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WHITTIER



**ROCKHOUNDING**

GEM & MINERAL  
SOCIETY

June Program: Picnic in the Park  
(Potluck at Washington Avenue Park)



The Firey Heart of a Geode

# ROCKHOUNDER

## THE PREZ SEZ:

**I**t's hard to believe but June is already here. It is the time for vacations, for seeing the sites, visiting relatives.

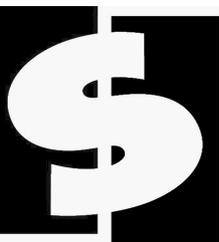
Even though you may not what to think about it, it is also the time to get things ready for the show. You know how it is... today it seems so far away and before you know it, it's the day of setup and you panic. And of course each year you swear it won't happen to you again and again.

This summer there will be at least one potluck get together and perhaps some workshops to repair cases. The season for us will be at a park where we'll have a nice potluck.

Have a fun time in the coming months, traveling, collecting and working on stuff. But please always be safe.

See you this summer and at the potluck.

*Somewhere in California*  
*Joe Goetz*



South Western  
Federal Credit Union

Contact (562) 694-8296 for information

### WGMS General Meeting

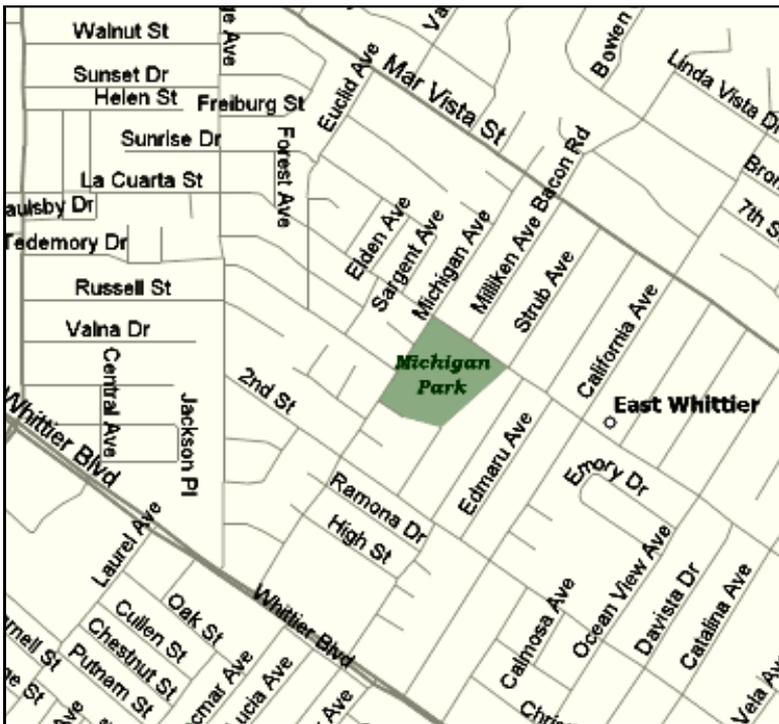
Thursday, June 22, 2006

at 6:00 PM

It is time for our June Potluck and this year we are trying something different - Picnic in the Park! We will be meeting at Michigan Park at 6:00 PM and dinner will be served promptly at 6:30 PM. There should be plenty of daylight and the picnic tabled are shaded so we can keep cool.

As always, bring a main entree, salad or dessert, and don't forget to bring plates, silverware and beverage of choice.

*Izzie*



**Summer Swim Party/Potluck**

**DATE:** ..... Saturday, July 29, 2006

**TIME:** ..... From 3:00 to 6:00 PM

**LOCATION:** ..... Jay & Kathy Valle's  
1421 Latchford Ave.  
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

**D**uring the summer hiatus we usually get together mid-summer to enjoy each other's company, swim (if you're in the mood), and to share an excellent potluck.

Jay & Kathy will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, water, ice tea and coffee, and maybe some pink lemonade. Plates and silverware will also be provided by the hosts.

You should bring an entree, salad or dessert, and if you want to bring additional drinks then please do so. And don't forget the swim suit if you want to enjoy the pool. (Note: the hosts will only go into the pool if some of the guests go in.)

For additional information or directions call (626) 934-9764.

