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WHITTIER  
  
**ROCKHOUNDER**  
GEM & MINERAL  
SOCIETY

"World of Crystals"



*I waited for the rocks to "jump" into my car but it never happened  
(just false advertising I guess.)*

# ROCKHOUNDER

## THE PREZ SEZ:

**A**pril is a month of transition; typically it is the first full month of spring. Spring is the renewal of hope and new life, new possibilities. Usually it is a month of cool blustery winds and showers to bring May flowers. The way the weather is going we'll just have to wait and see if it becomes the typical April.

For us it is the beginning of planning the next show which has already begun. The theme this year is AMASING AGATE. There are so many types of agate in the world and some of them can be collected on any of the up coming fieldtrips.

As you may know we have a metal working workshop each month. Where under the tutelage of Tony we are learning to make a variety of chains, necklaces and other silver objects. And now Jay Valle has offered his and Cathy's place as the place for the wet workshop. So volunteers will be needed to help Jay get his place ready. Any volunteers?

See you at the meeting(s).

*Having an adventure  
(being lost somewhere)*

*Joe Goetz*

**WGMS General Meeting**

**Thursday, April 26, 2007**

**at 7:30 PM**

**"World of Crystals"**

**Presented by Dave Swenson of  
Pasadena Lapidary Society**

(No description given)

*Marcia*

**Rockgabbers!!!**

The March project was supposed to be a locket, but when the entire project was described, the members decided to put off the project to a later time. People completed unfinished projects, or did projects that they had missed from previous meetings. Art started on a folding hinge necklace, and Vivian completed her teardrop necklace. I think she had chosen her wardrobe to complement the necklace and she certainly looked great wearing it. As usual the meeting concluded with a pot luck dinner with corned beef and cabbage in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

**The next meeting will be on April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Turner's home.**

The April project will be a curb link necklace. This is an adaptation of many of the previous chains that we have made. For those who have not yet been to the group this is an excellent introductory project. There are many different chains we have made which can be adapted to the curb design. For those who wish to make a shorter chain you can make an ankle bracelet or a wrist bracelet.

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

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

*Tony Fender*

**Diamond  
April Gemstone**

**By Joan Greenlees Abramson**

Like a cold and distant star  
The diamond guards its inner fires.  
It tantalizes from afar  
And both seduces and inspires.

From the deepest mines it's ripped,  
But 'til it's opened to the light,  
It lies opaque and nondescript.  
The touch of man then makes it bright.

Sparkling as no other stone,  
It challenges ascendancy.  
Claimed by ancient kings alone,  
It ranked with their nobility.

Beyond the mines where workers toil  
Amid conditions harsh and hot,  
The diamond still tries to be royal  
A twinkling gem by millions sought.

Now commonplace in every store,  
It is the mass plebeian jewel!  
That does not lessen lust more,  
For diamonds are both kind and cruel.

From "*GEMSTONE ADVENTURES IN VERSE*"

Via NOC Bulletin 4/07

## **The Round River**

Chester E. Mohler,  
Bonneville Power Administration Inside Interior (1975);  
U.S. Department of the Interior;  
Gerald A. Waindel, Editor  
(Uncopyrighted publication)

**T**his story concerns the Round River in the Great Basin west of the Rockies. The basic feature of this story is from Claude Studebaker of the Bureau of Reclamation in Boise, circa 1948. Many Department of the Interior people are qualified hydrologists and know that this is a region of hydrologic peculiarities. The Humboldt River in Nevada, for example, has no mouth, but flows from both ends toward the middle. In earlier days before so much of Lower Klamath Lake was reclaimed, the Link River flowed into the Klamath River during conditions of low flow; but during conditions of high flow, the Klamath River flowed into the Link River.

A similar anomaly, changed by time, was the Round River. Its basin lay generally north of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, east of the Steens Mountains, south of the Uintah Mountains, and west of the Kaibab Mountains. In the northern part of this basin, the river could be found flowing westward. It turned though and flowed in a north-south direction in the west part of the basin, turned again in the south part of the basin, and eventually joined itself in the northern part of the basin. This, of course, was the origin of the name Round River. In addition to this peculiarity though, the river reversed its direction of flow at irregular intervals.

For eons of time, no particular note was taken of this strange flow pattern. To the Indians, the river was as good to drink from flowing in one direction as in the other. In either direction, the water was rather brackish. The Forty Niners on their way to the California gold fields had no way of knowing, on their second crossing, that this was the

same river they crossed some forty days previously. They also didn't linger long enough to see the reversal of flow.

Eventually, the river came to the attention of the Bureau of Reclamation as did all western rivers. A team of field engineers was given the responsibility of designing and locating a hydroelectric project. The reversal of flow made this most frustrating. What was designed as the forebay on one week would lie in the location of the tailrace on a subsequent week. Many months of labor and ingenuity were spent on this problem with no productive results. Ultimately, the problem was solved with the Squeeves Pump by an extraordinary genius whose name, unfortunately, has not been preserved.

