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WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

March Program: Sunstone Trip Saga



The greeting committee at Wiley's Well
(see article on page 6)

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Spring is in the Air

March is the month in which Spring springs forth. More temperate weather, warmer, dryer times are ahead. Of course this means that besides doing all the yard work you've been meaning to do, it means road trips / fieldtrips.

The deserts will be in bloom, a rare sight indeed! There will be material exposed for the first time ever. Some of the material will be uncovered for the second time. Of course this is the material that is in the tailing piles of old mines or a long forgotten hole for some fantastic material that was thought to be played out.

It is also the time to start planning the next show, as well as doing some of the on-going projects. Now is the time to go through and look at the materials that were collected in seasons past. Deciding which materials to slab, to carve and to tumble and which will wait for other projects just undiscovered.

The theme for our next show is *"THE BEAUTY WITHIN"*, so your case might just be the rough material showing the ugly exterior and a finished cab or piece of jewelry with the polished stone mounted in it. You get the idea.

*Did you see which way they went?
I'm their leader.....Joe Goetz*

WGMS Board Meeting
Thursday, April 10, 2008
Place: The Valle's
Time: 7:30 PM

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, March 27, 2008

at 7:30 PM

Sunstone Trip Saga

David Svenson will be giving the program for March. His program is called "*Sunstone Trip Saga*".

David has gone to the sunstone mines up in Oregon many times. So for the most part you could say he is an expert on the subject. This time he will tell the tale of one of the largest sunstone finds ever.

Marcia Goetz

Ups and Downs

Clubs experience comings and goings of members all the time. During the last month we received both wonderful and sad news regarding some of our members.

New Rockhound: Travis and Melissa Cuprak are proud to introduce you to their daughter. On January 30th, 2008 at 9:30 AM, Stephanie Ruth Cuprak was born. She weighed in at 8 lbs, 7 oz, and was 19.5 inches long.

Another New Rockhound: Jay & Kathy Valle are thrilled to announce the birth of their first grandchild, Jacob Samuel Valle by Jay's daughter, Erin. He came into the world on January 17 at 10:30 P.M. and came in at 8 1/2 lbs - 21" long.

Passing of a Rockhound: It is with sadness that we report the death of Helen Mason. The Masons are long-time members and offer our condolences to Henry for his loss.

Les Roy took a bad fall and was in and out of the hospital. He is home and recovering.

Bill Burns had minor surgery on February 28 and is doing well and at home.

Rockgabbers

The February meeting was held at the Turner's home on February 23rd and people worked on completing previous projects. The new rolling mill was unveiled and Art Ragazzi experimented with making thick silver thin and embossing a pattern on the silver.

The next meeting will be held at the Turner's home on April 12th. The projects will involve twisted wire. We will learn the tricks and techniques of twisting wire together, and keeping the twists even. We will also explore some of the things that can be done with twisted wire such as making your own bezels and adding decoration to jewelry. With the rolling mill we can make flat twisted wire which I use in several of my designs. We can also re-examine some previous projects using twisted wire to achieve a completely different look.

I have made a bracelet using one of the Celtic knot designs from an old book which I will share with the members of Rockgabbers

There will not be a meeting during March, the next meeting will be on April 12th at the Turner's home.

The materials required for the various projects are:

- Silver wire of a fairly small gauge, 20, 22, or 24 depending on your preference, and enough length to make whatever project you choose.

Remember that if you are twisting two strands of wire, you probably need to start off with about 3 or 4 times as much wire as you would use if the project were not twisted.

As always we conclude our work sessions with a pot luck dinner.

I look forward to seeing everybody at Rockgabbers.

Tony Fender

**Field Trip Report
Wiley's Well
February 16-18, 2008**

It was the perfect weekend! Ma Nature cooperated to give us clear skies and comfortable temperatures. The hunting was good and the company congenial. Ten rockhounds representing three clubs and including a couple who needed directions to the Coon Hollow Campground and wound up hounding with us on Saturday and Sunday, showed up for the Club field trip.

