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WHITTIER



ROCKHOUNDER

**GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY**

**November 18th Program
Video "Russian Treasures"
and
Silent Auction Action**



2004 Show Case Ornament, designed and produced by Jerry Turner

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Hello Everyone,

I would like to start off by thanking everyone for a wonderful show. Our show was again a success and it is due to all of the help and support we get from all of our members. There isn't enough space here to thank everyone individually for everything they did but you all know who they are. If you get a chance take a moment or two to thank them next time you see them. They are the reason we have not only a great show but also our monthly meetings and everything else we do. I would also like to invite everyone to let me know if there is anything you would like to see at the show or any ideas you may have for improving next year's show.

Moving on, I would also like to wish everyone a pleasant holiday season as we head into Thanksgiving and the rest of the holidays.

We will also be having a silent auction at the next meeting. Please bring along something you would be willing to part with that someone else may have a use for. Also take a few moments at the meeting to look at the materials at the auction and bid on them if at all possible.

Thank You ,

James La Borde



**WGMS General Meeting
November 18 at 7:30 PM**

This month, we have selected a special video featuring **Bob Jones**, Editor of **Rock and Gem**, as he visits various Russian palaces, museums and mines and shows us great treasure, including emeralds, alexandrite, topaz, tourmaline and Charoite. And of course, Bob is his usual entertaining self.

We are also featuring a SILENT AUCTION with several fine minerals and slabs which will be donated by the Club. This is an opportunity for you to bid on quality "stuff" with only a small outlay of "dough". Please bring something to donate to the AUCTION and some cash to bid with.

Come relax and enjoy the video and the Auction Action.

Isabella

2005 Slate of Officers

The year is winding down and it is time to prepare for next year's business. With that in mind, here is the Slate of Officers which were nominated at the October Meeting.

- President.....James LaBorde
- 1st Vice-President Isabella Burns
- 2nd Vice-President..... Art Ragazzi
- TreasurerJay Valle
- Federation Director Bill Burns
- Directors.....Les Roy, Jerry Turner and
.....Jack Zywocienski

You may notice that this Slate of Officers looks remarkably like this years elected officials and you would be right.

The 2005 Elections will be conducted at the November Meeting. Remember it is the 3rd Thursday, November 18 at 7:30 PM. See you there.

Show Report

Congratulations and thank you for putting on a wonderful show!!! The 2004 "*How Do You Do...?*" Gem Show was brought off with the usual fine work by our WGMS members and friends.

The show started off Friday with **Joe Goetz** renting a trailer and picking up the show display cases and other show "stuff" from its current storage location with the timely assistance of **Jay Valle** and **Art Ragazzi**.

Next came the organized confusion of setup at the Whittier Community Center. Setup is always stressful and there never seems to be enough time to get everything ready. Fortunately, we had lots of help and it all got done. Our show dealers arrived throughout the afternoon, including our 2 new dealers, **Gems by Hill** and **The Agate Gallery**, with the last dealer arriving at about closing time for the night.

Saturday awoke to final preparations by the WGMS and dealers before we opened the doors to our guests at 10 AM. The weather was perfect and **our Saturday attendance was apparently helped by 2 unrelated things, a baseball game outside in the park and a train wreck near the 605 Fwy.** Someone from the baseball game came looking for food and we directed them to our Kitchen. Pretty soon, we had lots of people taking a break and enjoying our chili dogs and other delicious food items (um um um!). The train wreck was a new one for us. Visitors apparently could not get out of town with the freeway completely shut down, so they came to see us. Go figure. **We were also helped hugely by a front page article in the Whittier Daily News featuring David Martinez and his fine silver and inlay work front and center with a great picture.** The article informed a lot of local residents about the show and many came to check out the event and to meet **David**. Just for the record, **the Club was formed in 1949**, not 1950. **George Cyrog is our only living Founding Member left**, and he and **Clarence Pool (Life Member) are both in their 90s. Les Roy, who is still a very active and a key member of WGMS is 82 years young.** Each year, **George** donates one of our most popular Grand Prizes, a gold ring set with a gemstone (sometimes he donates 2 rings), and **Clarence** donates large quantities of tumbled stones for use in Grab Bags, the Spinning Wheel, and other Community programs such as the Boys and Girls Club of Whittier. We are proud of all 3 of them and offer them our sincerest thanks for all they do for the WGMS.

