

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

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February Program: Take a Closer Look!
Presented by Fred Elsnau and Tony Fender



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Wulfenite Crystals "up close"

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

With the unseasonable warm weather we are having, weekends are good for going outside. To do projects, perhaps some gardening, painting the house or fence or going through the rock pile and choosing something to slab.

There are field trips coming up, some very good ones in fact which are listed in this bulletin. The next one is to the Tecopa area that will happen over President's weekend. Come on out and join us. It may just be cool or warm, but whatever the weather you'll be out with friends.

This Sunday the Rock Gabbers workshop is going to be at the Turner's and the subject will be chain making in which the links of the chain are....dare I say it....soldered. Tony and Sandie have several projects lined up that will get you comfortable with soldering and in the process you'll make several nice things and learn a new skill.

There will be work parties this year as well. There are cases to repair or rebuild, this includes lighting for the cases. They will be announced as to where and when in future bulletins.

And it is never too late to start thinking about our show. The theme this year is "BURIED TREASURES". For us rockhounds it maybe a new discovery of a material not thought to be found in this part of the world. Or rediscovery of an old place to collect and since no one has been there in 20 or 30 years, lots of material can be found.

Whatever you do, be **SAFE**. See you at the meeting.

Joe Goetz

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, February 23, 2006

at 7:30 PM

Take a Closer Look!

In our hobby there are many opportunities for an inquisitive person to discover unusual and interesting things in and about rocks. From lapidary to faceting, wire wrap to silver making, to collecting rocks in the field or buying rare minerals from another country. The possibilities are limited only by your imagination.

One way to "look" at minerals and crystals is based on the observation that the most perfect crystals or minerals occur at the microscopic level. It is possible to collect textbook perfect specimens of various types of rock which would be either prohibitively expensive on a macro scale, or do not exist at all in "big" sizes. Usually though, if they aren't specifically looking for them, these little marvels are completely overlooked by normally observant rock hounds. The collection of these miniature specimens, called micromounts, is an endeavor like no other. For one thing, you need a magnifying glass or a microscope to see your treasures, and an understanding of mineral associations is key to locating fine specimens.

This month we are featuring the combined talents of **Tony Fender and Fred Elsnau** to bring you the hidden world of rocks and minerals.

Fred Elsnau is a mineral photographer with many years experience and is extremely knowledgeable about gems and minerals. Fred will be bringing his portable mineral microscope and we will be looking inside geodes, minerals, crystals, and whatever else they can find to examine for the hidden beauty inside. **Tony Fender** is providing the interface from computer to projector so we can observe the miniature wonders on a "big screen."

YOU are invited to participate in this experience with us. Bring some things from your own private collections for us to look at. It can be a gemstone, mineral, fossil, rock slab, geode, druzy-lined petrified wood, chalcedony rose or whatever. You will be amazed at how different and beautiful ordinary things become when looked at up close and personal. This will be an interesting and fun program so come and enjoy.

Izzie

Rockgabbers!**Saturday, February 11 , 2006 at 1:00 PM****with Potluck at 5:00 PM**

The January Rockgabbers was held at Sandie & Tony's home and the project of the month was making woven bracelets. Ten members of the club attended, and made bracelets. The members enjoyed working on this project and the bracelets came out "very interesting". The potluck was great as usual.

There was considerable discussion about future meetings, and what people wanted to learn. It was also discussed how much people would be prepared to pay to bring in an outside teacher for specific classes similar to the PMC class from last year. The group decided that they would like a series of classes teaching silverwork, with a variety of projects starting with a simple chain, and becoming more complex as the skill levels increase. We are also planning on having classes in wire wrapping and carving.

