

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

Showtime: "THE BEAUTY WITHIN"
October 18 & 19, 2008

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Northern Cadys Agate showing "The Beauty Within"

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

The first storm of the fall season has come and gone, even though not a lot of rain has fallen, the lightning was spectacular. With any luck the weather will cool down and by show time it will be perfect for people to come on out to see our show.

In just a short march of days, setup time will be here. And of course we'll need lots of help in setting up, running and teardown of the show. So, please don't be shy, there are many ways that you can help, before, during and after the show.

The annual after the show fieldtrip will be to the club claim and surrounding areas. And it is always lots of fun. The fieldtrip is the first weekend in November. Perhaps we'll get some applications for membership and get our ranks to grow a bit.

Stan McCall will be our speaker at the after the show general meeting. And since he is the "Opal Man", I'm sure his talk will be very interesting.

So to recap, the important dates to remember are the 17th of October is show setup. The 18th and 19th are the show itself, teardown is the 19th after the show closes and the 20th is the putting into storage of the club stuff at Ginger and Art's house in Fontana. The general meeting is on the 23rd and the fieldtrip is on November 1st and 2nd.

Rah, rah, rah, sis boom bah,
yah club!!!

Joe Goetz

Seen on a Fortune Cookie...

You don't have to be faster than the bear, you just have to be faster than the slowest guy running from it.

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, October 23, 2008

at 7:30 PM

Special Program!!

Stan “The Opal Man” McCall

Presents

“THE BEAUTY WITHIN”

Stan McCall has become well known for his custom-made and superior hand-crafted jewelry. He is first and foremost a master opal cutter. Stan will be sharing some of his knowledge with us and displaying some of his fine opals and jewelry.

See you there,

Marcia Goetz

IT'S SHOW TIME!!

Our **2008 Gem Show** is here on **October 18 & 19**. As always we are planning a quality experience for our members and guests.

Show Schedule:

Fri, Oct 17:	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 vendors 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 this year is "The Beauty Inside". 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 Valle has more if you need them. And it is certainly NOT too early to give Kathy 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 need helpers at the Sales Table, Donation Awards Table, Greeter's Table, Kitchen, Security and with the Demonstrators. These positions also can use much-appreciated 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, and some brownies, cupcakes or similar items (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
2008 Show Chairman

Jade

Lapidaries and jewelers should constantly attempt to call gemstones and rough material by their correct name. Jade has many other stones named after it, as any material. The confusion as to what jade is, has been compounded by this deceptive practice.

- Amazon jade is aventurine.
- American jade is a rock - a mixture of idocrase and grossular.
- Australian jade is chrysoprase.
- Colorado jade is green microcline.
- Flukien, Manchurian, and Honan jade are all soapstone.
- Indian jade is aventurine.
- Jadite is pure jade. (editor's note ? - not sure what he means)
- Jasper jade is green jasper.
- Korean jade is bowenite, a hard variety of serpentine. (Mexican jade is green dyed marble or calcite.
- Oregon jade is a dark green jasper.
- Silver Peak jade is malachite.
- Transvall jade is a massive variety of green grossular garnet.
- Real jade such as BC jade, Alaska or Yukon jade are truly nephrite jade:

Nephrite Hardness: 6-6½, S.G. 2.95, R.I. 1.6 - 1.63

Jadeite Hardness: 6½-7, S.G. 3.3, R.I. 1.66 - 1.68

Possibly more information (some true, some false) has been written regarding the polishing of jade than all other lapidary materials combined. And so, one concludes that jade is difficult to polish. The answer is "yes" and "no". Let us consider the mineral itself. There are three separate and distinct minerals that are known under the general term jade: Nephrite, Jadeite, and Chloromelanite. Nephrite is the one found in BC, Alaska, and Wyoming. This is the one we shall consider here. Let us first consider the nature of these rock-forming minerals. They are described as being fibrous, which simply means that structurally, they are a mass or network of tiny fibrous hair-like crystals, much like straws in a straw stack. They are so fine in nephrite that they cannot be seen even with a powerful magnifier. A peculiarity about crystals is that they are generally softer parallel to the crystal growth, and harder across the crystal. It is just this simple characteristic that creates all the difficulty in applying a polish, if one uses the same procedure as for example, agate. However, provided one has the proper equipment and uses it in the proper manner, nephrite jade is easy to polish. And now for the job.

