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WHITTIER



ROCKHOUNDERS
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

January Program: Show and Tell!!!

Rockgabber Projects for January
(see article on page 5)



Circle & Square Necklace



Flattened Square-Link Bracelet & Earrings

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

The New Year has arrived! I hope all of you had a happy and safe Christmas and New Year's celebration. Another year in which to plan for trips, projects to be worked on and of course chores. It can't all be dreams all the time.

Soon we'll start to plan our next show in Oct. '08. Even sooner we'll be planning the fieldtrips for the coming year. Have a spot you heard about, have a favorite place that no one else knows about and you'd like to share? Well this January will be the month. The place, if I heard correctly will be at Marcia's and my house on the 12th of the month at 10:00 A.M. I'll bet you are just chomping at the bit for the next meeting to start. There is a fieldtrip to Quartzite coming up this month. The info will be in the fieldtrip report further in the bulletin.

See you all soon

*Joe Goetz
Prime-Minister President*

THE PASSION OF GEM COLLECTING

What draws a group of rock hounds to sniff around on a mine dump on the lookout for a rock, to scratch in the ground and dig up minerals or to lick that window knocked into a stone? Someone mentioned that this drive is passion.

The oxford dictionary defines passion as a strong emotion or strong enthusiasm, but this somehow does not fully describe what gem collecting is all about, there is something special, which needs elaboration.

Let's paint a few pictures:

- Transvaal Jade outing in July: A bunch of people gets up early on a Sunday morning and braves the freezing cold of the winter. They gather at a roadside, where they nearly get run over by the cars racing past.

Continued on page 10

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, January 24, 2008

at 7:30 PM

Show & Tell!!

For the January meeting bring a favorite rock that you can tell us about. All rocks have a history, only a brief time of that with us, so make them talk! For instance what field trip you were on, the weather, the people that saw you find it...or maybe you purchased it at a yard sale.

We'll see you there.

Marcia

Regular Meeting Schedule for 2008

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 24	7:30 to 9:30 PM	Whittier Community Center	
February 28	7:30 to 9:30 PM	Whittier Community Center	
March 27	7:30 to 9:30 PM	Whittier Community Center	
April 24	7:30 to 9:30 PM	Whittier Community Center	
May 22	7:30 to 9:30 PM	Whittier Community Center	
June 26	6:00 to 8:00 PM	Michigan Avenue Park	Picnic
July	NO MEETING		
August	NO MEETING		
September 25	7:30 to 9:30 PM	Whittier Community Center	
October 23	7:30 to 9:30 PM	Whittier Community Center	
November 20	7:30 to 9:30 PM	Whittier Community Center	
December 20	6:30 to 8:30 PM	To Be Announced	Potluck

Rockgabbers

As we start the new year we are planning on several new projects. There are three projects for the first meeting from which you can choose.

- The first project is the circle and square necklace that Sandie designed, made and was wearing at the Christmas Party (see picture on cover).
- The second project is a flattened square link bracelet that I designed and fabricated.
- The third project is a collection of earrings most of which are original designs by either Sandie or myself.

All of these projects will utilize the new rolling mill to give the projects a different appearance. Several of these projects are suitable for the novice silversmith, so even if you have never done any silver work this is an excellent starting point to start learning new skills.

**** The next meeting will be on January 12th at the Turner's home. ****

The materials required for the circle and square necklace are:

- 72 inches of 18 gauge silver wire

If you want a hook type clasp, you'll need:

- 1 inch of 16 gauge ½ round

If you want a toggle, you'll need:

- about 1 inch of 16 gauge round wire.

The materials required for the flattened square link bracelet are:

- 14 inches of 12 gauge silver wire
- About 6 inches by ½ inch of 20 gauge silver sheet.

The materials required for the earrings are:

- 10 inches of 16 gauge silver wire per pair of earrings
- 6 inches of 24 gauge silver wire per pair of earrings.

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

**Thanksgiving Field Trip to Broadwell Lake
November 22 -25, 2007**

The weather forecast called for windy conditions and low temperatures for the planned weekend. Knowing that forecasts for the desert areas vary considerable from the coastal valleys, thirteen adults (not an unlucky number) made the annual trek with three dogs,

Vent & Sylvia, with Drew Wilson "riding shot gun", left on Wednesday morning, gassed up in Barstow and ate lunch at Peggy Sue's before returning to Highway 40 and the Ludlow exit. Field trippers heading out for the first time found out exactly what the directions "Go out Highway 40 to Ludlow and turn left!" meant when they got to Ludlow.

