

WHITTIER

**ROCKHOUNDER**  
GEM & MINERAL  
SOCIETY

M  
A  
Y  
  
2  
0  
0  
5

**Remembering Mt. St. Helens**  
Presented by Tony & Sandie Fender



Well behaved (and well fed) Kangaroo Rat seen and photographed during the recent CFMS Field Trip to the Cady mountains (see page 6 & 7)

# ROCKHOUNDER

## THE PREZ SEZ:

### A Thought for Today Author Unknown

I'd like to suggest that sometimes rocks and people have some of the same characteristics and qualities.

- \* Some are like delicate crystals; rough handling or talk does irreparable damage.
- \* Some are like fossils; they are very opinionated and it is bad news to try to change them.
- \* Some possess hidden qualities and beauty which often take a little time to recognize.
- \* Some are durable and can take the bumps and the disappointments of life and just keep hanging in there.
- \* Some are always ready to help when needed.
- \* Some are real gems; quickly recognized, and to work with them is an inspiration. They are like the finest amethyst, topaz, sapphires, and rubies.

All are special because they are who they are.

*From Strata gems 12/82, via The Petrified Log 04/05*



**WGMS General Meeting**

**Thursday, May 26, 2005**

**at 7:30 PM**

**Remembering Mt. St. Helens**

**I**n 1980 Mount St Helens erupted with a force that few people had expected, and the devastation seemed as if it would scar the landscape forever. Tony and Sandie Fender will be talking about the history before the eruption, the eruption itself, and the incredible natural healing of the environment which has taken place over the last 25 years.

**Member News**

Our President, James LaBorde underwent gall bladder removal surgery on Monday, May 9. The operation was a success and the patient is fine. James had been suffering repeated illnesses for more than a year, so hopefully the problem is now solved. I am looking forward to seeing him on some field trips again (and I know he is hoping for that as well.)

*Note: I have said it before, but if you don't tell your intrepid reporter about these things, he cannot pass them on in the bulletin. Please let me know when things happen, good or bad, so we can share these moments with you.*

**A Scoop on Potential Company Mergers**

- \* **Xerox and Wurlitzer:** They're going to make reproductive organs
- \* **Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers:** New company will be called Fairwell Honeychild.
- \* **Polygram Records, Warner Brothers and Keebler:** New company will be called Poly Warner Cracker.
- \* **3M and Goodyear:** New company will be called mmmGood.
- \* **Grey Poupon and Dockers Pants:** New company will be called Poupon Pants.

*Via The Petrified Log 04/05*

**Mt. St. Helens Volcano  
At 8:32 Sunday morning, May 18, 1980,  
Mount St. Helens erupted.**



**R**ocked by an earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale, the north face of this tall symmetrical mountain collapsed in a massive rock debris avalanche. In a few moments this slab of rock and ice slammed into Spirit Lake, crossed a ridge 1,300 feet high, and roared 14 miles down the Toutle River.

The avalanche rapidly released pressurized gases within the volcano. A tremendous lateral explosion ripped through the avalanche and developed into a turbulent, stone-filled wind that swept over ridges and toppled trees.

Nearly 150 square miles of forest was blown over or left dead and standing.

At the same time a mushroom-shaped column of ash rose thousands of feet skyward and drifted downwind, turning day into night as dark, gray ash fell over eastern Washington and beyond. Wet, cement-like slurries of rock and mud scoured all sides of the volcano. Searing flows of pumice poured from the crater. The eruption lasted 9 hours, but Mount St. Helens and the surrounding landscape were dramatically changed within moments.

A vast, gray landscape lay where once the forested slopes of Mount St. Helens grew. In 1982 the In 1982 President Reagan and Congress created the 110,000-acre Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument for research, recreation, and education. Inside the Monument, the environment is left to recover naturally from the eruption.

Scientists and visitors follow the changes in the landscape and the volcano. Surviving plants and animals rise out of the ash, colonizing plants catch hold of the earth, birds and animals find a niche in a different forest on the slopes of Mount St. Helens.