From The Palomar Gem 2/05, via Opal Express 3/05

What are geodes?

Geodes are round rocks containing a cavity that is lined with rock crystals. A casual observer may pass by these rocks with no idea of the treasure contained inside, but if you pay attention and know what to look for, you might be rewarded with a fascinating discovery.

Geodes are most often found in desert regions, but can be found almost anywhere including creek beds. I began my interest in geodes when I was in my teens, led on a hike through the woods in Indiana on a geode hunt. I doubted we would find anything, but to my delight, I did bring home several rocks that turned out to be geodes. The insides were nothing special, just a crust of quartz crystals, but it was a thrill to find something so out of the ordinary.

These fascinating structures can form in different ways. They can begin as bubbles in volcanic rock, animal burrows, mud balls, or tree roots in sedimentary rock. If a hollow cavity remains on the inside of the shape, the outer shell hardens and water seeps in depositing minerals which develop into crystals. The process resembles mineral deposits inside a cave, on a smaller scale.

Certain areas in Iowa are among the better known places to look for geodes. There are publicly accessible sites to look for geodes in the western United States, but they can be found almost anywhere. How do you identify a geode? They range in size from peas to over two feet across, and are spherical. Sometimes there are loose crystals inside that will rattle when shaken. And if you're not interested in hunting for them yourself, many rock shops have geodes for sale. You can either purchase one that has been cut carefully to reveal its shining interior, or perhaps select from a pile of "unknown" geodes and have them broken or cut upon request. It's always exciting to see what's inside.

The inside of each geode can vary widely. White or clear quartz crystals are the most common, but also amethyst, agate, jasper, or chalcedony may be found – or perhaps a combination. Each geode has a unique display of crystal inside it. What can you do with them, once they're open? They make interesting display items on their own, or can be used as bookends. Slices can be cut to be used as jewelry or suncatchers. I have seen many crafted objects that highlight the beauty of these treasures.

The next time you're hiking through the woods and spy a perfectly round rock, you might be looking at a geode. These miniature caves can offer us a small slice of beauty and provide endless fascination. It's always exciting to see what's inside, and rarely a disappointment. Refrain from smashing them open carelessly, because if there is a treasure inside you'll want to display it at its best.