Initially, the problem appeared fundamentally one of hydrometeorology solved through creation of an analog with use of a polynomial algorithm. This required discrete dynamic dimensionality reached through a matrix of eigenvectors. However, propagation of a parametric relationship trended toward configuration with supercritical harmonics. The problem was therefore more electric than hydrologic.

Basically, there was an attenuation of electromagnetic transients. Damping resistors provided improved ferro-resonance and a more transient flashover voltage; but, as you know, the impedance of an infinite bus results in sparsity-directed decomposition, with series compensation, reenergization, and a step-front thyristor value. He therefore processed the subtransient reactive recursively through a tertiary transducer and, with the Squeeves Pump, reversed the flow of that mighty river.

Yes, the above article is an April Fool's joke, but the attribution is correct!

*The preceding article was published in the April 1995 issue of Lithosphere, the official bulletin of the Fallbrook [California] Gem and Mineral Society, Inc; Richard Busch (Editor).*

**Field Trip  
Alvord Mountains  
April 28-29, 2007**

**T**his is a collecting area off of I-15 at Harvard Road. A description of the Alvord Mountain location is on pages 122-123 of **James Mitchell's "Gem Trails of Southern California"**, expanded, revised edition (2003). We may also visit **Field Siding**, another local collecting area. It should be noted that agate (and if you are incredibly lucky and observant, petrified wood) can be collected right in the camp area and within easy walking distance. Camp will be at the Green Ash Hills location shown on the map (facing page).

Plan on a **potluck dinner Saturday night** and a campfire, if Mother Nature allows. We will leave camp Saturday morning between 8:30-9:00 AM.

**Directions to camp (See map on facing page):** Take I-15 through Barstow to Minneola Road. Cross freeway (north), go about 1/4 mile along the freeway and turn left towards The Early Man Site (there should be signs to follow - either WGMS, PLS or NOC). Follow this wide dirt road until it Splits 3 ways, right to Early Man, straight to trash disposal site and left to the Green Ash Hills. Go left. Follow this road about a mile to a right turn into the Green Ash Hills. Look for our campers and tents.

*JValle*

**A Quick Word from Dave**

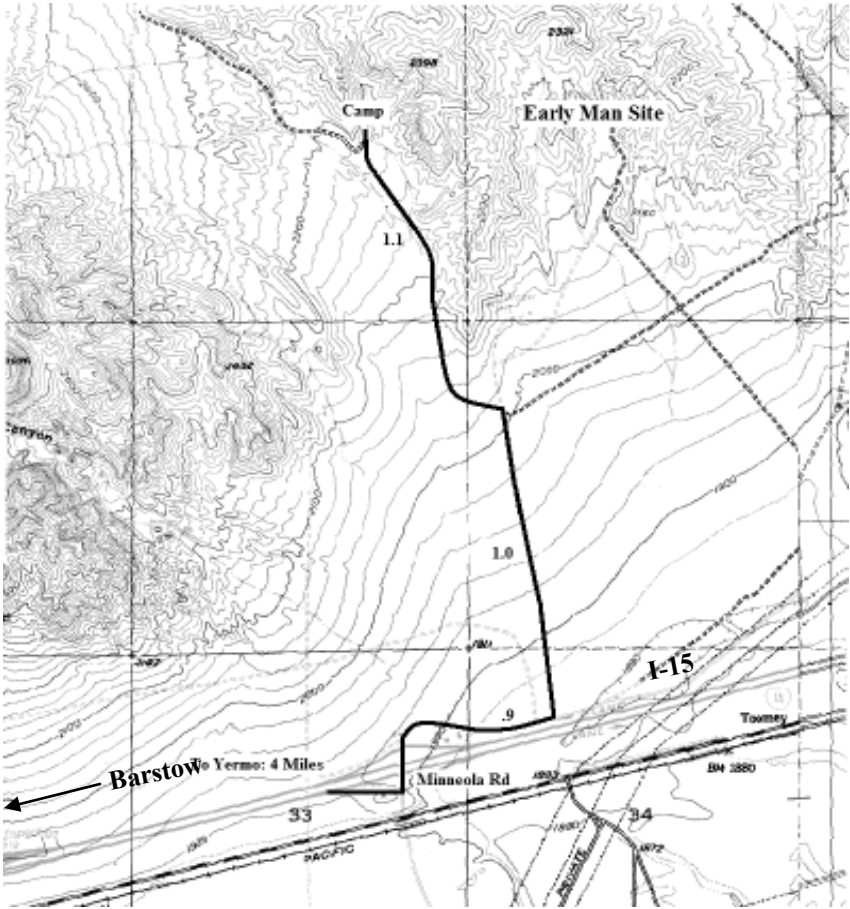
**O**n April 28 - 29, our field trip will be to the Alvord Hills and mine, the Green Ash Hills, and the Calico Mountains. We will camp in the Green Ash Hills, approximately 3 miles north of I-15, where petrified palm, chert, and agate specimens can be picked in camp.