Sunday brought threatening skies and more guests. Sunday is usually a day to

(Continued on Page 10)

**Whittier Club Claim Fieldtrip Report
Oct. 23rd & 24th, 2004**

The trip out to the camp was uneventful with the exception of the Devore interchange. The weather was pleasant, not too hot or cold. We had met up with Vern and Sylvia on National Trails Highway just outside of Barstow. The question on my mind was what was the condition of the dirt road out to the Paul Bunyan agate area? I knew we would find out very quickly.

The road wasn't at all washed out as you might expect after the heavy rains that had been in the desert a week earlier. Ed and Corrine Imlay were in camp already and via radio guided us to the last turn, then into camp. Ed had already started collecting around camp and at the base of the mountain.

After we had set up our trailer, the sun was setting and so Marcia & I decided to go dinner at Peggy Sue's. When we got back we visited with Vern & Sylvia for a bit and soon it was time for bed. I tell you when we left their trailer to go back to ours; it sure was cold out there. Soon the only thing I did was count sheep and dream.

The morning seemed to come all too soon! We went back to Peggy Sue's for breakfast, as did Vern & Sylvia. On the way out we met up with Jay coming in on the short cut. After breakfast we all headed over to the club claim. And there was quite a crowd; there were members from North Orange county club, La Puente club and possibly some from the Monterey Park club. They were camped at the Calico Campground, on this trip people were spread out in different camp locations. The road to the claim had been bladed thanks to Tony Fender's asking Brubaker-Mann to fix the road since they were repairing the main road; it made going in much easier. Thanks again, Tony, I do appreciate your efforts!

After being at the claim for a bit, some of us headed out to go to the red agate area. The same processes of erosion that wrecked the road had done us a great favor and exposed a great deal of material to collect. I think we could have been there for a week and not made a dent! After a bit N.O.C. went over to Mule Canyon and they had a paleontologist with them and from what I was told they had a very interesting and fun visit. They were shown elephant footprints that were in the rock going straight up the canyon wall, it goes to show you that even if you've been somewhere many times there is always something else to see, discover, learn and different. But then, again for us rockhounds, we already knew that.

We decided that we head back to camp and just then Todd and Todd

Christopher Neikirk, and Luke from PLS showed up. So we stayed a little bit longer and then we headed back to camp with them following. When we got back we had lunch while Todd and Luke collected. We showed them where another red agate area was about 1 mile away. After a few wrong turns and 5 miles we did get to the right area (it actually is 1.3 miles from camp, when you know where to turn, that is). Well we arrived at the place and Todd went and did an imitation of Jackrabbit Jason. He found some chalcedony but not much else. At that point Todd and company left and Jay Valle arrived and he and I walked toward the hill which was most west of the low hills and we started to find the agate. When I was walking around near the road as Todd was turning around I found the most unusual find of rock, some of it formed really odd that is, it was flat on one side and some the desert wind had polished! It didn't take long to figure out that dumortierite is not found in this area. I had found someone's dump pile. Before long it was time to go back to camp as the shadows grew longer.

We had a nice potluck and we ate inside Vern & Sylvia's 5th wheel as it was dark outside. After dinner, I went out to burn the trash and get the campfire started. Jay headed over to visit with Tony & Sandy who camped at the club claim. About a half hour later someone pulled into camp. His name is Henry and he had been to the show the week before. Soon Vern & Sylvia, Marcia, Henry and I were sitting around the campfire and Henry heard about fieldtrips past. Soon all the wood had burned up and I wasn't going to sit in the dark and it was getting cold. We bid Henry goodnight and just as I was going to join Marcia, Jay came back and we talked for a few minutes and then I went in.