**WGMS October Field Trip
Whittier Club Honey Onyx Claim
November 1 & 2, 2008**

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.**

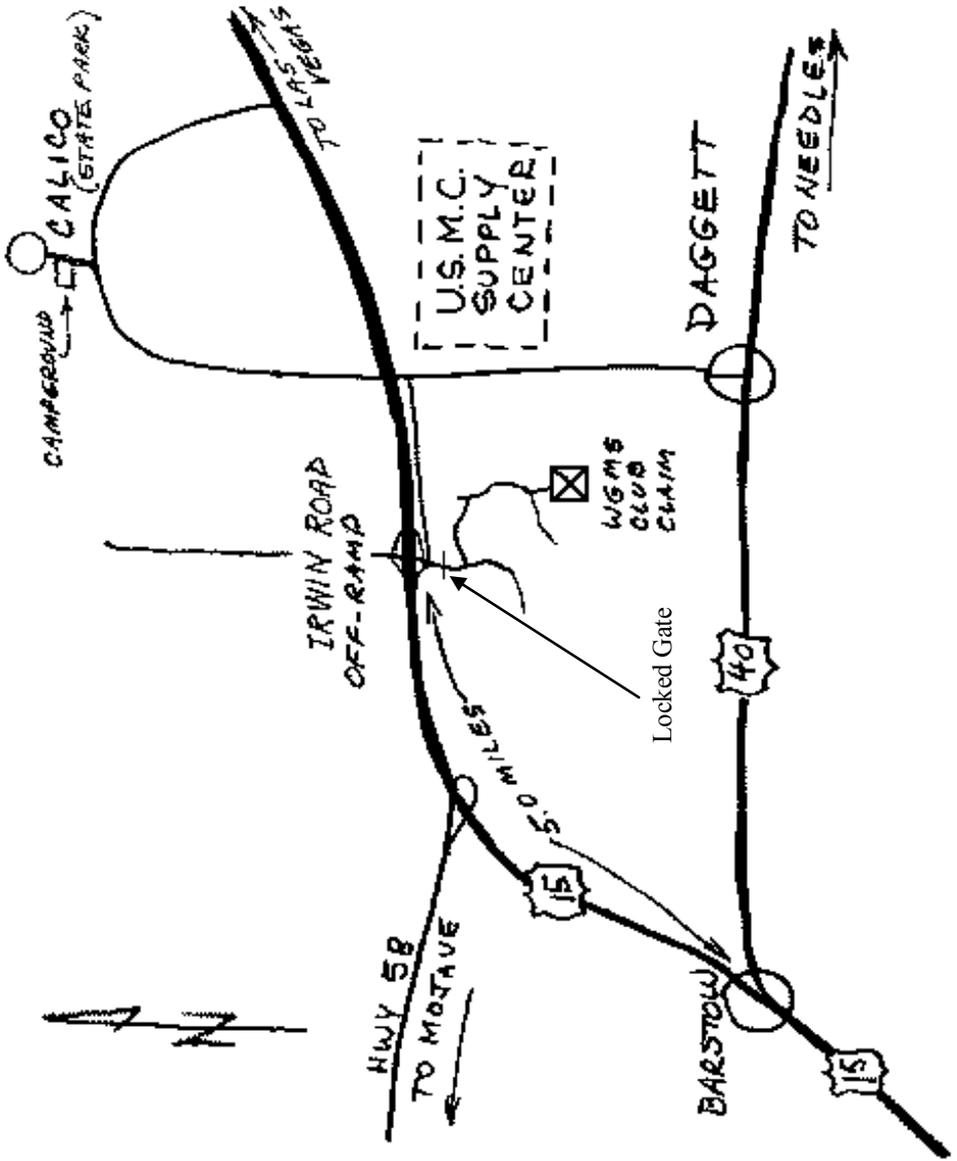
There will be guided field trips on both Saturday and Sunday and we will leave camp each day at 8:00 - 8:30 AM. Saturday evening will feature a traditional potluck dinner, followed by a warm campfire, if the weather permits.

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.



GEMSTONES

By Thalia Goldsworthy

Gemstones - Natural, Synthetic and Simulated

Natural Stones are the same as they came out of the earth, except for cutting and polishing. Most Garnet, Amethyst and Ametrine are sold in a natural state.

Synthetic Stones are laboratory-created stones from natural materials. These have the same chemical and crystal structure as the natural gems. Some manufacturers even insert inclusions to mimic natural occurrences. Rubies were one of the first gemstones to be lab-created. Now Sapphires, Emeralds, Spinel as well as Diamonds can be man-made.

Simulated Stones can be defined as any material being used to imitate natural gemstones. Many different types of material are used including glass, plastic and less costly natural or man-made materials. Some of these simulations are more brilliant and colorful than the material they imitate. Cubic Zirconia is a very popular, inexpensive gem that does not occur in nature but is now manufactured in many countries around the world. It simulates Diamond, and is used for many copies of genuine Diamond jewelry pieces at less risk to theft or loss. With the addition of trace amounts of elements, close copies of the colors of other gemstones can be achieved.