**Little Known Fact**

**P**encil points are made from "plumbago" from the principal world mine at Barrowdale, Cumberland, England. Plumbago is a form of graphite called "black lead." Instead of being worked constantly, the mine is opened once a year and one year's world supply is mined. Then the mine is closed with strong doors, bars, and locks until the next year. All the fine pencils in the world have been made from black lead from this mine since Elizabethan times. —*from Pebbles via Roadrunner, 2/06*

**Supplemental Little Known Facts**

The above story sounded a bit suspicious to me [editor (of Marin Mineral Society Tumbler)], so I did some research and found that Barrowdale is

*(Continued on page 12)*

**June Birthstone : Pearl  
Birthstone Color: White**

**F**rom one of the humblest of life forms, the mollusk, comes the pearl -- a gem of unsurpassed beauty and elegance. Ancient civilizations had many stories to explain the origin of June's birthstone, such as the Greek belief that pearls were the hardened tears of joy that the goddess of love shook from her eyes as she was born from the sea. According to Arab legend, pearls were formed when oysters were lured from the depths of the ocean by the beautiful moon and then swallowed moonlit dewdrops. And the Ancient Chinese thought that these gems originated from the brains of dragons.

The scientific explanation for natural pearls is almost as mystifying as folklore. When an irritant, such as a small parasite or a fish lodges in the flesh of an oyster, mussel, or clam, a protective substance called "nacre" is produced. Over years, layer upon layer of shimmering nacre coats the intruder, creating a lustrous pearl. Natural pearls are relatively rare, so a process evolved in which a piece of shell or bead was placed inside a mollusk to stimulate the production of nacre. This results in a cultured pearl, which accounts for about 90 per cent of the pearl industry.

Divers find natural pearls in The Persian Gulf as well as in the waters off Japan, the South Pacific Islands off northern Australia, and the coasts of Panama, Venezuela, and California. Most of the cultured pearl industry is in Japanese and Australian coastal waters. These gems come in a variety of colors, from pure white to pink, yellow, gray and black. They also come in different shapes and sizes.

Pearls have been a passion and even an obsession of people throughout the ages. They have been ground up and used in cosmetics and as a medicine to treat heart and stomach conditions. Some cultures swear by pearls as an aphrodisiac. These gems have adorned crowns, clothing, and temples, and were said to be a favorite of Cleopatra.

Only those with royal status once wore pearl jewelry, but eventually these gems were seen among all classes of people. They continue to be viewed as a mark of taste and refinement as well as a symbol of purity, and they are often given to celebrate a marriage or the birth of a child. Pearls are nature's perfect gift, suitable for all ages, and elegantly worn with everything from jeans to an evening gown.

**Alternate Birthstones**

June has two alternate birthstones. The first is Moonstone, a type of feldspar named because of its uncanny resemblance to the iridescent sheen of the moon. Varying in color from clear to blue-white or peach, it was considered by ancient civilizations to be a sacred stone, bestowing the wearer with great spiritual understanding. Some believed that the Moonstone could even make a person invisible! Mined in Sri Lanka, Brazil, India, Madagascar, and the United States, a gift of this stone is symbolic of health and longevity.

The second alternate birthstone for June is the Alexandrite. A yellowish or brownish green in color, this gemstone has the unique characteristic of changing color to a red hue when exposed to a glowing light source, such as candlelight. Because of this quality, it has been characterized by poets as "an emerald by day, a ruby by night." Alexandrite was first discovered in Urals in 1830 but is mined today primarily in Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Burma, Madagascar and Tanzania. It is a rare and expensive gemstone, symbolic of joy and good fortune.

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

**Pearls, Pearls and more Pearls**

**With Francis Lau**

**July 22, 2006**

**10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

**\$15.00 each, includes lunch**

**Learn all about pearls.**

How to select

How to buy

How to string and tie

**La Habra Community Center**

**101 W. La Habra Blvd.**

**For information call: (562) 947-6845**

Pearl Seminar sponsored by  
**North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society**

