

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

January Program:
Garnets!

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A confused "racer" (the rock) on the high playa located in Northern Death Valley known as "The Racetrack".
(Note: the dogs are not confused, just curious and exuberant.)

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

2007 may have surprises for all of us. We need to start planning our next show coming this year. We have cases to repair or rebuild, and there is rock that needs cutting. The workshop will be starting up again this month. The fieldtrips will be planned and promise to give us opportunities for great collecting and camping. All in all it should be interesting. I'll see you at the meeting. Well it looks like it is going to be a busy year for sure!

Somewhere in Calif. looking for club members,

"Smokin" Joe Goetz

The Wet Workshop

The subject: setting up a wet workshop (i.e. saws and grinding machines). At the Christmas dinner we were introduced to Francine Ripey of the Hathaway Ranch and Oil Museum in Santa Fe Springs. She offered the club a place to setup our wet working workshop.

Marcia and I went down to take a look at the space that was being offered. The area is a 12' wide and 23' long horse stall. They said they would bring power to the area for our use. However before any decision can be made, we as a club need to go and look at the facility. We need to decide if it would suit our needs. So what I think is that anyone who believes they would be using the equipment needs to go and take a look. We'll just have to decide on what day we'll do that and then go.

There is another option as well. One would be to set up the workshop at someone's home or homes and alternate who is going to host the workshop. Further discussion will be in order on this subject, just something to think about.

"Smokin" Joe

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, January 25, 2007

at 7:30 PM

Garnets!

The January program is going to be on Garnets. Marcia will be giving a short program on the January gemstone. She will also bring samples of different kinds garnet to look at, not to take home though.

Hope to see you there.

Izzie

Regular Meeting Schedule for 2007

Regular meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month, except for November and December when we meet on the 3rd Thursday because of the Holidays. No meetings are held in July and August. The June and December meetings are potlucks and start earlier.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Comments</u>
January 25	7:30 to 9:30 PM	Whittier Community Center	
February 22	7:30 to 9:30 PM	Whittier Community Center	
March 22	7:30 to 9:30 PM	Whittier Community Center	
April 26	7:30 to 9:30 PM	Whittier Community Center	
May 24	7:30 to 9:30 PM	Whittier Community Center	
June 28	6:00 to 8:00 PM	Michigan Avenue Park	Picnic
July	NO MEETING		
August	NO MEETING		
September 27	7:30 to 9:30 PM	Whittier Community Center	
October 25	7:30 to 9:30 PM	Whittier Community Center	
November 15	7:30 to 9:30 PM	Whittier Community Center	
December 20	6:30 to 8:30 PM	To Be Announced	Potluck

Rockgabbers 2007

As we start the new year we are planning on several new projects. We also plan on expanding from the primarily silver work we have been doing into some other areas of jewelry fabrication.

The next meeting will be on January 20th at the Turner's home. The project will be a circle loop bracelet. This is a simple but elegant bracelet, and will be an excellent starting project for the new person who has no experience with silver work. This project will allow new people to get up to speed with the rest of the members of Rockgabbers.

The materials required are: 24 inches of 16 gauge silver wire
16 inches of 20 gauge silver wire.

If you want a hook type clasp, you'll need 1 inch of 12 gauge ½ round for the clasp, if you want a toggle, you'll need about 1 inch of 16 gauge round wire.

If you don't have the materials, don't worry because I have some that you can buy.

As always we conclude our work sessions with a pot luck dinner. I look forward to seeing everybody at Rockgabbers.

Tony Fender.

**The Sliding Rocks on the Racetrack Playa
By Len Wilcox**

The Racetrack is a unique attraction of Death Valley National Park that not many park visitors get to see. It's a dry lakebed in a very remote and beautiful area. On the north end of the lakebed is a rock formation known as the grandstands. Rocks from the grandstands and other nearby formations break off and fall onto the lake. There, they perform feats that make this remote playa world-famous.