Enhancing Gemstones

Enhancement is used with many natural stones. Various processes are used to add protection, color, stability or hardness and increase usability in jewelry. Some of the processes used are irradiation, heat treatments, dyeing, oiling, waxing and special construction techniques. Many other techniques are used in order to use valuable natural materials to best advantage.

Doublets are made from two pieces, usually with a durable quartz "cap" protecting the valuable natural material. Opal is often found for sale as doublets. Mosaic stones are doublets because of the backing needed to support the small pieces. Other types of doublets can be two pieces of one clear material with a colored "glue" used to simulate the more valuable material.

Triplets are three pieces. These use a very thin section of natural stone between a Quartz cap and some other material-stone, glass or plastic-underneath. Opal that occurs in very thin seams can be used to great advantage with this technique.

Heat-Treating is one of the newer enhancement techniques. Stones of poor color can be transformed into very beautiful gems with carefully controlled heat treatment. Amethyst will convert to Citrine, which is very rare as a natural stone. Rubies, Sapphires, and Tanzanites are generally heat treated to intensify their colors.

Irradiation is used to change the color of stones. Clear or light colored Topaz will turn a beautiful blue with irradiation and heat-treatment. Some Quartz will turn a smoky gray to black with irradiation (this sometimes happens naturally).

Reconstitution falls under the added materials category. For this process, natural stone of poor quality is ground into powder or small particles and combined with a binding agent such as plastic. Again, heat and pressure transform unusable material into solid, less expensive material for jewelry use. Larger pieces with uniform consistency can be manufactured than can be found occurring naturally.

Many other materials are added. Some stones are dyed. Tidy Bowl will transform white Howlite into simulated "Turquoise". Some soft chalky natural materials, such as Turquoise, are impregnated with plastic under heat and pressure, a process called "stabilization". Emeralds are oiled to hide inclusions and to deepen color.

Laser beams are used to "burn" out flaws in Diamonds. The very small controlled beam can remove flaws through almost microscopic holes that are not apparent to the naked eye. These make lesser value diamonds more usable. Laser beams are also used to engrave identification on the girdle of many diamonds. These are invisible when the stone is in its setting and do not interfere with the appearance of the stone.

From Rock Chippings, 3/01 via CFMS Newsletter 04/01

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society

Presents their Annual

AUCTION!

(Silent & Live Auction)

**Following our
6:00 PM Business Meeting
on Tuesday, October 14,
The Silent & Live Auction
(including Refreshments)
will begin at 7:00 PM at the
La Habra Community Center,
101 W. La Habra Blvd., La Habra**

**Featuring Items such as:
Rocks, Geodes, Minerals,
Lapidary Work,
Handcrafted Jewelry, &
Various items donated by our members**

Free Admission

Public Welcome

All will have a great time

**For more information call Auctioneer,
Don Warthen (562) 946-0828**

67th ANNUAL GEM-O-RAMA

Sponsored by the Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society

October 11-12, 2008

Saturday 7:30AM to 5PM - Sunday 7:30AM to 4PM

SLG&MS Lapidary and Show Building

13337 Main St. (corner of Main & Trona Rd.)

TRONA, CALIFORNIA

OUTSTANDING SHOW - FREE ADMISSION

FIELD TRIPS

SEARLES DRY LAKE

(2 1/2 hour trips on Saturday, 4 1/2 hours on Sunday)

Registration: 7:30-9:00 am and 1:30-2:30 pm

you must register during these times to go on field trips

Mud Trip - Saturday Only - Departure 9AM- Cluster & barrel hanksite, trona, borax - **\$10 per car**

Blow Hole - Saturday Only - Departure 2:30PM- Hanksite, halite, borax, sulfahalite - dry surface- **\$10 per car**

Pink Halite - Sunday Only - Departure 9AM- In brine, beneath hard salt - **\$15 per car**

