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WHITTIER



**ROCKHOUNDING**

GEM & MINERAL  
SOCIETY

**Meeting Date & Location Change:  
La Habra Community Center for  
The NOC Live & Silent Auction Action**



Ahhhh! Spotted at the WGMS Club Claim: a baby tarantula came over to check us out - isn't it cute (and non-aggressive)

# ROCKHOUNDER

## THE PREZ SEZ:

The show is done for another year. There will be an after show meeting on the 8th of November at Jay & Kathy's house starting at 7:30 P.M. I would like to thank all of you who put in displays, manned the various activities or those who would rotate through giving many of us a break. It isn't possible to put on a show without your help. So thank you to all of you.

We are starting our fieldtrip season, which is longer than fall, winter or spring. The Thanksgiving trip is to Broadwell Dry Lake just north of Lavic Siding, on the east end of the Southern Cadys. There is Christmas Tree Agate, moss and plume agates, and jaspers of many colors to be found. And there are plenty of materials yet to be discovered, I think. Anyway, the trips we take are fun and interesting, you could even say adventures, especially when we get lost, sorta. And of course, there aren't usually people to ask directions out there. At such times we stop and have a look around. While looking around we usually find some of the prettiest stones and with a GPS we are able to find that spot again. That is if the batteries don't fall out.

I hope to see many of you out on the fieldtrips.

*Joe Goetz*

### DUES ARE DUE!!!

Yes, WGMS Rockhounters, it is that time again when we pay our dues to The Man (oh yeah, that's us.) Please send in your dues or drop them off at the November or December meeting.

The dues schedule is as follows:

Married Couple:	\$25.00
Single Adults:	\$15.00
Juniors (under 18):	5:00

Mailing address for 2008 Dues:

Izzy Burns
1038 Bradshawe Ave.
Monterey Park, CA 91754-4912

**WGMS General Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 13, 2007**

**at 7:00 PM**

**at the**

**La Habra Community Center**

**Corner of La Habra Blvd. and Euclid Avenue**

**In La Habra (see map on page 5)**

**C**ome join us for a special joint meeting with the North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society at their annual **LIVE & SILENT AUCTION.**

There is a silent auction which closes first, with lots of rocks, plants and other objects for bid. Then comes the live auction.

Don Warthen is the Master of Ceremonies and Auctioneer extraordinaire. All of the items up for bid are donated by members of the NOC, and most are hand-crafted by those same artisans. And not everything is rock-related. Last year a 1-week vacation to Sedona, Arizona was donated and it went for \$500 dollars.

So be a part of the excitement at the La Habra Community Center , November 13 at 7:00 P.M. and take part in the auction action. It will be fun. Trust me.

**PLEASE BE AWARE: THIS EVENT REPLACES OUR REGULAR NOVEMBER MEETING WHICH ORDINARILY WOULD HAVE OCCURRED THE FOLLOWING WEEK ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15.**

