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October Program: ART CLAY SILVER

SHOW TIME!

October 16 & 17

Schedule

Friday: SETUP - 3 to 8 PM

Saturday: 10 AM to 5 PM

Sunday: 10 AM to 5 PM

Sunday: TEARDOWN - 5 to 8 PM

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

It's Showtime!

That's right, the weather is finally starting to turn a little chillier, the leaves are starting to take on their autumnal colors and that means its time for our annual show. Our show is what keeps this club afloat year after year so please let's make sure we have the most successful show we can. Your board has a great show planned but there is still plenty to do. We would appreciate all the help you can give. If you can't give your time, donate a fresh baked pie or two, a case of soda or even a little something you have created to help out with the donation awards. If you can lend a hand, please let someone on the board know and they can direct you to the appropriate person to talk with. We can always use another hand!

Hopefully we will see everyone at the show, but if not, **Izzie** has outdone herself and we will be having an awesome meeting this month. Please drop by the community center and check it out.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the show. Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors and hopefully we can make this one of the best shows we have ever done.

James

Investing for Your Retirement

If you had purchased \$10000.00 of Nortel stock one year ago, it would now be worth \$49.00. With Enron, you would have had \$16.50 left of the original \$1,000.00. With WorldCom, you would have had less than \$5.00 left.

But, if you had purchased \$1,000.00 worth of Beer one year ago, drank all the beer, then turned in the cans for the aluminum recycling REFUND, you would have had \$214.00.

Based on the above, current investment advice is to drink heavily and recycle. It's called the 401-Keg Plan

Thanks to Dottie Jacobs, via the Internet

**WGMS General Meeting
September 23 at 7:30 PM**

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

Art Clay Silver

Art Clay Silver is a new method for making art silver jewelry and other silver objects. There are other metal clays that can be used to produce art objects. Our speaker is **Kathy Davis**, an instructor of **Art Clay** which is not like any other art. It is similar to ceramics, polymer clay and silver crafting. She will bring a display of Art Clay, will explain how it is used to make objects of art, and will do a demonstration.

Art Clay was started in Japan by a family owned business in 1991. Since then it has expanded to the world. In 2000 the company opened an office in Torrance and their main offices are now in Chicago.

I am sure that arrangements could be made for classes in Art Clay Silver if there is an interest.

Isabella

2004 Gem Show Schedule

IT'S SHOW TIME!!! Once again that opportunity to put on a Show and to display our prized lapidary collections has arrived. Be prepared to help out in any way you can.

Friday Oct. 15 - 3:00 to 8:00 PM

SET UP - lots of workers needed:

Set up Display Cases, Spinning Wheel, Sales Table, Donation Award Table, Etc. Assist dealers with their setups as needed.

Saturday Oct. 16 - 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Jobs include Kitchen, Sales Table, Demonstrations of Lapidary Arts

Sunday Oct. 17 - 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

The usual jobs followed by the intense **TEAR DOWN**, where once again lots of hands make fast work of the final job of the Show.

So there you have it. See you there.

JValle

By-Laws Change Vote

As you should now be aware, 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.

A copy of the By-Laws and proposed changes will again be available at the October General Meeting. At that time, the proposed changes will be again discussed, then a vote will be taken to approve or disapprove the DUES date change.

EMERGENCY!!! IN LUDLOW

My List of Dangerous Mistakes

Last month, I reprinted some e-mails regarding 4 individuals who decided to go on a field trip to the Ludlow, California area in the middle of Summer and got stuck several miles from pavement.