Because of holidays, and other commitments, it was suggested that we try holding the meeting on Saturday next month. The February meeting will be on February 11th at Jerry & Kathy Turner's home in Whittier. The project will be to make a figure eight chain. This is a very simple linked chain, which is an excellent introduction to silver soldering joints. The chain can be made of any gauge material that you choose. The thicker the silver the easier it is to solder, but the less elegant it looks. I think that 18 gauge is a good compromise for beginners. I will have silver available for those who wish to purchase from me. It costs about \$1 per foot, and a 24 inch chain uses about 6 feet of material.

You will also need a torch. You can use an acetylene torch such as the prestolite, which is my preference. They cost about \$150 new, but you can normally buy a used one for half that price. You can also use a "crème brule" butane torch which is available from Harbor Freight for about \$15.

At 5:00 PM we will be enjoying a potluck dinner. As always it is BYO... that is, Bring Your Own... plates, silverware and drinks.

If you have any questions or need directions to the Turner's house, contact Tony or Sandie Fender at: (626) 798-3913.

Tony Fender

WGMS Honor Roll of Presidents

Every so often it is appropriate to remember who came before in the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society. Our first President was elected in 1949 and only served about 6 months before the elections of 1950 swept him out of office. Founding member George Cyrog served in 1953 and Bill Burns served in '55. Sylvia Cliffe was known as The Prez in 1958.

Several active members have held the top post, but only a select few have been President more than once. Jerry Turner held office in 1981 & 1998. Joe Goetz, our current top officer held the position in 1987, 1994 and now for a third time, 2006. I believe that is the record.

Year	Presidents	1978	Norm Donaldson
1949	Bob Meyers	1979	Muriel Berg
1950	Bill McIninch	1980	John Isenbarger
1951	Francis Croft	1981	Jerry Turner
1952	Ken Tharpe	1982	Francis Gilbert
1953	George Cyrog	1983	Bob Dietl
1954	Blanche Hutcheson	1984	Pat Maggs
1955	Bill Burns	1985	Vern Cliffe
1956	Donna Patrick	1986	Ken Manning
1957	Sol Stern	1987	Joe Goetz
1958	Sylvia (Burns) Cliffe	1988	Jim Bennett
1959	Jim Berry	1989	Mike Maneth
1960	Eunice Berry	1990	Mike Maneth
1961	Dora Stern	1991	Mike Maneth
1962	Marian Hubbard	1992	Sandie Fender
1963	Bruce Buell	1993	Sandie Fender
1964	Del Jones	1994	Joe Goetz
1965	Frank Hewlett	1995	Les Roy
1966	Mick Wingett	1996	Les Roy
1967	Art Logue	1997	Les Roy
1968	Bill Burns	1998	Jerry Turner
1969	Muriel Berg	1999	Isabella Burns
1970	Lefty Stroh	2000	Jay Valle
1971	George Merton	2001	Jay Valle
1972	Floyd Berg	2002	Art Ragazzi
1973	Margery Horsfall	2003	Art Ragazzi
1974	Lefty Stroh	2004	James LaBorde
1975	Bob Carlisle	2005	James LaBorde
1976	F.E. Sleep	2006	Joe Goetz
1977	F.E. Sleep		

February Birthstone : Amethyst

Birthstone Color: Purple

If gazing into the sparkling purple depths of an Amethyst suffuses you with a sense of powerful well being, this is only to be expected. The ancient Greeks believed that this gemstone held many powers, among them protection against intoxication. In fact, the word Amethyst comes from the Greek word "amethystos," meaning sober. In ancient Greece, the gemstone was associated with the god of wine, and it was common practice to serve this beverage from Amethyst goblets in the belief that this would prevent overindulgence. Even today, Amethyst is considered a stabilizing force for those struggling to overcome addictive behaviors.

February's purple birthstone has been found among the possessions of royalty throughout the ages. The intense violet hue of Amethyst appealed to early monarchs, perhaps because they often wore this color. Purple dye was scarce and expensive at one time, and so it was reserved for the garments of kings and queens. Amethyst has been found in ruins dating as far back as the ninth century, adorning crowns, scepters, jewelry, and breastplates worn into battle. A large Amethyst is among the closely guarded gemstones in the British Crown Jewels.