The volcano continued to erupt until 1986, violently at first, then quietly building a lava dome. Thick pasty lava eruptions oozed out, each one piling on top of the next, like pancakes in a sloppy pile. The lava dome is now 920 feet high. The United States Geological Survey scientists continue to monitor the volcano for earthquakes, swelling, and gas emissions.

In summer of 2004 Mount St. Helens became active again with rapid dome building. A series of steam and ash explosive events temporarily closed access to some parts of the monument. Eruptions have continued into 2005 with plumes as high as 36,000 feet.

**Field Trip Report**  
**CFMS Field Trip to the Cady Mountains**  
**April 29th to May 1st, 2005**

A couple of weeks ago, it was my pleasure to join Bob Fitzpatrick and some other friends on the CFMS Cady Mountains field trip. It was a lot of fun and we had several mini-adventures. I was joined by **Don Ogden** and **Don & Kathy Eschbach** of the North Orange County Club, and **Art & Ginger Ragazzi** of the WGMS (Sunday only).

Friday and Saturday were spent in Baxter Wash where we collected blue agate, banded agate, onyx and sagenite. The recent rains had pounded the wash repeatedly and our road was made up of soft sand which trapped a couple of vehicles (none of the 4x4s got stuck). In fact, on the way back to camp, we found a car-sized pit in the middle of the wash where a latecomer had tried to join us late in his 2-wheel drive pickup, got himself stuck, and dug a monster hole while removing sand. Another group of late rockhounds found him digging away, lent a hand, then brought him to the collecting area. However, the rains did expose new material and we all found good rock collecting.

Saturday was potluck night and lots of campers brought lots of good food. The winds cooperated, more or less, and so we were able to enjoy a roaring campfire afterwards.

On Sunday and again on Monday, we went up to a location which had been rendered inaccessible since at least the '70s. The rains had completely swept away the barricades and boulders. It required 4x4s in low gear and followed hair-raising trails with some trail repair required at times. But we reached an old collecting area and had a great collecting time (I will try to have pictures at the meeting).

### **Rattlesnake Adventure**

Here's the way this mini-adventure went down. It was Sunday evening after dinner, and I needed to run into Baker to get some gas and another camper needed ice. So we carpooled into town, took care of business and were on our way back to camp.

Right after we exited the freeway, we spotted a kangaroo rat jumping around and I decided to try and get a picture with my newly repaired digital camera. Of course, it took 10 minutes to set up the camera in the dark and by that time the rat was long gone. So we went on down the road and within a short

distance saw another one. So we stopped again and I took off after the critter without getting a clear shot. And so it went. I chased 6 or 7 of the kangaroo rats until we just stopped seeing them. With nothing better to do, we turned around and drove back to try again. This time, we found a semi-cooperative rat back near the freeway which after some chasing around, I was able to take its picture.

About the time I was done with the kangaroo rat, my co-adventurer Eva called out that she saw a snake. Right then I heard the unmistakable and unforgettable sound of a rattler rattling. Now it is pitch black and I can't see the snake, so I froze in place and tried to locate it. When I could immediately not locate it, I asked Eva (the person still in the car) where it was. "Can't you see it?" she said. "I'm pointing right at it." As I mentioned before, it is pitch black, no moon and no city lights, just the car headlights. I pointed out that I could not see her, much less her finger, and she needed to give me a little more specific information about the snake's location. So she got out of the car and spotlighted it with the flashlight. The rattlesnake was across the road about 6 feet away and trying to get further away. It was having trouble getting over the berm at the side of the road. Once I knew the rattlesnake wasn't under my feet, I gingerly crossed over to check out the snake.