They move! But after all these years, a hundred or more since this phenomenon was brought to the attention of naturalists studying Death Valley, no one has ever seen them move. These rocks aren't boulders; most

Continued on Page 12

WGMS Installation of Piratey Officers

In keeping with the theme of "Buried Treasure" We decided to make the installation piratey. After all, we do pillage and plunder for treasure.

Can I hear an Aaaaaaargh!!

You see the club is like a ship with a crew. We, as club members, are the crew and we all have jobs to do to keep the ship running smoothly. Also without the crew of the ship, it would not run very well.

On our ship there are duties or jobs, and here are some of the crew with more duties than the rest.

The Directors Who Keep the Ship and the Crew Directed.

"One Eyed Jack Zywocienski" - reputedly spends a lot of time in Vegas (keep him away from the treasure). A staunch supporter of all things WGMS, he is also a keeper of a 14" slab saw.

"Jerry the Terrible Turner" - keeper of the laws, or is it by-laws (I always forget that). His job is to make sure we keep to the ships articles and to make changes when called upon to do so.

"Lucky Les Roy" - keeps a weather eye on the civilians. Some people talk to animals, he talks to bureaucrats. Les tries to head off any unfriendly mayors or councilmen who would hinder us.

Officers Who Keep the Ship and the Crew Officered.

First is the **Federation Director**, **"Billy the Kid Burns"** who cavorts with the great pirate fleet known as the CFMS. We are only one ship in this great armada and he is our voice to the admirals.

Next is the **Treasurer** - **"Busy Izzy Burns"** is in charge of the Club's booty and plunder. She must also keep track all the bootie we plunder

during our annual show.

Then there's the **Secretary; "Jay Scribbles Valle"** is in charge of taking notes and keeping track things that were said on the ship and things that were decided by the crew.

The 2nd mate (or 2nd vice president) is there to recruit more crew for the ship, and lend a helping hand to the **Captain (President)**. He is known to his piratey friends as **"Artful Art Ragazzi"**

The 1st Mate (1st Vice President) "Marcia the Good Goetz" or "Menancing Marcia Geotz", depending on the situation, is there to keep the crew entertained, and to fill in if needed for the **Captain (president)**. Or fill the needs of the Captain if it comes to that, after all they are married. She is there for moral support. She must also be watchful of the captain having his way with her....

And last but certainly not least, we have the **Captain, "Smokin' Joe Goetz" (President)**. **Smokin' Joe** is in charge of the crew and the ship. He must organize the ship and keep it afloat. He helps with conflicts on the ship and keeping up the rules. He also must have skills in ship building... only thing is his last one sunk! (I am sure his next one will be much better.)



So there you have it, our Captain and crew. Give them a Hearty Aaaaargh!!

Field Trip Schedule for 2007

A field trip committee meeting was held at the home of Joe & Marcia Goetz on Saturday, January 6. Representatives were present from the Whittier, Pasadena and North Orange County Clubs to hammer a combined field trip schedule for this year. More information on each field trip will be provided in the bulletin throughout the year.

January 24 - 28: Quartzsite, Arizona. Huge tailgate, field trips

At the time of this printing, it had not been ascertained where we will camp this year. In years past, we have camped in Scaddam Wash (east of Quartzsite), but last year we tried Dome Rock Road (west side of town) and it had its advantages, too. If you are planning on making this trip with us, you need to contact Joe Goetz at (626) 914-5030 to let us know you are coming and to receive the latest information on campsite, etc.

February 17 - 19: Gold Rock Ranch. President's Day weekend.

This classic location used to be a yearly trip back when Gold Rock Ranch had a tailgate. These days we visit here less often, but it is always worth a look. For campers, we will be staying on Indian Pass Road. There are also a limited number of cabins at Gold Rock Ranch proper for those not wanting to be at one with the elements during the evening hours.

March 24 - 25: Lavic Siding

Located 10 miles west of Ludlow, CA, this is a popular camping area with numerous collecting locations in the area. Hey, you can even collect jasper and agate right in camp.