Pinnacles National Natural Landmark - Self guided, info at show - **FREE**
Searles Valley Minerals' Plants - **Sat only: 11,12, 1 and 2** - in bus - **FREE**

OTHER SHOW ACTIVITIES

20 Dealers - 50 exhibits - Geode cutting and sales - Demonstrations

Games - Gem dig - **Free** parking

Snacks & drinks - **Grand Prize Drawing** - Hourly door prizes

Good Food in CATERED Cafeteria in Show Building

LUNCH: Sat. and Sun. - 10AM to 4PM

DINNER: Fri. (\$7.00) and Sat. (\$8.00)- 5PM to 7PM

ACCOMMODATIONS

VALLEY WELLS RECREATION AREA - 5.3 miles north of show,
\$5/vehicle (dry camp, no resv.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our web page at www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/
or call Jim or Bonnie Fairchild (760)372-5356

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

Oct 5 **Fallbrook, CA.** Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society
FGMS Museum, 123 W. Alvarado
Hours: 10 - 4

Oct 11-12 **Trona, CA.** Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
13337 Main Street
Hours: Sat. 7:30 - 5; Sun. 7:30 - 4

Oct 11-12 **Lakeside, CA.** Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Lakeside Rodeo Grounds
12584 Mapleview
Hours: 10-5 both days

Oct 11-12 **Vista, CA.** Vista Gem & Mineral Society
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
2040 North Sante Fe Avenue
Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4

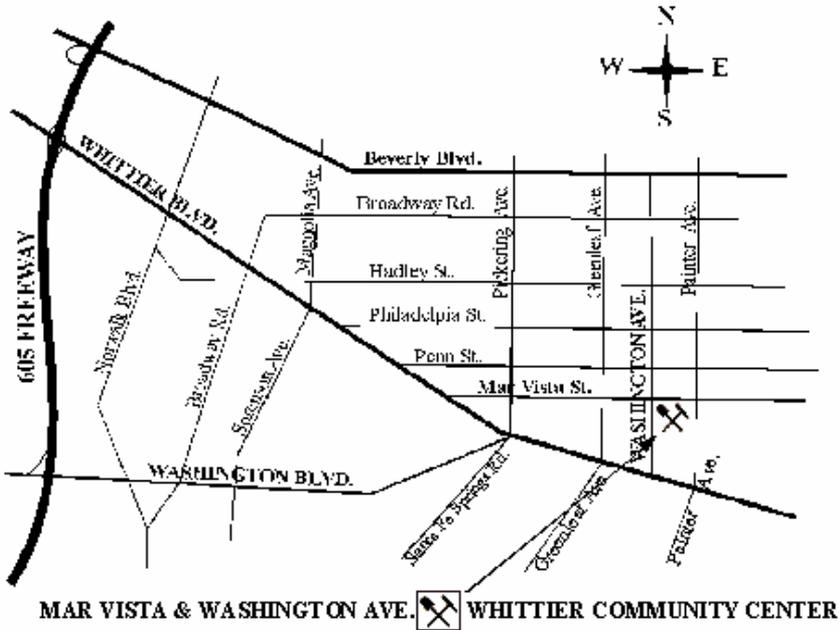
Oct 18 **West Hills, CA;** Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman Way
Hours: 10-5

Oct 18-19 **Whittier, CA.** Whittier Gem & Mineral Society
Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Avenue
Hours: Sat. 10-5 both days

Oct 25-26 **Los Altos, CA.** Peninsula Gem & Geology Society
Los Altos Youth Center, One San Antonio Road
Hours: Sat. 9-5 pm, Sun. 9-4 pm

Nov 1-2 **Ridgecrest, CA.** Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society
Desert Empire Fairgrounds, Mesquite Hall
520 S. Richmond Rd.
Hours: 9-5 both days

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



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Bulletin exchanges are welcome and should be sent to the editor.

Affiliations



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(See page 4 & 15 for info & map)