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WHITTIER
ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

IT'S SHOW TIME!!!



Bill & Izzy Burns passing out Show info at the Whittier Family Fair & Farmer's Market

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Well the first fieldtrip of the season has come and gone. The trip was up to the Big Bear area. Some quartz crystals were collected as well as some agate-jasper material. Sunday some gold was gotten on Arrastre Creek in Hungry Valley. A couple of mines were explored and the Mad Hatter's Wild Ride was had by one couple. It was all in all a fun and interesting trip.

The next trip is the first weekend in November, it's to the Whittier Club claim and Thanksgiving to somewhere exciting I'm sure. But before the fieldtrip is the Whittier Club Show on October 20th & 21st. Come on out to help, there are many things to do on set up day which is on Friday the 19th. If possible come and help in loading the truck at the Ragazzi house in Fontana. If not there be at the Community Center to off load the truck and set up the cases or to tape the aprons to the tables or help out as needed. This show is our way to shine in the community. It is to share our love of the outdoors and our love of the hobby we participate in. And show our talents in our cases. So come on out.

It's nominating committee time. If you get a call from them, please consider taking the position they ask you to take. Or volunteer to assist those who are taking a position on the board. This could be fun to learn and do and give you some idea of the inter workings of a club.

See you at the Show and Meeting!

Joe Goetz

WGMS General Meeting
Thursday, October 25, 2007
at 7:30 PM

IT'S SHOW TIME!!

WGMS 2007 Gem Show

Our 2007 Gem Show is here on **October 20 & 21**. As always we are planning a quality experience for our members and guests.

Show Schedule:

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| Fri, Oct 19: | 8:00 AM | Meet at Joe & Marcia's |
| | 9:00 AM | Go to Art & Ginger's to load cases & show equipment |
| | 3:00 PM | Take to Community Center by 3:00 P.M. for setup |
| | 8:00 PM | Community Center access closed for the evening |
| Sat, Oct 20: | 8:00 AM | Doors open for venders and members |
| | 10:00 AM | Show opens to the public |
| | 5:00 PM | Show closes for the day. |
| Sun, Oct 21: | 9:00 AM | Doors open for venders and members |
| | 10:00 AM | Show opens to the public |
| | 5:00 PM | Show ends. After all public gone from hall, teardown begins |
| | 8:00 PM | All done |
| Mon, Oct 22: | 8:00 AM | Meet at Joe & Marcia's |
| | 9:00 AM | Drop equipment off at Art & Ginger's warehouse |

Show Cases: Display cases are still available. Our theme is "Amazing Agate", but don't let that limit your ideas. Contact Izzy Burns to reserve your case or cases today.

Donation Awards: Raffle tickets sales are our big money maker at the show, and the show provides the lion's share of the income needed to continue the club each year. Please sell tickets and buy tickets; Kathy has more if you need them. And it is certainly NOT too early to give Kathy Valle your prize donations for the Show raffle.

Setup and Teardown: These two important phases of our show are the most physically demanding, and literally, *the more hands the less work*. If you don't mind a little manual labor and getting dirty (we are rockhounds, after all) then we can use your assistance. Setup starts at about 3 PM on Friday and teardown begins right after the show closes on Sunday.

Working the Show: Show time is about the busiest event of the year and we can use all the help you can give. We can use helpers at the Sales Table, Donation Awards Table, Greeter's Table, Kitchen, Security and with the Demonstrators. These positions also can use relief during the show.

2 six packs & brownies or cupcakes: Members are asked to donate 2 six packs of name brand sodas, diet or regular, or a case of water and some brownies, cupcakes or similar item (but no pies).

So there you have it. Prepare your cases, tell your friends, sell tickets and come out to help us put on a great show.

Jay Valle
2007 Show Chairman

Key to Petroglyphs?

A key to the meaning of pictographs and petroglyphs of the Southwest - that may prove as significant to students of American pre-history as the Rosetta Stone to Egyptologists - has been discovered, according to Prof. Carver D. Rockwell.

For nearly a year the Rockwell expedition has been investigating primitive culture sites in the Owens Valley, California, area. Recently Prof. Rockwell, breaking through a wall at the rear of a shallow house-cave, found a large

(Continued on page 7)

AGATE

From "Gemstone Adventures in Verse"

By Joan Greenlees Abramson

Agate, so ubiquitous a stone,
Is praised from every corner of the earth.
Though Argentina calls condor its own,
It's being sold far from its native birth.

Far Australia values chrysoprase -
So emerald green it rivals bowling lawns -
And Agate Creek, where nodules hide a blaze
That rivals all those fiery Outback dawns!

