

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

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SHOW TIME & DUES ARE DUE!!

"The Search for Lost and Buried Treasure"



ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Well, October has arrived, the month of Fall, the turning of leaves from green to yellow, orange and red. It is also the month with Halloween, in some places it is called Frightnight.

We have our own 'frightnight', but don't be scared; I'll be there as well as other board members. Of course what I'm talking about is our show setup. We need everyone's help which will make it easier for all of us. Just like the old saying goes; 'many hands make work little' or something like that.

Your help is also needed during the show, to take over a job so that people can thave a break and see the show, or to visit with friends that have come to see the show. You could be 'like' a docent and guide guests around the display cases and answer questions. And when the show ends and the chaos of tear down begins, your hands will be needed in many different capacities. With all of us working together we can have a very good show.

If you need a image like a old recruiting poster of Uncle Sam pointing at someone and wants them in the army. So, picture me in the top hat of stars and strips and I'm pointing at you and I want you at the WGMS show. I hope to see you there.

Joe Goetz



South Western
Federal Credit Union

Contact (562) 694-8296 for information

**WGMS General Meeting
Thursday, October 26, 2006
at 7:00 PM**

The Search for Lost and Buried Treasure

Presented by James S. Klein

James Klein is an actor and writer who caught gold fever thirty years ago and has never been cured. He is the author of numerous prospecting guides, including *How to Find Gold and Where to Find Gold in Southern California*. An interesting writing has been *Gold Rush! The Young Prospector's Guide to Striking it Rich*, which combines hands-on treasure hunting methods with history and informative way to have fun.

He will bring some of the most recent tools used in pursuing this hobby. This will be an informative and fun evening that you won't want to miss.

Izzie Burns

2007 Nominations for WGMS Officers

As of the time this bulletin was published the following Officer Candidates had been identified;

- President..... Joe Goetz
- 1st Vice-President (programs)..... ????????????
- 2nd Vice President (membership) Art Ragazzi
- Secretary..... Jay Valle
- Treasurer Isabella (Izzy) Burns
- Federation Director Bill Burns
- Directors:..... Les Roy (community affairs)
- Jerry Turner (bylaws)
- Jack Zywocienski

Some of these Club Officers are continuing in the same capacity as last year and a few have changed. Our biggest need is a "volunteer" to be the Program Chairman, 1st Vice-President. It is a tough job and very important to the health of the Club. If you choose to accept the assignment you will get a lot of help and hopefully will have some fun, too.

Jay & Kathy Valle, Larry & Vivian Rice and Art Ragazzi

It's Show Time!!!

A terrific Gem Show is coming up and we want you to be a part of it. Friday, October 20th from 3:00 to 8:00 pm is setup. Lots of strong backs/weak minds needed, even if only supervising. Show cases should be available after 5 pm.

We are not doing a kitchen this year but we will be selling sodas, water and a few pre-packaged snacks in front of the kitchen area. Please bring 2 six-packs of name-brand sodas or a case of water.

Tell your friends and we'll see you there.

**WHITTIER
GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**

Proudly Presents:

Fifty-seventh Annual
"Treasures of Rockhounding"

"BURIED TREASURE"

**GEM, MINERAL,
AND JEWELRY SHOW**

**DEALERS - DEMONSTRATIONS - DISPLAYS
HOURLY DRAWINGS - SNACK BAR**

**SATURDAY OCT 21, 2006 - 10 AM TO 5 PM
SUNDAY, OCT 22, 2006 - 10 AM TO 5 PM**

**WHITTIER COMMUNITY CENTER
7630 WASHINGTON AVENUE
WHITTIER, CA**

FREE PARKING & ADMISSION

October Birthstone : Opal
Birthstone Color: Multi-colored

October's birthstone treats the eye to an explosion of shimmering colors, not unlike those of a magnificent rainbow following a summer rain. The Opal derives its name from the Latin word "opalus," meaning precious jewel. Prized for its unique ability to refract and reflect specific wavelengths of light, the Opal was called "Cupid Paederos" by the Romans, meaning a child beautiful as love. One legendary explanation for this gemstone's origin is that it fell from heaven in a flash of fiery lightning.

Ancient monarchs treasured Opals, both for their beauty and for their presumed protective powers. They were set into crowns and worn in necklaces to ward off evil and to protect the eyesight. These gemstones were also ground and ingested for their healing properties and to ward off nightmares.