The eight mile dirt road to the campsite was good enough for regular vehicles with hardly any sandy sections. Shortly after setting up camp Ed, Corinne and their dog, Amber, arrived and before dusk settled in, Jerry & Kathy Turner arrived with their tent trailer.

Thursday morning the field trippers gathered to discuss where the group would have the best luck. Ed & Corinne wanted to walk the surrounding area with Amber, but were concerned about thorns, etc., making their dog's feet sore. They put "booties" on Amber and headed out on their walk. It was funny to see Amber trying to follow them, almost "prancing" to step out of the footwear. If they could teach Amber to walk that way they could enter all kinds of parades! The mechanized group headed west (away from the dry lake bed) towards the mountains determined to find the Christmas Tree agate. The hunt was going to be interesting because of not having been there for five years or more and many storms had changed the roads and landscape. We found the Brown Moss agate location and collected a few pieces, then made our way further until the road became impassable. Collected some small agates and chalcedony at that location. Retreating, we tried one or two more roads (tracks) but they didn't look like the right place, so returned to camp for dinner.

Thanksgiving dinner was "served" inside the Turner's tent trailer with shared potluck food. After dinner Drew started a campfire as the slight breeze had disappeared and every one agreed that it had been a good day and a great dinner. Shortly after turning in, Paul & Julie Wendling and their two small dogs pulled in camp with their Suburban and trailer.

On Friday morning, after much discussion, the group decided to hunt the lower Cadys along the power line road with its side roads. During the drive

over, Chris & Marlene with their tent trailer passed us on their way into camp. Caroline and Charlotte also made their way into camp while we were out. While the group number increase by four that morning, we also dropped by two as the Imlay 's and "prancing" Amber headed home.

Rock collecting was along the power line road and for hundreds of yards on either side. Sylvia (who else) spotted an odd-looking area and walked over to check it out. She discovered a pile of materials that you wouldn't believe. There were agate chunks with cut ends, crystals, fossils and tumbled stones!!!! Some one, at some time, decided to get rid of their extra rocks, but you can't hide them from Sylvia! Sylvia collected the tumbled stones, the Turners filled two buckets with most of the materials and Drew took the crystals and what little was left. Further west, we drove a mile north on tracks and collected small amounts of lace and moss agate from a "remembered" site.

Potluck that night was in front of the Turner's trailer shielded from the slight breeze somewhat by vehicles. Drew was the fire-master again and with little breeze, field trippers had an opportunity to discuss plans and tell stories from their past.

Saturday was the day we were going to find the Christmas Tree agate! Due to a previous commitment, the Turner's headed home and missed the trip. With determination, and Paul & Julie leading in their Suburban the group headed west and investigated a number of roads (tracks), back tracking and trying different ones. During one of the back tracks, Paul spotted another track, pulled a u-turn and headed west again for maybe a mile. Lo and Behold, on our right was the "break" in the slope that looked so familiar! Several of us walked into the "break" and followed it far enough to declare it was the right area! Looking ahead, we could see the "plateau" where we used to park our vehicles. Vern told Paul (who we discovered is a "dirt road jockey") that he could make it to the "plateau parking area" three hundreds yards away if he wanted to drive on the sidewalls of his tires! The original REALLY BAD road was completely washed out! A short walk uncovered small agates, chalcedony, gypsum xls, carnelian and small pieces of green agate with red dots, pieces similar to bloodstone.

So, any hunting would require a hike of four to five hundred yards to get to the fabled site. Close enough for all practical purposes, as they say in some quarters! As the sun was settling low, we headed back to camp for potluck dinner alongside Carolyn's trailer which provided protection from a mild breeze. Drew built a fire again and the breeze quit to make the evening

Continued on page 10

2008 Quartzsite Show Schedule	
<u>Dates</u>	<u>Show</u>
1/1 - 2/28	Desert Gardens International Gem, Mineral Show
1/11 - 2/3	The Main Event
1/23 - 1/27	41st QIA Pow Wow Rocks & Minerals
1/30 - 2/3	Hobby, Gem, & Craft Show Big Tent Event
1/4 - 1/13	Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show

Quartzsite Field Trip Information

<u>Date</u>	<u>Trip #</u>	<u>Destination</u>
Wednesday, January 23	1	12-Mile
	2	Stone Cabin
Thursday, January 24	1	Brenda *
	2	Bouse
Friday, January 25	1	Salome
	2	Quartzsite
Saturday, January 26	1	Plomosa Road
	2	Aguila
Sunday, January 27	1	Plomosa Road
	2	Palo Verde

* High clearance

** Mileage figures are ap

All trips depart at 9 a.m. sharp. Come ear
Wear comfortable walking shoes. Bring a ha

Meeting Places

North.....Tyson Drive east of the fire station of
 South.....Hwy 95 near mile marker 103, south o
 East.....North side of Kuehn Street, east of Ri
 WestWest 0.6 miles on frontage road past I

**Thanksgiving Field Trip to Broadwell Lake
(Continued from page 7)**

pleasant, as it had been for each night we were there.