It was a sidewinder, about 16 – 18 inches long with about 6 buttons on the rattle. Now, in the last 20 odd years I have seen only 3 rattlesnakes out in the desert, one of them a Mojave Green, but never a sidewinder, so this was a unique opportunity for me. Eva approached it with the flashlight and highlighted it as I took pictures. It finally managed to slither over the berm but rather than hightailing it into the bushes, it stopped, turned around and popped its head up, apparently to get a look at us. With the flashlight in its eyes and the wind blowing pretty hard, I guess it couldn't get a scent or heat signature from us, so it just sat there and posed while I took some nice pictures. Eventually, we got tired of looking at the snake and we got back into the car, drove about 30 feet, and found another sidewinder. Stopped for more photographs, then turned around and started back. Spotted a kingsnake crossing the road (why did the kingsnake cross the road?) and stopped again, caught it (because it wouldn't stay still long enough to photograph) and took some pictures of it. Back on the road, again, we finally got a cooperative kangaroo rat with bulging cheeks (looked like a hamster) who was chowing down on some grass seeds (?) and got a couple of slightly fuzzy but nice kangaroo rat pics.

On the rest of the way back to camp, we probably saw another 8 sidewinders. Being just a little paranoid by this time, we thoroughly searched camp for any other slithering critters but camp was all clear. Whew!

*JValle*

**Memorial Day Field Trip  
(possibilities)**

**D**ue to the high price of gas and expected heat over Memorial Day Weekend we have decided to lead a couple of day trips instead of the usual campout.

Some possible destinations are: Pacoima Canyon for zircon, moonstones and gold panning; The Felix Mine for fluorite; Adelanto or Acton for agate; or Kanan Road for agate geodes and sagenite (if you are lucky).

We want to know where you want to go and are open for suggestions, so register your preferred collecting destination with **Joe Goetz at (626) 914-5030**.

*Joe Goetz*

**Gemstones Found in the United States**

**B**ecause our nation has not had a tradition of mining and providing gemstones for the world, we often forget we can find in our own country most of the well known gems as well as a variety of lesser known but equally desirable stones. Gemstones found in our own country rival those found anywhere in the world in beauty and desirability.

- **DIAMONDS** - Have been found in many states including Texas, Arkansas, the Great Lakes area, California, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, New York, Idaho and Indiana.
- **SAPPHIRES** - Montana has several places where sapphires are found, in all colors.
- **RUBIES** - Have been found in Jackson, Mason and Clay Counties in North Carolina.
- **TOURMALINE** - Riverside and San Diego Counties in California have produced the largest quantity of gem tourmaline with the greatest value in the western hemisphere. Maine is also a major producer in a full spectrum of colors including a bi-colored red or pink and green.
- **EMERALDS** - North Carolina has emeralds that compare favorably with fine Colombian stones. It is the only state that produces significant quantities.

- **AQUAMARINE** - Is found in Oxford County, Maine; Chaffee County (Mt. Antero), Colorado; Riverside and San Diego Counties, California; and Cheshire, Sullivan, Merrimack and Grafton Counties in New Hampshire. Most of these areas produce aquamarine as a by-product.
- **MORGANITE** - Is found where aquamarines and emeralds are found because this stone is a beryl as are aquamarine and emerald. Morganite is found in much larger sizes and is much more affordable. Colors range from pink to shades of orange.
- **RED BERYL** - Though quantities are small, the Wah Wah Mountains of Utah are the only source of this gemstone in the world.
- **TOPAZ** - In the United States, yellow topaz is rarely seen, but good blue, sherry and colorless stones can be found in many places. In Mason County, Texas one can find gem quality blue and in Utah sherry-brown crystals are found. In San Diego County, California commercial quantities of blue and pale green topaz are found and Colorado produces a pale blue stone.
- **PERIDOT** - Gila County, Arizona is the most productive source. It is also found in Dona Ana County in New Mexico.
- **AMETHYST** - Is found in most states in all quantities and sizes.
- **GARNET** - Gem-quality in a variety of colors has been found in Arizona, California, Colorado, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Maine, New Hampshire, New Mexico, No. Carolina, Vermont, Virginia and Washington.
- **BENITOITE** - One of the rarest and most beautiful of gems in the United States can be found in gem quality only in San Benito County, California. It occurs in various shades of blue, purple, white, pink and colorless. Unlike sapphire, benitoite is relatively soft.
- **JADE** - The most important source of jade (Nephrite) in the Western Hemisphere is in Wyoming. However, Alaska also produces good green nephrite. California has jade (Jadeite).
- **TURQUOISE** - America is the largest producer, in the world. It is found in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico.
- **OPAL** - Idaho has produced fine gem-quality white opal. Fine black opal has been found in Virgin Valley, Nevada.

