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WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

February Program: *Sparkling Dazes !!!!!*



Conversations heard along the Red Canyon Trail...

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Well it's February already and even though winter had a slow start we really are having a cold, wet one so far. Just think about all of the collecting material that is being exposed each time it rains. Last month we planned out the fieldtrips for the year. And I think we came up with some really good ones, well... they are all good ones. The only time you might not have really a good one, is when, you don't find what you are looking for, and nothing else either.

We will have to play it by ear (could give you a headache if you take it literally) and wait and see how the weather plays out when the time comes to go on a trip. Coming up this year we'll hopefully have enough dry days to work on the display cases we started last year.

Soon we'll be starting the planning for our next show. So, start thinking about a theme for the show. Think also how we might be able to make the show even better than the last show. We're all in this together, we all count and with help I know we'll put on a great show.

See you at the meeting!

Joe Goetz

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, February 28, 2008

at 7:30 PM

Sparkling Dazes !!!!!

Program for February:

At the February meeting, WGMS member **DARRYL BOOMER** will present a program on faceting, a fascinating faceting program indeed.

Darryl taught himself to facet, built his own machine and creates beautiful stones which he demonstrates at our annual show.

Come listen to his story.

Sparkling dazes !!!!!
Marcia Goetz

Murphy's Lesser Known Laws

Forwarded by B. Jay Bowman

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
3. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
4. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
5. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
6. If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them, five or six at a time, on a hill, in the fog.
7. The things that come to those who wait will be the scraggly junk left by those who got there first.
8. The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.
9. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
10. When you go into court, you are putting yourself into the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

Rockgabbers Report

The January meeting actually was held at Sandie and Tony's home. Several people worked on their circle and square necklaces, and others worked on projects using the rolling mill. Vivian Rice brought several formed wire earrings for ideas and inspiration.

The February meeting will be held at the Turner's home on February 23rd and the projects will be the same as for January, namely the circle and square necklace, the flattened square link bracelet, and a variety of formed earrings (see picture on cover of your January bulletin.) This will also give everybody a chance to complete some of the projects they have previously started.

I have inherited several old books on silverwork, and there are several Celtic knot designs which I am eager to try, especially with St. Patrick's Day coming up. I also have a computer program which will let you design your own Celtic knot for those who want to be really creative and make something unique. I have been working on a project which involves metal forming, a bezel, and a rivet fastener, and I plan on introducing sections of this project at the meeting.

The next meeting will be on February 23rd 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 for the clasp, 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.

No Bones About It

By Jay Valle

Someone has said that there are four kinds of bones in every organization. There are the **WISH BONES**, who spend their time wishing someone else would do the work. There are the **JAW BONES**, who do all the talking , but very little else. Next there are the **KNUCKLE BONES**, who knock everything anyone ever tries to do. And finally, there are the **BACK BONES**, who get under the load and do all the work.

I think there are a lot of other possibilities for “bone” analogies. If you consider your club to be like bones in a skeleton, then the song “Dry Bones” comes to mind. You know the song:

Your toe bone connected to your foot bone,
Your foot bone connected to your ankle bone,
Your ankle bone connected to your leg bone,
Your leg bone connected to your knee bone,
Your knee bone connected to your thigh bone,
Your thigh bone connected to your hip bone,
Your hip bone connected to your back bone,
Your back bone connected to your shoulder bone,
Your shoulder bone connected to your neck bone,
Your neck bone connected to your head bone,

The President and Board of Directors are the **HEAD BONES** of the club. They bear the responsibility for the planning and thinking. The bones in the body support the **HEAD BONE**. Moreover, all of the various **BONES**, including the **HEAD BONE**, must work together or else the club (body) will collapse into a **BONELESS** heap.

To have even more fun with this idea, consider the following **BONES** and see if you can think up any more **BONY** connections.

FUNNY BONES - These are the members who bring humor to the society. Sometimes they get a little out of hand but hey, don't we sometimes tend to takes ourselves a little too seriously.

CHEST (HEART) BONES - Every club has a member who is the “heart” of the club. They exemplify the spirit, exuberance and friendship that we look for in our club, and that we all wish we had.

The Hauser Geode Beds

By Lynn M. Bremner

On our recent trip to the Hauser Geode Beds near Blythe, CA, memories of my first visit to the area came to mind. I was 12 years old the first time I went geode hunting with my family. My Father had learned about the Hauser Geode Beds from an Old Prospector who frequently rockhounded there. He told my Father we could easily find the famous Hauser Geode Beds by driving East on Interstate 10 through the Coachella Valley until we saw a sign pointing the way to the geodes. The Prospector said we would know we were there when we saw geodes abundantly scattered upon the ground. You can imagine how excited we were to have learned of such a location.