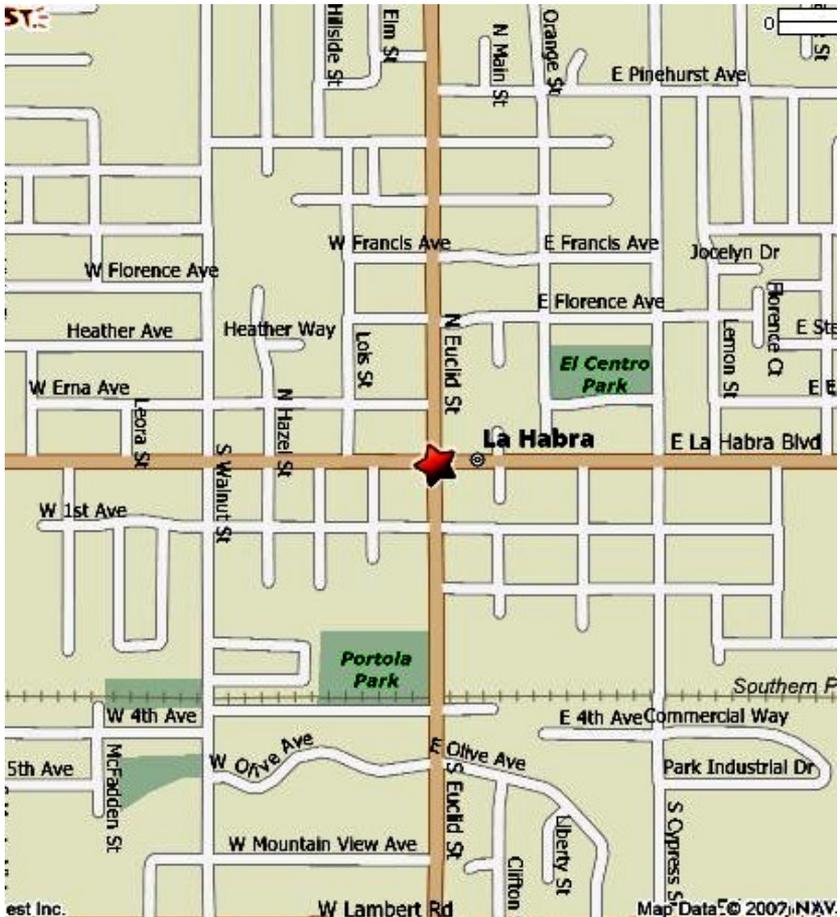
***JValle***

### 2007 Gem Show Thank You from the Show Chairman

The 2007 Whittier Gem & Mineral Society's annual gem show is over for another year. We had a fine, successful show with stellar performances by all involved. We tried a few new things and our displays were nothing short of amazing.

Thank you all for helping us with put on this event where we showcase our hobby. Without all of your hard work we could not do this. You were great!

*Jay Valle*  
2007 Show Chairman



## **What's A Concretion?**

**By Ed Peterson**

*During the Show, we had a lot of fun over at the SILENT AUCTION table with some Anza-Borrego sandstone concretions donated by member Betty Bliss. One concretion in particular was notable for its suggestive shape which was easily perceived by all who came by ('nuff said about that!). Anyway, I found an article about concretions in one of my exchange bulletins and am sharing it with you here.*

**T**he question has bothered me for years. What some have called a concretion doesn't fit what I've understood to be a concretion. The *Glossary of Geology and Related Sciences* defines a concretion as "a nodular or irregular concentration of certain authigenic constituents or sedimentary rocks and tuffs; developed by the localized deposition of material from solution, generally about a central nucleus." I think a lawyer must have written this. So, I looked up the word authigenic. "Authigenic... applied to those constituents that came into existence with or after the formation of the rock of which they constitute a part; e.g., the primary and secondary minerals of igneous rocks, and the cements of sedimentary rocks." Okay, according to my new understanding, a concretion is a rock formed from local material, generally formed around an object and resulting from mineral around it precipitating out of solution. But this still doesn't fit some of the objects called concretions, at least for me.

So I looked elsewhere for a definition. A web site defines concretions as compact, often rounded, accumulations of mineral matter that form inside a sedimentary rock such as shale and sandstone or in soil. I can picture this so I rather like this definition, but what about the "central nucleus"? What about "localized deposition"? Are geodes and thunder eggs concretions as some sources say?

Paul Garvin, in his book *Iowa's Minerals*, defines a concretion somewhat differently. "A concretion is a more or less spherical mass (although it may take a more irregular shape) of mineral matter that appears to have grown outward from a center. Sometimes the center is defined by a nucleus of different material, such as a fossil or grain of sediment. Concretions grow by cementing the sediment of the enclosing rock or by replacing it. They may form in sandstone, shale, or limestone and may be composed of calcite, quartz, pyrite, gypsum, barite, or other minerals." If geodes and thunder eggs are concretions, then how do they fit this definition?

What about thunder eggs?