Amethyst is also symbolic of spirituality and piety. It has been used to ornament churches and crosses used in religious ceremony, and worn in rings and on rosaries by bishops and priests.

Once considered more valuable than diamonds, Amethyst is a member of the quartz family, occurring naturally as crystals within rocks. Deposits of this gemstone are found in Brazil, Canada, Australia, India, Madagascar, Namibia, Russia, Sri Lanka; and in the United States.

The gift of Amethyst is symbolic of protection and the power to overcome difficulty. It is said to strengthen the bond in a love relationship, so it is an ideal anniversary or engagement gem. Whether or not Amethyst holds such power, it's stunning beauty will certainly make anyone who wears it feel like royalty!

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

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

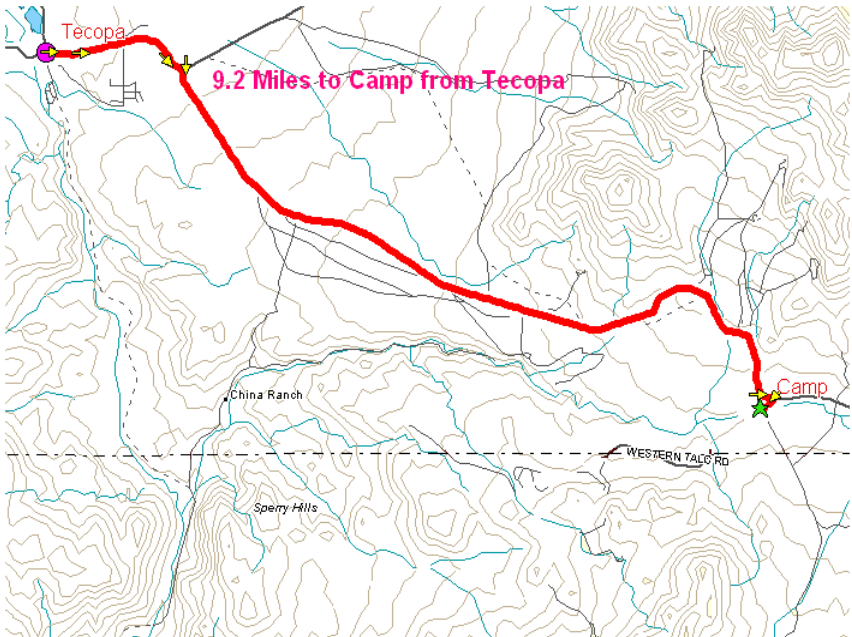
On February 18, 19, 20, the Pasadena Lapidary Society, the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society, and the North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society are having a field trip to Tecopa, California (near Death Valley).

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*



Field trip Schedule for 2006

This is going to be a great year for field trips. A group of interested members representing the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society, Pasadena Lapidary Society and North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society met at Joe & Marcia's house to plan our 2006 field trip destinations. The following list is what we came up with. First are the monthly destinations, followed by a list of possible day trips. If you have any particular destinations which you would like to visit, we want to hear from you so we can set something up.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Destination</u>
February 18-20	Tecopa minerals
March 18-19	Amboy-Cadiz Area
April 29-30	Imperial Valley west
May 27-29	Greenhorn Mtns. (tentative)
June (TBA)	Day-trip: Wrightwood
July (TBA)	Day-trip: Gold panning
August (TBA)	Day-trip: Big Bear
or	Clear Creak (not a day-trip)
Sept 30-Oct 1	Owens Valley - Cerro Gordo
October	Searles Lake
October 28-29	Whittier Onyx Claim trip
November 23-26	Opal Mountain

Day trips:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Destination</u>
TBA	Silica mine
TBA	Jalama Beach/Gaviota Beach
TBA	Acton Agate
TBA	Gem Hill
TBA	Adelanto Garnets and Dendrites
TBA	Texas Canyon Rhodonite
TBA	Castle Butte area
TBA	Bowers Museum
TBA	LA or San Bernardino Natural History Museums