The Geode Beds seemed like a fairly easy find, so my Father packed us up into his 4x4 Jeep and we headed out of San Diego heading eastbound on Interstate 10. After a tiresome search for the geode sign we finally decided to stop and ask a local gas station attendant if he knew where the Hauser Geode Beds were located. It didn't take long to jot down yet another set of simple directions which lead us to Wiley Well Road Exit and down a washboard dirt road toward Wiley Well and Coon Hollow Campgrounds.

After a few hours of unsuccessful exploration down unmarked dirt roads, we finally found the Hauser Geode Beds. It was only an hour until sunset, and a lone prospector who had been digging all day was packing his gear to leave. He was kind enough to show us the hole where he had found buckets full of fist-sized geodes. He even took a few minutes to show us how to extract them.

The prospector explained that geodes are found in groups located in ash beds, which is why they are referred to as Geode Beds. He showed us sample geodes from his bucket so we could easily identify them. At first glance the geodes look like sphere-shaped, brown muddy rocks and can easily blend in with the landscape. They are lighter in color than the darker varnished rocks which cover the land surrounding the geode beds, so they can easily be identified once you know what to look for. Geodes vary in size. Some are as small as a cherry and others as large as a grapefruit.

(Continued on page 10)

Field Trip Schedule for 2008

The 2008 field trip meeting was held at the home of Joe & Marcia Goetz (WGMS/PLS/NOC) on Saturday, January 12. The three clubs - Whittier, Pasadena and North Orange County met to produce the official field trip schedule for the coming year. The following list is the result. As always, when other field trips opportunities arise during the year, such as various CFMS trips, I will try to keep you up to date and informed. The bulletin you are currently reading will (hopefully) have the latest field trip information and should be your first source to look at when you have field trip questions. Contacting your field trip leader can get you better info.

January 23 - 27Quartzsite, Arizona - Huge tailgate, lots of field trips

February 16 - 18 ..Wiley's Well Area - President's Day Weekend

March 7 - 9.....Stoddard Wells Tailgate

March 15Livingston Quarry, Palos Verde - 1 day trip

April 26 - 27Castle Butte

May 24 - 25.....San Diego County Tourmaline Mines

May 21 - 26.....Tri-Federation Field Trip to Texas Springs, Nevada

June 27 - 29.....CFMS Federation Show at Ventura

August 2Summer Potluck at the Valle's

August 16Gold Panning! Location TBA - to be announced.

September 27Ant Hill - 1 day trip (Bakersfield)

October 11 - 12Searles Lake Club Gem Show

November 1 - 2.....Whittier Club Claim

November 27 - 30..Owen's Valley locations

December 13Gem Hill (near Palmdale) - 1 day trip

For more information on these or other field trips contact:

Dave Kelty at (626) 303-7821 or Joe Goetz at (626) 914-5030

Field Trip
Wiley's Well Area
February 16 to 18, 2008

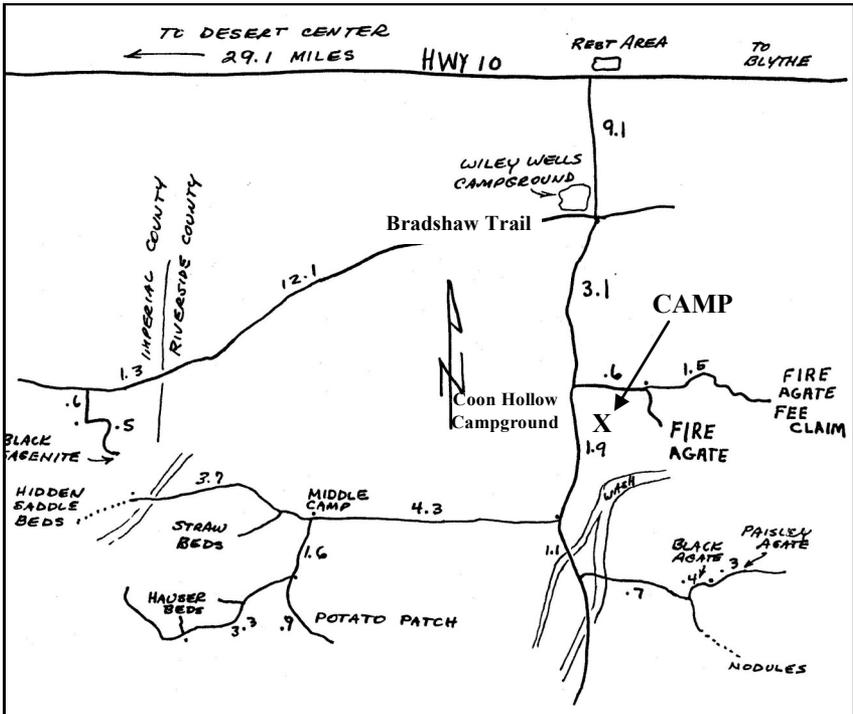
On February 16-18 our monthly field trip will be to the spectacular and historic Wiley's Well area of the southeast corner of our state. The camp area is approximately 12 south of I-10 and 87 miles east of Indio. (If you want a short break in your trek, the Date Festival in Indio is in progress, with a wonderful gem and mineral display sponsored by the local clubs). In the Wiley's Well area we will collect: geodes, chalcedony, agates, jaspers, fire opal etc.

