

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

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February Program:
Snowflakes!
(Take 2)



Holiday Time in the Desert - Two Rockhounds and an old Ford
<That's Don Eschbach (NOC) and Bunker Fender (DOG)>

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Happy 2006! I hope all of you have had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year holiday. The new year sure came in with a lot of bluster and I am sure the rest of the year will have lots of exciting events as well.

I would like to thank James LaBorde for his tenure and service to the club as President and his continued service now as Treasurer. The new year is also a new start of adventures, learning new things, new field trips, new projects, new programs and another great show.

One of the new ways we can all learn is at the **WGMS Rockgabber's Workshop** which is starting up again this year with Tony Fender taking the point. From what I have been told, the "NEW" and first Rockgabber's will be at **Sandie and Tony's home**, tentatively set for **Sunday, January 22** and we will be learning to make a **chain mail bracelet**.

Fieldtrips are one of our corner stones, not just for our club but for the hobby. I really enjoy getting away from the daily grind and going out to explore new places, or even to range out further from a familiar place that we have visited before. I hope to see many of you out on a trip or two or more. There is a fieldtrip planning meeting set for Jan. 14, 2006 at 10 AM at Marcia an my home in Glendora.

For projects we'll have to see what comes up at the Board Meetings or the General Meetings.

I am sure Isabella Burns has many fine and interesting programs lined up, so let's show our support by coming to the general meeting. See you there!

No Longer Lost in the Field
Joe

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, January 26, 2006

at 7:30 PM

Snow Flakes!

January is a good month to learn how water drops turn into snow flake crystals. This program should help you to better understand how temperature effects the development of mineral crystals. We will have a slide show that will help us understand the process. If you have samples of crystals bring them for display.

Hope to see you at this different program.

Izzie

Happy New Year

LESSONS

by Joan Greenlees Abramson

How the millenniums with their great span
Attributed progress to yearnings of man.

Pericles brought in the Greeks' golden ages,
Projecting democracy through many stages.

Yesterday's model we use as our own!
New buildings still copy the old ones of stone.

Ever new cultures absorbed parts that last.
When New Year's Day comes, we examine our past -

Yearn to restore a time without strife,
Eager for knowledge and truth for our life.

Always the cycles of history turn,
Rendering lessons there's still time to learn.

NOC News - January 2006

Rockgabbers!
January 22 at 1:00 to 5:00 PM

We are trying to start holding regular **Rock Gabbers meetings** again. The meeting will be on the Sunday of the third weekend of the month. For this month the place is at **Tony & Sandie's Home**, the date will be **January 22nd** from **1:00 to 5:00 PM**, followed by a **potluck dinner**.

The plan is to rotate the meeting around several different homes, including but not limited to **Sandie & my home, Jay & Kathy's home, Jerry & Kathy's home, and Joe and Marcia's home**. The host will make equipment available for those who wish to work independently, and there will also be a class at each workshop, for those who wish to learn new skills, or practice up on old skills.

For the January meeting, we plan on teaching the **woven bracelets** that Sandie & I have made and displayed at various shows. I tend to make tightly woven bracelets, whereas Sandie makes the open style. Your choice. The bracelets can be made from silver, or brass or copper, or a mixture of different metals. You can bring your own materials, or you can get materials from us. **We have sterling silver for \$10 a kit to make a tight bracelet, or \$7.50 a kit to make an open bracelet. We also have brass and copper available for free.**

Materials needed :

Tight weave: Metal 20 gauge round 12 feet
Metal 20 gauge flat 1.0 inch X 2.5 inch
Small vice
Soft hammer

Open weave: Metal 16 gauge ½ round 6 feet
Small vice

In February, the gathering is being planned for Jerry and Kathy's home. The date is yet to be determined, but will probably February 12th as the third weekend is a long weekend, and may be the field trip. We are trying to arrange Cheri George to teach a class in lampwork beads.

If there are skills that you would be willing to teach, or if there are skills you would like to learn, please let me know and we will try and arrange classes.