From [www.austmus.gov.au/geoscience/earth/concretions.htm](http://www.austmus.gov.au/geoscience/earth/concretions.htm)...“Thunder eggs are spherical objects which form in some types of silica rich volcanic rocks.” Trapped steam and gases were trapped in the lava and expanded. Silica and feldspars crystallized around the bubble. Minerals filled the bubbles with a radiating structure called spherulites. Internal gas pressure forced the spherulites apart forming a central hollow chamber that filled with minerals. Different minerals in solution seeped in and solidified forming the interesting patterns. This sort of fits Galvin’s definition of a concretion.

Concretions vary a lot. They range from tiny objects to objects 10 feet or more in diameter. They are usually spherical or disk-shaped and are often embedded in a host rock.

### **Some Types of Concretions**

**Hollow concretions:** Hollow concretions have an empty center that may be filled with powdery clay or sand. Sometimes they have a hard lump or nut inside that rattles when the concretion is shaken.

**Box concretions:** These are typically ironstone concretion. These are formed when ground water dissolves iron compounds from the inner portion of a block and then deposits the iron compounds again as insoluble iron oxide in the outer parts. See the above website for a more complete explanation. These actually look like a container with iron oxide forming the outer edges of the box.

**Pumpkin Patch concretions:** These are found in the Colorado Desert in southeastern California. These concretions resemble pumpkins in shape, size, and distribution, and are found throughout an area near Anza Borrego State Park. They are globular masses made of sandstone.

**Theodore Roosevelt National Park Concretions:** These are huge red concretions up to 10 feet in diameter containing iron, carbonate, and silica minerals.

**Kettle Point Concretions:** These are found along Lake Huron at Kettle Point in southern Ontario. They range from one to five feet in diameter and resemble the bottom of a kettle.

**Pisolite or pisolitic concretions:** These are pea shape spheres where a grain of some kind forms a nucleus.

(Continued on page 10)

**Field Trip  
November 22 to 25, 2007  
"Thanksgiving in the Desert"  
Broadwell Dry lake**

I am told that enjoying Thanksgiving out on a field trip is a really cool experience, though due to family constraints (the wife said no way!) I have not personally had the experience. The traditional turkey feast with all the trimming is still enjoyed, just with a more rockhound-friendly ambiance. Thanksgiving in the Desert is a WGMS tradition which has been going, to the best of my knowledge, on for as long as the Whittier Rock Club has been having fieldtrips. There are several true rockhound die-hards (including Vern & Sylvia Cliffe) who do this every year.

The field trip is from Thursday, November 22 - Thanksgiving to Sunday, November 25. Field trippers are welcome on any day (I typically arrive on Friday). There are several nice collecting areas nearby which we will visit as time and interest allows. The map on page 9 shows several Southern Cadys locations as well as Ludlow and our camp.

Since the days are getting shorter with nightfall occurring earlier and earlier, we try to get out of camp by around 8:00 A.M. and return to camp by 3:30 P.M. with dinner at around 4:30 P.M. Typically, dinner time is a shared experience with leftover turkey and fixings and whatever is brought to the table by the other camping "hounders".

**DIRECTIONS:** Take I-15 east to Barstow and get onto I-40 toward Needles about 45 miles to the little desert oasis of Ludlow. Get off here and go left (north) onto a dirt road. Follow this outback highway for about 8 miles to the WGMS camp. Signs should be posted so, hopefully, you can follow them.

**OTHER COMMENTS:** You can get to camp with regular 2-wheel drive vehicles, campers and motor homes. For the field trips however, a 4-wheeler is a good thing, though if you know your vehicle and are cautious, you can get to most if not all the sites we may visit. It is also possible to catch a ride with other drivers with 4x4s.

As is usually the case with our field trips, this is dry camping at its best, so come prepared. Bring lots of water and supplies. It is a fair drive back to civilization for supplies so be prepared.