### Day Trip: Wrightwood

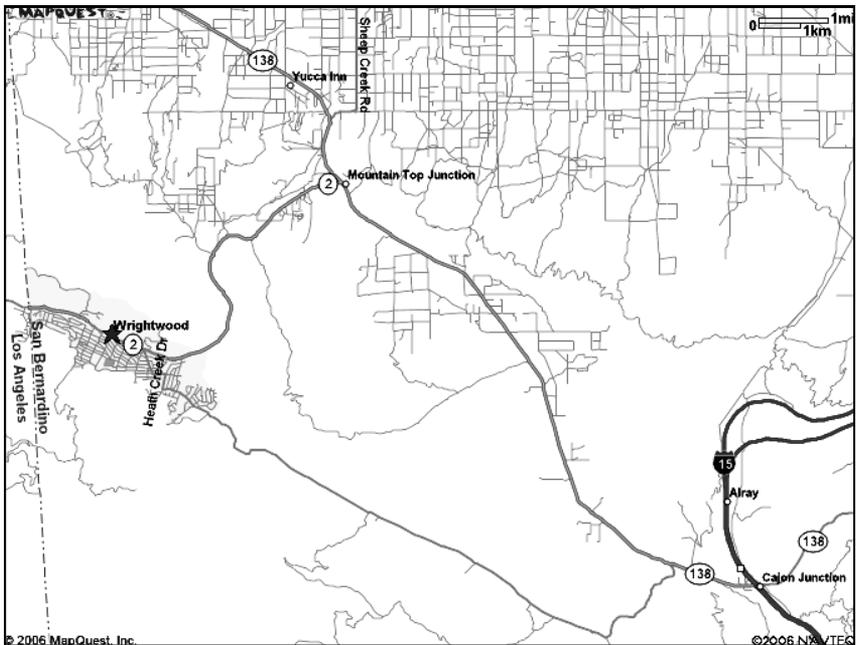
On July 1, there will be a one day field trip to Wrightwood, primarily in Heath Creek, for specimens of actinolite, rhodenite, and metamorphic materials.

We will meet between 0900 and 0930 Saturday morning at Jensen’s Market, 1340 State Highway #2, in Wrightwood then on to Heath Creek.

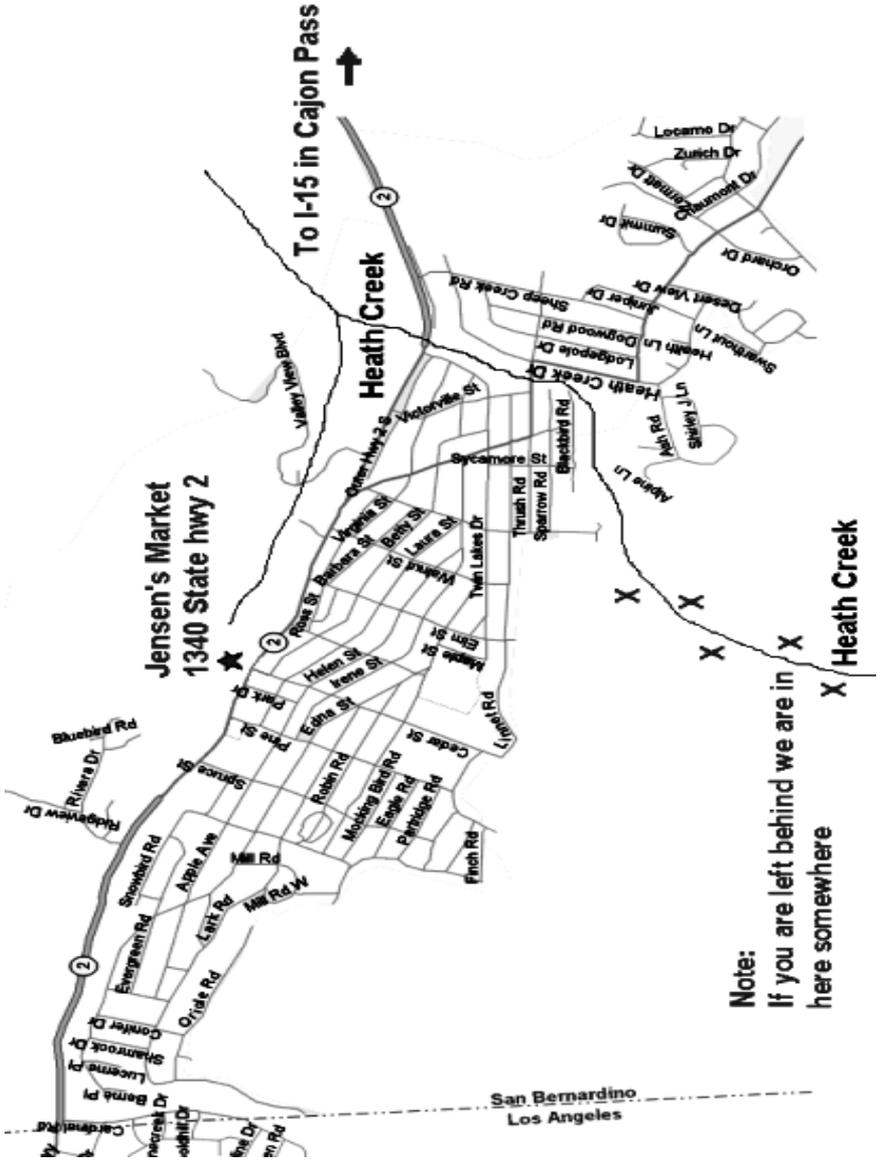
Wear sturdy water proof (there may be water in creek) boots for the trek and drinking water.