April 28 - 29: Alvord Mountains

This is a collecting area off of I-15 at Harvard Road. A description of this site is on pages 122-123 of James Mitchell's "Gem Trails of Southern California", expanded, revised edition (2003). We may also visit Field Siding.

May 26 - 28: Paul Bunyan Agate. Memorial Day weekend.

The Paul Bunyan area is a great place to camp and the famous red plume agate can still be collected, though the tailing piles have been much diminished. This is an excellent camping location with many collecting sites nearby, including the Silver-lace Onyx Mine and Mule Canyon.

June 23 - 24: Stoddard Wells

Take Bell Mountains road south off of I-15, go 10 miles and you come to "Snob Hill", our usual campsite. Verde Antique, Black Jade and Tri-color Marble are the main attractions here.

July 21: East Fork San Gabriel River - Gold!

Gold panning in the San Gabriel River; it's fun, and a good way to escape the summer heat.

September 22 - 23: Steam Wells

Steam Wells collecting area is located about 3-1/2 miles into a wilderness area. You can read its description on pages 136-137 of James Mitchell's "Gem Trails of Southern California", expanded, revised edition (2003). This is a hiking adventure and it is only recommended for people in reasonably good shape. If you think you can handle the walk, there is good collecting to be had. Just remember that you have to carry whatever you collect back those 3-1/2 miles. (Actually sounds like fun to me.)

November 3 - 4: Whittier Club Claim

This is the after-show field trip hosted every year by the WGMS. Since many of our members spend the weekend after the annual show catching up on chores and recovering from the show ordeal, the trip date is actually in November. It is a fun and easy trip, and last year a number of participants camped out the motel just down the street. Those of us who prefer to camp can stay at the claim itself and enjoy the usual evening activities (campfires, etc.)

November 22 - 25: Broadwell Dry Lake

This is a popular camping location with the Christmas Tree Agate to the west on Sleeping Beauty Mountain, Afton Canyon/Crucero Road to the north and several Ludlow/Southern Cady areas to the south. (One of my personal favorite destinations.)

Well there you have it. Other field trips opportunities may arise during the year and I will try to keep you up to date and informed. As always, this bulletin will have the latest field trip information and should be your first source to look at when you have field trip questions.

JValle

Read Out Loud

It is possible to have Adobe's Acrobat Reader read the contents of your documents for you. That's awesome, isn't it?! If you're interested in learning how to make this happen, keep reading, because this is such a good tip and I'm so excited to tell you all about it. Here we go!!!

Before I go any further, you need to make sure you have a couple of things already on your computer in order for this process to work. Here are the requirements.

You must have Adobe Acrobat Reader 6.0 or higher installed on your computer and you must have a speaker connected to your computer with the volume turned up. (It's good to have the speaker turned on too!) :)

Once you have both of those things, you can move on. So, now, let's see how we can make Acrobat Reader do your reading for you. Just follow the directions below.

1. Open any PDF file that you want to read.
2. If you want Acrobat Reader to read the complete PDF file, press Ctrl + Shift + B and it will start to read the file.
3. If you want Acrobat Reader to read a selected page, click on the page you want to hear and press Ctrl + Shift + V. It will then read only the page you have selected.
4. To pause the reading, press Ctrl + Shift + C. To continue reading from a pause, press the same combination of keys again and it will start back up.
5. To stop the reading, press Ctrl + Shift + E. Note: If you're not sure exactly what a PDF file is, check out the following link from WorldStart's archives: worldstart.com/tips/tips.php/442. It will explain everything.

Another Note: Adobe Acrobat Reader 6.0 and higher will only read the contents if the PDF file is in English.

This may be the coolest thing you've heard in awhile. Check it out now!

From the Internet via the NOC Newsletter 1-07

Honor Roll of Presidents

Lest we forget who has been at the helm in the past, here is the Honor Roll of previous and current Whittier Gem & Mineral Society Presidents. You can see that many of these "doers" are still active members, and some have done the job more than once. Joe Goetz has been *The Prez* in three different decades, Jerry Turner in two.