Brazilian agate has carnelian swirls
And bullseye patterns, colors of fall leaves.
Quaint paisley agate, (hear the bagpipe skirts!),
Though Californian, mimics Scotland's weaves.

Montana moss—delightful birds that fly
Above the trees whose branches reach aloft,
With background clean as that big fabled sky,
And hard as winter there, where life's not soft.

From Oregon to Texas and between,
Rare agate in deposits hidden lie.
Some have such plumes that matching such a scene
On artist's canvas could not satisfy.

What duplication of these feathers bright
Or dainty flowers intricately twined
Could equal color's scintillating light?
They leave some lesser gemstones far behind.

And then we have fantastic Needles blue.
It is its own, not turquoise in disguise!
The miners toil near by Lake Havasu
In matrix so resistant it defies!

Horse Canyon agate, white and mossy green,
The plants so real against the background glazed.
What history this unique place has seen
Where little prehistoric horses grazed.

Petroglyphs (continued from page 5)

room, apparently a training center for pre-historic rock-artists. The walls were covered with charcoal drawings which might be called a primer, or McGuffy's reader, of rock-writing, as each symbol was translated by an interpretative picture series.

It has been debated whether the rock carvings and paintings, found throughout the West, actually had meaning or were "doodling" or hunt tallies. According to Prof. Rockwell, the key proves they are a crude written language.

Due to regional differences in technique and skill, translation of any of the "writings" is extremely difficult. However, the work is proceeding, and with Prof. Rockwell's permission, CALICO PRINT presents representative translations:

- Muk-weep who lives at Three Springs in the Valley of Big Salt Water has a fine marriageable daughter for sale. She is well-fatted, strong-muscled, able to chew deer skins or dig roots 18 hours a day. Full price: 50 sheepskins, 15 per cent down, balance easy terms, satisfaction guaranteed.
- Hole-In-The-Rock Cafe. Specializing in lamb chops, mutton stew and roast goat. Fresh grubs and lizards in season.
- Dr. Bison Tooth, M. D. (Medicine Dancer) Specialist in evil spirits of the ear, nose and throat. No cure - no pay.
- For Rent: Cave with view. Running water within three miles (your wife will love this convenience). One wampum string per month. First month free if you will evict present tenant, one old mountain lion.
- Eat Mother's Mortar-Ground Corn Grits - The Breakfast Food of Deerslayers.
- Reduce Wampum Collections! More Chuckawallas in Every Pot! Elect Man-Who-Rolls-Logs your Tribal Chief for 500 B.C. Honest - Fearless - Independent --- The Hunter's Friend!
- For Instant Energy - Drink Old Beareater's 100 Proof Cactus Spine Firewater. Big Buck, a Redman of Distinction says: "One skinful and I can wrestle the mastodon and throw the bison."
- Losing your scalplock? Try Family Medicine Man brand Goat Oil Shampoo. You never saw a bald-headed goat!

From "Calico Print", Oct-Nov. 1952

**WGMS October Field Trip
Whittier Club Honey Onyx Claim
November 3 & 4, 2007**

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 facing page).

