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WHITTIER



ROCKHOUNDER

GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

Bill Mann's "Guide to 50 Interesting and Mysterious Sites in the Mojave"



Unexpected hazard of rockhounding: A small herd of Buffalo.
(Recently encountered at the North Rim Grand Canyon by
Jay Valle and Tony & Sandie Fender while exploring.)

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Welcome back, how was your summer?

This is the late early edition that is either the late August or early September. We are only approximately 8 weeks to the show. It is time to get out your display and set it up. That way if your liner isn't right for the display you have time to change it now without the panic of trying to change it on the night of setup.

Do you have your donation ready? Have you scheduled yourself to be off work etc.? We all like to procrastinate a bit, but before you know it the show is here. Like somehow it snuck up behind you and then said surprise!

We are having a board meeting August 24th at Jay & Kathy Valle's house at 7:30 P.M. There will be a lot to talk about, so I would like to see my board members there. Any club member is welcome to attend. So try to stay cool and I'll see you there!

Joe Goetz



South Western
Federal Credit Union

Contact (562) 694-8296 for information

**WGMS General Meeting
Thursday, September 28, 2006
at 7:00 PM**

Tony & Sandie Fender will present:

**Bill Mann's "50 Interesting and Mysterious Sites
in the Mojave."**

The title says it all. This program presents for your enjoyment a brief tour of some of Bill Mann's "mysterious" locations described in his first book of the same name.

Izzie

**Why Be An Officer?
By Norm & Lucille Hewe**

Why be an officer? It can only mean meetings, rallies, dinners and lots of work. You'll sometimes get the blunt end of the stick and all complaints are headed in your direction. Are these your thoughts when approached by your nominating committee? If so, why not look at the other side of the card?

You attend an executive meeting. It isn't long and you discover what it takes to keep the club moving forward. Not only that, but now you are a part of the decision making team and your fellow officers are the people you park next to at the rallies or sit next to at the dinners. Together you generate new ideas for the year or maybe a single event to be presented to your members. It's business, fun and fellowship, and better yet, another night out.

At your rallies and dinners you discover how fortunate you are, as being involved you realize how many members you really begin to know. This is one of the greatest opportunities you will have. The friendships you will make within your clubs and other clubs will always be a very valuable memory of your duty as an officer.

Work! Yes, but because of the membership you would serve, it isn't as bad as one might think. There is always someone there to pitch in. They may not always volunteer, but are always there willingly when asked.

(Continued on page 12)

New Book Announced!!

"Gemstone Adventures in Verse"

By Joan Greenlee Abramson

One of the perks of being the editor-in-chief of the *Rockhounder* is to read the old bulletins and enjoy the articles and reports. Many of the how-to articles, safety alerts and field trip reports are as useful today as they were when first published. They are always entertaining.

Joan Abramson's poems have been appearing in the WGMS newsletters for almost as long as the bulletin has been published in it's current format. The June '06 issue of the Rockhounder contains one of her new poems, "**Nephrite or Jadeite**". (If you missed it, look on page 10 of the June bulletin.)

Joan has just self-published a collection of her poetry covering 36 years of rockhounding. There is a variety of poems, from "Crystals" to "Down Under". This brand new book will be available in September and will only be available direct from the author.

Copies are \$12.95 with \$3.00 shipping (\$15.95 total) and may be purchased from Joan at the following address:

Joan Greenlee Abramson
1035 East Vista Way
Box #154
Vista, CA 92084

For members of the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society only, you may look in your 2006 Roster if you would prefer to contact Joan in a more direct fashion for more information or just to say hi.

Note to Bulletin Editors: If you are a non-profit organization (ie. rock club) Joan's poems may be used in your bulletins freely and without restriction but you must properly credit her as the author. You do not need to contact her for permission. This does not apply to commercial magazines, etc.

JValle, Editor

September Birthstone : Blue Sapphire
Birthstone Color: Deep Blue

The striking deep blue of a quality sapphire is reminiscent of a cloudless night sky. Ancient civilizations believed that the world was set upon an enormous sapphire, which painted the sky blue with its reflection. This legend, as well as the belief that the ten commandments were inscribed upon tablets made of sapphire, gives September's birthstone a royal place among gemstones.

Named after the Greek word "sapphirus", meaning blue, Sapphires have long been a favorite among priests and kings, who considered them symbolic of wisdom and purity. These gemstones are prominent among the British Crown Jewels, and Prince Charles chose this as the engagement stone for his fiancée, Princess Diana.

