front on. Then you leave and the hardest part of competition begins...waiting for the results of judging.

Friday was the first day of the show. And when I saw someone from the Federation the urge to ask about the results was overwhelming. I did ask and was told tomorrow the results would be known. There were lots to see...the mining museum was interesting. Some exhibits were new, others were changed a bit, but all were great. There was an unveiling of a map of Fremont's Land Grant. There were lots of dealers inside and out. If you are into beads and related items you could easily spend a week's pay at any one of them. Diamond Pacific was there with a full array of items. Jewelry and minerals, rough material, slabs and misc. stuff.

Due to staying with Marcia's mom whenever we weren't at the show, we were running errands or making minor repairs. So we arrived a bit late in the afternoon, where we met a broadly smiling Bill Burns. He told us we both had done very well in competition, so well that we both would be receiving trophies! To say the least, I know I was giddy with excitement.

Once we made our way into the exhibit hall and come around the end of the row and see not 1 but 2 blue ribbons on your case is truly an experience (you almost want to yell like a banshee and jump for joy). After calming down a bit we read the comments. By reading the judges' comments you can learn from them and to produce a better case display for either the next competition or for your own club show.

We looked at the wares of the vendors that were in the exhibit hall, and left some greenbacks behind. Since there wasn't any room at the banquet we went to dinner at the Red Fox with Vern & Sylvia. It was very nice place to eat. We still had a bit of time before the presentations so we all went back to Vern & Sylvia's 5th Wheel and chatted. We left there approximate 20 minutes before 8 p.m.

We got to the Best Western, found where the banquet was being held at and went hunting for a parking space. We got in there and the presentations of Certificates for Rockhound of the Year had already been done. (which were our very own Pasadena members Vern & Sylvia Cliff). Since we got there late Vern & Sylvia got their certificates after the trophies had been awarded. Isabelle Burns got a plaque for her participation in education and scholarship programs. We heard from students who had received scholarships.

After that trophies for the competition were given out. Even though the case(s) for education won and it took just a minute or so for the trophy to be awarded, it seemed like a very long time to me.

When Burle LaRue called my name to come up I was very happy and just hoped I wouldn't trip on my own two feet (chewing gum was not an option at the moment) and kept smiling. Burle announced I had won the cabbing competition and I was receiving the CFMS Trophy as well as receiving the Diamond Pacific trophy. After handshakes, thank you's and the applause ended I then turned to go back to my seat. Burle then said, "Now for the pretty part of the Family, Marcia come on up." Marcia shook their hands, thanked them and was told "Good Job" by one of the toughest jewelry judges (from the Reno Club). Before you knew it, the whole shebang was over. We were told that if we wanted to put the trophies and ribbons into the cases to show up at 8:30 Sunday morning.

We were there at the appointed time, I told security and they got the key and in went everything into the respective cases. We then went to breakfast with Vern & Sylvia. Afterwards we went back to Oakhurst.

We returned to the fairgrounds that afternoon, did a little more shopping, and I thanked Diamond Pacific for their trophy. The show closed at 4:00 p.m. and the dismantling chaos began. Shortly the cases were empty, folded and in the truck.

The area is beautiful, the people friendly and a nice place to visit. The trip for Marcia and I was certainly memorable.

Joe Goetz

**Summer Fieldtrip
July 17, 2004**

The fieldtrip for July is to go gold panning on the East Fork of the San Gabriel River. The date is **July 17th**, that's a **Saturday**. We'll meet at the end of the road parking lot. The hike to the panning area, (bridge foundation) is approximately 3/8 to 1/2 mile. The trail is fairly level. Bring a gold pan, lunch, something to drink, hat, sunscreen, bug juice.

Lost somewhere in California
Wrong Way Joe

(Remember the best stuff is found when you're lost or next to your 4x4.)

**Sunrise at ZZZZX
April 14, 2004
by Joan Abramson**

No mighty trumpets sounded
For the sunrise I beheld.
The heavy clouds held captive
The fragile light that dwelled.

Then fingers of pink pastelite
Pushed through the darkened pall.
Like sagenite, a burst of color
Radiated all.

Dainty shades of opalite
Became the heaven's broom
And salmon-tinted soapstone
Washed out oppressive gloom.

The dawn's bright energy erupted.
Soon the glory faded.
A magic moment blessed my eyes,
By nature's gemstones aided.

From NOC News 05/04

**AFMS Scholarship Awardee
By Isabella Burns**

The CFMS Jury of Awards chose me as the honoree for the AFMS Scholarship Trophy. This provided me the opportunity to choose two students in the geology field of study who are working on a Master's Degree or a Doctorate Degree. These students will receive a \$2000.00 grant for two years. A beautiful plaque was presented to me at the CFMS Banquet at Mariposa.

The two students whom I chose were our guests at the Banquet and Show. Cody Nash of Cal Tech is one recipient. He is a biological/mineralogist and is doing his doctorate studying micro animals that are producing micro minerals deep in the earth's crust. This could be a great break through in science. Ariel Aufant, student at C.S.U., Bakersfield, is doing his masters thesis on the stratigraphy, paleogeography and hydrocarbons migration of the oil zones in Elk Hills and Coles Levee Fields of the San Joaquin Basin. This is an effort to try to discover an increase in sources of dry gas.

