

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

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Program: The Crystallization of Water



Escaping the Flood - reaching safe ground during a recent desert adventure (See article on page 6)

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe that yet another year has come around. We had a good year last year and I look forward to working with the board to make this year even better. We will be trying some different things this year and would love to hear from anyone who has an idea or suggestion. If there is something you would like to see by all means please let us know.

As always we are always looking for volunteers for the various projects so if you are able please let anyone on the board know that you are willing to help out.

Thank You and May you all have a prosperous new year.

James



WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, January 27

at 7:30 PM

WATER CRYSTALS

With all of the wet stuff falling from the sky this month, it seems that a program on the crystallization of H₂O would be good at this time.

Water crystals are really very pretty and there never are two alike. I will not suggest that you try catching some to study, because I do not wish for you to have snow on the meeting.

Izzie

**Fieldtrip Planning Meeting
2005 Field Trip Schedule**

The WGMS Field Trip Committee met at Joe & Marcia Geotz' home on January 16 to decide on the 2005 field trip schedule. This is where we want to go this year:

- January 28-30 Quartzsite
- February 19-21 Opal Mountain
- March 19-20 Broadwell Dry Lake sites
- April 30-May 1 Green Ash Hills/Calico Area
- May 28-30 Clear Creek
- June 10-12 CFMS Show, Roseville
- October 22-23 WGMS Honey Onyx Claim
- November 24-27 Stonewall Pass/Lone Pine

Some of these trips can be done on a one-day basis and there will also be several day trips scheduled throughout the year. We will keep you posted at the regular meetings and in this bulletin of changes and specific information as each trip approaches.

Joe Goetz

Monthly Meeting Schedule for 2005

This is the schedule of WGMS General Meetings for the new year. These meetings are held at the Whittier Community Center (see map on page 11) and, except for June and December, they all start at 7:30 PM. In June and December we meet an hour earlier at 6:30 PM and the meeting is accompanied by a delicious potluck dinner. During the summer months of July and August we take a break from field trips and meetings to avoid the heat.

Each meeting features a special program which we think will be of interest to our members and guests. So mark your calendars and join us at our meetings.

- January 27 7:30 PM
- February 24..... 7:30 PM
- March 24 7:30 PM
- April 28 7:30 PM
- May 26 7:30 PM
- June 23 6:30 PM
- **July** **NO MEETING**
- **August** **NO MEETING**
- September 22 7:30 PM
- October 27 7:30 PM
- November 17 7:30 PM
- December 15..... 6:30 PM

DUES ARE DUE!!

In years past, ANNUAL CLUB DUES were payable on January 1st and delinquent at the end of March. Last year we changed that grace period and now the annual dues are payable by December 31 with the grace period extending from October 1 to December 31. Because this is a recent change, we are allowing an extended grace period for the 2005 year. Please send in your dues ASAP.

- Single Adults \$15.00
- Married Couple \$25.00
- Juniors (under 18)..... \$5.00

**Flash Floods Are Exciting!
(but only if you don't get hurt)
By Jay Valle**

Every year since the kids were small we have taken the week between Christmas and New Year's Day and gone rockhounding. At first we camped in a tent but as the kids became older, we outgrew it and eventually upgraded to a tent trailer. Usually we headed for the one of our Southwestern deserts, because it is generally cool (sometimes uncomfortably so) and it has so many neat places to explore and collect. Though the kids are grown now and rarely come along anymore, I still hold to the tradition and go out for some fun in the sun during the Holidays.

One of our all time favorite places to go is the Wiley's Well area, located near Blythe, California. Most years it is clear and sunny, with day time temperatures in the 70s to 80s. Very nice winter weather, which is one reason we like it so much. On any given year, though, it can be incredibly windy or wet, as it was during this trip.

This year, the kids stayed home but I was joined by our friends Tony and Sandie Fender and their canine companions, Sitka and Bunker. The Fenders adventure in a motor home, and I must confess that I get a little spoiled when they are along. Their kitchen is a real kitchen, and they have a comfortable living room where it is possible escape the weather in comfort.

We wanted to visit the Fluorspar Mine located in the Orocopia Mountains near Chiriaco Summit on I-10. Though rain was threatening, we felt confident that we could handle the terrain and whatever came along. Besides, as rockhounds, rain is our friend, right? Off we went, following the directions from the California Gem Trails guide book.