In ancient times, Sapphires were thought to be protective against envy, and even against poisoning. A common belief was that a venomous snake placed in a Sapphire vessel would rapidly die! Ground to a powder, the blue stone was believed to cure colic, rheumatism and mental illness, and to strengthen eyesight.

Sapphire is a variety of the mineral corundum. Corundum is found in every color of the rainbow, with red being designated as ruby and all other hues Sapphire. But the most prized color of Sapphire is a rich, deep blue. These gemstones were mined as early as the 7th Century BC from India and what is now Sri Lanka. They are found today in Sri Lanka, Kashmir, Myanmar, Thailand, Australia, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, China, Madagascar, and the United States. Large specimens of Corundum crystals are rare, although the 563-carat Star of India can be seen in the American Museum of Natural History. This is the largest and most famous of star Sapphires, which are cut to reflect light from inclusions within the stone, revealing a bright six-legged star pattern.

The Sapphire is second only to the Diamond in hardness, making it a durable gemstone for setting into jewelry. A gift of Sapphire represents sincerity and faithfulness. As nourishing to the soul as gazing up at the sky on a summer day, this brilliant blue gemstone is truly a heavenly choice!

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

Be Safe - Be Well
By Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair

Jewelry making can be a most enjoyable hobby but there are certain hazards which must be avoided, and can be, by following a few simple rules.

- Don't polish a wire or chain on a rotary tool without nailing the wire or chain to a board. This might wrap around the arbor and pull your hand with it.
- Don't set fire to our clothing with the torch. Fuzzy sweaters are dangerous.
- Don't drop the torch or fail to turn it off. An explosion might follow.
- Don't pour water into acid when making pickle; pour acid into water.
- Don't turn over the pickle pot or the boil pot. Keep handles to the rear.
- Don't put a large piece of very hot metal in pickle. It might splash.
- Don't pick up the charcoal block or hot metal until you know it's cool.
- Don't hold a piece being drilled with your hand; the drill might slip or break or the piece might spin when the drill breaks through. Use pliers.
- Don't put your fingers inside any item being polished, for example, a belt buckle, ring bracelet, etc. Hold the work being polished between fingertips and thumb.
- Don't wear rubber gloves or fingerstalls when polishing. These might wrap around the arbor.
- Don't work without some protection for the eyes such as plastic goggles or a magnifying eye piece, particularly when using a rotating wire brush.
- Don't let your tie or hair get caught by the rotating arbor. This could be fatal.
- Don't get into contact with electricity or belts. Don't work on a wet or damp floor.
- Don't fail to report any apparent hazard immediately.

We repeat: "Work safely. You can't get by on luck."

Just fail to observe these rules and you will find your situation comparable to that of the fellow whose wife had the stone-cutter carve on his tombstone, "I told you to go to the doctor."

From AFMS Newsletter 4-06 via CFMS Newsletter 8-06

**September Field Trip
Owens Valley Collecting
September 29 to Oct 1**

The September field trip will be from September 29 - October 1, in the Owens Valley.

We will collect ammonite casts in Union Wash, visit the “Haystack” and collect amazonite and beryl specimens.

We will visit Cerro Gordo, a historic mining area, high in the mountains to collect fossils. For a fee of \$5.00 per person we can sight-see Cerro Gordo with the caretaker. Public specimen collecting at Cerro Gordo is only allowed once a year through th Lone Pine club and the caretaker.

I am planning on camping at Diaz Lake, 3 miles south of Lone Pine, a county run campground, at \$7.00 per night and anyone desiring to join me is encouraged to contact me. Maybe we can get set up in the group area. There are several other campgrounds in the Lone Pine Area in addition to motels.

My plans are for all of us to meet Saturday morning (Sept. 29), between 8:30 - 9:00 AM, at the visitor center where highways #136 and #395 meet for the trip to Cerro Gordo. Most vehicles can make the 8 mile, 5,000 foot climb to the Mines area.

Contact me at (626) 303-7821 or davidkelty@juno.com

In October we will have our annual trip to the Whittier club onyx claim, east of Barstow, for onyx, agate. Jasper, and palm specimens.

November’s field trip takes us to Opal Mountain, west of Barstow, for various colors of opal specimens and agate.

I am in the process of planning the 2007 season and am encouraging your input for next year.

Dave



Meet at between 8:30 to 9:00 AM at the visitor's center located at the intersection of Hwy 395 and Hwy 136.