It was a treat to meet these hard working young men and hear them discuss these projects.

My thrills at the banquet did not end here. As chairman of the CFMS Scholarship Committee, I presented four Honorees plaques from the CFMS for their work in promoting our hobby and introduced the students who were in attendance. The following junior and senior year students of geology or lapidary arts will each receive a \$2000 grant this year:

Honoree	Student	School
Diedrick Award	Jonathan Carlson	University of California, Berkeley
Dick Flaharty	Jenni Carstensen	Cal State U. Northridge
Keri Dearborn	Ilyia Lyle	Cal State U. Northridge
Jack Williams	Molly Wingland	Humboldt State University
Greg Andersen	Afton Van Zandt	San Diego State University

Another delightful group of distinguished students who are continuing their studies in the fields of geology, mineralogy, lapidary arts. Etc.

**Blanche Hutcheson
1910(?) - March 2003**

Recently, I learned that one of our Charter Members, **Blanche Hutcheson** had died March of last year. (Her husband, **Claude Hutcheson** passed away in 2001.) Several of our members remembered Blanche and shared a few of their memories with me.

In 1949, **Blanche and Claude Hutcheson** were among a select group of 45 people who came together in order to create a club to study minerals and go on field trips. **The Whittier Gem & Mineral Society** was the result. A year later they drew up a constitution which was then voted on and approved. At that time the **Hutchesons** lived in **Whittier**. For the next few years, Blanche and Claude were very active in their new rock club. Blanche served in many capacities, including Secretary and, in 1954, President of the Club.

From **Izzy Burns** I learned that, "*Blanche is known most by current members for doing the show kitchen for many years. At the first show, Blanche cooked all night on the Friday before, to be able to serve turkey dinners at the show. At that time, the show ran from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. The public came for dinner and to see the show. She continued to cook for many years and burnt much midnight oil preparing those meals.*" **Sylvia Cliffe** remembered helping her make pasta from scratch the Friday before the show. She also remembered her as a take-charge person who always let you know her mind.

In the mid-1950s, Blanche & Claude moved to Orange and not much was heard from them until 1971 when they reconnected with the Club. In 1974 Blanche was again firmly in charge of the kitchen. A young **Sandy Fender** remembers her then, working on kitchen duty, and the way she prepared Chili for the expected crowds. Blanche would bring a 2-3 foot tall pot into which she would put all the enormous amounts of ingredients needed for the recipe. Since a regular stirring spoon was inadequate to the task of mixing such a large quantity of Chili, she used a small canoe paddle instead. Reportedly, it was hilarious to watch (I keep picturing a witches caldron and open fire). Blanche ruled the kitchen for many years after that.

Blanche Hutcheson was an avid field tripper and an ardent mineral collector. She had a fine collection of self-collected and purchased minerals which she displayed at meetings and at the annual gem show. She was also an artist in oils and canvas, and donated paintings to the Club for GRAND PRIZES at various shows. She is remembered for her friendliness, her no-nonsense directness and her all-around love of life.

From the October 1974 Issue of The Rockhounder...

25th ANNIVERSARY

Charter Members

...who started Whittier Gem and Mineral Society
(See Cover Picture)

Twenty five years ago (Fall 1949) members of Mr. Darold Henry's adult education geology class at Whittier Union High School decided they wanted a Geology club. Under the encouragement of their teacher they gathered a group of people primarily interested in mineral identification and field trips and started the Organization. By 1950 in February a constitution and bylaws had been adopted, several field trips had been enjoyed and there were 45 charter members.

Nine of these charter members are currently active in the Club; Walt Abramson, Olin Armstrong, George Cyrog, Claude and Blanche Hutcheson, Howard Lucy, Ken and Eleanor Tharp and Josephine Wallis. In looking over early club records from 1949 to 1954, Blanche Hutcheson's name appears most frequently. She was refreshment Chairman, Secretary and President during those years and again in 1974 she heads our kitchen for this show. Quite a gal! A pattern of meetings was established early, one formal meeting with a speaker and one skill-sharing meeting each month. The current Rock Gabbers are like the latter. The club gradually changed from a mineralogy club to a lapidary club where members cut and polish more than just collect and identify.

Walt Abramson is retired from teaching school and has just returned from a rockhound's paradise, a year in Australia. His basement is a goldmine of rough lapidary material that he has collected over the years. Olin Armstrong is retired from Farmers Hardware Store but keeps his rock saw busy cutting material for the sales table. George Cyrog is retired from the Whittier Post Office, travels, collects and makes beautiful custom jewelry. Claude and Blanche Hutcheson still work, so have little time for this hobby but continue their interest. Howard Lucy is in the cemetery business but still finds time to continue his interest in faceting. Eleanor Tharp has retired from teaching school in Whittier - she was not present when this picture was taken because of a recent successful cataract operation. Ken Tharp is retired from the Post Office and travels some. Josephine Wallis who was not present still wears the jewelry that her husband collected and made in the early club days.