Sunday was here so soon, we made coffee and had first breakfast (cookies) while waiting for the sun to come over the ridge. Jay came by and talked a bit and soon we heard noises emanating from Henry's truck. We offered him coffee but didn't have an extra cup, but a quick knock on the Cliffe's trailer and he had a cup. I had finished having second breakfast and Marcia had started to straighten up the tent trailer, Jay had started to look for Paul Bunyan agate at the base of the mountain. Soon I had started looking as well and before you know it Henry was right in the thick of it. Walking in a criss-cross manner the climb was not difficult at all. Henry was the smartest of the three of us as he had a bucket and a rock hammer. Jay and I only had pockets; it is amazing how much weight would go into the coat and pants pockets. We went all the way up to the diggings. There is material in the diggings, somewhat different than what was taken from the place in years past. Coming back down was much more difficult than you might think. Just the way you lean could mean a slow decent or tumbling headfirst if not

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**California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Annual Thanksgiving Rockhounding
Field Trip to Wiley's Well Area
(CO-OP members can attend)**

by Bob Fitzpatrick

CFMS Field Trip Chair - South, 2003

TRIP LOCATION - 10 miles south west of Blythe, California.

WHEN - Thanksgiving Weekend, November 24th - 28th, 2004.

SPONSOR - CFMS Field Trip, South.

ORGANIZATION - CFMS.

MATERIAL TO COLLECT - All types and colors of Agate & Jasper, Crystal filled Geodes, Botryoidal Psilomelane, Fire Agate, Chalcedony Roses, Zeolite Crystal filled Amygdules, Calcite Rhombs, Petrified Wood and much more (fresh air & blue sky).

LEADER - Bob Fitzpatrick. RUROCKY2@aol.com or call me at (951) 845-3051

PROPOSED SCHEDULE - Each day we will break up into smaller groups where each group will be going to a different collecting area. This way everyone can collect at all collecting sites. Thanksgiving Day we will have a potluck dinner early in afternoon.

DIRECTIONS TO CAMPSITE - Exit Interstate 10 at Wiley Well Road approximately 10 miles west of Blythe and 31 miles east of Desert Center. Follow Wiley Well Road south for 12.5 miles to the campsite on the West side of road at the Riverside and & Imperial Co. lines. Watch for Club and CFMS signs to camp site.

VEHICLE - The Road from the Interstate 10 is dirt to the camping site, should be okay for 2 wheel drive cars, trailers & motor homes, from the

campsite to collecting areas, 4 wheel drive and pickups only.

CAMP & FACILITIES - This is a dry camping area, no water, no services, no hookups, no toilets.

TOOLS - Collecting bags and boxes, digging tools, rock hammer, eye gear, spray water bottle, etc. Be sure to bring your camp chair to sit in at night around the fire at night.

SAFETY CONCERNS - Do not lick the rocks, use sun screen, stay away from rattle snakes, use bug spray, be aware of flash floods, be extra careful and don't get lost.

CLIMATE & WEATHER - It can be hot during the day and cold at night, it could rain.

CLOTHING - Appropriate for this time of year.

OTHER REMARKS - All AFMS & CFMS club members and their guests are welcome to join us. Come for the day or camp out with us. Bring food, lots of water, cellphone, walkie talkie, GPS, first aid kit, camera, flashlight, etc., and lots of firewood for the campfire at night. If you need a motel or supplies they are available in Blythe. Don't forget we will have a potluck on Thanksgiving Day, so bring a dish to share and your own place setting. The OBMS Club will furnish the turkey. Each night after dark we will have a campfire where we can all join together and have a good time roasting marshmallows, telling jokes or just talking about the good OLE times. I should be arriving at the campsite around 11 a.m. on Wed. the 24th. Each day we will be leaving camp approximately 8 a.m. and drive to the collecting areas.

You must observe the AFMS code of ethics and sign a consent and assumption of risk waiver of liability form. Hope to see you there.

For additional information:

Email me at RUROCKY2@aol.com or call me at (951) 845-3051

Bob Fitzpatrick
CFMS Field Trip Leader South

Fieldtrip Report
(Continued from Page 7)

careful.

Jay, Vern & Sylvia and Henry went back to collect more of the agate where we had been before. Jay had discovered a very nice seam of the agate and came back to camp to retrieve his heavier digging tools. He was able to extract some nice size pieces. We headed home while this was going on.

