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WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

Meeting Date: November 17
"An Evening of Challenges"



Montana Dryhead Agate
From the Clarence Pool collection displayed at the recent WGMS Show

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Hello Everyone,

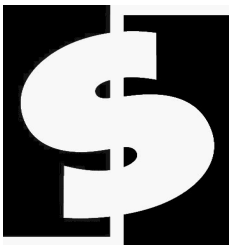
I want to start off by thanking everyone for a fantastic show. We did quite well and everyone who helped out deserves a hearty Thank You and a pat on the back. I don't have the space here to thank everyone who contributed to this great show but I do want to thank Jay Valle, our Show Chair for his tireless efforts in making this one of our best shows ever.

We will be having a show wrap up meeting on the 15th and would love to hear any ideas any of you have on what went well, what could be further improved and what we may have missed.

As the holidays approach, I want to wish everyone a happy, safe holiday season. I look forward to seeing everyone at the last two meetings of the year.

James

The Whittier Gem & Mineral Society is happy to welcome a new sponsor of our Club, South Western Federal Credit Union.



**South Western
Federal Credit Union**

Contact (562) 694-8296 for information

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, November 17, 2005

at 7:30 PM

"An Evening of Challenges"

The November Program will be An Evening of Challenges. Please come join us for a chance to learn, show what you know and have lots of laughs. This will be a surprise for Jay and I are the only ones who knows about it. See you there.

Izzie

Dues are Due!

Your WGMS annual dues are due by December 31. Your dues contribute to the operation of the Club and this newsletter. Please send in your dues ASAP or pay at the November meeting.

The dues schedule is as follows: Single Adults: \$15.00
Married Couple: \$25.00

Dues can be mailed to the Treasurer: Jay Valle
1421 Latchford Ave.
Hacienda Height, CA 91745

2006 Officer Election

This is the list of Society Officers nominated for the 2006 year. We will be voting on the proposed slate of officers at the November 17th Regular Meeting.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| President: | Joe Goetz |
| 1 st Vice President | Isabella Burns |
| 2 nd Vice President: | Art Ragazzi |
| Treasurer: | James LaBorde |
| Secretary: | Annmarie Nastasi |
| Federation Director: | Bill Burns |
| Directors: | Les Roy |
| | Jerry Turner |
| | Jack Zywocienski |

Show Report

Thanks for a great Show! Our 2005 Gem Show is now behind us and I want to thank all of you for helping to make it happen.

Show Weekend started out with an article in the Whittier Tribune featuring Clarence Pool and his collection of Dryhead Agate. Clarence is our oldest member at 96, with George Cyrog a close second by only a month or so.

Setup went smoothly, though the terrible Friday work traffic delayed the arrival of our show cases by a few minutes. The Whittier Community Center had all the tables laid out for us so it was just a matter of installing skirting and placing cases.

This year, the City of Whittier tried something new to bring more people to our Show. An outdoor festival was scheduled in the baseball field between the Community Center and the Senior Center. Being the first year, it was under-attended on Saturday and was rained out on Sunday. I want to thank the City of Whittier, and Dan Walker specifically, for setting this up.

At the demo table, Sylvia demonstrated her carving techniques, Virginia Pace practiced her artistry, Ginger Ragazzi gave instruction in cabbing, and Dottie showed how she makes her artistic creations.

The Sales Table did extremely well, in part because of the participation of *SK v) u "* *I c t f g p* represented by Marie Zimmerman and Kathy Turner. They provided plants which sold almost as fast as they could unload them. Marie made numerous trips to and from her house to bring plants to sell.

The kitchen did good, though things were a little slow on Saturday. I want to thank Kathy Turner and the kitchen staff for their fine job. I also want to thank everyone who donated pies and drinks, and a special thanks again to Bill Siefert and family for the donation of groceries.

And speaking of George Cyrog, once again George produced one of his signature hand-made rings as a Grand Prize. This year it was a 14-karat gold and Chrysocholla man's ring. Clarence Pool provided tumbled stones for grab bags and Joe & Marcia Goetz re-donated the Magellan GPS that they won last year.

Lastly, I want to thank our new sponsor, **South Western Federal Credit Union**, for their generous donation.

JValle, 2005 Show Chairman

A Note in Passing...