This is dry camping with supplies available in Barstow.

We will have a pot luck on Saturday night after returning from the Alvord Hills.

Please bring firewood to share.

*Dave Kelty*



### Field Trip Recap: Lavic Siding Trip

This is a popular field trip destination and we had representatives from four clubs participating.

Dave Kelty led a good group of rockhounds to various locals around Ludlow and the Southern Cady Mountains on Saturday and Sunday. A fine potluck and campfire was enjoyed on both days.

Sunday afternoon and again on Monday morning Jay Valle took the remaining 'hounders around to a couple of agate locations around Sleeping Beauty Mountain.

**JValle**



## **Agates - Rich in Fiber!**

**S**ometimes chalcedony, including agate is described as a fine-grained quartz. But the real case isn't quite this simple. There are lots of clues for this. Arrowheads and other stone tools are harder and more durable when made from chalcedony rather than coarse quartz. On the other hand, coarse quartz is better to grind up as a concrete additive than chalcedony. The chalcedony causes various chemical reactions in the concrete which can fail, while quartz is unreactive.

With the advance of modern analytical tools, the reasons for these differences can finally be investigated. Chalcedony has a microscopically fibrous structure, made of evenly spaced silica rods. More surprising is the fact that the fibers show a regularly alternating pattern of elongation -some parts being "length fast" and some parts "length slow". This means that in part of a particular fiber, light travels faster parallel to the long axis of the fiber. In other parts of the same fiber, the light travels slower parallel to the fiber length. This further implies that the silicon and oxygen atoms for some reason regularly twist or change in orientation as each fiber grows. Mineralogists are still trying to figure out why the fibers twist and what different forms of silica are intertwined with each other.

It is these inter-grown fibers that gives chalcedony its great strength and durability. The peculiar structure also gives chalcedony its unexpected chemical reactivity in concrete.

One theory is for the growth of the fibers is being developed by two researchers (Yifeng Wang and Enrique Merino) at Indiana University. They envision agate as developing as fingers of silica growing

progressively outward into a cavity filled with siliceous "media". They do not specify as to whether this "media" is a solution or a gel. The first step is the formation of a coating of silica around the cavity. The coating (this being the real world) won't be completely smooth. In some places, the coating will bulge out slightly into the "media". It is these bulges which will grow rapidly outward into the solution to form the fibers. Impurities in the solution (such as iron or copper) will slow the growth briefly until these impurities precipitate as their own minerals on top of or between the silica fibers.

Once the impurity's concentration is briefly reduced in this manner, silica growth will proceed again. Withdrawal of silica makes the solution richer in impurities, causing them to form another layer. This rhythmic precipitation is repeated many times as the agate grows. These layers of impurities show up as the color banding that characterize agates.

Bill Cordua, U. of W. - River Falls

#### References:

Heaney, Peter J., D. Verlen and J. Post, 1994, "Structural disparities between chalcedony and macrocrystalline quartz", *American Mineralogist*, vol. 79, p. 452-460.

Wang, Yifeng and Enrique Merino, 1995, "Origin of Fibrosity and Banding in Agates from Flood Basalts", *American Journal of Science*, vol. 295, p. 49-77.

*From The Rockhound Record 12/03*

## **How to Find an Old Web Page**

**By Don Ogden**

**I**f you want to find an Old Web Page, you may be able to find it at the free Internet Archive:

**<http://www.archive.org/index.php>**

Use the Wayback Machine feature to find a web page that no longer exists on newer pages as follows:

1. In Wayback Machine block ( ), type desired URL after http://.
2. Click on Take Me Back button. RESULT: Search Results table comes up by year.

NOTE Not all old web pages have been archived.

3. Click on desired month and year. RESULT: Web page selected comes in view.

*Via NOC Bulletin 4/07*

## **Cleaning Geodes/Crystals**

**By Richard Peterson**

**B**ryant Washburn's Recipe

- Wear rubber gloves and a proper respirator.
- Have two empty/clean buckets ready.
- Bucket #1, put one quart of lukewarm water, then add 1 cup muriatic acid.
- Bucket #2, have clear, clean water.
- Put Geodes/Crystals in the first bucket with the acid for 30 seconds.
- Pull them out of acid solution, let them drip for a minute then put them into the second bucket with clean water and wash them well.
- Pull them out and let them dry Look at them sparkle!

Added by Sally: Use Baking Soda to neutralize muriatic acid.