To recap: A small group of 4 adventurous rockhounds caravanned in 2 cars from the Los Angeles area to an area east of Ludlow known to rockhounds as an obsidian collecting area. At the point where they left pavement, one of the cars was parked and they all piled into the other vehicle, a 4x4. Away they went exploring and collecting. About lunch time, they stopped at a likely location and split up to see what they could find. One of the participants became hot (middle of summer, Mojave Desert, what a surprise!) so she got into the 4x4, rolled up the windows and turned on both the air conditioner and the radio. She did NOT turn on the motor. Guess what? The battery died. When the others returned from exploring they discovered that they were indeed stuck and at least for the moment, not going anywhere. After a reportedly heated discussion, one of the adventurers decided to go for help. He apparently had survival training and felt he could handle the challenge. It was still around noon time and getting uncomfortably warm. He carried about 2 liters of water in a biker's backpack, the kind with a sipper straw over the shoulder. He also had a cell phone which did not work where they were stuck.

Now at this point, the would-be rescuer of the group decided that, rather than try to go straight back to where he had left the other vehicle, the most important thing he could do at this perilous time was make a phone call. To this end, he left the trail created by the 4x4 tracks and went looking for a mountain to climb to try to connect with his cell phone. Several hours later and in danger of heat stroke he successfully connected from the top of a ridge. At this time he also realized that he was hopelessly lost.

Now who would you call if you were stuck in the middle of nowhere? In a similar situation in Arizona, I contacted the State Police. This gentleman contacted a friend down in San Diego. The friend sent out an email to other friends calling for someone to drive out and rescue the lost group. One of the recipients of the "help me" emails wisely called the San Bernardino Sheriffs Department who sent out Search and Rescue and the day was saved. Fortunately, no one died or was permanently injured.

This is my list of the things that were done wrong and which could have resulted in an extremely bad outcome.

1. Rock hunting in the Mojave Desert in the middle of Summer.

Rock collecting can be a risky business when it is comfortably cool. In the Desert, those risks are multiplied due to the unforgiving heat. Most Clubs and individuals wait until cooler weather before visiting these locations.

2. They went off pavement with only one vehicle.

I myself am guilty of this "error". It is not always possible to find someone to go off-roading with, so sometimes you go anyway. It is a calculated risk.

3. Most batteries will recover enough of a charge to start the engine.

Overnight, the car's battery should charge up enough to start. Apparently, they also had a one-shot battery starter but either it wasn't fully charged or they tried to use it too soon after depleting the 4x4's battery charge. Know your vehicle and your equipment.

4. They decided to hike out in the heat of the day.

Apparently, they had water enough to last the rest of the day. If you must hike out, do it in the cool of the evening or night.

5. They did not follow the 4x4 tracks back to the road.

The 4x4 left a trail from where they left pavement to where they became stuck. It should have been no challenge to follow the wheel tracks right back to blacktop. They also had a GPS unit which could have been used to mark the location of the car left at the main road.

6. A phone call was more important than getting back to the road.

Reliance on cell phones is a serious problem these days. A cell phone can be a valuable tool and can potentially save your life, but you should not rely on them as they don't always work in the remote places we go.

7. They did not call Search and Rescue.

They called a friend who was at least 3 hours away. This decision was based on the knowledge that if Search and Rescue comes to your aid, a very large bill will be handed to you after the fact. They didn't want to pay for their rescue.

I know that there were a number of other errors of judgment on this ill-fated field trip but we will stop here for now. If you have any comments or additions to the list, drop me a line and I will put it in a future bulletin.

JValle

**October Field Trip
WGMS Club Claim
October 23 to 24, 2004**

It is our pleasure this year to join several other Clubs on our annual post-Show field trip, the first "real" camp out of the season. There are a number of choice locations that we will visit including our own Honey Onyx Claim. I have to tell you, the rains have helped us out somewhat and new material has been exposed for our probing picks and hammers.

Two campsites have been selected. The first is in the nice campground located at the historic "ghost town" of Calico. This is a pay location, with bathrooms and running water. For those who prefer a more primitive camp experience, rockhounds will also be at the Paul Bunyan Agate claim north of Irwin Road off Hwy 15. Either way, we will be meeting up on Saturday and Sunday morning and enjoying some premiere classic rock collecting.