Our road was a little "primitive" in places but it was no where near as challenging as many of the rutted and washed out trails we have traversed over the years. It led us out onto a broad drainage area for the first few miles then entered a steep walled sandy bottom canyon which we followed for the last couple of miles. Reaching the mine parking area, we located the collecting area and began finding fluorite. A light rain began to fall which only aided us in locating specimens. Soon, though, the temperature dropped and the rain began to come down more persistently.

At this point, we decided that our wisest course of action would be to get the heck out of the mountains and back onto pavement, just in case things began to turn ugly. As we worked our way down along the canyon trail, water was

pooling around us, and as we escaped the mouth of the canyon and drove out onto the bajada below, the skies truly opened up. The pools all began merging and they started to move. About half way back to pavement the flash flood caught up to us.

It was our good fortune that the level of the washes at this point were only as high as the bottom of our doors because otherwise we would have been in serious trouble. Our "road" followed the path of the water through those washes back toward the highway. We looked like a couple of 4-wheeled motor boats as we fled toward solid ground. The wake produced was almost twice as high as our SUVs and we had to slow down just to see where we were going. At any point, if the flash flood got to be too deep or rambunctious, we were confident that we could escape onto the desert pavement above us on either side of our watery road and wait out the flood. Eventually, we got back to asphalt and returned to camp.

As a disclaimer, and to show that we are not total idiots, I must tell you that we are aware that driving in desert washes during a heavy rain storm is not a smart thing to do. People are seriously hurt every year from such unbridled encounters with Mother Nature and we had no intention of placing ourselves in harms way when we left camp that morning. But I have to tell you that in spite of the sure knowledge of what could have happened, it was exciting. We got to experience a flash flood up close and personal and didn't even get our feet wet. Talk about luck!

Art Silver Class Information

Kathy Davis will teach a class on Art Silver Clay on March 5 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, followed by two advanced classes taught on April 2 and May 7 in the recreation room of Jerry & Kathy Turner's home at 7703 York Ave., Whittier, California.

The cost is \$50.00 per class plus supplies. Each attendee will complete 3 projects at each session. Upon the completion of the three sessions, you will be certified in Silver Art Work. The class is limited to a minimum of 6 people and a maximum of 12.

Mark these dates on your calendar and let me know if you will be attending the first class on March 5. There will be more information about the classes at the February club meetings.

If you have question, email me at isnbil@aol.com or call (626)288-2896.

Izzy Burns

Quartzsite 2005 Show Schedule

The Main Event

January 1 - January 31, 2005

General Swapmeeting/Rocks/Gems/Arts/Crafts/Hot Air Balloons/
Ultra Light/Parachute/Bi-plane & Glider Flights/Mexicali Dancers/
Fireworks/Horseshoe Tournament/Hit & Miss Car Show

Tyson Wells Rock/Gem/Mineral Show

January 7 - January 16, 2005

Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama

January 21 - January 30, 2005

Tyson Wells Art & Craft Fair

February 4 - February 13, 2005

Hobby, Craft & Gem Show

February 2 - February 6, 2005

Pow Wow 39th Annual

January 26 - January 30, 2005

Prospectors Panorama 4 Shows

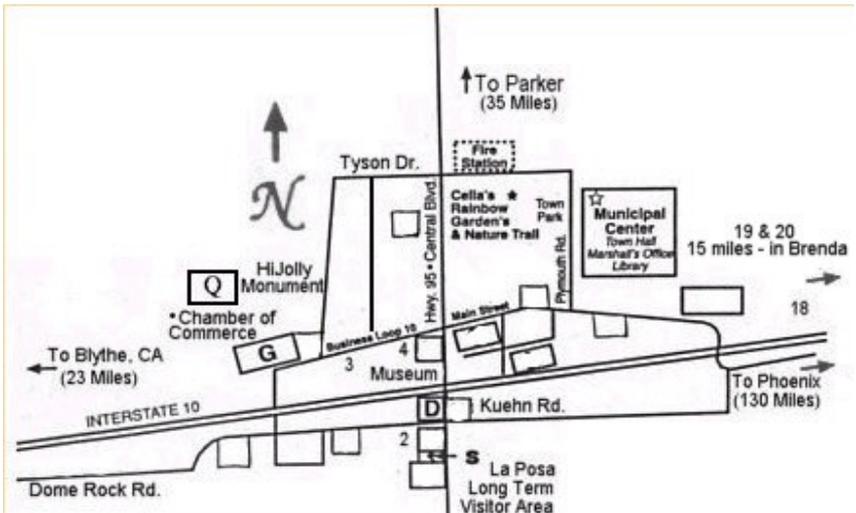
from November 1, 2004 - February 13, 2005

Desert Gardens Gem & Mineral Show

January 1 - February 28, 2005

Show/Swap Meet Sites

D - Tyson Wells, Q - Main Event



A Bit of Levity

Whether a man winds up with the nest egg or a goose egg depends a lot on the kind of chick he marries.