Sunday morning Vern & Sylvia and Drew headed for home as Vern had a very important doctor's visit on Tuesday morning. Paul & Julie loaded up the remaining campers, (the Kyle's and Carolyn & Charlotte) and headed out to the fabled Christmas Tree agate location

To sum up the experience. A great time was had by all, every day was beautiful, temperature in the 70's, good walking weather, no wind to mention and only a slight breeze in camp before dark. The potlucks were excellent with turkey, dressing, many side dishes and desert to compliment the main course. The Turners and Carolyn should be thanked for sharing their trailers as a restaurant and/or shields from the slight breezes.

Sylvia & Vern

PS. At the PLS workshop after the trip and talking with Chris & Carolyn about their Sunday collecting at the Christmas Tree agate area, both were happy with what they found. Chris found crystals and other interesting specimens on the "right" side of the "plateau" where previously we had never found anything. Carolyn, going to the left, regular side found small green agate pieces with red dots.

**THE PASSION OF GEM COLLECTING
(Continued from page 3)**

Those people just shake their heads at the group of lunatics standing at the roadside.

- More than a hundred people travel thousands of kilometers and gather in.... Springbok of all places!!.... for the Gemboree. It might be a friendly place, but let's face it, the average Gautenger will see no reason to go there. And what do they do there? They travel to the even more remote places, brave the heat and serious threat of dehydration and walk (or lets rather say stumble) up and down mine dumps, a heavy bag weighing on the shoulder.
- In Bloemhof locked gates are disassembled and taken off their hinges within minutes. There is no obstacle too big to keep a rock hound from his rocks.
- People spend that little bit of yearly holiday they have driving through

desert landscape getting their hands dirty and carrying heavy stone bags around.

- They spend their weekends cutting and grinding, tumbling and polishing or sorting and cleaning rocks. They work on their machinery and make display cabinets, all sounds like an awful lot of work, doesn't it?

What is it that fascinates them, what is it that drives them to go time and time again? Is it all JUST for stones?? Yes and no. Yes it is in the search of stones, but that's not a JUST. There's a lot more to it than JUST picking up an odd piece of stone.

There's that drive to get another exquisite sample, same thing, yet absolutely different to all the others picked up so far. It's an experience to walk in the open field on the search for agates, scratch in a digging for minerals or whatever it might be. Every stone you pick up is beautiful (well, once you've got that knack of picking up the right type of stone), it is different, is UNIQUE and there's always still a nicer one out there than the one you've just picked up. There is always the urge to find a new mineral specimen, which would fit so nicely into that collection.

Every stone has so much potential: it can be tumbled or cut and polished, finished into a wonderful piece of jewelry, displayed in that collection. It can be put in the garden, given to friends, whatever your heart may desire.

There's that peacefulness, you're in nature, work and problems are left at home and forgotten. It is relaxing, there is no competition whatsoever, there is enough for all of us and there will still be enough for the next generations. The major decisions you take are whether to move left or right, or whether you need to go back to the car because you've got enough or whether you can still stretch it a bit. The widest variety of people come together, everyone is different, yet they all get along well. There is a spirit of friendship, of tolerance and of sharing special times.

This all together is what makes collecting gems and minerals so special. We all take part for a reason: we love stones. We want to experience the wonders of nature, of what is created and is there for us to see and to enjoy. We want to take them and use them in what we think is the perfect way to express the beauty of these specimens. We want to show others what is out there for all of us to enjoy.

In short: WE HAVE A PASSION FOR STONES.

Pauline De Beer and Johan Labuschagné (Des 2002)
<http://www.fosagams.co.za/>



A Letter from Joan Abramson



This has been a good year for me. I've been healthy, take long walks daily and in the summer enjoy swimming. I'm active in a local book club whose members have stimulating ideas.