Our sympathy goes out to Vern Cliffe whose sister passed away 2 weeks ago. Please let him know that you are thinking of him and his family in their time of grief.

**Fiber Optic Gems: What are they?
By Bill Grimes**

Fiber optics were developed as a result of someone studying a piece of the mineral Ulexite, also known as TV stone. It is a hard, brittle, fibrous stone which - when writing is placed underneath - will allow the image to appear on the surface of the stone. This led to the theory that if this type of fibrous material could be manufactured, it could be used in many different ways where image transmission is needed. Fiber optic cables were at first very slender and flexible, used in surgeries and in household decorations.

The manufacturing technology improved and soon manufacturers were spinning out miles of cable for a new application, data transmission lines. These lines can be up to two inches across. The cable consists of thousands of pairs of optic fibers. Each pair carries data for phone, computer, fax, etc. Since the sides of the cable are reflective, there is no need for insulation or shielding around each fiber, as in old phone lines. This translates to more pairs in a smaller space. For us in the hobby, this created one of the newest gem treasures - fiber optic cabs.

In order to make a fiber optic cabochon, the cable scraps are first cut into small lengths. The cable is then either cut into spheres, or it is sectioned parallel to the length of the fiber, once the slices are made, it is cut much like any other gem. Care must be taken, however, to protect the ends of the cable from splinter-ing, or catch dirt, abrasives, etc.

There is an interesting thing about fiber optic gems. If you look at them from a 90-degree angle from the eye of the gem, the gem will be transparent to light, maintaining its properties for light transmission.

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October Field Trip Report Club Claim Trip

What a perfect weekend! For the first time in several years, we all camped out at the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society's Honey Onyx mine for the post-Show field trip. The weather was perfect, the rock collecting was good, our Saturday night potluck was excellent, and we had a warm campfire each night. What more can you ask from a field trip.

The trip was attended by members of the WGMS, Pasadena and North Orange County clubs. We visited our classic red moss agate location near the club claim, a petrified wood/palm root location described to us by Bill & Izzy, the famous Silver Lace Onyx mine at the entrance to Mule Canyon, hunted jasper and algae agate in mule Canyon itself and collected red flame agate from the Paul Bunyan Agate location.

JValle

Perks of Being Over 50

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run--anywhere.
4. People call at 9 pm and ask, "Did I wake you?"
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now won't wear out.
8. You can eat dinner at 4 pm.
9. You can live without sex but not your glasses.
10. You enjoy hearing about other people's operations.
11. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
12. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
13. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
14. You sing along with elevator music.
15. Your eyes won't get much worse.
16. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
17. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.
18. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
19. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.
20. You can't remember who sent you this list.

**Field Trip
Stonewall Pass
November 24-27, 2005**

Our Thanksgiving field trip this year will be to a truly classic petrified wood collecting area located just northeast of Death Valley. The petrified wood is scattered over a large area and may be surface collected. If you choose to dig, bring shovels and picks, etc. We may also visit some other local areas as time permits.

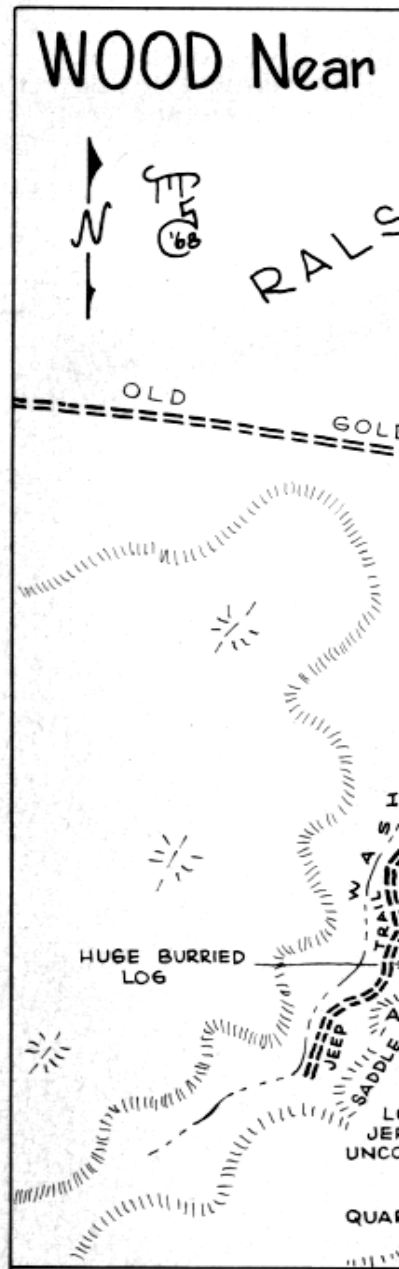
This is a dry camp (no water or facilities). If you have it, bring firewood. The weather will probably be comfortable in the daytime and cool at night so semi-warm clothes are in order. Layering is recommended.