Trouble in marriage often starts when a man gets so busy earnin' his salt that he forgets his sugar.

Too many couples marry for better or for worse, but not for good.

When a man marries a woman, they become one, but the trouble starts when they try to decide which one.

If a man has enough "horse sense" to treat his wife like a thoroughbred, she will never be an old nag.

Judgin' from the specimens they pick for husbands, it's no wonder that brides often blush.

On anniversaries, the wise husband always forgets the past ...but never the present.

A foolish husband remarks to his wife: "Honey, you stick to the washin', ironin', cookin', and scrubbin'. No wife of mine is gonna work."

The bonds of matrimony are a good investment only when the interest is kept up.

Many girls like to marry a military man -- he can cook, sew, make the bed, and is in good health... and he's already used to taking orders.

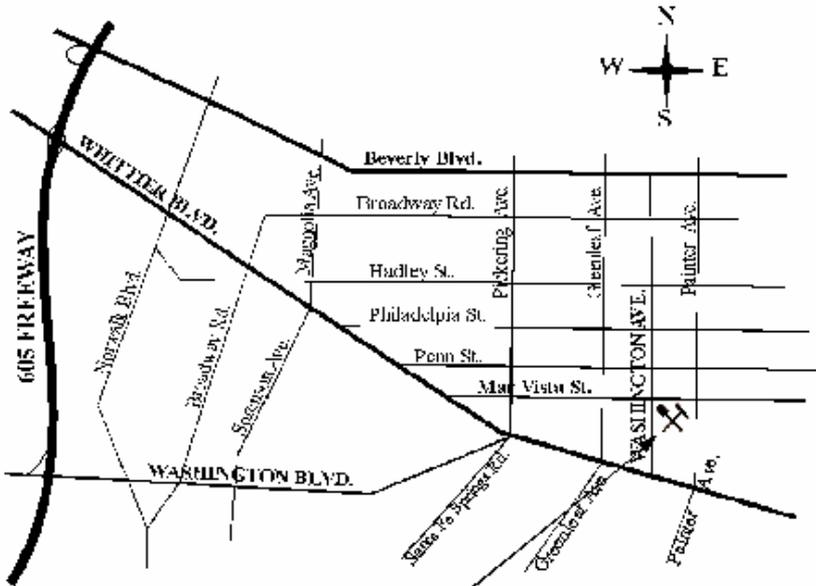
Grandpappy and his wife were discussin' their 50th wedding anniversary when she said, "Shall I kill a chicken tonight?" "Naw", said Grandpappy. "Why blame a bird for somethin' that happened 50 years ago."

Via The Tektite 9/03

Upcoming Gem Shows

- Jan 29-30 Redlands, CA.** Southern California Micro-Mineralogists
San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Museum
Hours: Sat. 9 - 10; Sun. 9 - 1
- Feb 18-27 Indio, CA.** San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Soc.
Riverside County Fair & Date Festival
Date Festival - Gem & Mineral Bldg #1
46-350 Arabia St. Hours: 10:00 am - 10:00 pm
- Mar 4 - 13 Imperial, CA.** Imperial Valley Gem & Mineral Society
200 East 2nd. Street
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 4 - 10 PM; Sat. & Sun. 12 - 10 PM
- Mar 5-6 Arcadia, CA.** Monrovia Rockhounds Inc.
The Arboretum of Los Angeles County
301 N. Baldwin Avenue
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
- Mar 5-6 Ventura, CA.** Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Seaside Park (Ventura Co. Fairgrounds), 10 W. Harbor Blvd.
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
- Mar 12-13 San Marino, CA.** Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Drive
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5
- Apr 2-3 Torrance, CA.** South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society
Torrance Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd.
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
- Apr 9-10 Hacienda Heights, CA.** Puente Hills Gem & Mineral Club
Steinmetz County Park Recreation Building
1545 S. Stimson Avenue, Hours: 10 - 5 both days
- Apr 9-10 San Diego, CA.** San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Rd.
Hours: Sat. 9:30 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
- Apr 23-24 Lancaster, CA.** Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 West Avenue H
Hours: 9 - 5 both days

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
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: January 27, 2005 at 7:30 PM
Location: Whittier Community Center
(see page 15 for map)