I arrived at the campsite on Friday and was greeted by a small herd of burros (see cover). They stood and watched as I put up the tent trailer. After putting out a sign directing members to the camp location, I paid a visit to the Opal Hill Fire Agate Mine to check out the diggings. Though Nancy Hill is still the owner, only a caretaker was on hand to take money from prospective diggers. Cash & Treasures did an episode about the mine so the fee had gone up from \$10/day to \$25/day per person. Since there was only about an hour left of daylight, I decided to pass on the digging for the time being, \$25 for 1 hour not seeming like a really good deal. Back at camp, Caroline & Charlotte (PLS) had arrived and set up their Alpine pop-up trailer. Dave Kelty (PLS) had also arrived. I needed gas so I ran into Blythe for food and fuel.

Saturday morning, we waited until about 9 AM for latecomers, then headed off down the Bradshaw Trail to the Rainey Wells Geode Beds, followed by a visit to the Black Agate Mine. Geodes and agate were collected at both locations. Eventually we returned to camp to find four rather disgruntled field trippers who had arrived after our morning departure time. They were Jerry & Kathy Turner (WGMS), Dottie Jacobs (WGMS) and Marilyn Kline (NOC). The evening was rounded out by a fine potluck which was joined by our new Joe & Dolly (guests).

Sunday morning we left bright and early (9 AM actually) for the Potato Patch Geode Beds followed by the Cinnamon Beds and the Lost Agate Claim location. Rock was collected by all. For dinner, we went into Ehrenburg, Arizona to the Flying J truck stop restaurant where most of us enjoyed the buffet.

Finally, on Monday morning, Dave Kelty and I did some scouting for a fabled geode location over near the fire agate mine. We did not locate any geodes but found a nice outcropping of orange speckled marble. Then we successfully located an old collecting area for chalcedony roses, some with fire agate. Returning to camp by noon, we broke camp and joined the holiday go-home traffic, thus ending a fine weekend.

Jay Valle

LOS ANGELES OCEAN JEWELBOX

By Larry Bruce

The area of Los Angeles County known as Palos Verdes is a low peninsula jutting into the ocean between the south end of Santa Monica Bay and the Port of San Pedro. Palos Verdes has risen and dipped back into the ocean many times over the ages. During part of its history, Palos Verdes was actually one of the Channel Islands. A few uplifts later, it reemerged as part of the coastline. One can discern thirteen different wave benches on the hillsides of the peninsula. The peninsula itself is a geological amazement. Moreover, the area presents unusual and exciting opportunities for those who would add to their rock and mineral collections.

Just a couple months ago, Rock and Gem ran a story on Palos Verdes Peninsula. One might have thought that rockhounds would be crawling all over the place. That has not been the case. Now it is well into spring but still, the beaches are deserted except for the odd fisherman or sea lion. Virtually every stretch of the peninsula is a potential treasure trove. One of the best spots to take a rock walk is Long Point, the former locale of the famed "MarineLand of the Pacific". Long Point is just south of the San Vicente Lighthouse and can be reached from the north via Redondo Beach or the south via San Pedro.

For some years now, all one needs do is drive down into the old watery amusement park parking lot and park at the south east corner of the lot. Walk southeast down a paved road. When it turns into a dirt road and then splits and veers off to the right, follow that path for an easy walk to the end of long Point. The rocks at the point are just liberally sprinkled with long bladed barite. The trick is not to destroy the crystals in liberating them from the matrix. All sorts of manifestations of barite, dolomite and quartz are possible.