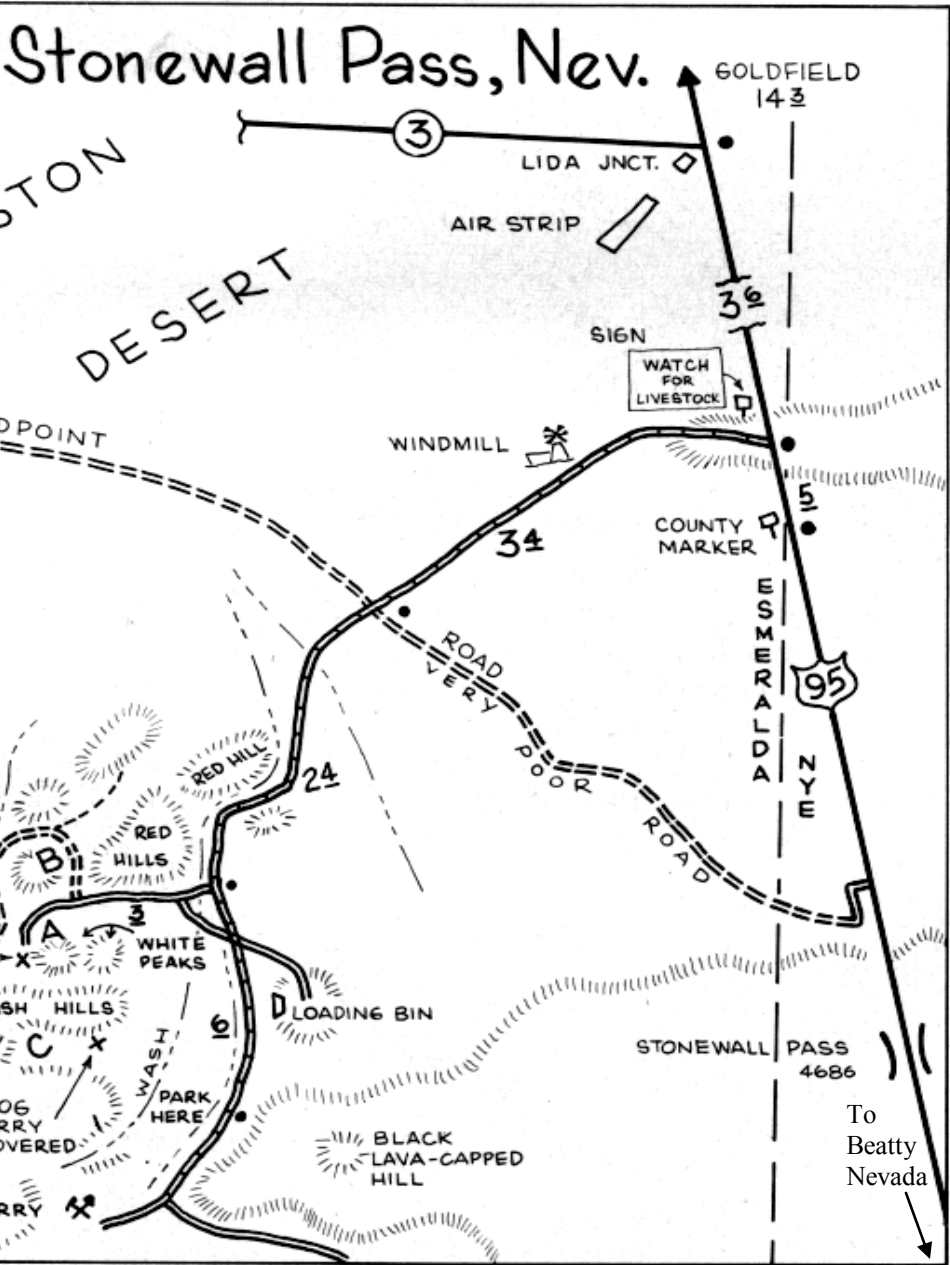
Joe & Marcia Goetz will be spending Thanksgiving at the camp site and you are welcome to join them for Thanksgiving in the outdoors. On the other nights, we will enjoy a 4:00 pm potluck dinner so don't forget to bring something to share.