<p>36d 42.31m X 118d 01.68m</p> <p>36d 36.22m X 117d 58.60m</p> <p>36d 32.03m X 117d 48.55m</p>	<p>* Union Wash (Ammonites)</p> <p>* Haystack (Beryl, Amazonite)</p> <p>* Cerro Gordo (minerals, fossils)</p>	
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Areas to be visited

Looking back for historical perspective...

**Whittier Gem & Mineral Society members who initiated,
set up and operated the lapidary class at the Whittier
Boys and Girls Club in the 1990's.**

Seven WGMS members were deeply involved in the success of the class during the time of its operation and this report gives the factual history and details of those club members who were involved in starting, setting up and running the lapidary program at the Whittier Boys and Girls Club. The article is dedicated to the memory of Jim Akin

The Untold Story...

About 1993, Jim Akin discovered that one of his friends teaching a youth lapidary class in Buena Park was contemplating quitting his position due to constraints placed by management on the operation of his class. (Prior to knowing this information, several WGMS members had been “fielding” the possibility of starting a lapidary class at the Boys and Girls Club at club meetings). Putting “two and two” together, it was decided to approach the Buena Park instructor with the idea of becoming an instructor at the Whittier Boys and Girls Club and at the same time offer the suggestion to the management at the Boys and Girls Club.

To start the “ball rolling”, Jim Akin and Vern & Sylvia Cliffe visited the Buena Park instructor to see his class and talk with him about changing over to Whittier. At that point in time, he wouldn't commit to a change either way. He was very helpful, turning over a number of instruction sheets of projects he had his students work on.

Realizing that the Buena Park instructor may not probably change, Les Roy and Jim Akin approached the Boys and Girls Club management with the idea of starting a lapidary crafts class using WGMS equipment and members for teaching as the basis of the class. After several discussions, the details were worked out

The Boys and Girls Club would furnish a locked workshop room for the lapidary equipment and WGMS would provide the lapidary equipment, basic supplies and install the necessary electrical conduit, wiring and strategically placed outlets for the equipment.

Over several weeks the electrical conduit, wiring and outlets were installed, the equipment was moved in and plastic aprons, goggles, paper towels and

other miscellaneous items stocked. The workshop was on the second floor which meant muscle power, provided by the larger boys at the club, was necessary to carry the equipment up the 22 to 24 stairs including a 180 degree turn on the way up. .

Credit must be given to the following persons in setting up the workshop. The electrical materials and work was furnished and installed by Tony Fender and Vern Cliffe over several afternoons. The moving of the equipment was directed by Les Roy and Jim Akin.

The lapidary crafts class was scheduled for Thursday afternoons each week from 1:00 to 4:00 PM and handled six to eight students and was managed by seven WGMS members.

Izzie & Bill Burns and Vern & Sylvia Cliffe were the instructors who worked alternate weeks while Angie Harwood handed out and collected the aprons and goggles every week.

Angie also needs to be recognized for providing gemstone materials for a display case in the entrance to the facility and changing out the display on a regular basis. Gemstone slabs were provided by WGMS members for the class. The students cut the slabs on a trim saw and used the diamond and carborundum wheels to shape and polish their cabs.

Les Roy and Jim Akin need to be credited for the “basic” weekly work in keeping the equipment running by changing out worn wheels for new ones, etc. Les talked the Whittier Chrysler dealer into steam cleaning a “dirty” 20 inch slab saw (“new” to WGMS) before it was moved to the workshop. Les and Jim worked closely with the Boys and Girls club management and they agreed to pay for half of the cost of new grinding wheels, etc., to keep down the cost to WGMS. Along the way, Jim Akin had health problems which reduced his activities for a time, but not his enthusiasm!

Guess you could call the devoted WGMS working members, the “Seven Class Mates”!

The class ran on a regular schedule for several years before incidents and age took over, Izzie broke an ankle and Sylvia with knee problems made climbing stairs just about impossible. Les, Jim and Angie continued to run the class for quite some time, even training some of the Boys and Girls Club personnel to be instructors before having to close down for lack of support from both organizations.

(Continued on page 12)

Whittier Boys and Girls Club

(Continued from page 11)

While the class was in operation WGMS set up a monthly Sunday workshop and potluck at the workshop and kitchen facility but abandoned the project after several months due to lack member involvement.

For a number of months while the class was in operation the Boys and Girls Club management allowed WGMS to use a downstairs room for the monthly board meetings, saving the cost of renting a facility.