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

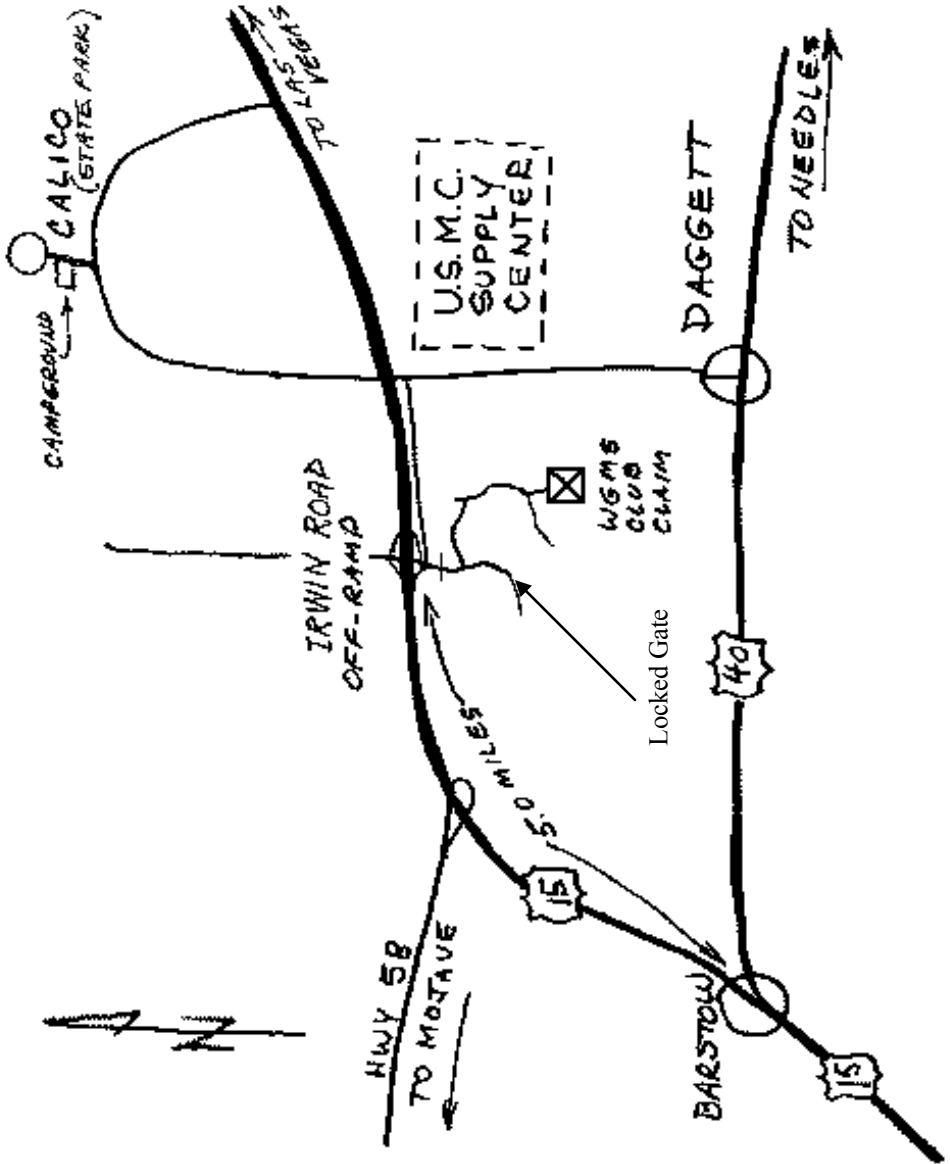
There will be guided field trips on both Saturday and Sunday and we will leave camp each day at 8:00 - 8:30 AM. Saturday evening will feature a traditional potluck dinner, followed by a warm campfire, if the weather permits.

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.



Top 21 Things You'll Want While You're in the Field

Rockhounding experience (our own and tips and hints from colleagues, customers, and friends) has led us to compile the following list of things you won't want to be without.

1. **FIRST AID KIT.** We hope the reason for this one is obvious. A friend and fellow rockhound says "Rockhounding is like hockey, it's not fun until you see blood." We won't go that far, but we often get scrapes, bug bites, etc.
2. **SPARE TIRE & TOOLS TO CHANGE A FLAT.** Rocks reek havoc on soft rubber tires. We don't even want to go into the story of the day we were out in the desert with our flat, our spare and no lug wrench.
3. **GAS.** Make sure you have enough gas to make the trip into the desert and back out. It's a good idea to take an extra can full.
4. **WATER.** There is no potable (drinkable) water in the desert! Take lots.
5. **TOILET PAPER.** More uses than you think. The standard "paper work" use and it can also be used to wrap specimens. Make sure you take enough for both.
6. **GARBAGE BAGS.** Also dual purpose. The obvious choice for this item is hauling your trash out. They also make great wrap for specimens.
7. **HAND-LENS.** For those of you not familiar with this item, it's a small, high quality magnifier, that you can wear around your neck. You will want to look at ALL the crystals you find, large and small, and you won't see the small ones without a hand-lens.
8. **IDENTIFICATION GUIDE.** There are many guides on the Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals and Simon & Schuster's Guide to Rocks and Minerals.
9. **APS & GUIDEBOOKS.** Not only will you want to know how to get where you are going, you will want to know how to get home again. There are currently three guidebooks on Utah. They all have their pros and cons. We haven't found a guide book yet that didn't contain it's fair share of wrong directions. Most people end up with, use all three books, and use them to find great rocks & minerals. They are Rockhounding Utah, Gem Trails of Utah, and A Collectors Guide to Rock, Mineral and Fossil Localities of Utah.
10. **NOTEBOOK & PENCIL.** Your specimens are much more valuable if you know where they came from. And you may want to go back and get

more from a specific location. If you do not keep track of this information you won't have a way to do that. Not only write down the location, draw a picture of the area or your own map.