Rockhounding is certainly a hobby that may stay with you and we recommend it highly as a retirement interest. See what it has done for our charter members of 25 years ago

Margery Horsfall, Historian

Why Math is Taught in School
(Written by a Very Wise Man)

I was riding to work recently when I observed a female driver cut right in front of a pickup truck, causing him to have to drive on to the shoulder to avoid hitting her. This evidently angered the driver and he hung his arm out his window and "flipped" the woman off.

"Man, that guy is stupid," I thought to myself. I ALWAYS smile nicely and wave in a sheepish manner whenever a female does anything to me in traffic, and here's why:

I drive 48 miles each way every day to work. That's 96 miles each day. Of these, 16 miles each way is bumper-to-bumper. Most of the bumper-to-bumper is on an 8-lane highway. There are 7 cars every 40 feet for 32 miles. That works out to be 982 cars every mile, or 31,424 cars. Even though the rest of the 32 miles is not bumper-to-bumper, I figure I pass at least another 4000 cars. That brings the number to something like 36,000 cars that I pass every day. Statistically, females drive half of these. That's 18,000 women drivers!

In any given group of females, 1 in 28 has PMS. That's 642.

According to Cosmopolitan, 70% describe their love life as dissatisfying or unrewarding. That's 449.

According to the National Institutes of Health, 22% of all females have seriously considered suicide or homicide. That's 98.

And 34% describe men as their biggest problem. That's 33.

According to the National Rifle Association, 5% of all females carry weapons, and this number is increasing.

That means that EVERY SINGLE DAY, I drive past at least one female that has a lousy love life, thinks men are her biggest problem, has seriously considered suicide or homicide, has PMS, and is armed.

Flip one off? I think not.

The Green Valley Rocker 05/04

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- 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
- August 6-8 Nipomo, CA.** Orcutt Mineral Society
St. Joseph's Church, 2985 S. Thompson Ave.
Hours: 10-5 daily
- Sept 17-19 Devore, CA.** Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
3rd Annual Gem & Mineral Tailgate
Western Regional Little League Park
6707 Little League Drive
- Sept 18-19 Paso Robles, CA.** Santa Lucia Rockhounds
Pioneer Park & Museum, 2010 Riverside Ave
Hours: 10-5 both days
- Sept 25 Los Altos, CA.** Peninsula Gem & Geology Society
Foothill Expressway & So. Springer Rd
Hours: 9:30-4:45
- Sept 25-26 Downey, CA.** Delvers Gem & Mineral Society
Downey Women's Club, 9813 Paramount Blvd
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 4
- Sept 25-26 Vista, CA.** Vista Gem & Mineral Society
Brenge Terrace Community Recreation Center
1200 Vale Terrace
Hours: 10- 5 both days

**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**

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

SporTrak™ Pro



NEW!

MAGELLAN

The Ultimate In Lightweight GPS

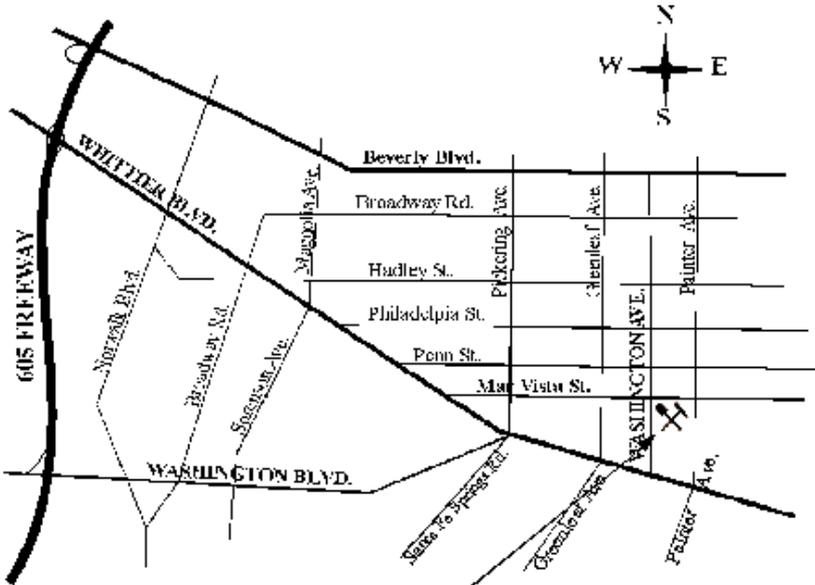
- 9 MB North American basemap of roads, waterways, parks airports...
- 23 MB of built-in memory for additional detailed map downloads
- Large LCD Display
- Rugged, waterproof & lightweight (6.1 oz)
- 3 meter accuracy via WAAS

MAGELLAN

Thales Navigation
 960 Overland Court, San Dimas, CA 91773
 Tel: 909-394-5000 ● Fax: 909-394-7070
www.magellangps.com

© 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
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: June 24, 2004 at 6:30 PM
Location: Whittier Community Center
(see page 15 for map)