The Thanksgiving trip is being changed to Wiley's Well, the annual Federation fieldtrip (see pages 7 & 8). More information is available at the California Federation website, www.cfmsinc.org.

Have a very nice Thanksgiving, wherever you are.

A fieldtrip planning meeting is going to happen in January at our house. Please let me know what date would be best for you for the meeting date.

Somewhere in California
Joe Goetz

Show Report
(Continued from Page 5)

coast. Until closing time, it is usually pretty calm.

The end of the show always features a marathon drawing for the remaining donation award prizes. We had an eclectic selection of donated items, including a **metal detector** purchased by the Club, a **Magellan GPS** donated by **Thales Navigation**, a **14-K ring with a jade cabochon-cut stone** donated by **George Cyrog**, a polished chunk of **dinosaur bone** donated by **Vivian & Larry Rice**, mineral specimens and many other prizes donated by our WGMS members and dealers. **James LaBorde** "called" the prize winners throughout the show and at the end we had lots of help distributing the prizes to the lucky winners.

Teardown was a reverse of the high tension act of setup. Display cases were emptied and disassembled and the sales table packed up. Everything went back into the trailer and various cars. The rain finally arrived later that night after everything was packed and gone. On Monday, **Jay, Joe and Art** put all the show "stuff" back onto the shelves until next year when we will do it all again.

2004 Show Jobs Performed

The following list shows where members mainly served during the show. I know several of these people moved around, filling in wherever and whenever needed. I want to apologize in advance if I have missed anyone here. Thank you all for your timely and valued support.

Demonstrations: Les, Ginger Ragazzi, Bill Burns, Sylvia Cliffe, Virginia Pace, Cheri George, Dottie Jacobs, Tony Fender

Donation Awards: Kathy & Jason Valle, Lisa Walker (Kathy's friend), Sandie Fender, James LaBorde (called prizes)

Greeters table: Jack Zywocki, Izzy Burns, Art Ragazzi, James LaBorde

Kitchen: Kathy Turner, Annmarie Nastasi, Vivian & Larry Rice, Flo Zywocki

Sales Table/Spinning Wheel: Joe & Marcia Goetz, David Martinez, Bill Siefert

Security: Vern Cliffe

Treasurer, Photographer: Jay Valle

Setup/Teardown: Rudy Montenagro, Jason Badgely, Bill Siefert, and the usual suspects

Signage, Publicity and Case Ornaments: Jerry Turner

Other Special Thanks:

Bill Siefert - donated plants and groceries

George Cyrog - donated a Grand Prize

Clarence Pool - donated tumbled stones

Jadite and Nephrite Jade Questions

Questions

How on earth can two minerals of different chemical composition, hardness, color etc, be called Jade?

How on earth can this treasure of the Orient (nephrite) be a non-descript color (unless you like mutton fat) and nearly worthless as you suggest?

How on earth can green Jade as we all know it be worth tens of thousands of dollars and only known for a few hundred years?

Reply to Questions

The jade questions really require more in depth response than I am about to give it.

Our term jade is derived from the Spanish phrase "*pedra de ijada*" (Loin stone) because of it's reputed power to cure kidney ailments. The Chinese word "*Yu*" which we translate as *Jade* actually means any stone suitable for carving. The tourist trade in the orient often finds this adjusted to mean any carved greenish stone.

Jade has been utilized by man since the stone ages. Usage (archeological) is documented back to 2100 bc in China, Japan, Mayan, and the Artic small tool culture. Usage preceding 2500 bc is documented in the Indus valley and Nile valley civilizations.

To get right down to it, Jade has stayed with man through the ages because it is both useful and beautiful. Both nephrite and jadeite have similar properties especially in a sense that is rarely defined, toughness. Both jadeite and nephrite are tough stones because of their mineral structure. Tough stones make good tools, especially for digging, defense and wood working. Somewhere along the way, beauty of the stone became more important and jade was carved for beauty or ceremonial reasons. When we get down to it, Jade has been highly valued since the beginning of man's civilizations.