This will be dry camping with all it's aspects so be prepared for all kinds of weather. For more information contact Dave Kelty at: davidkelty@juno.com

Look for the club signs for directions south of the Bradshaw Trail.

See you in the desert,

Dave



The Hauser Geode Beds

(Continued from page 7)

We thanked the Prospector for his help and began to dig. The excitement was overwhelming and the tedious hours we spent searching for the geode beds was forgotten in the thrill of our discovery. While my Brother eagerly dug out the geodes, my Father and I cracked a few open to discover beautiful crystals inside. It was a moment of pure delight.

We left the Hauser Geode Beds with a bucket full of geodes and huge smiles. It was the first of many successful rockhounding trips to Wiley Well. Every Thanksgiving we returned to Coon Hollow Camp Ground at Wiley Well to camp and search the desert floor for geodes and other rocks and minerals. Although I never forgot the excitement of the first geode expedition, I still feel a charge of mystery and anticipation each time we revisit the Hauser Geode Beds and the Potato Patch, another nearby collecting site.

Although our annual Thanksgiving trips to the Hauser Geode Beds have subsided, during a recent visit there I found myself digging in the volcanic ash beds with the same enthusiasm I had experienced 18 years ago. Cautiously I tapped around an embedded geode with my pick. Each strike loosened the geode a little more from its thousand-year resting place. Finally, the geode fell into my hand and I broke it open to discover its contents. To my disappointment the geode did not contain any crystals, so I continued to dig and search for the next one.

In late January 2004 we revisited the Hauser Geode Beds and met up with a field trip from Quartzite, AZ. We took a few pictures to verify that there are still many Geodes waiting to be found.

Turn right on the dirt road and follow for about 4 1/2 miles and take a right when the road splits again. This road will lead you to the two locations of the Houser Beds.

Tools: Make sure you take collecting buckets, hand picks and a shovel. Also take plenty of food and water.

Tips: Start your day early, since it may take you a while to find the Hauser

Geode Beds. You want to leave the area before dark to ensure a safe trip back to Wiley Well Road. At night, it is more difficult to see the roads and to find your way back to the main roads. Also get the AAA map for Imperial county.

Lodging

The cities of Indio and Blythe offer complete accommodations. Blythe is the closest to the area. For more information on the cities and the accommodations available click on the city highlighted above.

Campgrounds

Coon Hollow Campground a BLM facility

Located 12 miles South of Interstate 10 (3 miles south of Wiley Well Campground) on the Wiley Well Road. The road to the campground is maintained in excellent condition. It serves as a popular Winter haven for rockhounds. Twenty-nine primitive sites are provided with picnic tables, grills and vault toilets. Campers should bring their own firewood and drinking water. A fee is required for overnight use.

Wiley Well Campground a BLM facility

This historical well and wash-side campground are situated along Wiley Well Road, 9 miles South of Interstate 10, where the old Bradshaw Trail intersects the well maintained Wiley Well Road. Twenty-one primitive campsites are available next to the dry wash where Ironwood and Palo Verde trees provide some shade. Picnic tables, grills, and vault toilets are provided. A sanitary disposal station for trailers is available at the Wiley Well Rest Area on Interstate 10. Campers should bring their own firewood and drinking water. A fee is charged for overnight use

The Hauser Geode Beds are located on BLM land, which is open to back-country camping.

From DesertUSA.com, submitted by David Kelty

**Whittier Gem & Mineral Society
2008 Installation of Officers
Written & Presented by Kathy Valle (The Queen)**

"The Queen of Installation"

The following is a transcript of the Installation of Officers program which was presented by Kathy Valle. We hope you enjoy it.