If you are interested in this trip and need more information contact me at: [davidkely@juno.com](mailto:davidkely@juno.com) or call (626) 303-7821.

Dave



Overview Map to Wrightwood



**Important Info About Area Code  
Via Chuck McKie, CFMS Safety Chair**

**J**ust in case it's true - good morning everybody. This is true according to snoopes but the rates are exaggerated.

We actually received a call last week from the 809 area code. The woman said, "Hey, this is Karen. Sorry I missed you - get back to us quickly. I have something important to tell you." Then she repeated a phone number beginning with 809. We didn't respond.

Then this week, we received the following e-mail:

**Subject: DON'T EVER dial area code 809 , 284 and 876.**

This is very important information provided to us by AT&T. Don't ever dial area code 809

This one is being distributed all over the US. This is pretty scary, especially given the way they try to get you to call.

Be sure your read this and pass it on.

They get you to call by telling you that it is information about a family member who has been ill or to tell you someone has been arrested, died, or to let you know you have won a wonderful prize, etc.

In each case, you are told to call the 809 number right away. Since there are so many new area codes these days, people unknowingly return these calls.

If you call from the US, you will apparently be charged \$2,425 per minute.

Or, you'll get a long recorded message. The point is, they will try to keep you on the phone as long as possible to increase the charges. Unfortunately, when you get your phone bill, you'll often be charged more than \$24,100.00.

**Why It Works**

The 809 area code is located in the British Virgin Islands (The Bahamas).

The charges afterwards can become a real nightmare. That's because you did actually make the call. If you complain, both your local phone company and your long distance carrier will not want to get involved and will most likely

tell you that they are simply providing the billing for the foreign company. You'll end up dealing with a foreign company that argues they have done nothing wrong.

Please forward this entire message to your friends, family and colleagues to help them become aware of this scam

Sandi Van Handel  
AT&T Field Service Manager (920) 687-904  
cld

*Via NOC News - June 2006*

### **Nephrite or Jadeite**

By Joan Greenlees Abramson

Jade? A conundrum! How can you tell  
Whether nephrite or jadeite? They both polish well.  
Both are quite hard and as tough as can be,  
Both can be fashioned in fine jewelry.

Nephrite is often dark green and is found  
Near serpentine outcrops or deep underground,  
While jadeite has colors and translucent sheen -  
-Lavender, mauve and bright apple green.

For intricate carvings, nephrite's the one  
To make birds and blossoms that shine like the sun.  
But jadeite is special for pendants or rings,  
With luster so lovely it glorifies things!

The Ancients used jade for their tools and spears.  
Armed with such weapons, who could have fears?  
The Olmecs and Mayans both carved this great stone,  
And the Chinese embraced it, and called it their own.

This wonderful gemstone has made our lives rich -  
Let chemists determine which one is which!  
Whether nephrite or jadeite we'll cherish its beauty  
And leave it to science to render its duty.

*From The Pegmatite 3-06*

**Tips For Contour Polishing Petrified Wood**

**As related by John Dahnke**

**S**o you've got a rough piece of petrified wood, a nice full round. What do you do? Step one is get out all the big steps and divots as quickly as possible. Put a diamond blade on your angle grinder, a respirator over your nose and mouth, and using a fairly low angle so you don't cut slots into the wood, drag the diamond blade sideways over the problem areas. This is a dry operation, and sure moves a lot of material fast. To finish the shaping, use a Barranca or similar wet contour grinder with a coarse diamond wheel.

After shaping, the fresh surface may want to fracture or peel, so it's necessary to fill the fractures to hold it together. The best way to do this is to use 330 2-part epoxy thinned down with acetone. Keep adding acetone and stirring the mixture until it's as clear as water the mixture should be thin and runny. Use a teaspoon to carefully drip the thinned epoxy into the wider cracks. Then use a toothpick to fill those cracks the rest of the way, and to fill in tiny cracks (this gets the cracks filled without trapping air in the bottom of them.)

After the whole piece has been treated, let it sit in the sun for several days to cure (Art Riggle puts his pieces in the oven on low temp.) Now you are ready to proceed with the rest of the usual wet grinding and polishing steps with the Barranca.

*From The Pegmatite 8/04, via Rock Rollers 3/05, via Delvings 6/06*

**Supplemental Little Known Facts**

(Continued from page 4)

actually the only source of graphite that is pure enough to be used without modification. Graphite from other sources is also used, but must be mixed with clay to increase its durability.