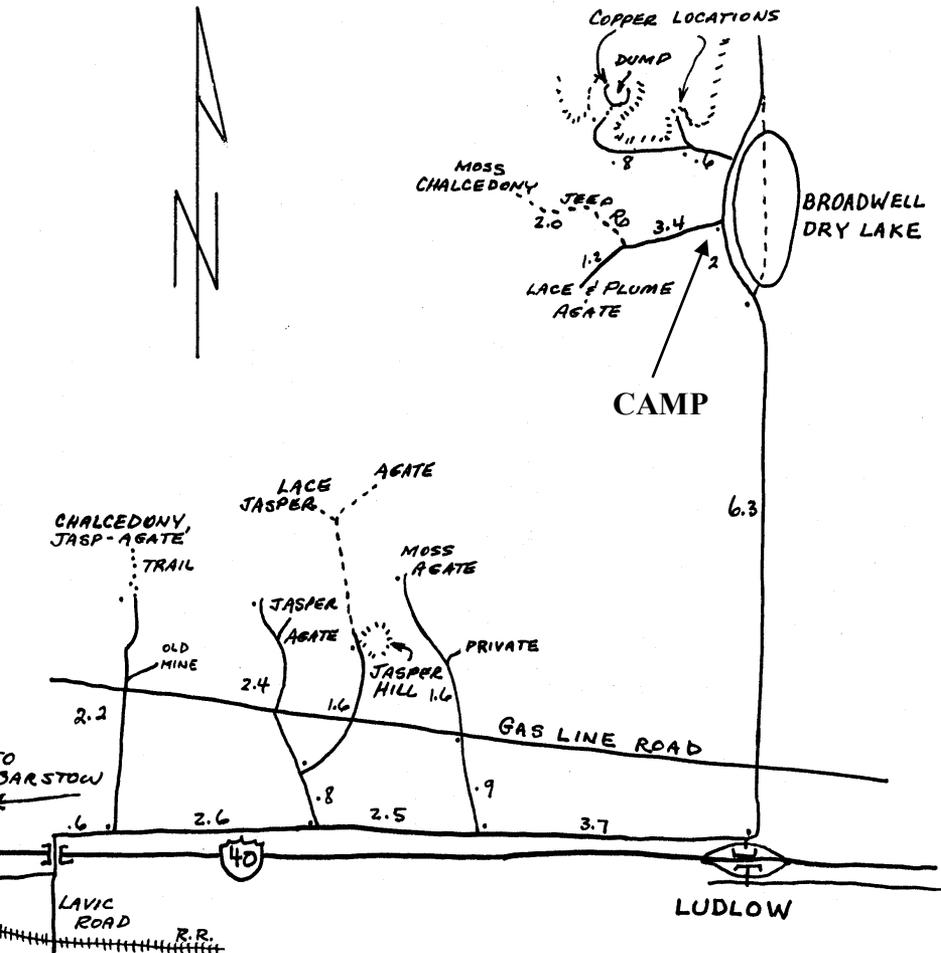
**CONTACT:** For more info contact Joe Goetz at (626) 914-5030.

# CADY MOUNTAINS

APPROXIMATELY 165  
MILES FROM WHITTIER

## COLLECTING MATERIAL:

AGATE IS THE PRIMARY COLLECTING MATERIAL HERE, OCCURRING IN MANY DIFFERENT VARIETIES AS NOTED BELOW.  
OTHER COLLECTABLE ROCKS - GEM MATERIAL IS JASPER AND COPPER.



**What's a Concretion?**

(Continued from page 7)

**Oolite:** A mass of very small concretions. The masses are smaller than those of pisolite.

**Blueberry Concretions:** These are BB-size hematite spheres, grey-blue in color, found on Mars. (What does this suggest about water being at least formerly on Mars?)

There are also mudstone concretions, sandstone concretions, and Septarian Concretions.

Note: I still have trouble with the explanation for the formation of Geodes when it comes to applying this to oil geodes, especially to those having the oil inside pressured.

*Rock Rock-Talk 1/07; via Gem Cutters News 9/07, via Breccia 11/07*

**Speedy Sanding Tip**

By J.F. Palmer

**H**ere's an old SPEEDY SANDING tip. I hope someone out there can use it.

One day I found that the sandpaper on the sanding drum was worn down to such an extent that it would not remove the grinding marks from a cabochon. I had no extra paper on hand and had to finish the cab as it was a gift.