Herald Announces: All Hail the Queen of Installation

Queen: Arrives wrapped in insulation (quilt batting).

Herald: Whispers in Queen's ear..."Whisper, whisper, whisper..."

Queen: "Oh, the Queen of Installation not insulation - one moment please...." Queen leaves the room.

Queen: Queen returns with duck tape and a tool

Herald: Whispers again in Queen's ear..."Whisper, whisper, whisper..."

Queen: "What? Wrong kind of installation? OK, one more time..." Queen leaves the room again.

Queen: Queen enters waving an unsheathed sword. "Off with their heads!!"

Herald: Whispers in Queen's ear..."Whisper, whisper, whisper..."

Queen: "No head chopping?? Just a little? None?" (Pause & sigh)
"For safety reasons it has been requested that the sword stay sheathed. We will be practicing safe sword tonight."

"I am here to appoint the Royal Court."

Herald: "The Royal Federation Director - Bill Burns"

Queen: "Sir Bill shall have the duty of spying on the enemy and

reporting back all he has heard.”

Herald: “The Royal Board of Directors - Les Roy, Jerry Turner, and Jack Zywoციenski.”

Queen: These honorable knights shall conduct business of the Kingdom and will help with the rules and regulations of the Kingdom.

Herald: “The Royal Treasurer - Izzy Burns”

Queen: “The Lady Izzy's duty shall be to receive and disburse the Royal Money. She must keep an accurate accounting of the money so she won't lose her head.”

Herald: “The Royal Secretary - Jay Valle”

Queen: “It shall be the Royal charge of the Royal secretary to keep accurate records of the Royal proceedings. Also he must be the Queens Royal Boy toy. If needed....”

Herald: “The Royal Second Vice-President - Art Ragazzi”

Queen: “It shall be Sir Art's special duty to recruit more people to the kingdom. He is to go out and bring in more workers (and slaves).”

Herald: “The Royal First Vice-President - Marcia Goetz”

Queen: “It shall be Lady Marcia's vital duty to entertain the Royal Kingdom and provide the information we seek to keep us occupied with our Royal hobbies. We don't want a bored kingdom.”

Herald: “The Royal Prime Minister-President - Joe Goetz”

Queen: “It shall be the sacred duty of Prime Minister/President Joe to help guide us in our royal duties and he will be doing the QUEENS dirty work. Of course, if the Queen cannot fulfill her Queenly duties (and that will be always), Prime Minister/President Joe will preside over The Kingdom of WGMS and it's workers.”

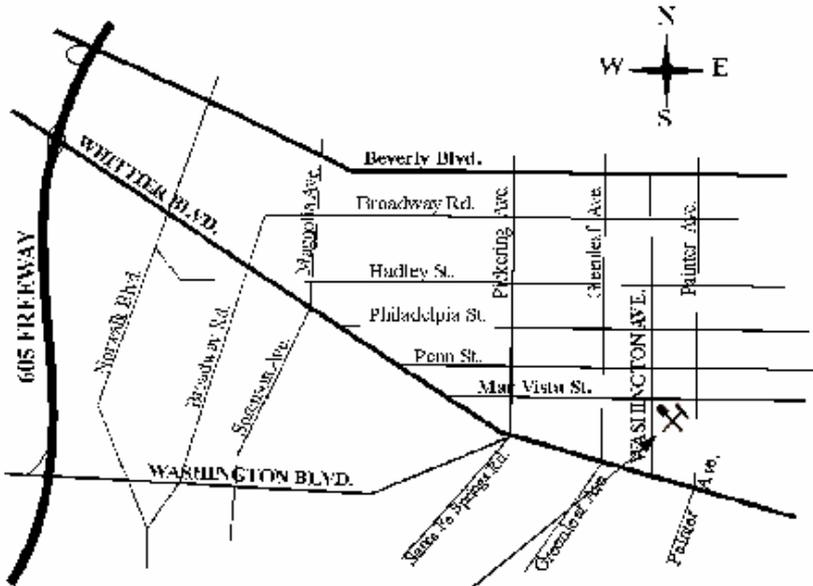
“By the way, Sir Joe is also a record holder for the club - he will be serving his fifth and sixth terms! No one has ever been punished... I mean President that many times before.”

Queen - "So all hail to the Lords and Ladies of the 2008 WGMS Board of Officers and Directors."

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- 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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Affiliations



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



Whittier Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Post Office Box 865, Whittier, California 90608-0865
Editor: Jay Valle, 1421 Latchford Ave.
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

Meeting Date: February 28, 2007 at 7:30 PM
Location: Whittier Community Center
(see pages 4 & 15 for map & information)