For questions or directions: Tony or Sandie Fender at (626) 798-3913.

**Checkout those magazine subscription
renewal/subscription requests!**

We recently received a “NOTICE OF RENEWAL/NEW ORDER” form from Publishers Billing Services, offering to extend our subscription on Rock and Gem magazine for three years beyond our present (three year) subscription. They requested the form be returned by January 2, 2006.

The form listed an installment payment of \$36.50 as part of a \$72.99 total cost for the three year extension.

We decided to double-check the expiration date on our Rock and Gem magazine along with the subscription rate.

The expiration date on the label was June, 2007 and the publisher’s three year’s subscription rate was \$54!

I think you can guess where the “offered” Renewal form ended up. And they even expected us to pay the postage on the return envelope!!!

Vern & Sylvia Cliffe

Description: A Rockhound

In a way, we are an odd lot because we have asked for no government appropriations to expand our recreational opportunities. We're inquisitive people, citizens with a thirst for knowledge, regarding learning and discovery as great and even spectacular adventures.

We lug home heavy bags of rocks which are worth little or nothing; but we also bring back color in our cheeks; muscles all limbered up; appetites like plow horses and an unwavering belief in our ability to jump over the garden gate.

The rock hound destroys nothing. He picks up stuff nobody has ever wanted or needed, it's well preserved on tables in the living room, on window sills, in basements, on porches, in pockets, and in the trunks of their cars.

Rockhounds just amble quietly along lakeshores and up crooked ravines. They climb bluffs and mountains. Really-deep breathing of hilltop air cleans the smog out of their flues, burns the carbon from their valves. Because they feel good, they're agreeable, pleasant persons to be with. "Old Rockhounds Never Die, They Just Petrify."

By Mr. Matt Saari for the "Conservation Volunteers" (Ely, NV), via Nodule Nocker News via MOROKS Newsletter 01/06

January Birthstone : Garnet

Birthstone Color: Deep Red

One glance at the deep red seeds nestled inside of a pomegranate fruit explains why the word "garnet" comes from the Latin word "granatus," meaning "grain" or "seed." This name was given to the garnet because of its close resemblance to the succulent pomegranate seed. But don't bite into a garnet, because at Moh's hardness 6.5 to 7.5, it will definitely damage the teeth!

There are many myths and legends surrounding the garnet. One Biblical legend is that Noah hung this gem on the ark to light his way through the dark and stormy nights of God's wrath. A Greek myth linked to the garnet is the story of the young goddess of sunshine, Persephone, who was abducted by Hades, god of the underworld. Hades eventually released Persephone, but not before he offered her some pomegranate seeds, which guaranteed her return to him.

First mined in Sri Lanka over 2,500 years ago, the garnet is also found in Africa, Australia, India, Russia, South America; and in the United States, in Arizona and Idaho. Although most commonly known as a red gemstone, the garnet comes in a variety of other hues, including muted yellows, vibrant oranges, rosy pinks, lime greens, and violets—a virtual bouquet of colors. This diversity is due to unique combinations of elements within each particular gem, such as iron, calcium, and manganese.

Archaeologist findings of primitive style garnet jewelry among the graves of lake dwellers dates the early use of this gemstone to the Bronze age. But not all garnet is of gem quality. It is also a very effective abrasive and is used commercially for grinding and polishing. Garnet coated sandpaper is one such industrial use.

The garnet continues to be the protective gem of journeyers. A gift of garnet is thought to be symbolic of love and the desire for a loved one's safe travel and speedy homecoming. It is January's birthstone, but far from being only a winter gem, the garnet, with its brilliance and multitude of colors, is truly one for any season.