Michael and Joyce Peterson and I whiled away a beautiful March Sunday playing out on Long Point. We found sizable amounts of barite about fifty feet from the end of the path. To go out to where we were it is necessary to boulder hop but the rocks are large and stable and relatively safe. I wouldn't send three-year-olds out to play there but it is not dangerous for adults. One might see a seal sunning on a rock or a fisherman here or there. Divers are sometimes seen offshore with their colorful flags. It is not unusual to see California Grey Whales surfacing off the point. It is not even necessary to look for rocks to enjoy oneself out on the point. Simply sitting and

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MARCH FIELD TRIP
Day-trip to
Bluff Cove in Rancho Palos Verdes
March 15, 2008

On March 15 our monthly field trip will be a day at beautiful **Bluff Cove**, in **Rancho Palos Verdes**. This location is better known as **Malaga Cove** in many rockhound literatures.

In the bluffs on the trail to the beach we will find:

- Barite : (BaSO_4 or Barium Sulfide). This is a deep golden honey colored, translucent cockscomb mineral. Some sources are the beach cliffs at crack filled seams, or eroded down to the shoreline as fist-size chunks. These are great display pieces, perfect addition to any mineral collection.
- Glaucofanite: $\text{Na}_2\text{Mg}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22})(\text{OH})_2$ or Hydrate Sodium Magnesium Aluminum Silicate. We will find electric colored material in the sands. It is a semi translucent stone in multicolored green hues. Black and wine red can also be found. Recognizable by the semi translucent, variegated pattern. Great for tumbling, cabbing, spheres, etc.
- Agate, selenite, and diatomaceous earth (for carving) will also be found.

We will park on Paseo Del Mar Drive and meet at 09:00 am at the trail-head to the beach. There probably will be many vehicles there because it is a Saturday in a popular surfing location. We will park in the 700 block of Paseo Del Mar Drive. The route from Malaga Cove Plaza has a few turns.

Bring water, collecting bags, rock hammers, tissue (for soft specimens), hiking shoes and back-pack.

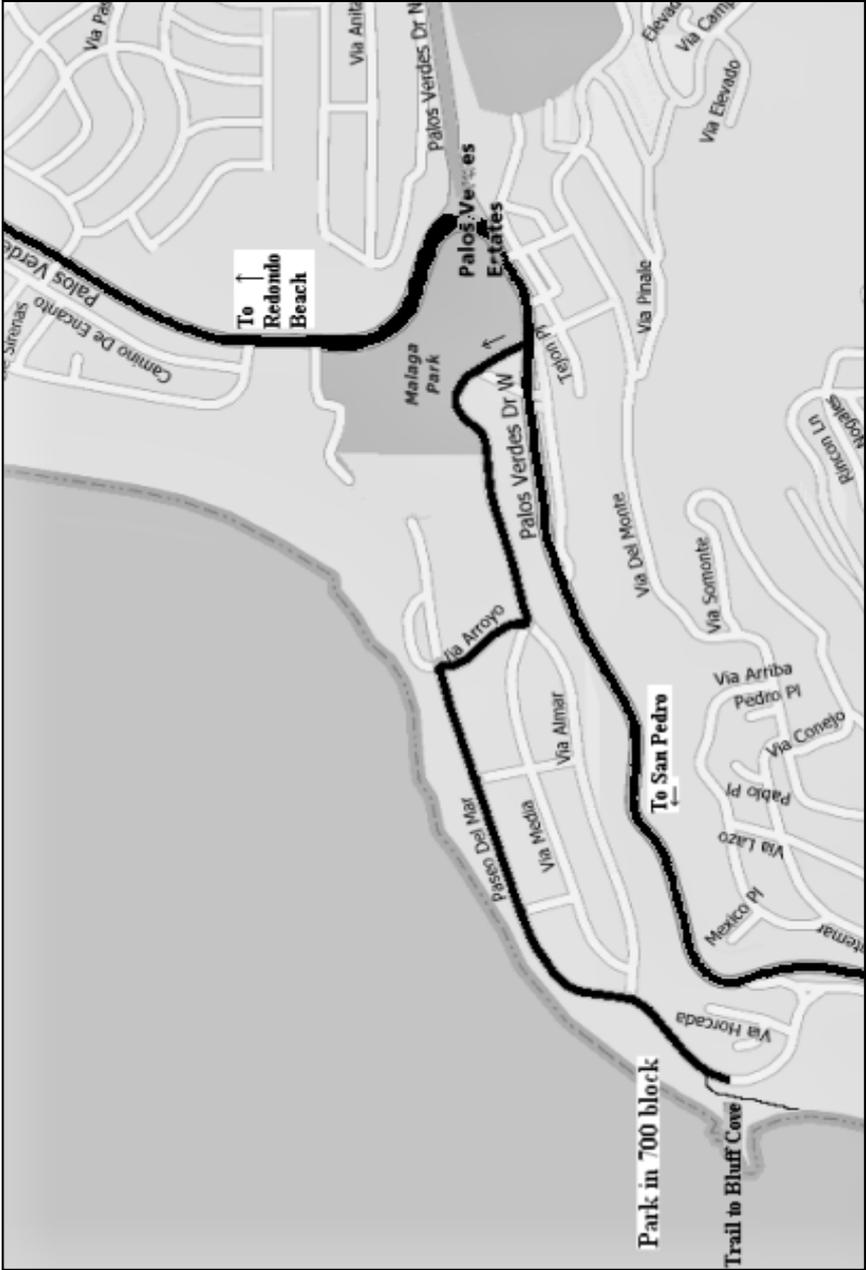
Do not climb the fragile cliffs beyond your capabilities. It is probably a half mile trek on the trail to the beach.