The turnoff to the camp area is 48 miles north of Beatty, Nevada on Hwy 95 and about 18 miles south of Goldfield. Watch for the turnoff to the west of Hwy 95 and follow the signs to camp (**PLS** or **W**). If you would rather stay in a motel and drive out early in the morning, Beatty is a good choice. Be aware that we will be leaving camp at about 8:00 - 8:30 am each morning.

For info contact Joe Goetz at: (626) 914-5030.

Joe & Marcia will have their cell phone on, assuming there is coverage. The number is: (626) 327-6376.





Refurbish Your Worn Out Diamond Belts

By Steve Newstrom

I just hate to throw away perfectly good diamond sanding belts with no useable abrasive. The belt integrity seems fine but the diamond abrasive is gone. With diamond powder being so inexpensive, I thought with a little ingenuity, I could make a good working belt out of an old worn out belt. And I did! I believe this procedure would work for Nova wheels as well.

Enough bragging...let's get down to it...I clean the belt thoroughly with acetone. Read the warnings on the acetone can... it is dangerous stuff. Place the belt over an old expanding drum or grinding wheel (just to give it a solid backing) and suspend on a dowel between two stacks of books or boxes so the belt/wheel hangs free and can be rotated easily by hand.

I use Hughes Epoxy 220 made by Hughes Associates out of Wayzata MN. The epoxy hardens without being brittle and mixes well with the diamond powder. I use the small plastic measuring cups for liquid medication doses that are available in drug stores.

Mix a total of 1teaspoonful equal amounts of hardener and resin in the small cup. Then I dump in a 5 carat vial of the appropriate grade of diamond powder and mix thoroughly again. This is not "5 Minute Epoxy" so you have plenty of time to mix.

Apply the epoxy/diamond mixture to the belt smoothly using the disposable acid flux brushes pictured below. Apply in a thin coat so there are no lumps or thick areas. The epoxy sets up in one hour (hardens in 8 hrs) so you must keep rotating the belt every few minutes to keep mixture from running on the belt. A heat lamp or warm desk lamp greatly reduces hardening times. One teaspoon (and 5 carats diamond) is enough for 1-6" X 2" belt. I usually have a little left over. I would toss the used brushes so you don't cross contaminate although they can be cleaned with acetone and reused for the same grits or coarser.

Note: Even if a thick coat is applied uniformly it tends to run, giving you a bumpy belt (even though they are certainly still useable...I have a bumpy belt that has been used for several years and is finally beginning to smooth out as the diamond wears off). I would try 2 thin coats (1/2 the diamond powder per coat) rather than 1 thick coat to give your wheel extended life.

Steve and Darlene Newstrom
The Village Smithy Opals, Inc.
P.O. Box 21704
Billings MT 59104-1704
Fax: 406-655-8226
Phone: 406-651-4947
Website: www.villagesmithyopals.com

C o g t k e c p " q r c n " U q e k g v { " P g y u n g v v g t



Subject: Word Play

For all you lexiophiles (lovers of words):

1. A bicycle can't stand alone because it is two-tired.
2. What's the definition of a will? It's a dead giveaway.
3. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
4. A backward poet writes inverse.
5. In democracy it's your vote that counts; In feudalism it's your count that votes.
6. She had a boyfriend with a wooden leg, but broke it off.
7. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
8. If you don't pay your exorcist you get repossessed.
9. With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.
10. Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft and I'll show you A-flat minor.
11. When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
12. The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
13. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
14. You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
15. Local Area Network in Australia: the LAN down under.
16. He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
17. Every calendar's days are numbered.
18. A lot of money is tainted. 'Taint yours and 'taint mine.
19. A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
20. He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
21. A plateau is a high form of flattery.
22. The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
23. Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
24. When you've seen one shopping center you've seen a mall.
25. Those who jump off a Paris bridge are in Seine.
26. When an actress saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.
27. Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.
28. Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
29. Acupuncture is a jab well done.
30. Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.