11. **ROCKHAMMER & SHEATH.** No, a nail hammer is not good enough. Rockhammers are a solid piece of steel. Therefore, the head cannot be broken off. Not only are they safer, but they will last you years of rockhounding. That is, they will last you for years if you carry them in a sheath. We consider Utah's deserts to be a large rockhammer exchange. We've left a few and collected a few. Now we carry them in a sheath so we don't set them down and lose them. We have found painting them construction orange helps to locate a misplaced tool.
12. **CHISELS.** In addition to your rockhammer, you'll want other tools. Chisels help remove rock or crystals with a little more precision. We recommend Estwing brand tools. They are also the best!
13. **SAFETY GOGGLES.** Eye protection is a serious concern when you are breaking rock. If you want to enjoy your specimens after you collect them, wear goggles or safety glasses.
14. **GARDEN TROWEL.** Very useful for small digging.
15. **ROUND POINT SHOVEL & HOE.** These tools are very handy when digging is required. Especially at the geode beds.
16. **SPECIMEN CONTAINERS.** We've used all the following: cardboard boxes, milk crates, wooden crates, 5 gallon buckets, canvas sacks, egg cartons, Tupperware dishes, cookie tins, film containers, etc.
17. **A BUDDY.** We do not recommend rockhounding alone. Use the buddy system.
18. **FOOD & SNACKS & MEDICATION.** Besides your meals, take along plenty of snacks. It's better to have too much than not enough. Never leave for a collecting trip without any medication you may need!
19. **HAT & SUNSCREEN.** You will get sunburn without these.
20. **CAMPING GEAR.** When rockhounding, nine times out of ten you will not be near any facilities. Be a good scout and go prepared with some basic camping supplies.
21. **PATIENCE & COMMON SENSE.** We've noticed that the most successful rockhounds are those that patiently keep looking around until they find something really great. Always use common sense when in the field. Never trespass. Respect others and their property.

From www.rocks4u.com, via e-mail, via The Tektite 10/03

Forensic Mineralogy

The popularity of TV shows like CSI has spurred a growing interest in forensic science. Soil and mineral particles found at crime scenes can offer vital clues and, therefore, mineralogical analysis has become an important component of criminal investigation. The January 2005 issue of *Geotimes* provides a number of illustrative examples.

On a rainy fall day in 2002, two men sitting in an old black pickup truck were shot - one killed, the other badly wounded. The survivor pointed the police to a known drug dealer who lived in Alexandria, VA, 75 miles east of the crime scene. The cops kept an eye on the suspect, and when he was seen about to wash his Jeep of mud and dirt, they arrested the man and seized his vehicle for tell-tale evidence. A preliminary examination of mud on the Jeep suggested that it had been near water. Microscopic observations further revealed signs of cross-bedding, well-rounded and sorted grains (indications of water-deposited sediments), and more importantly, the same set of minerals, including azurite and malachite, found at the murder site. It turns out the murder occurred only a half mile from a rock quarry where copper, granite, limestone, and other rocks and minerals were mined. Traces of azurite and malachite were also present in mud samples from the crime scene. The shooter is now in prison; the surviving victim was blinded in one eye.

In another murder case, bentonite, a type of clay mineral, provided the crucial clue which helped solve the crime. A man had been shot three times while hunting with his wife in the mountains of Colorado in 1995. His wife's ex-husband had also been camped in the general area at that time, and therefore became a prime suspect. However, he claimed that he was out hunting with his boss far from his campsite, and furthermore he insisted his .308 rifle with cartridges had been stolen. A bullet and shell case of that caliber had been found near the body, but searches for the murder weapon had turned up nothing. The investigations continued over several summers. In a conversation during the extended search, one of the investigators happened to mention to his fellow searchers that a cattle pond near the ex-husband's was lined with bentonite in order to prevent seepage of water from the bottom. Another investigator later remembered seeing dried mud on the wife's clothing and her remark that she had stepped into a bog near her camp. Mud samples were collected from the cattle pond, another nearby pond, the bog 'near her camp', and mud scraped off the wife's hunting overalls, which she had worn that day. Only the mud containing bentonite

from the cattle pond matched that found on the wife's clothing. She had apparently been to the ex-husband's camp, stolen his rifle, and then killed her husband. The woman is now serving a life's sentence without parole.