The President leads the way and (hopefully) the Club follows.

1952 Ken Tharpe	1980 John Isenbarger
1953 George Cyrog	1981 Jerry Turner
1954 Blanche Hutcheson	1982 Francis Gilbert
1955 Bill Burns	1983 Bob Dietl
1956 Donna Patrick	1984 Pat Maggs
1957 Sol Stern	1985 Vern Cliffe
1958 Sylvia Cliffe	1986 Ken Manning
1959 Jim Berry	1987 Joe Goetz
1960 Eunice Berry	1988 Jim Bennett
1961 Dora Stern	1989 Mike Maneth
1962 Marian Hubbard	1990 Mike Maneth
1963 Bruce Buell	1991 Mike Maneth
1964 Del Jones	1992 Sandie Fender
1965 Frank Hewlett	1993 Sandie Fender
1966 Mick Wingett	1994 Joe Goetz
1967 Art Logue	1995 Les Roy
1968 Bill Burns	1996 Les Roy
1969 Muriel Berg	1997 Les Roy
1970 Lefty Stroh	1998 Jerry Turner
1971 George Merton	1999 Isabella Burns
1972 Floyd Berg	2000 Jay Valle
1973 Margery Horsfall	2001 Jay Valle
1974 Lefty Stroh	2002 Art Ragazzi
1975 Bob Carlisle	2003 Art Ragazzi
1976 F.E. Sleep	2004 James LaBorde
1977 F.E. Sleep	2005 James LaBorde
1978 Norm Donaldson	2006 Joe Goetz
1979 Muriel Berg	2007 Joe Goetz

The Sliding Rocks on the Racetrack Playa

Continued From Page 5

are perhaps a foot or so tall, but can still weigh a lot and are not easy to lift.

The evidence that they move is the trails they leave behind them as they scoot around the lake. You'll find a rock sitting innocently anywhere on the playa -- from next to the grandstand to the far southern edge -- and behind it will be a trail, from the rock sliding across the fine clay surface of the lakebed.

When this phenomenon was discovered around 1900, observers speculated that magnetic forces were the cause. Now, however, scientists believe they have solved the mystery of this movement. It occurs, they believe, when there's been enough rain to wet down the lakebed, then a strong wind -- as much as 70 miles per hour in this area -- blows the rocks around. The surface of the lake is a fine clay that becomes extremely slick when wet. But since no one has yet seen them move, this is still just a theory.

When we hiked out to find one of these lithic travelers, we walked from one to another but most had no trails, no sign at all of doing anything unusual. But some rocks further north did not let us down.

The trail in the dry playa was clear; this rock had moved, moved a substantial distance, several hundred feet, without human or animal help; there were no tracks around it, no record of assistance, just the path it made as it slid through the mud. It had changed directions, several times. It was easy to see the record of various windstorms, and imagine how long they lasted; some a short time, some for days, with wind coming from different directions making the rock slide in different ways.

We found others nearby. Interestingly, the patterns the rock trails had made were different from each other. Since the scientists believe they are wind-blown, we expected to see paths that parallel each other, or follow the same pattern. This wasn't the case.

According to the National Park Service, there are 8 other playas near Death Valley where this phenomenon occurs. The mix of a clay-bottom lakebed, enough moisture to make it slick, rocks and strong winds occurs at these locations, too.

Continued on Page 14

Field Trip Word Find

L O Z S A H S A W Y R R E P S H Z Z D V J R A V
 W S G N P M Z F G C Y R A L L Z H R E E P V D J
 I S K I K X A U T F C U G Z X H W V F U B U N R
 L A W A T O U A U F L K T N Q V G N V Y H K X J
 E P Y T U G X A C B R X Y G F M B M O T B G C X
 Y L Y N C B Q V U G A O W N R D U X V I M I M Q
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 J A D E C O V E A A N N Y N N L X H L T G W E D
 S J S Z H S J L K V O P O G Z L H W W M V Q Q B
 F Y I F J Z J T E E H B N F A S B D E U R X G G