The Opal dates back to prehistoric times. It is a non-crystallized silica, which is a mineral found near the earth's surface in areas where ancient geothermal hot springs once existed. As the hot springs dried up, layers of the silica, combined with water, were deposited into the cracks and cavities of the bedrock, forming Opal. This gemstone actually contains up to 30% water, so it must be protected from heat or harsh chemicals, both of which will cause drying and may lead to cracking and loss of iridescence. Opal must also be guarded from blows, since it is relatively soft and breaks easily.

Most of the world's Opal deposits are found in Southern Australia. Other sources of this gemstone are Brazil, Mexico, Czechoslovakia and Nevada. Quality Opal is very expensive, made more so by the caution that must be exercised in cutting, polishing and setting it into jewelry.

A gift of Opal is symbolic of faithfulness and confidence. And the powerful energy radiating from this fiery gemstone will surely illuminate any occasion!

Alternate Birthstone

An alternate birthstone for October, Pink Tourmaline has the seemingly magical property of pyroelectricity. Scientifically speaking, this means that when heated, the gem takes on a static electric charge, making it capable of attracting lightweight objects. No wonder this gemstone was revered for its mystical properties centuries ago! Considered the "stone of the muse," it was believed to stimulate the creative process of its wearer. Pink varieties of Tourmaline range in color from pastel pink to ruby red and are mined in Brazil, Afghanistan, Burma, and India. A gift of this stone is symbolic of hope.

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

Safety

By Bill Buckner, AFMS Safety Chair

Concerns of safety issues in our shops, studios, or whatever we call our places where we work with lapidary concerns and jewelry making.

Ventilation: either have enough room or have some way to get enough fresh air that there is no danger of breathing problems.

Eye safety: a pair of safety glasses (either prescription or goggles) are needed when using machinery and rocks or minerals. In breaking stones, sawing stones, grinding stones, or polishing stones small pieces of rock could hit your eye and cause damage.

Chemicals that we use: care should be taken to be extremely safety minded when we use these toxic chemicals. Follow directions on the containers. Most chemicals that mix with water should be mixed into water, not water added to the chemicals.

Storage of chemicals: they should always be stored in a safe place with a good cover on them and out of reach of small children. I try to store mine in a wood rack with wooden dividers between the bottles or containers. They should always be labeled properly.

A few DO NOT'S:

- Do not store gasoline or use it in a room where have a gas water heater or any gas appliances with pilot lights.
- Do not haul acetylene in a closed trunk or car or truck cab without at least two windows open at least two inches. When there is an acetylene leak enough gas might build up to cause an explosion.
- Do not try to use tools or torches when you are drowsy from medication. In fact it is a good idea to rest a little while before you go into your shop if you feel tired or sleepy.
- Do not forget ventilation.

Some DO'S:

- Do be careful.
- Do have a good time.
- Do good work.
- Do be available to help someone who needs it.
- Do share your love of your hobby with others.
Be careful and do good work.

From AFMS Newsletter 6-03 via CFMS Newsletter 9-06

**WGMS October Field Trip
Whittier Club Honey Onyx Claim
November 4 & 5, 2006**

After the WGMS Show, our field trip is typically an outing to the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society's Honey Onyx Claim, located just east of Barstow. The honey onyx is still there but it is hard rock mining. If you have any or have seen it, you know that it is well worth the effort involved. Usually we use our Claim as a base of operations for daily field trips to the surrounding collecting areas. The access to the camp area requires unlocking a combination lock and opening a locked gate. **The combination is 4321.** After you pass through the gate, you must lock it behind you. Follow the 'W' or 'PLS' signs to camp (see map on page 9).