From Rockette 12/03 via Rockhound Rambling via Moroks 04/05

**What Am I?  
Matching Rock & Mineral Resources**

The clues describe 10 familiar rocks and minerals we use in our day to day life. See if you can match each rock or mineral resource with its clue.

1. The main mineral in the rock limestone, I'm used in toothpaste (you brush your teeth with a rock!) and as a coating for chewing gum.
2. I am one of the first metallic minerals used by humans. Because I am an excellent conductor of electricity, I am in your home's wiring, probably hooking up your stereo.
3. Since I am one of the softest minerals in nature, I am ground into baby powder - perfect for baby's skin!
4. I am a precious, rare, heavy, and very useful mineral. Since I don't react with air, water, or extreme temperatures, my reliability makes me perfect for work in outer space.
5. Although you eat me everyday, I am also hauled out in cold snowy weather to keep roads from icing over.
6. I am a mineral ore essential in making steel - steel that is used for building schools, bridges, and cars.
7. I am the most common mineral on Earth and I am the main component of sandstone. I am used to make glass and fill golf course sandtraps.
8. I am so dense, X-rays can't get through me! I am also used in making car batteries and crystal glassware.
9. I protect against the common cold and skin rashes, but I also protect steel from rusting.
10. Even though you see me in lots of jewelry, I am a metallic mineral essential to photography, mirrors, and eating utensils.

Silver \_\_\_\_\_  
 Copper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gold \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lead \_\_\_\_\_

Quartz \_\_\_\_\_  
 Halite/Salt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Iron Ore \_\_\_\_\_

Talc \_\_\_\_\_  
 Calcite \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zinc \_\_\_\_\_

*The Glacial Drifter, March 2005*

Answers to What Am I? 1. calcite, 2. copper, 3. talc, 4. gold, 5. halite/salt, 6. iron ore, 7. quartz, 8. lead, 9. zinc, 10. silver.

N Y Q E T I T A M E H O T E E  
E T I R E D M A X E L A U R M  
L Y R L D E E E X Y R P R I E  
M Y A H T I N D N G E K Q H R  
N P R H O I A O A R P E U P A  
O A Y E R D D M I J S N O P L  
C S I T B E O D O A A I I A D  
T I I D C O O N G N J R S S Z  
S C M L I T S A I Q D A E T I  
L H A H E S T Y O T E M R X R  
D H I E D E B U R Q E A J Y C  
C R Y S T A L O K H U U V N O  
M A L A C H I T E Q C Q J O N  
S P I N E L M T E N R A G E Q  
S Y C D Z A P O T U R U B Y T

**Try to find these words in the letters printed above.**

- |             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| Agate       | Jet       |
| Alexandrite | Malachite |
| Amethyst    | Obsidian  |
| Aquamarine  | Onyx      |
| Chalcedony  | Opal      |
| Chrysoberyl | Peridot   |
| Citrine     | Quartz    |
| Crystal     | Rhodenite |
| Diamond     | Ruby      |
| Emerald     | Sapphire  |
| Garnet      | Spinel    |
| Hematite    | Topaz     |
| Jade        | Turquoise |
| Jasper      | Zircon    |

*Thanks to Golden Spike News 11/99 via The Glacial Drifter 3/05*

**CFMS Show in Roseville – June 10, 11, 12, 2005  
Roseville (Placer Co.) Fairgrounds**

**SPEAKERS**

<b><u>Fri.</u></b>	11:00	Jean DeMouthe	“Minerals as Medicine”
	1:00	Rick Kennedy	“Benitoite”
	2:30	Jean DeMouthe	“Minerals of California”
	4:00	Mike Santos	“Meteorites”
<b><u>Sat.</u></b>	11:00	John Clinkenbeard	“The Influence of Gold Mining in the Development of CA.”
	1:00 -	Dick Hilton	“Dinosaurs & Other Mesozoic Reptiles of CA” ( <i>Book**</i> )
	3:00		
	4:00	Mike Santos	“Meteorites”
<b><u>Sun.</u></b>	11:00	Alson LeBaron	“Quality Grading of Gemstones”
	1:00	Gregory Ferdock	“Minerals of Nevada” ( <i>Book**</i> )
			“Sapphire Mining in Sri Lanka”
	2:30	F & D Fassio	“Suiseki”

*\*\*Book* - These authors will sign your book after their talk, bring your own copy.