Maps and directions will be available at the WGMS Gem Show or contact Joe Goetz at (626) 914-5030 for up-to-the-minute info on the upcoming field trip weekend.

The Parrot and the Repairman

One day, Mrs. Smith's dishwasher quit working. She calls a repairman and tells him, "Let yourself in to fix this. My bulldog won't bother you. But, do NOT, under ANY circumstances, talk to my parrot!"

The repairman arrives and finds a huge, mean-looking bulldog. As promised, the dog leaves him alone.

But the parrot drives him nuts with constant yelling, cursing, and name-calling. Finally, the repairman can't contain himself and yells, "Shut up, you stupid bird!"

To which the parrot replies, "Get him, Spike!"

*Submitted by La Vera Valle
<http://www.classmates.com/>*

The Needles

Before recorded history, river bridges or railroads, large sections of the 190 square miles of Mojave Valley, where the city of Needles, California partly covers, sheltered an aboriginal people who lovingly homesteaded and tilled that thirsty land. Ancient petroglyphs, intaglios of human forms and artistic expressions in cave paintings show tribelets of Indians have lived there continuously for thousands of years. Towering, sharp pointed earth and rock peaks in the south of the valley were called, The Needles, and named such by Lt. A.M. Whipple in 1854. Whipple, an army engineer, was surveying for a railroad trackage route and safe Colorado River crossing site. Rich deposits of gold, silver, copper, and lead were discovered in the vicinity bringing hordes of hopeful miners to this 463 feet elevation territory. In Mid 1883, a small mixed Anglo colony was formed on the Arizona side of the river. Within months, "The Needles" as it was called, moved directly across into California and became, "Needles." Here, befriended by the river, converging rail traffic, local Indians, and the Old National Trails Road (later Route 66) a city began to develop vigorously. Its long summers and short winters are attractive reasons for tourists from colder zones arriving yearly to enjoy better winter weather and friendly hospitality.

Starting in 1776, various explorers like Padre Francisco Garces, Jedediah Smith, and Kit Carson entered California by fording the Colorado River up stream from where a railroad bridge would span the waterway over a century later. Needles, founded in 1883 and incorporated by 1913, experienced rail travelers arriving via Albuquerque, New Mexico in increasing numbers. While most ventured on to Los Angeles, 300 miles away, a few remained where rain fall averages five inches a year and neighborly, non-plastic people have always nestled.

Paddlewheel steamboats of various sizes plied the Colorado servicing mines and scattered settle-ments since the early 1850's. Steamboats aren't necessarily smaller than steamships. The term "boat" implies the craft is used on inland waters while "ship" denotes an ocean going vessel. The Port of

(Continued on Page 10)

Needles, once an important landing between The Sea of Cortez and the rapids below the Grand Canyon, assisted supporting the locality until the railway and yet to come, motoring public, brought their dollars to this growing oasis stopping point. After Route 66 faded from roadmaps, Interstate 40 filled the need for an asphalt link across the Southwest, more or less following the famous older historic road. With an 1890 population of 3,600, largely families tied to A.T. & Santa Fe, stores and services expanded and lawbreakers common to most growing town-ships weren't tolerated. California Townships, beginning in 1850, were required by law to have at least one part time justice of the peace, including a constable or deputy sheriff. Having no early jail, citizens hired Dan Murphy as the first constable and Frank Monaghan as its first justice of the peace. Both men were leading businessmen in the community. Whomever Murphy arrested, Monaghan adjudged as guilty. Peacebreakers were regularly handcuffed to telephone poles or housed in an empty railroad freight car. These improvised calaboooses were stifling hot in the summer and shivering cold during winters. Such lodgings proved a highly effective deterrent in controlling home spun hoodlums.