From <http://www.about-birthstones.com/januarybirthstone.html>

**Field Trip - Tecopa Area
February 18 - 20, 2006**

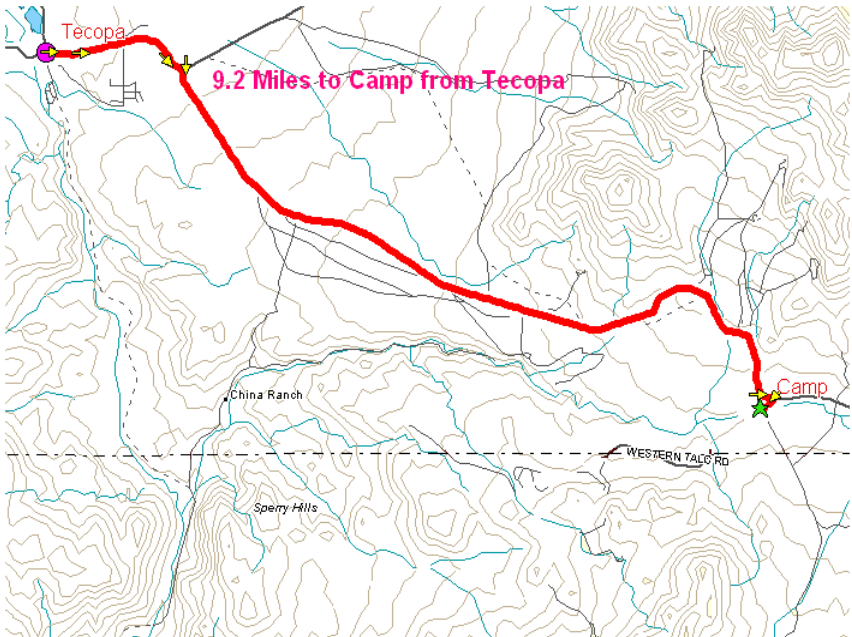
On February 18, 19, 20, the Pasadena Lapidary Society, the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society, and the North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society are having a field trip to Tecopa, California (near Death Valley).

This area is unique for “rockhounding” with palm wood, fire opal, trilobites, amethyst, jasper, and agate available. Bring your U.V. light. We may hunt for the opals at night. In addition to the opportunities for excellent “rockhounding” there are several family oriented areas such as the China Ranch date outlet with cookies, cakes, etc, the historical museum in Shoshone, Tecopa Springs baths.

Our camp will be at the Lower Noonday Camp, on Western Talc Mine Road, at: 35° 47.99', 116° 06.05' approximately 9 miles southeast of Tecopa.

Please bring fire wood and items for the Saturday night pot-luck.

*Thank you.,
Dave Kelty/Joe Goetz*



**Petrified Wood Collecting in Holbrook, Arizona
Saturday April 22nd. 2006**

More fun is in the works. Pat McMahan from the Sedona Gem and Mineral Club has called the owner of the ranch we will be collecting on. At this time, it looks like April 22nd 2006. I will repeat the stuff you (may) have read before.

Hello all:

Whatever you put into your vehicle must be removed for weighing. Sizable pieces, which are guesstimated at a lesser weight do not have to be removed. There is a charge of \$1.00 for the stuff you want to keep from logs to dinosaur dung.

We will meet at the International Petrified Forest Museum of the America's at 8:00 AM. The Museum is on the South side of HWY 40, Exit #292, about 3 miles East of Holbrook.

Please forward this to other groups you might belong to as I will be sending this only to the Diehard, SPMA and LA-Rocks.

Lodging can be found in Holbrook for the night of the 21st. or the 22nd. We have arranged a discount rate of \$32.00 + tax = \$35.54 for 2 people. per night at the Best Inn, 2211 Navajo Blvd, Holbrook (I confirmed rate 2/1/06.) AZ. Phone number is 928-524-2654 and tell them you're with the Rock Club. (Buzio the Polish guy knows us.) If you go to Google.com and enter their phone number in the search field, you can follow a link to Mapquest.

Other Motels in the close vicinity are: (This is old info I did not call.)