Technically, nephrite is not classified as a mineral, but a variety of the actinolite-tremolite series. The white-gray nephrite are usually closer to trem-

olite in composition while the green - yellow - brown are closer to actinolite. Chemical composition is usually listed as $\text{Ca}_2(\text{Mg, Fe})_5(\text{OH})_2(\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{11})_2$. The fibers of actinolite and tremolite must be interlocking for the stone to be called nephrite because the interlocking feature imparts the minerals toughness.

Jadeite is a separate mineral species, a sodium aluminum silicate. Ideal composition of $\text{NaAl}(\text{SiO}_3)_2$. Jadeite may actually grade into other minerals in the pyroxene group. For example, it may include high concentrations of diopside or acmite.

What causes the colors of Jade? Trace elements form many of the colors in jadeite. As an example the lavender shades can be caused by manganese or iron charge transfer. Color variations in nephrite are mostly attributed to increasing concentrations of iron. Green may have traces of chromium or diopside. The white and gray nephrite has much less iron.

Jadeite can be almost any color. Nephrite is mostly a range of white, green, yellow brown, brown and black.

What makes for value are those old standards of commerce; supply and demand. There are incredibly abundant supplies of nephrite throughout the world. Color and translucence of nephrite have more to do with value because of the sheer abundance of nephrite off colors (olive green to black). Jadeite is extremely scarce. Basically, Jadeite comes from one of several sources; Burma, Gautemala, California, Japan and Switzerland. When you really get down to it, fine color highly translucent jadeite is only available from Burma. The fine stuff is rare and highly sought after.

What makes for the best color? Well, the mutton fat variety has the history behind it. It was reserved as privileged ornaments of the Chinese emperor (Laufer, 1912). Other than that, rarity and beauty of color, intensity of color, translucence, for example; a translucent bright medium green is usually more valuable; a dark olive complexioned opaque green is much less valued.

For a really excellent work about Jade I highly recommend the book "Jade" published by Lorenz Books. There are a number of contributing authors with consulting editor Roger Keverne.

Ted Kowalski

Via Rockhounds Digest, Vol 3, Issue 26

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

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

What a Sport

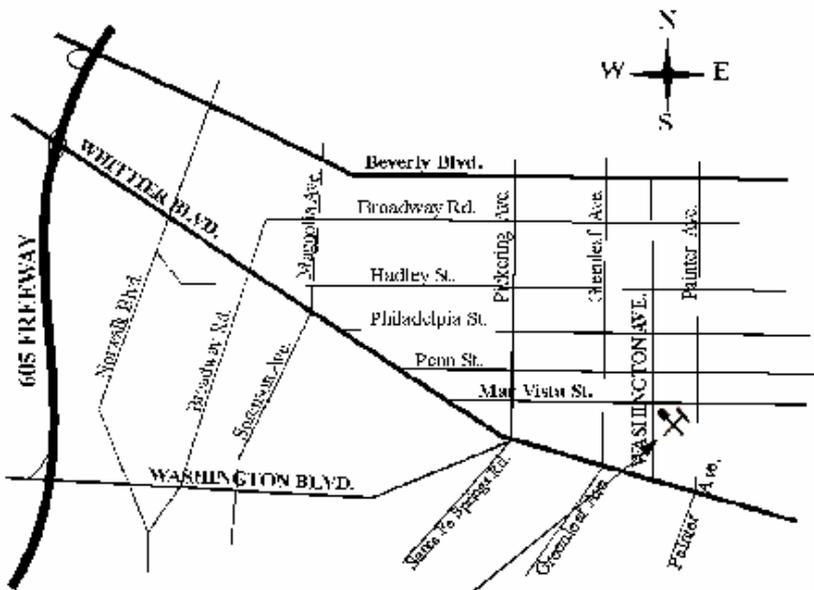
I got my wife a riding lawn mower over the weekend.

I know what you all are going to say, "I spoil her too much." But you all know me, nothing but the best for my baby!

Submitted by LaVera Valle



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



MAR VISTA & WASHINGTON AVE.  WHITTIER COMMUNITY CENTER

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Affiliations



California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
 American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
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Location: Whittier Community Center
(see page 15 for map)