**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.

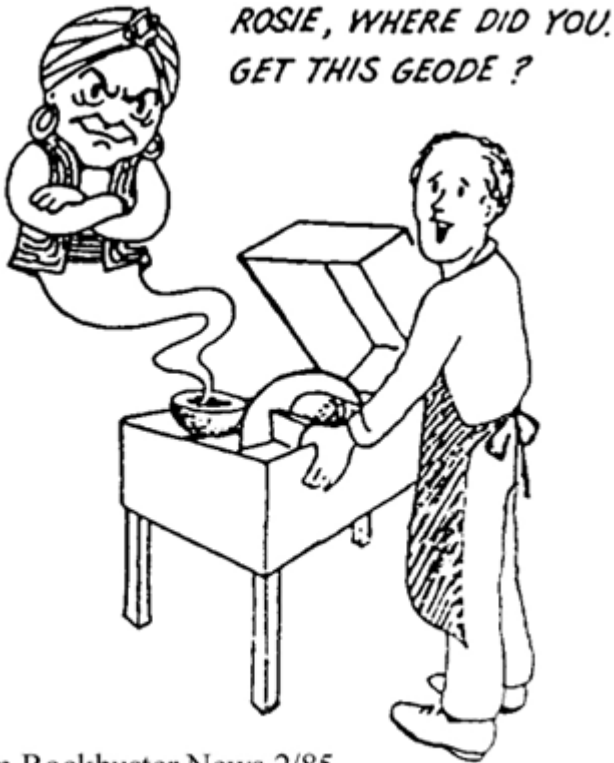
Other Motels in the close vicinity are: (This is old info I did not call.)

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

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

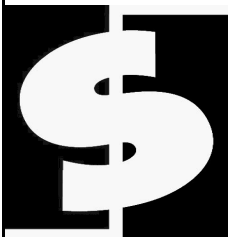
Econo Lodge - List is \$45 (928) 524-1448

Richard S. Mueller via LA-Rocks@yahoogroups.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."**

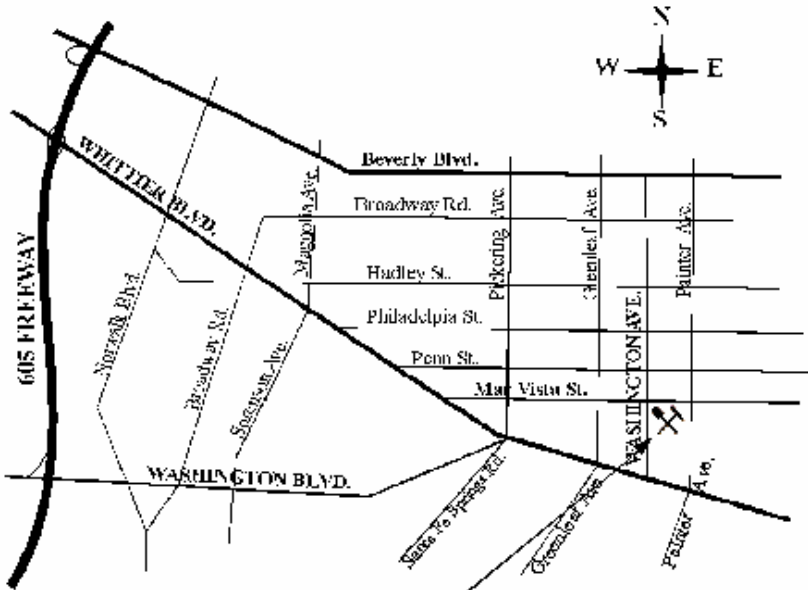
And that's the truth... Now, whoever said that history was boring!!!

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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Affiliations



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Meeting Date: February 23, 2006 at 7:30 PM
Location: Whittier Community Center
(see page 4 for information)