If your lost my cell phone number is : 626-379-9581

For more information contact Dave Kelty at: davidkelty@juno.com.

See you on the bluff,

Dave



LOS ANGELES OCEAN JEWELBOX**(Continued from page 7)**

meditating on the ocean can feed a hungry soul. Sometimes the island of Catalina can be seen through the ocean mist.

This sort of built-in breakwater continues around the end of the point and back to the northwest into the cove between Long Point and the lighthouse at San Vicente Point. If one follows the maxim that the rocks which you will find get better the farther you get from the parking lot, then we weren't even "warm". We only covered the first hundred feet or so. Right at the end of the point Mike and I saw a small cave that had vast amounts of bladed barite (cockscomb variety) lining the walls. So many people had attempted to collect specimens from the walls of that cave that the floor was ankle deep in crushed barite. I longed to roam over into the cove to the north but had to add that to the list of things to do in the future. So many rocks to look for. So little time!

Closer to the path, Mike located a sizable rock with barite well established underneath. We flipped the rock and set to work with hammer and chisel. Several excellent specimens were liberated and some were destroyed in our efforts. On a different rock Mike found a small area of quartz about the size of a half-dollar. The quartz is probably formed just over the barite but it looks for all intents and purposes like a worm farm all twisted up around and over each other. I can see that piece sitting in my mineral cabinet across the room as I write these words.

Long Point presents a near perfect rock seeking locale. This particular area may not be accessible for a very long time into the future however. A hotel resort and time-share condos are planned. When the Coastal Commission finally gives its blessing (note that I did not say "if") and the money people burp up the funds, all traces of Marine Land of the Pacific will be gone. I doubt that the general public will still have ease of access to the shoreline. Meanwhile, it would practically be a Rockhounding sin to pass up the opportunity to dig it.

There are many other spots to go Rockhounding on this peninsula just thirty minutes out of downtown Los Angeles. Living as I do just south on the coast by Huntington Beach, I have visited the Palos Verdes Peninsula numerous times. Yet I would not call myself an expert on the area and I have only visited maybe half of the good spots. Just southeast of Long Point is Abalone Cove a beautiful beach that seems eerily familiar until one realizes that most of the "beach party" genre of movies were filmed here. In Abalone Cove I

have successfully located barite crystals in the sandstone matrix. It costs a few dollars to park in the cliff top parking lot but that is offset by the fresh vegetable and fruit stand nearby. It is a bit farther to walk to the ocean but a nice paved path is provided. Best of all, this is a Los Angeles County Park and hence won't be converted to condominiums, at least as soon as Long Point will.