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Very Cold Winter

It was October and the Indians on a remote reservation asked their new Chief if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was a Chief in a modern society, he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like. Nevertheless, to be on the safe side he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect firewood to be prepared.

But being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?"

"It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold," the meteorologist at the weather service responded.

So the Chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared.

A week later he called the National Weather Service again. "Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?"

"Yes," the man at National Weather Service again replied, "it's going to be a very cold winter."

The Chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of fire wood they could find.

Two weeks later, the Chief called the National Weather Service again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?"

"Absolutely," the man replied. "It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever."

"How can you be so sure?" the Chief asked.

The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting firewood like crazy."

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Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- Nov 12-13 Lancaster, CA.** Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club
Lancaster Fairgrounds@ 2551 west Ave. H
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4

- Nov 19-20 Victorville, CA.** Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club
San Bernardino County Fairgrounds
14800 Seventh St.
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4

- Nov 18-19 Northridge, CA.** Del Air Rockhounds
United Methodist Church, 9650 Reseda Blvd. (At Superior)
Hours: Friday 1 pm - 9:30 pm - Saturday 10 - 5

- Nov 26-27 Barstow, CA.** Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society
Barstow Community Center
841 South Barstow Road
Hours: 10-5 both days

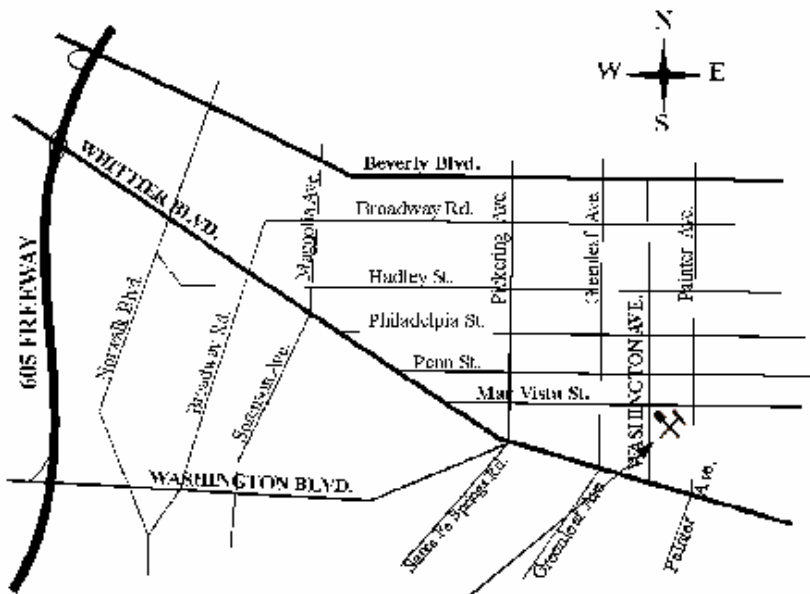
- Jan 27-29 Redlands, CA.** Southern Calif. Micromineralogists
41st. Pacific Micromount Conference
2024 Orange tree Lane
Hours: Fri. 3 -10; Sat. & Sun. 8 - 10

- Feb 17-26 Indio, CA.** San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Club
"Date Festival" Riverside County Fair & Date Festival
Gem & Mineral Bldg. #1, 46-350 Arabia Street
Hours: 10 - 10 daily

Web Pages of Rockhound Interest

- CFMS.....<http://www.cfmsinc.org/>
- AFMS<http://www.amfed.org/>
- Bob's Rock Shop.....<http://www.rockhounds.com/>
- BLM.....<http://www.blm.gov/>
- TopoZone (online maps)<http://www.topozone.com/>
- Lapidary Journal<http://www.lapidaryjournal.com/>
- Rock & Gem Magazine.....<http://www.rockngem.com/home.shtml>
- Eclectic Lapidary.....http://eclecticlapidary.com/el_cfm2/main.cfm

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



MAR VISTA & WASHINGTON AVE.  WHITTIER COMMUNITY CENTER

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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



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(see page 15 for map)