**ACTIVITIES**

- Vendors – 50+ inside and outside
- Gold Panning, keep the gold you find!
- Metal Detecting, search for authentic old coins and keep what you find!
- Silent Auction – Daily, very good material, with some direct sales! (Including material from 2 estates)
- Kids’ Junction – activities for youth
- Fossil Cleaning - Buena Vista Museum
- Field Trips: the “Original 16-1 Mine” working underground gold mine, and Sierra College Museum
- Raffle – 1st prize is an amethyst tower, 2nd prize is \$100
- Rock Puppy Café- featuring Nevada Desert Chili, Mile High Roast Beef, and many other delicious food items and drinks

**SHOW INFORMATION**

For Maps, Camping & Lodging Information:

**[www.rockrollers.com](http://www.rockrollers.com)**

(916) 630-1000

The Roseville Rock Rollers and CFMS present

# ROSEVILLE GEM & MINERAL BLAST 2005

JUNE 10, 11, 12  
2005



**Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds**  
Friday & Saturday 10am-6pm    Sunday 10am-4pm

## ROSEVILLE GEM & MINERAL BLAST

**JUNE 10, 11, 12, 2005**

**Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds**  
800 All America City Blvd., Roseville, CA

**Friday & Saturday 10 am - 6 pm / Sunday 10 am - 4 pm**

**Admission: Adults \$4.00 -- 3-day Adult Pass \$10.00**  
**Children 15 and under FREE**  
**Seniors 60+ -- \$3.00 -- 3-day Senior Pass \$8.00**

### DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From Interstate 80, merge onto Highway 65, exit Pleasant Grove Blvd. (west) to Washington Blvd. Turn Left (south) continue on Washington, after about 1 ½ miles you will see the Roseville (Placer Co.) Fairgrounds. Turn right on All America City Blvd. & enter through Gate C.

**Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows**

- May 14-15 Newbury, CA. Conejo Gem & Mineral Club  
Borchard Park Community Center, 190 Reino Rd.  
Hours: Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-5
- May 14-15 Yucaipa, CA. Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Yucaipa Community Center, 349 Oak Glen Rd.  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4
- June 4-5 Glendora, CA. Glendora Gems  
Goddard Middle School, 859 E. Sierra Madre  
Hours: Sat. 10-5 Sun.10-4
- June 4-5 La Habra, CA. North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society  
La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd.  
Hours: 10-5 both days
- June 10-12 Roseville, CA. CFMS & Roseville Gem & Mineral Blast  
Show Web Site: [www.rockrollers.com/show.html](http://www.rockrollers.com/show.html)  
Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds  
800 All American City Blvd  
The Director's meeting is going to be held at the Woodcreek Golf Course, same place as the banquet. There is a new map, or will be a new map, on the Roseville Rockrollers show website indicating the location. Marion R. is preparing something that will go into the packets, in the mean time please let folks know that it will be at Woodcreek and to refer to the map on the website. This facility is very nice, has food on site and is located near other eating establishments.
- June 19-20 Cayucos, CA. San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club  
Cayucos Veteran's Hall --at the end of the pier in Cayucos  
Hours: Sun. 9 - 6; Mon. 9 - 5
- June 26-27 Culver City, CA. Culver City Rock & Mineral Club  
Culver City Veterans Memorial Complex, 4117 Overland Ave.  
Corner of Overland Ave. & Culver Blvd  
Hours: Sat. 10-6 Sun 10-5
- Aug. 5 - 7 Nipomo, CA, Orcutt Mineral Society  
St. Joseph's Church, 298 S. Thompson Avenue  
Hours: 9 - 5 Daily

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



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: May 26, 2005 at 7:30 PM**  
**Location: Whittier Community Center**  
**(see page 15 for map)**