Over the years I've been a real "pack rat" and now I'm weeding out many things, including my filing cabinet. Out of curiosity I began counting how many poems I have written and it came to well over five hundred! I thought of the "fortune 500" people we hear about, many of whom have been corrupt, and it gave me the idea for my annual "Merry Christmas Acrostic"

My "Fortune 500."



My entire family will be with me for a Christmas celebration. Since they all live at some distance from each other, it will be wonderful to have them together here.

Have a happy healthy 2008.

Love Joan

Definitions



- **Acrostic** - verse or arrangement of words in which certain letters in each line, such as the first, or last, when taken in order spell out a word, moto, etc.
- **Benison** - blessing



**Holiday Poems by Joan
by Joan Abramson**

MERRY CHRISTMAS 2007

My “Fortune 500”

Money makes “Fortune 500’s” a class.
Ever increasing their status and wealth,
Recording the billions they’ve learned to amass,
Regardless of method (or maybe by stealth!)
Yet such prosperity shuns simple pleasures.

Control of their assets brings envious praises.
How they soon fade, these ephemeral treasures!
Rewards came to me in composing quaint phrases,
Ideas in poems for family and friends,
Seeking rare imagery, rhythm and rhyme,
Topics for travels and weddings and trends,
Making my “Fortune 500” sublime!
Alive to great memories gold at its best,
Sharing my riches, fulfilling my quest.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Contentment

Happiness is at the core of life,
Always ready to enrich the day.
People I admire soften strife:
Precious memories don’t fade away.
Yearning for contentment? It is near!

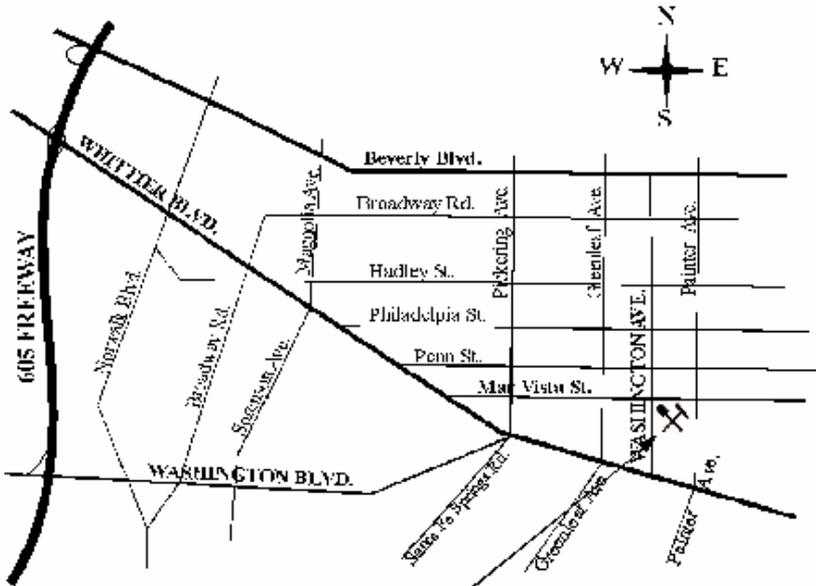
Newly ripened fruit, a starry sky,
Ever changing seasons bringing cheer.
Words of challenge keeping hopes up high.

Yes, the darkness seems to checkmate dawn -
Earthquakes, floods and fires never rest.
As Time erodes, my twilight’s benison
Rewards my life with joy, good health and zest.

Upcoming CFMS Gem 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
Gem & Mineral Building Bldg #1
46-350 Arabia Street
Hours: 10 am - 10 pm
- Feb 22-23 Northridge, CA.** Del Air Rockhounds
United Methodist Church, 9650 Reseda Blvd. (at Superior St.)
Hours: Fri. 3 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 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
- Mar 1-2 Ventura, CA.** Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Seaside Park - Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 W. Harbor Blvd.
Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4
- Mar 8-9 San Marino, CA.** Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Drive
Hours: Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-5
- Mar 14-16 San Bernardino, CA.** Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
Western Regional League Ball Park
6707 Little League Drive
Hours: Fri, Sat. 9 a.m. to dusk; Sun. 9 - 4
- Apr 4-6 Bakersfield, CA.** San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society
Indoor Show/Outdoor Tail Gate
Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South P Street
Hours: Fri. 9 - 8; Sat. & Sun. 9 - 5

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



MAR VISTA & WASHINGTON AVE.  WHITTIER COMMUNITY CENTER

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(see page 4 for information)