Super 8 - list cost is \$49 (928) 524-2781

Motel 6 - List cost is \$36 (928) 524-6101

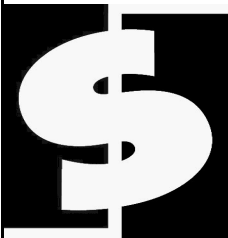
Econo Lodge - List is \$45 (928) 524-1448

Richard S. Mueller via LA-Rocks@yahoo.com



From Rockbuster News 2/85
via T-Town Rockhound 2/99

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

Life in the 1500's

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500's:

These are interesting...

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. **Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.**

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children, last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. **Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."**

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip off the roof. **Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."**

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. **That's how canopy beds came into existence.**

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. **Hence the saying a "thresh hold."**

(Getting quite an education, aren't you?)

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always

hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. **Hence the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."**

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could **"bring home the bacon."** They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and **"chew the fat."**

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead - poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or **"upper crust."**

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of **holding a "wake."**

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a "bone-house" and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (**the "graveyard shift"**) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be **"saved by the bell"** or was considered a **"dead ringer."**

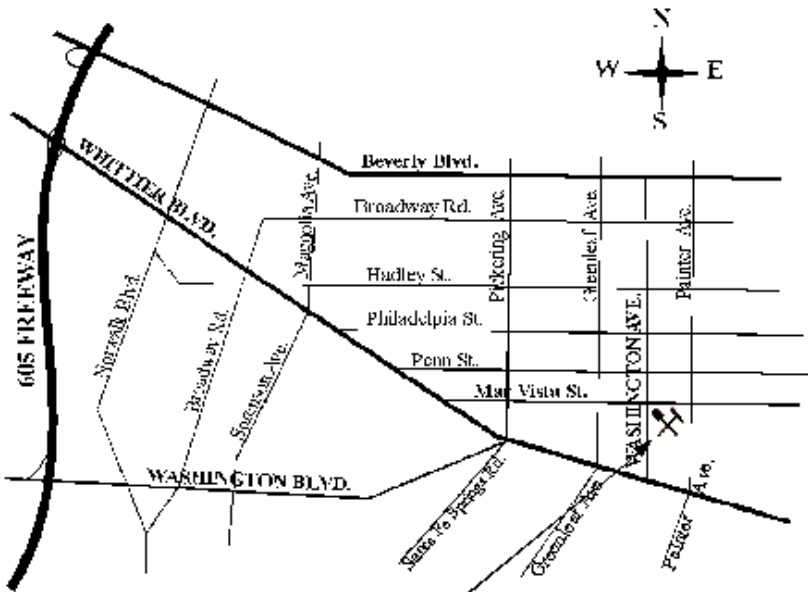
And that's the truth... Now, whoever said that history was boring!!!

From the Internet and submitted by Nancy Bird

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- 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
- Mar 4-5** **Arcadia, CA.** Monrovia Rockhounds Inc.
Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanical Garden
1 block South of I-210, Foothill Freeway
near Santa Anita Race Track
301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007
Hours: Sat. 9-4:30, Sun. 9-4:30
- Mar 4-5** **Ventura, CA.** Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Seaside Park, Ventura Co. Fairgrounds
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
- Mar 11-12** **Escondido, CA.** Palomar Gem & Mineral Club
Army National Guard Armory, 304 Park Avenue
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
- Mar 11-13** **Victorville, CA.** Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club Tailgate
Stoddard Wells (11 miles east of I-5)
Hours: Fri. & Sat. 8-5; Sun. 8-2
- Mar 11-12** **San Marino, CA.** Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Center, 3130 Hunting Drive
Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10-5
- Mar 18-19** **Bakersfield, CA.** Southern San Joaquin Lapidary Society
Kern County Fair Grounds
1142 South P Street & Bell Terrace Gates 28, 29 & 30
Hours: 9-5 both days
- May 20-21** **Newbury Park, CA.** Conejo Gem & Mineral Club
Borchard Park Community Center, 190 Reino Rd.
Hours: Sat. 9-5 Sun. 10-4:30
- Jun 3-4** **La Habra, CA.** North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society
La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd.
Hours: 10-5 both days

WGMS MEETING LOCATION!
Whittier Community Center
7630 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



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Location: Whittier Community Center
(see page 4 for information)