I thought I'd try some loose grit for sanding. I placed a wet sponge under the sanding drum so that the worn-out belt came in contact with the sponge to keep the paper moist but not too wet. Then I turned on the motor and began sanding. The results were wonderful.

I had to dip the stone in the grit a few more times before finishing. I found that I was never in danger of over-sanding, and had no need to be careful with the edges.

I sand all my cabs this way now, as it is faster and better. When I finally had to replace the paper, I never use a grit coarser than size 400.

*From Chips & Tips, via Golden Spike News 12/06 via Del Air Bulletin 10/07*

**Daffi-nitions**

- Agate - The door in a fence
- Boule - A dish that hold fruit
- Cabochoch - A small french taxi
- Faceting - A complex way to ruin a good jewel
- Facet - Australians' answer to a water tap
- Field Trip - When you fall down outside
- Findings - Stuff you find!
- Flintknapping - Sleepy stone
- Fortification - A large gulp of good whiskey
- Fossils - People on social security
- Garnet - Something you catch a long fish in
- Geode - A poem to G
- Grinding Wheel - A bearing going out in your old truck
- Inclusion - Unwanted third person on a date
- Lap - Motherly space between trunk and limbs
- Lapidary - A Scandinavian milk parlor
- Lapidary - What the cat does at milking time
- Malachite - One of the tribes of Israel
- Mexican Lace - Fiesta Clothing
- Petrified Wood - Wood that has been frightened
- Pseudomorph - Anything pretending to be a morph
- Quartz - A bottle size that milk comes in
- Rhodochrosite - Highway where crows can be seen
- Rockhammer - The drummer in a modern band
- Semi-precious - Daddy's little girl
- Silver Solder - A millionaire's instant lawn machine
- Slaw Saw - A machine that slices ham
- Template -- a little house of worship
- The Swiss cut - A way of glorifying hamburger
- Trim Saw - A machine that takes the fat off!

Contributors: Crack 'N Cab 9/94, Escomo via Chips and Chatter 2/95

<http://www.ghg.net/gpenning/defyin.htm>

## **The Indians of Cache Creek By Muriel Berg**

*This is an article from the WGMS "Rockhounder" archives. Cache Creek, of course, is better known as Horse Canyon and is a closed area now.*

**N**ext time you visit Horse Canyon be sure to visit the Indian Caves as you are going in. They are depicted on most maps of the area. The Indian Village was located just south east of the rockhound campground on the ridge of red lavic rock.

The caves are not deep and are covered with Indian paintings. To my knowledge, the Indians didn't live in these but used them for ceremonials. It was seldom that Indians lived in caves because they are cold and damp.

The old Indian Village was used by Indians of the Shoshone tribe. Notice the large flat round surfaces with the red lava piled around the outer edge. Here as where they had their wickiups, grass covered bee hive shaped homes.

Examine the dirt floors of the former residents and you may find some interesting things. I found a lovely little bird point arrowhead. We have also found hand made white Indian beads and brightly colored trade beads. On our last trip there, I found a broken spear point chipped out of a black chert, right in our camp. Mr. Buck O'Brien, caretaker of Horse Canyon has an excellent collection of Indian points that he has picked up in the area.

The Shoshone Indians emigrated from one place to another constantly in search of food. They, like most California Indians, were called "Digger Indians" because they dug for roots. Other foods on their menu included seeds, berries, nuts, acorns, small rodents, rabbits, deer, wild sheep and goats. Their delicacies included roasted grasshoppers, ant paste, crickets, lizards and snakes. Don't be appalled, they would probably think some of our foods rather strange.

Throughout California the Indian clothing was very scant, for summer a two piece apron of buckskin, shredded bark or plant fibers. In winter they wore a robe woven of strips of rabbit skin. They used snow shoes in winter and wore sandals or moccasins in rough terrain.

Food getting took up so much time that there was little time for recreation or

artistic attempts. There is no evidence of pottery at Horse Canyon, so I would imagine that they used cooking baskets. These were tightly woven and calked with pitch so that they were water tight. They were filled with water and hot stones were dropped in to heat the water and cook the food.