**You will find a combination lock on the gate.
The combination is 4321.**

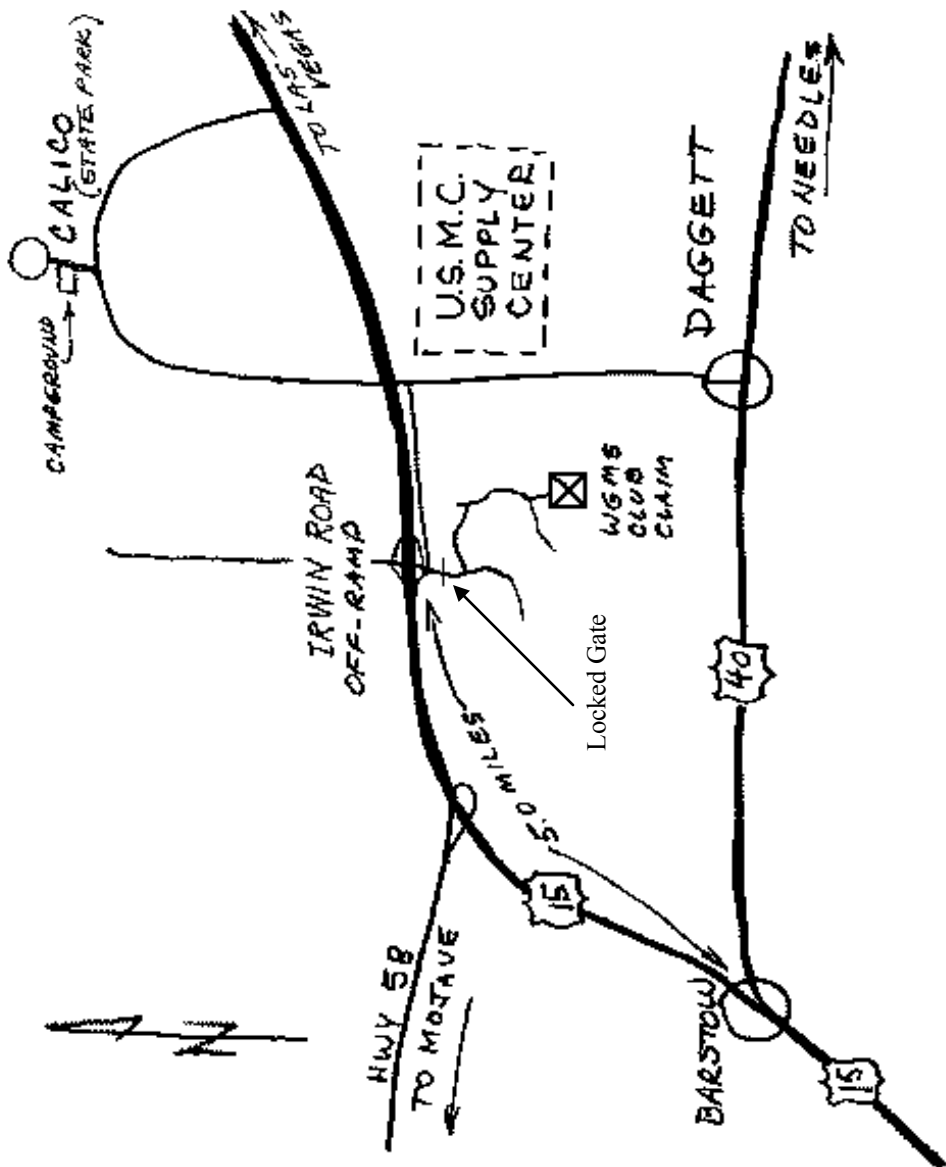
There will be guided field trips on both Saturday and Sunday and we will leave camp each day at 8:00 - 8:30 AM. Saturday evening will feature a traditional potluck dinner, followed by a warm campfire, if the weather permits.

Materials which may be collected: Honey onyx, red moss agate, petrified wood & palm root, algae agate, and other unnamed agates, jasp-agates, jaspers, fossils, etc.

Tools: Rock pick & bag for general collecting; Sledges, wedges, chisels, pry bars, etc. for those rockhounds who really want to get serious with the honey onyx.

Supplies: Barstow is very close. For beginning rockhounds (without campers, trailers, etc.) you may wish to stay in a motel in town and drive to the Club Claim each morning. This is also a easy way to get to know the "workings" of a rock club field trip.

Contact: Joe Goetz at (626) 914-5030 for questions or further information.



Field Trip report September at Lone Pine

Ah...the first field trip of the season. Summer is finally over and our collecting locations "call" to us. This year the siren call of camping and rockhunting took several members of the Whittier, Pasadena and North Orange County Clubs (and a guest from Palomar) to Lone Pine, California for beryl, fossils and ghost towns.