Despite its name, there is no actual lead in pencil leads. So you can stop worrying about that pencil point that your best friend stuck into your hand in second grade!

Actually, lead was the first writing instrument, used during the Roman Empire and probably earlier to make marks on papyrus, thus the origin of the name of pencil lead. Graphite came into widespread use after the Barrowdale deposit was found in 1564. *-Reprinted from Tumbler, 2/06*

*Via Chips / May, 2006*

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FIND A WORD...

All the words in this puzzle come from this month's Ghost Sheet, see how many you can find....

ALEXANDRITE

JEWELRY

BBQ

LAPIDARY

CALIFORNIA

LEO

CFMS SHOW

MAGNESITE

GHOST SHEET

PEARL

FIREWORKS

PERIDOT

GEMINI

ROSE

HALITE

RUBY

JUNE

SUMMER

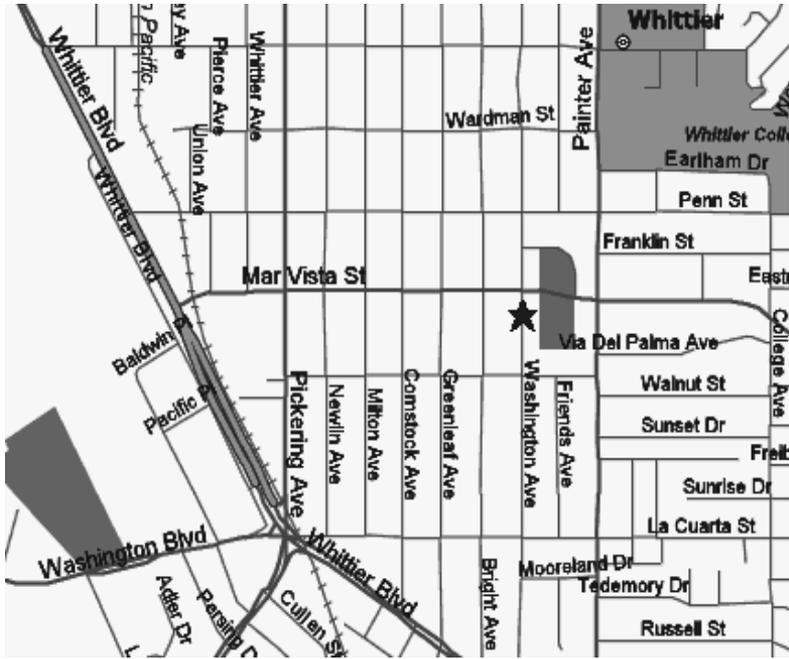
JULY

VIRGO

**Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows**

- June 9-11** **Angels Camp, CA.** Calveras Gem & Mineral Society  
Calveras Co. Fairgrounds  
Hours: 10-5 daily
- July 1-2** **Culver City, CA.** Culver City rock & Mineral Club  
Culver City Veteran's Memorial Auditorium  
4117 Overland Avenue  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5
- Aug 4-6** **Nipomo, CA.** Orcutt Mineral Society  
St. Joseph's Church, 298 South Thompson Avenue  
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
- Sept 16-17** **Paso Robles, CA.** Santa Lucia Rockhounds  
Pioneer Park and Museum, 2010 Riverside Avenue  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
- Sept 22-24** **San Bernardino, CA.** Orange Belt Mineralogical Society  
Ball Park, 6707 Little League Drive in San Bernardino  
Hours: Fri./Sat. 9 - 6; Sun. 9 - 4
- Sept 23-24** **Downey, CA.** Delters Gem & Mineral Society  
Woman's Club of Downey, 9813 Paramount Blvd  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 4
- Sept 23-24** **San Diego, CA.** San Diego Lapidary Society  
Bernado Winery, 13330 Paseo Del Verano Norte  
Rancho Bernardo  
Hours: 10 - 4 both days
- Oct 1** **Falbrook, CA.** Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society  
123 W. Alva (FGMS Headquarters)  
Hours: 10 - 4
- Oct 14-15** **Trona, CA.** Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society  
13337 Main Street  
Hours: Sat. 7:30 - 5; Sun. 7:30 - 4
- Oct 21-22** **Whittier, CA.** Whittier Gem & Mineral Society  
Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington Avenue  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days

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: res19pnb@verizon.net  
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: June 22, 2006 at 6:00 PM**  
**Location: Washington Avenue Park**  
**(see page 3 for information)**