Word List

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| AFTONCANYON | BROADWELLDRYLAKE |
| BROWN BUTTE | CASTLE BUTTE |
| CLEARCREEK | GARNETQUEEN |
| GAVIOTABEACH | HONEYONYXCLAIM |
| HORSECANYON | JADECOVE |
| LASTCHANCECANYON | LAVICSIDING |
| OCEANVIEWMINE | OPALMOUNTAIN |
| OWLHOLEMOUNTAINS | PAULBUNYAN |
| SPERRYWASH | STODDARDWELLS |
| STONECANYON | STONEWALLPASS |
| WILEYSWELL | |

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- Jan 20-28 Redlands, CA.** The Mineralogical Society of Southern CA
San Bernardino County Museum
2024 Orange Tree Lane (exit North on California St. from I-10)
- Feb 16-25 Indio, CA.** San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival
Gem and Mineral Building Bldg #1, 46-350 Arabia Street
Hours: 10 am - 10 pm
- Mar 2-11 Imperial, CA.** Imperial Valley Gem & Mineral Society
California Mid-Winter Fairgrounds
Hours: Mon to Thu - 4 - 10 p.m., Fri to Sun - Noon - 10 p.m.
- Mar 3-4 Arcadia, CA.** Monrovia Rockhounds
Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanical Garden
301 N. Baldwin Ave.
Hours: 9 - 4:30 both days
- Mar 3-4 Ventura, CA.** Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Seaside Park, Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor
Blvd.
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
- Mar 10-11 Escondido, CA.** Palomar Gem & Mineral Club
Army National Guard Armory
304 Park Avenue, Escondido, CA
Hours: Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-4

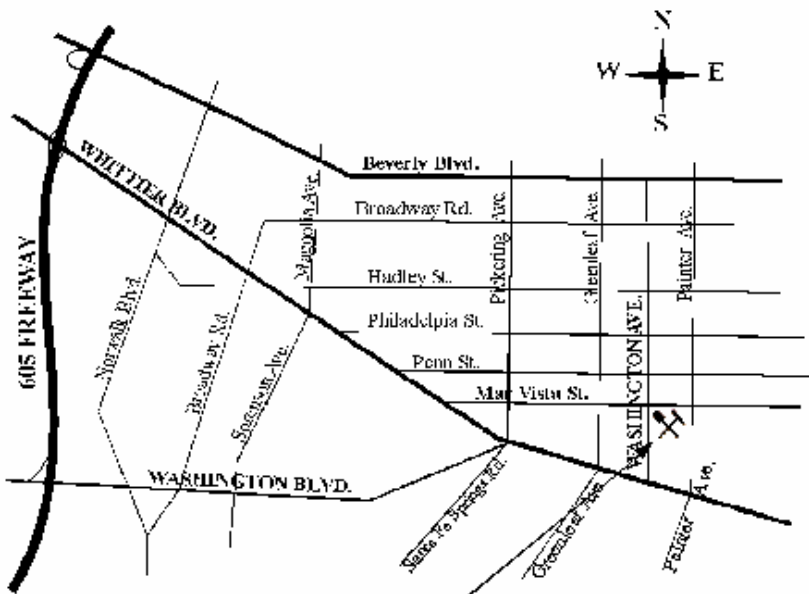
The Sliding Rocks (Continued From Page 12)

The Racetrack is located beyond Ubehebe Crater, which is southwest of Scotty's Castle. Coming from Ubehebe, the National Park Service advises that 4-wheel drive may be needed to get there. The 4-wheel drive requirement seems (under normal weather conditions) overcautious; on the day we traveled it, the road was washboarded, but graded and easy, usually fit for the family sedan.

The Racetrack is not an illusion It is well worth the washboard ride, or the hours of 4-wheeling it takes to reach the lake from the south.

<http://www.desertusa.com/mag99>

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



MAR VISTA & WASHINGTON AVE.  WHITTIER COMMUNITY CENTER

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



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