The fun started with a Saturday morning visit to the **famous mining "ghost" town of Cerro Gordo**. This is a classic location perched high up in the Inyo Mountains. Our tour started at the American Hotel and was led by a friendly resident. She filled us in on the fascinating history of Cerro Gordo and its two main periods of activity. We were allowed to explore the buildings and photograph anything we wanted but were not allowed to collect. (Note: rock collecting is only allowed during the Lone Pine Gem Club's annual show.) After the tour, we continued further into the mountains to a fossil collecting location known by Dave Kelty, Field Trip Leader. We spread out and searched the nearby shale beds, finding only a few mediocre fossils before a productive location was discovered about a mile away. As most of the gang had given up by then, we returned to camp with only one mishap, a flat tire. That night, we enjoyed an excellent potluck dinner but missed our evening fire due to persistent winds.

Sunday we proceeded to an area known as the Haystack, which refers to a solitary granite hill which looks roughly like a...well you get the idea. Here we parked and hiked up a steep wash into a canyon where we collected blue beryl. Several nice crystals were collected on the way up the wash and a seam of massive beryl was discovered. Those willing to do some easy digging collected nice material. Next stop, the ammonites of Union Wash. Union Wash is just a short distance from the Haystack and is a well known collecting location for good ammonite specimens. Dave took us right to the lower collecting area and we spent the afternoon splitting rocks and sorting through rubble. Ammonites of varying quality were collected by most. Dinner was eaten at a Mexican restaurant in Lone Pine, then a cheery campfire was enjoyed by the group.

Monday morning, a special field trip to a nearly opalized wood location was led by Geoff Caplett of the Pasadena Club. Beautiful petrified wood was collected by all who came. One field tripper opted out of the wood excursion, instead driving up into Onion Valley to photograph the Fall colors in the aspens. (She reported that the colors and views were spectacular.)

JValle

CERRO GORDO

NAME: Cerro Gordo **COUNTY:** Inyo
ROADS: 2WD **CLIMATE:** Mild winter, hot summer
COMMENTS: Near Keeler. **REMAINS:** Many intact structures.
BEST TIME TO VISIT: Cerro Gordo is at an elevation of 9,000 and it snows deep up there.

A Spanish name, to be sure. First discovered by Mexican prospectors in 1865, nothing much happened until a Mexican miner showed some silver ore to some mining people in Virginia City. That was all that was needed. An engineer named Mortimer Belshaw took over a mine that was producing lead which Belshaw needed if smelting was to be done at the site of the silver mine. This he did to save the cost of hauling the ore to Los Angeles for smelting and thence to San Pedro. Operations continued until about 1959 when all machinery was removed and taken to Candelaria, Nevada. Enough remains at Cerro Gordo to warrant a visit including the hotel, livery stable and other original buildings. Submitted by Henry Chenoweth.

The old mining of Cerro Gordo looks down on Owens Valley on the east side of the Sierra mountains from its site in the Inyo Range some 9,000 feet high. From this abandoned town, now reached by eight miles of steep and winding dirt road, once flowed as much as \$13,000,000 in silver and lead bullion. Deserted today, it stands as the greatest silver and lead producer in California history. From the little village of Keeler on the east shore of Owens dry lake, a dirt road heads up into the Inyo Range and Cerro Gordo.

Darwin and other desert camps.

Charcoal was freighted across Owens Lake by one of two small freighter ships, the Bessie Brady and the Mollie Stevens, both of which were around 80' long and powered by steam. Owens Lake is now dry, it being so since 1927 due to the incoming streams being diverted by Los Angeles and their aqueduct. These kilns were part of a lumbering complex consisting of a sawmill up in the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek in the Sierra Nevada Range, a flume running down Cottonwood Creek to the kilns, and a wharf on Owens Lake. The charcoal kilns at Wildrose Canyon near Death Valley were patterned after these kilns.

Courtesy David A. Wright

<http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/ca/cerrogordo.html>

**Mysterious Montana Agate Scenes
Seen by Microscope as Flaws**

It has always been a mystery how the peculiar little scenes got inside a rock as hard as an agate. It is the claim of geologists that the spots were caused by infinitely minute seams of fissures in the softer parts of the rock being filled with metallic oxides when the world was young.

These oxides made four different colors that form various combinations of color when blended together, or appear in single colors in each rock. The red color is oxide of iron. The black is oxide of manganese. The green oxide of copper. The blue is oxide of nickel.

The theory has been elaborated by the help of high powered microscopes which show the tracings of little canals so close the naked eye could not detect it, but the oxides remained, stained the rocks in wonderful designs. The fernlike and branch effects of the trees, grass, and shrubbery, smaller canals from a common center and in addition to these canals, the rock became flawed through shrinkage while passing through a period of evaporation which, according to scientists, has taken more than 3 million years to reduce the stone to the hardness of 7 points on the Mohs scale.