Closer to the road but still on the knoll of stone you will find metate holes where Indian women sat and ground nuts or seeds into meal. You will usually find these metate holes on high rocks - no doubt the Indian women were also lookouts as they sat there grinding away.

Unmarried women are unheard of in primitive tribes so plural marriages were not uncommon. The most convenient combination was sisters sharing the same husband or brothers sharing the same wife.

A tell tale sign of Indians as early residents of an area are the obsidian chippings from the arrow head makers. Next time you are camping or vacationing look for the obsidian chips, they are fun to pick up and, with luck, you may even find an arrowhead.

*From WGMS Rockhounder 4/61*

**Field Trip Report  
Whittier Club Claim  
November 3-4, 2007**

**W**ow...talk about your perfect weekends. 28 intrepid rockhound adventurers came out for the WGMS annual field trip to the Club Claim. The weather was phenomenally good with daytime temperatures barely touching 80, and wind was not a problem. Perfect rock hunting weather.

Rock was collected on both Saturday and Sunday, and some 'hounders hung around until Monday to explore a local area and its associated mines. On Saturday night, a vote was taken and the potluck was moved to Peggy Sue's Diner.

All-in-all, it was a fun weekend - you should have been there.

*Jay Valle*

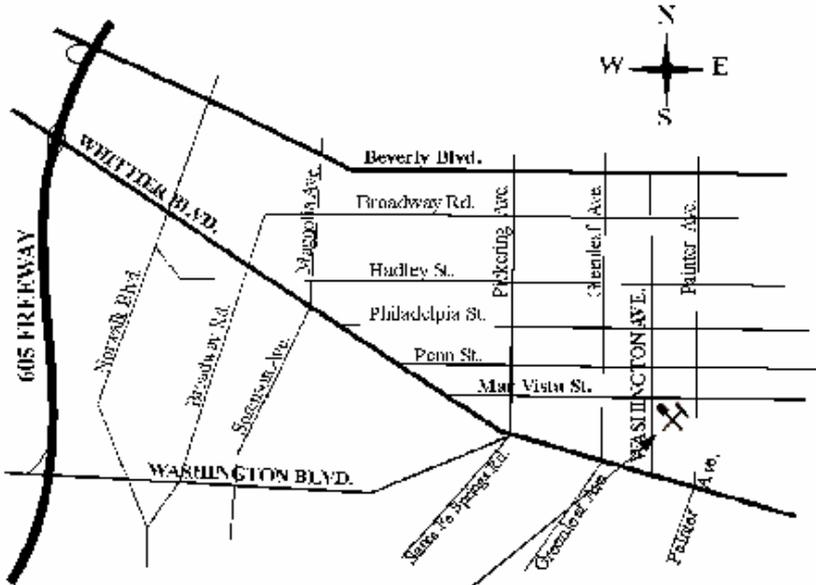
**Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows**

- Nov 17-18 Oxnard, CA.** Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society  
800 Hobson Way  
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 10-4
- Nov 17-18 Victorville, CA.** Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
San Bernardino County Fairgrounds  
14800 7th Street  
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4
- Dec 1-2 Barstow, CA.** Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society  
Cora Harper Community Center  
841 S. Barstow Road  
Hours: 10-5 both days
- Dec 8-10 San Bernardino, CA.** Orange Belt Mineralogical Society Inc.  
Rudy C Hernandez Community Center  
222 North Lugo Ave (2nd and Sierra Way)  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 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
- Feb 15-24 Indio, CA.** San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society  
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival  
46-350 Arabia St.  
Hours: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- Mar 1-2 Arcadia, CA.** Monrovia Rockhounds  
Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanical Garden  
301 N. Baldwin Ave.  
Hours: 9 - 4:30 both days
- Mar 1-2 Escondido, CA.** Palomar Gem & Mineral Club  
Army National Guard Armory, 304 Park Avenue  
Hours: Saturday 9-5, Sunday 9-4

**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  
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**Hacienda Heights, CA 91745**

**Meeting Date: November 13, 2007 at 7:00 PM**  
**Location: La Habra Community Center**  
**(see page 4 for info - map on page 5)**