A bit further south is the Portuguese Bend area which is geologically still far from settled down for the long haul. The earth in this area is in constant movement resulting in destruction of scores of homes over the past fifty years. All utilities, including sewers, run through rubber pipelines in Portuguese Bend. The landscape is fascinating since I, for one, am not used to the rocks I am looking for to be moving about freely.

Just south of Portuguese Bend is the Livingston Quarry area at the top of Forrestal Street. One simply parks at the blockaded end of the street and walks along the right of way about a quarter mile to the cliffs of the formerly very active quarry. I personally grew up in a house in Glendale, built in the nineteen twenties, that had a massive limekiln shaped fireplace made of Palos Verdes Stone. Right in front of the fire was a fossil fish on the hearth. Many other fossils remain in the walls to be discovered. As one walks into the quarry area, the small hills to the left or ocean side are full of fossils. The higher cliffs to the right or inland side are the locales for dolomite and barite.

Furthest south is Point Fermin, the cliffs of which, I have been, told contain fine translucent pebbles of glaucophane. I haven't found any yet primarily due to my inability to figure out how to get to the ocean level. Stairs must exist but I haven't seen them and it always seems that this is the last stop of the day each time and no one ever has the energy left to go looking for those pebbles.

The area north of Long Point is unknown to me except from reading about some of the spots. Nearly all of the coves and points offer something special for the rockhound. And, most of the seashore is accessible by some sort of path or another. This is an area of high cliffs and rocky shoreline. Malaga Cove is considered rich in minerals and sooner or later, I'll get around to visiting it.

An old pamphlet on the Minerals of Los Angeles County lists a number of spots inland but still on the peninsula. The George F Canyon presents the oldest bedrock geology in the area. (Roughly where Palos Verdes Drive North intersects Palos Verdes Drive East) There is also an old quarry on

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LOS ANGELES OCEAN JEWELBOX
(Continued from page 11)

Via Subida Street. Roadcuts throughout the area offer good collecting sites. Like anywhere else, keep your eyes open and your mind alert. There are collectible rocks all over the place.

Maybe the best thing about Palos Verdes is the incredible beauty of the ocean meeting land. This is a perfect summer location when the desert is unconscionably hot. Winter or summer, Palos Verdes has something for everyone right in the heart of the population center of the Southland. Take the time to take it in.

From Rockhound Notes (April 2000, Volume 5, Issue 5)

Submitted by Dave Kelty

Easter Info

Do you realize how early Easter is this year? As you may know, Easter is always the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon after the Spring Equinox (which is March 20). This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that Hebrew people used to identify Passover, which is why it moves around on our Roman calendar.

Found out a couple of things you might be interested in! Based on the above, Easter can actually be one day earlier (March 22) but that is pretty rare.

Here 's the interesting info. This year is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see the rest of our lives! And only the most elderly of our population have ever seen it this early (95 years old or above!). And none of us have ever, or will ever, see it a day earlier! Here's the facts:

- 1) The next time Easter will be this early (March 23) will be the year 2228 (220 years from now). The last time it was this early was 1913 (so if you're 95 or older, you are the only ones that were around for that!).
- 2) The next time it will be a day earlier, March 22, will be in the year 2285 (277 years from now). The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. So, no one alive today has or will ever see it any earlier than this year!

Interesting!