Laboratory analyses are also indispensable in solving many mining scams. Typically, a gullible investor will be told of "secret processes" that can detect gold, silver, platinum, and other precious metals that otherwise would not be detected by fire assay, the standard analytical method of assaying ores. The "inventor" is usually very tight-lipped about details of his process, "fearing that rival companies or competitors will steal his trade secrets". Often such scams are backed up by shady assayers who find much larger quantities of precious metals in the ores than those found by reputable labs, and who furthermore claim that they are "correcting" analytical errors made by other instruments.

One investigation showed that if iron were not removed from the sample prior to analysis, the analytical instrument would give an erroneous reading for the platinum group metals. As an example, a US nickel was analyzed without taking the proper precautions. Had it been a "sample", it would have been reported by the shady assayer "to contain 11.5 troy oz of platinum, 5.63 troy oz of palladium, and 5.314 troy oz of indium per ton". Needless to say, a US nickel is actually composed of copper with some nickel.

Minerals may also figure in poisoning cases. For example, a small child in the state of Washington became seriously ill from arsenic poisoning. Forensic examination of the child's home turned up a number of mineral specimens, apparently left in the house and yard by a former occupant who was a mineral collector. Among the specimens was arsenopyrite, iron arsenic sulfide. Foul play was ruled out. The child had evidently been chewing and swallowing this mineral. Case closed!

Further Reading

- Abbott, D.M., Jr., 2005. Investigating mining frauds. *Geotimes*, Jan. 2005, p. 30-32.
- Murray, R.C., 2005. Collecting crime evidence from earth. *Geotimes* Jan. 2005, p, 18-22.
- Sever, M., 2005. Murder & mud in the Shenandoah. *Geotimes*, Jan. 2005, p 24-29.

From Rock Pickings 05/05, via Serendipity Gems 09/05, via The Glacial Drifter 01/06

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

Oct 20 West Hills, CA. Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First United Methodist Church, 22799 Sherman Way
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5

Oct 20-21 Whittier, CA. Whittier Gem & Mineral Society
Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington Ave.
Hours: 10 - 5 both days

Nov 3-4 Anaheim, CA. American Opal Society
Clarion Hotel Anaheim Resort
616 Convention Way (off Harbor Blvd.)
Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun 10-5

Nov 3-4 Lancaster, CA. Palmdale Gem & Mineral Society
2551 W. Ave. H, Hwy 14
Hours: 9 - 5 both days

Nov 3-4 Ridgecrest, CA. Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society
Desert Empire Fairgrounds, Mesquite Hall
520 S. Richmond Rd.
Hours: 9-5 both days

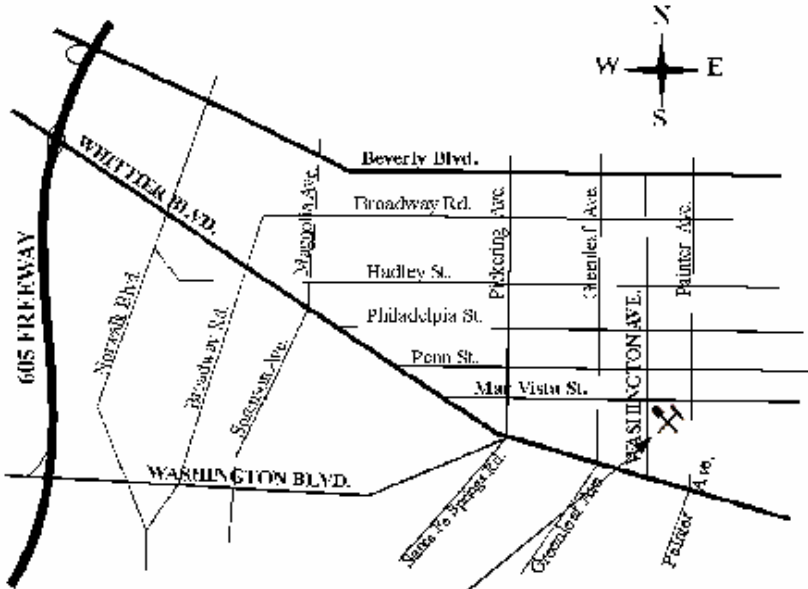
Nov 17-18 Oxnard, CA. Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society
800 Hobson Way
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 10-4

Nov 3-4 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

2008 Shows

Jan 19-20 Exeter, CA. Tule Gem & Mineral Society
Veteran's Memorial Bldg., On Highway 65
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4

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



MAR VISTA & WASHINGTON AVE.  WHITTIER COMMUNITY CENTER

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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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Meeting Date: October 25, 2007 at 7:30 PM
Location: Whittier Community Center
(see page 4 for info - map on page 15)