These canals and flaws have been perfectly healed by soft silicate formations of which the stone is a part, and the evaporation has caused the oxides to take on such forms as are seen on the window after a frosty night.

Technically, Montana agate is known as “Dendrite” agate and the moss spots are called Dendrites. It is the third hardest stone in the world, and is cut only with a diamond saw. There can never be two pieces alike even though cut from the same stone.

From Gem-N-I, 4/04 via Mineral Memos, 3/06

Laws of the Natural Universe

- **Law of Mechanical Repair:** After your hands become coated with grease your nose will begin to itch or you'll have to pee.
- **Law of the Workshop:** Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.
- **Law of probability:** The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.
- **Law of the Telephone:** When you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal.
- **Law of the Alibi:** If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.
- **Variation Law:** If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will start to move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).
- **Bath Theorem:** When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.
- **Law of Close Encounters:** The probability of meeting someone you know increases when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.
- **Law of the Result:** When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.
- **Law of Biomechanics:** The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.
- **Theatre Rule:** At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last.
- **Law of Coffee:** As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.
- **Murphy's Law of Lockers:** If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.
- **Law of Dirty Rugs/Carpets:** The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor covering are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet/rug.
- **Law of Location:** No matter where you go, there you are.
- **Law of Logical Argument:** Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.
- **Brown's Law:** If the shoe fits, it's ugly.
- **Oliver's Law:** A closed mouth gathers no feet.
- **Wilson's Law:** As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.

Submitted by Nancy Bird

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

Oct 14 -15 Trona, CA. Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
13337 Main Street
Hours: Sat. 7:30 - 5; Sun. 7:30 - 4

Oct 14 West Hills, CA. Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
22700 Sherman Way
Hours: 10 - 5

October 21-22 2006

Whittier Gem & Mineral Society
Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Avenue, Whittier, CA
Hours: 10 - 5 both days

Oct 27-28 Northridge, CA. Del Air Rockhounds
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

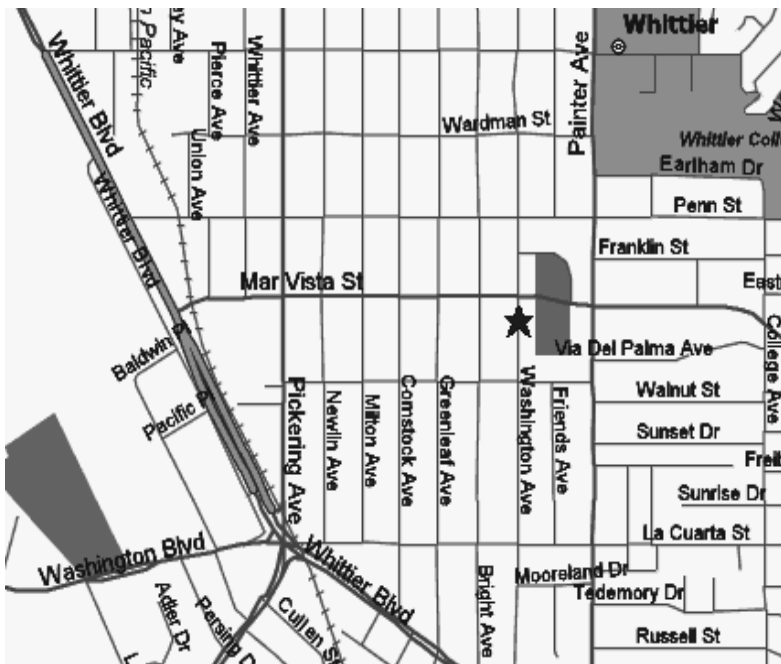
Nov 4-5 Lancaster, CA. Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 West Avenue H
Hours: 9 - 5 both days

Nov 4-5 Ridgecrest, CA. Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society
Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S. Richmond Road
Hours: 9 - 5 both days

Nov 4-5 San Diego, CA. San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
Al Bahr Shrine Center (behind Hampton Inn)
5440 Kearny Mesa Road
Hours: Sat. 9:30 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4

Nov 11-12 Anaheim, CA. American Opal Society
Clarion Hotel Anaheim Resort, 616 Convention Way
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5

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



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Affiliations



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Meeting Date: October 26 at 7:00 PM
Location: Whittier Community Center
(see page 15 for map)