Submitted by Terry Corcoran, via the Internet

Industrial Minerals Around the House

Concrete	Limestone, gypsum, iron oxide, clay
Wallboard	Gypsum, clay, perlite, vermiculite, aluminum hydrate, borates
Spackling	Gypsum, mica, clay, calcium carbonate
Pencil	Graphite, clay
Carbon paper	Bentonite, zeolite
Ink	Calcium carbonate
Microwavable	Talc, calcium carbonate, titanium dioxide, clay container
Sports equipment	Graphite, fiberglass
Optical fibers	Glass
Fruit juice	Perlite, diatomite
Sugar	Limestone, lime
Drinking water	Limestone, lime, salt, fluoride
Vegetable oil	Clay, perlite, diatomite
Medicines	Calcium carbonate, magnesium, dolomite, kaolin, barium, iodine, sulfur, lithium
Porcelain figurines	Silica, limestone, borates, soda ash, gypsum
Television	35 different minerals
Automobile	15 different minerals
Telephone	42 different minerals

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**HMMMMM! Interesting!!
KOREAN EMERALDS**

They are called "Korean Emeralds," but beware, they're none other than dyed quartz. The Hong Kong dealers purchase the stones from the Koreans at \$2 per stone and sell them to the tourists for as high as \$100 a carat. By using a 10 power loupe you can see capillary-like veins showing the stones to be dyed.

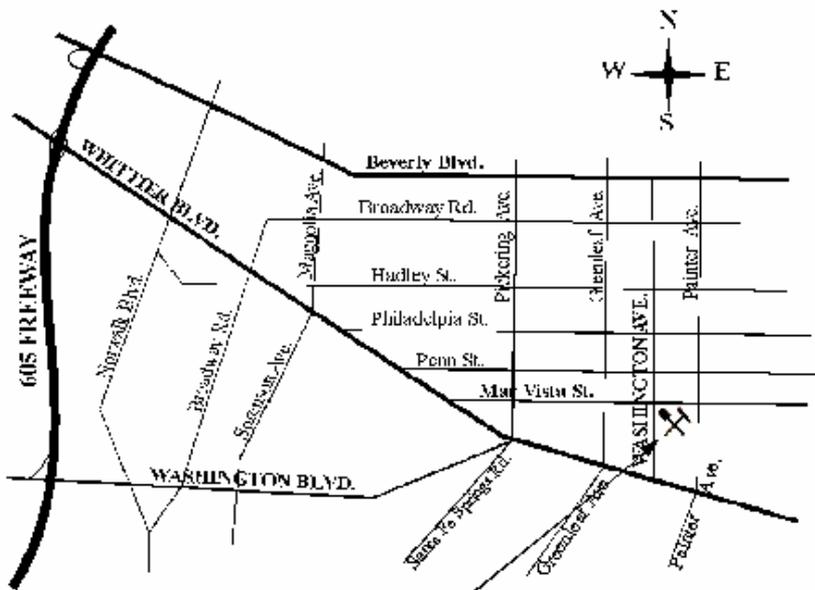
Also, the Korean and Hong Kong carvers are selling Bowenite to tourist trade, telling them it is jade To test carvings bought through Oriental dealers, scratch with a fine pen knife or some other fine pointed instrument on the bottom of the object. If a fine white powder appears, it isn't jade.

Via The Golden Nuggett, Rocky Review & MOROKS 2-08

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- 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
- Apr 26-27** **Lancaster, CA.** The Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Lancaster High School, 44701 32nd St. W.
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
- May 3-4** **Bakersfield, CA.** Kern County Mineral Society
Ming Ave and P Street, Kern County Fairgrounds
Hours: 10-5 both days
- May 17-18** **Yucaipa, CA.** Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Yucaipa Community Center, 34900 Oak Glen Road
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
- May 31 -** **Glendora, CA.** Glendora Gems
June 1 859 E. Sierra Madre
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
- May 31 -** **Woodland Hills, CA.** Rockatomics Gem & Mineral Society
June 1 Pierce College, Victory and Mason
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
- June 7-8** **La Habra, CA.** North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society
La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd.
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
- June 27-29** **Ventura, CA.** California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Ventura County Fairgrounds
Hours: 10-5 Daily

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



MAR VISTA & WASHINGTON AVE.  WHITTIER COMMUNITY CENTER

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Affiliations



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Meeting Date: March 27, 2007 at 7:30 PM
Location: Whittier Community Center
(see pages 4 & 15 for map & information)