Currently having a full time population of 6,000, and being 90 miles south of Hoover Dam, Needles first newspaper hit the dirt streets there in 1891. A June 6, 1908 news account told of Mojave Indians objecting to ill treatment at native funeral ceremonies by white people. Curious "whites" with cameras invaded the privacy of some dying or dead Indians against the will of relatives. Prehistoric Mojave villages in and north of today's Needles, boasted members of a strong and war like organized tribe. Living in huts framed with poles and roofed with a thatched covering, Mojave's cultivated food and used a vast trading network of trails for bartering with others. These natives enjoyed a fine understanding of humor and openly showed their emotions. Generally, Mojave's who's early unwritten name was Aha Macava, meaning people of or along the river/water, begot males having noble figures and gigantic statures. The women were often short, stout and had round jolly faces. Both sexes displayed active, alert minds and a high degree of intelligence. James A. Barnes, in editing "The Lore of the Mohave (sic) Nation," 1958, claimed the tribe outranked most others in political, economical and social finesse and stature. Train passengers before dining cars existed, were fed in Harvey House

Restaurants at prime depots along the way. Needles, noted for its fine diner, usually had local Indians parading among passengers selling native crafts. These same baskets, pottery, and rugs then bought for pennies are worth many dollars today. One interesting local native princess called "Indian Georgia," enjoyed peering into homes spying on the inhabitants by cupping her hands against the window glass for better viewing. In 1927, a sizable group of boys had gathered for a meeting in the Jernigan Family's front room. Georgia peeked in. Soon afterwards she met Mrs. Jernigan on the street and stated, "Squaw, heap many boys!" and then bowed respectfully to the supposed mother of all those lads.

Maggie McShan, an outstanding author with strong historical ties to Mojave Valley, came there in 1936 as a bride. She and her late husband Frank (Mac), dedicated their long, active lives to properly recording Needles past and protecting their beloved desert from man's harming intrusions. Maggie recalls vividly many incidents during the Great Depression when hoboes afoot or riding the rails and "grapes of wrath" types trekked through Needles asking for hand outs. Residents, hard pressed themselves, aided as they could. In one 24 hour event in the 1930's, 25 tramps approached one house seeking food. It was said all received something to eat. Local Gambel Quail, Chucker Partridge and Pheasant with hot biscuits plus all the trimmings was offered the public in a 1941 newspaper ad. While no price was given, the same paper earlier reported Sirloin steak dinners at 15¢ and Porterhouse steaks costing 35¢. Since the Spanish-American War, Mojave warriors have fought for their country in every major war alongside those from other local families. Patriotism isn't alien to Needles. It's been the standard way of life there since 1883. A recent newspaper story appearing in the Norwich, England Evening News, tells of grave danger coming to the Mojave Desert from gigantic garbage dumps springing up to handle Los Angeles's unwanted trash. "The general eco-system of the desert is going downhill fast," quotes the column and long article. The United Kingdom's concern for our beautiful desert is widely shared worldwide and especially through-out the Mojave Desert areas.

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

Remote Travel Tips

Portions of the Surprise Resource Area are extremely remote, with unimproved roads and no services. Cell phones are not dependable in much of the area.

- Let someone at home know your travel plans and a time you will return. If you do get lost or break down, the people at home will know where to start looking. Also, let these people know if your plans change.
- Check local travel conditions before you depart and again at time of travel.
- Learn about the area, get accurate maps, and plan your agenda conservatively if you are traveling to an unfamiliar area.
- Bring gear appropriate to your activity, the expected range of conditions and the planned length of your stay. Many people have been fooled by changing conditions.
- Proper clothing for your activity (sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, or warmer clothing for changes in weather).
- Good walking shoes (or boots) and walking stick.
- Food (High energy - non-melting snacks).
- Water; at least one gallon per person per day. Purification tablets and high tech water filters are recommended also.
- Know how to read maps, use a compass, and gain a knowledge of the area prior to trip (note landmarks as you travel). Carry a GPS unit with you, and know how to use it.
- Small first aid kit., waterproof matches (in a case or film canister).
- Camping and emergency tools (depending on transportation) -- knife, road flares, rope or cord/ duct or electrician's tape, small tarp or ground cover.
- Day pack, cargo carrier or saddle bag to carry the preceding gear
Vehicle tools, high-lift jack, extra fuel, and spare parts (spark plugs, fan belts, hose clamps), depending on your vehicle.