*From Blue Agate News 2/07 via NOC Bulletin 4/07*

**You know you're from California if...**

**S**o as not to be outdone by all the redneck, hillbilly, and Texan jokes, somebody had to come up with this,

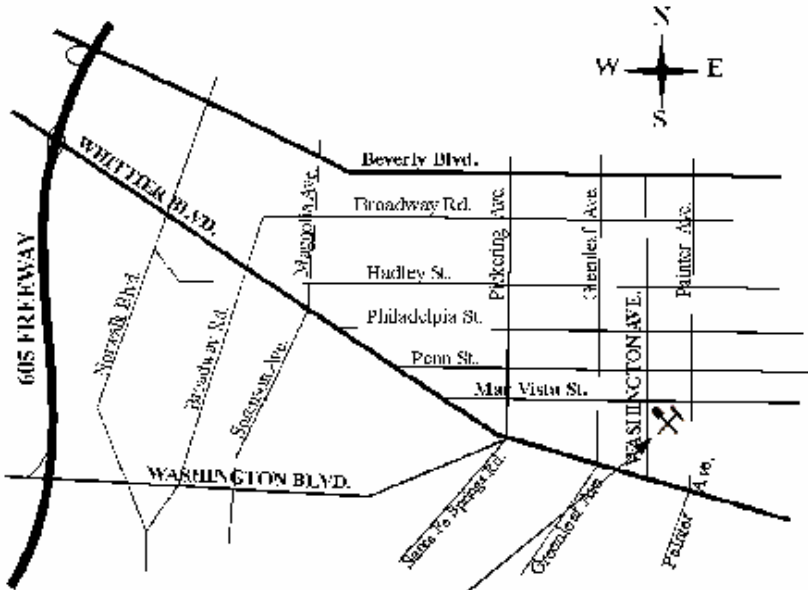
1. Your coworker has 8 body piercings and none are visible.
2. You make over \$300,000 and still can't afford a house.
3. You take a bus and are shocked at two people carrying on a conversation in English.
4. Your child's 3rd-grade teacher has purple hair, a nose ring, and is named Flower.
5. You can't remember . . . is pot illegal?
6. You've been to a baby shower that has two mothers and a sperm donor.
7. You have a very strong opinion about where your coffee beans are grown, and you can taste the difference between Sumatran and Ethiopian.
8. You can't remember . . . is pot illegal?
9. A really great parking space can totally move you to tears.
10. Gas costs \$1.00 per gallon more than anywhere else in the U.S.
11. Unlike back home, the guy at 8:30 am at Starbucks wearing a baseball cap and sunglasses who looks like George Clooney really IS George Clooney.
12. Your car insurance costs as much as your house payment.
13. You can't remember . . . is pot illegal?
14. It's barely sprinkling rain and there's a report on every news station: "STORM WATCH."
15. You pass an elementary school playground and the children are all busy with their cells or pagers.
16. It's barely sprinkling rain outside, so you leave for work an hour early to avoid all the weather-related accidents.
17. HEY!!!! Is pot illegal????
18. Both you AND your dog have therapists, psychics, personal trainers and cosmetic surgeons.
19. The Terminator is your governor.
20. If you drive illegally, they take your driver's license. If you're here illegally, they want to give you one.

*Thanks to Nancy Bird*

**Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows**

- Apr 28-29** **Lancaster, CA.** The Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Lancaster High School, 44701 32nd St West  
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
- May 4-6** **Bishop, CA.** Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society  
Tri County Fairgrounds, Sierra Street & Fair Drive  
Hours: Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 3
- May 19-20** **Yucaipa, CA.** Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Yucaipa Community Center, 34900 Oak Glen Road  
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
- May 19-20** **Newbury Park, CA.** Conejo Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
Bochard Park, 190 Reino Rd., Newbury Park, CA  
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4:30
- Jun 2-3** **Glendora, CA.** Glendora Gems  
859 E. Sierra Madre  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
- Jun 2-3** **La Habra, CA.** North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society  
La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd.  
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
- Jun 15-17** **Lancaster, CA.** Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, Hwy. 14, exit Ave. H  
Hours: 9-5 Daily
- Aug 3-5** **Nipomo, CA.** Orcutt Mineral Society  
St. Joseph Church, 298 S. Thompson Ave.
- Sept 22** **Los Altos, CA.** Peninsula Gem & Geology Society  
Rancho Shopping Center,  
Foothill Expressway & Springer Road  
Hours: Sat. 9:30am - 4:30pm
- Oct 7** **Fallbrook, CA.** Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society  
FGMS Museum, 123 W. Alvarado  
Hours: 10 - 4

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



MAR VISTA & WASHINGTON AVE.  WHITTIER COMMUNITY CENTER

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Affiliations



California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors



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Post Office Box 865, Whittier, California 90608-0865  
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**Meeting Date: April 26, 2007 at 7:30 PM**  
**Location: Whittier Community Center**  
**(see page 4 for information)**