The program was very successful over the time frame that it operated, but age and health problems took its toll. Other WGMS club members were occupied with normal work activities and with a general lack of interest it was inevitable that the program would fold. However the experience of working closely with the Boys and Girls Club personnel has left a lasting friendship between both organizations

Vern and Sylvia Cliffe

Life Advise From a Fortune Cookie

After eating Chinese recently I received the following fortune:

"You will make some changes before winning."

So I went home, changed my socks and underwear and bought a lottery ticket.

Why Be An Officer?

(Continued from page 4)

Serving your club as an officer is a privilege and a very rewarding experience. The joys are endless and the results gratifying because you were a part of it. Why be an officer? For all the right reasons: friendships, involvement, decision making and most of all, enjoyment. It's a great experience—as we know.

I hope that everyone has now read the article and will bear this in mind when the need for officers in their unit is required.

Without dedicated officers our club would not function. We have many members with an abundance of talent, and I hope this may motivate them to come forward and share in the rewards of participation.

From Metro-Detroit Club, via SCFMS Newsletter, Nov/Dec 1995, via CFMS Newsletter 09-06

A Few Questions

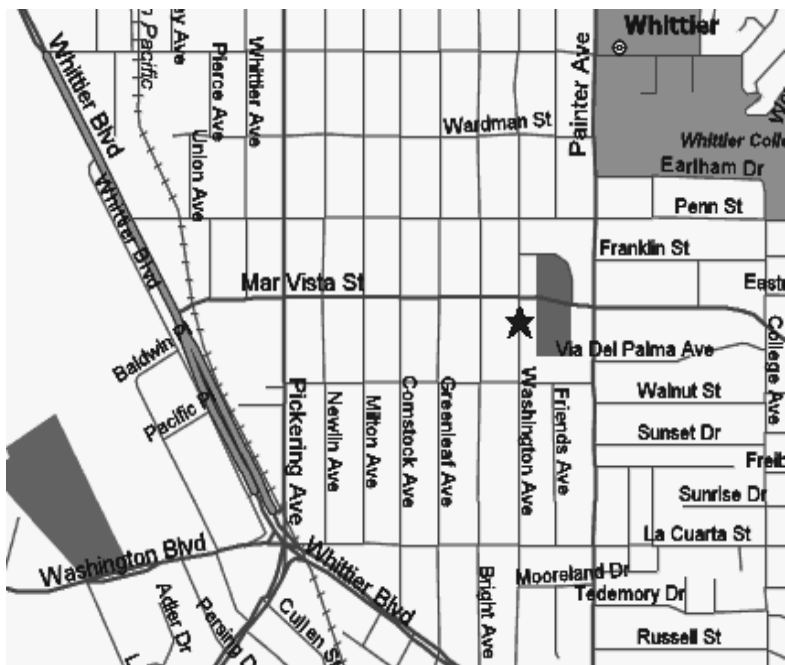
- Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?
- Why do banks charge a fee on "insufficient funds" when they know there is not enough?
- Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?
- Why doesn't glue stick to the bottle?
- Why do they use sterilized needles for death by lethal injection?
- Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?
- Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but duck when you throw a revolver at him?
- Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?
- Whose idea was it to put an 'S' in the word "lisp"?
- If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?
- Why is it that no matter what color bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white?
- Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?
- Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materi-alized?
- Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?
- Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end you first try?
- How do those dead bugs get into those enclosed tight fixtures?
- When we are in the supermarket and someone rams our ankle with a shopping cart then apologizes for doing so, why do we say, "It's all right?" Well, it isn't all right so why don't we say, "That hurt, you stupid idiot?"
- Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?
- In winter why do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?
- How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?
- If at first you don't succeed, shouldn't you try doing it like your wife told you to do it?
- And obviously if at first you don't succeed, then don't take up skydiving!

Strata Gem 11-05 via The Glacial Drifter 8-06

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- 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
- Oct 27-28 Northridge, CA.** Del Air Rockhounds Gemboree
United Methodist Church, 9650 Reseda Blvd. (at Superior St.)
Hours: Friday 3 pm - 9:30 pm; Sat. 10 - 5
- Oct 28-29 Vista, CA.** Vista Gem & Mineral Society
1200 Vale Terrace
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
- Nov 4-5 Lancaster, CA.** Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 West Avenue H
Hours: 9 - 5 both days

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



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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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Editor: Jay Valle, 1421 Latchford Ave.
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Meeting Date: September 28 at 7:00 PM
Location: Washington Avenue Park
(see page 3 for info & page 15 for map)