If Lost, Stranded or Broken Down

- Stay with your vehicle or otherwise make yourself visible.
- Stay put, unless you have a clear and specific destination.
- Avoid walking during the heat of the day; morning and evening walking is better for conserving your body's moisture.
- Seek shelter from the elements, but try to make yourself visible (like with smoke or a signal fire, or a bright colored tarp).

Courtesy of the BLM

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- Oct 16-17 Whittier, CA. Whittier Gem & Mineral Society**
Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Avenue
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
- Nov 6-7 Anaheim, CA. American Opal Society**
Anaheim Clarion Hotel, 616 W. Convention Way
Hours: 10-5 both days
- Nov 6-7 Oxnard, CA. Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society**
Performing Arts Center, 800 Hobson Way
Hours: Sat 9-5 Sun 9-4
- Nov 6-7 Ridgecrest, CA. Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society**
Desert Empire Fairgrounds, Mesquite Hall
520 S. Richmond Road
Hours: 9-5 both days
- Nov 13-14 Palmdale, CA. Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club**
Palmdale Elks Lodge, 2705 East Ave. Q
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4
- Nov 20-21 Victorville, CA. Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club**
San Bernardino County Fairgrounds
14800 Seventh St., Victorville, CA
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun.: 9 - 4
- Nov 27-28 Barstow, CA. Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society**
Barstow Community Center, 841 South Barstow Road
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
- Dec 4-5 San Bernardino, CA. Orange Belt Mineralogical Society**
San Bernadino Woman's Club
503 W 31st Street; 31 st. & E Streets
Hours: 10-5 both days

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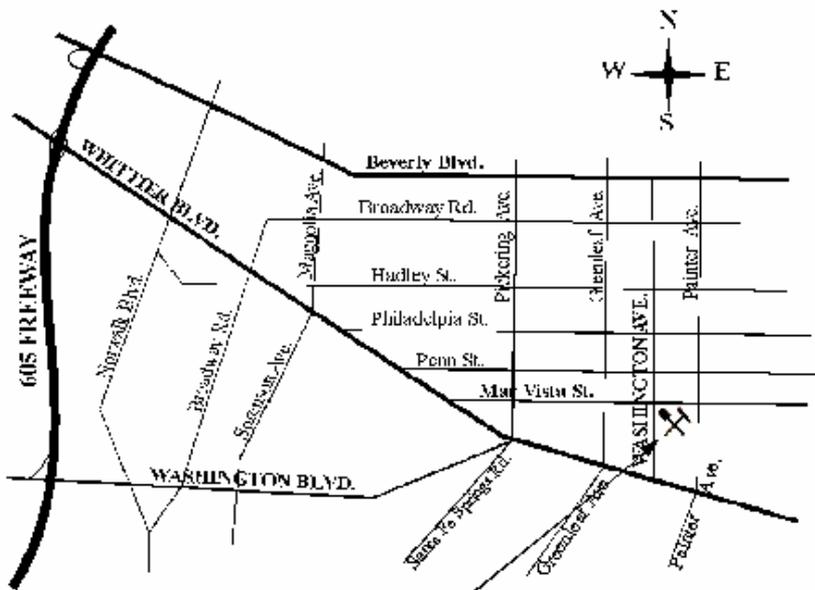
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WGMS MEETING LOCATION!
Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Ave. Whittier



MAR VISTA & WASHINGTON AVE.  WHITTIER COMMUNITY CENTER

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Affiliations



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(see page 15 for map)