

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

Program: "Surprise Me!!"

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Sandie Fender & Erin Valle enjoy a magic moment around the campfire.

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

November is already here, where has year gone to? The show has been put to bed and the holidays are upon us. This month the fieldtrips are out to our club claim and a change for Thanksgiving is to Wiley's Well for the CFMS Fieldtrip. All the necessary info is on the CFMS website and in this bulletin.

I believe the show was a success; we seemed to have a large attendance this year. The displays were fabulous. And I sure we have increased the amount in our coffers. But more important was our exposing the hobby to the general public that attended, and who knows, maybe we'll get some new members as well.

If you have critiques about the show, write them down, send an e-mail to me or Jay or even better come and attend the post show meeting. Together we can make the show next year even better.

The meeting date for November is the 20th which is a week before Thanksgiving. And finally we were able to arrange for the club to visit the Jewel Tunnel on the 23rd to go and buy your holiday gifts at wholesale. If you are interested in going you need to let me know so I can let them know how many to expect (a week before we actually go). Oh yeah, Christmas is just around the corner too.

I'll see you at the meeting!

Joe Goetz

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, November 20, 2008

at 7:30 PM

Program: "Surprise Me!!"

The November program is going to be a surprise. See you there,

Marcia Goetz

Post-Show News

The WGMS 2008 Gem Show is over and it is time to take a short look at how it went.

Everything begins at our Club storage place in Art & Ginger Ragazzi's warehouse. Each year we further reduce the amount of equipment that needs to be stored and this year required only 2 pickups and a car to carry everything needed to the Whittier Community Center.

A good, solid group of members, friends and assorted helpers were waiting at the Whittier Community Center for our arrival. Set up was fast and efficient, mainly due to the fact that the Community Center had already set up our tables. Tables were skirted and display cases assembled. The dealers located their spots and began their own preparations.

Saturday began with usual hectic final rush to complete last-minute details, then we opened for business. At the greeter's table sat Izzy Burns and Art Ragazzi, greeting guests. Kathy Valle and Jason Valle were frantically logging in the raffle prizes over at the Donation Award table. The demonstrators Ginger Ragazzi, Darryl Boomer, Jerry Turner, Sylvia Cliffe, Virginia Pace and Bill Burns were starting their machines in the back. Joe & Marcia Goetz had the Sales Table and Sand Scoop under control. The Silent Auction table was being manned by Betty Bliss and Kathleen Turner. In the kitchen Larry & Vivian Rice were making preparations for the 11 AM opening time, assisted by Loretta Ogden, Nancy Bird and Irene - friends from the North Orange County Gem Club. Several other members drifted around filling in where needed.

Sunday is our day to "coast". Since everything is already set up from the previous day, we can drift in before opening time and enjoy a donut and cup of coffee. The Sunday work begins at 5 PM when the last guests are ushered out

and the doors close to everyone except members and dealers. We call this period tear-down but just like the Friday setup it is organized and efficient. Members remove all of the treasures they had displayed during the show, cases are folded up and stowed back into the transport vehicles to be sent back in to storage at Art & Ginger's.

As ever, the Show consisted of a lot of hard work, skill and knowledge, and yes, it was fun, too. And as always, we are glad when the show date finally arrives, and just as happy when it is over. I want to thank all who participated in delivering another first-rate production for our guests and the City of Whittier. Without you we would have no show, or club for that matter and you should know that your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Jay Valle, 2008 Show Chairman

Rockgabbers

I would like to thank all the members of Rockgabbers who put their beautiful work into the case at the show. The quality of work and the range of work makes me very proud to be associated with the group. I received a lot of compliments from visitors about the case, and I know that several prospective members are interested in joining our group.

The next meeting of the Rockgabbers will be November 15th at Tony and Sandie's home. The primary project for this month will be bezels. The standard method of making bezels is to attach the bezel to a sheet of backing material. Another approach is to attach a shoulder to the inside of the bezel to support the cab. Both of these methods will be taught. We'll also use the rolling mill to make our own bezel wire.

There will also be a chain project for those who don't want to tackle bezels.

Tony has developed some techniques for making prongs which seem to work out quite well, and he'll share these techniques with you, and give a demonstration of how it works.

The price of silver has dropped recently, so now is a good time to buy. If there are any particular skills that you would like to learn, please let us know, and we'll see what we can arrange.

For bezels, you will need a cab or fused glass to set, some bezel wire, and some sheet material for a backing. For the chain project you will need about 5 feet of 20 gauge wire.

Sandie and Tony Fender

**An invitation for the members and friends of the
Whittier Gem and Mineral Society
to attend an openhouse at
Jewel Tunnel Imports**

Sunday, November 23, 2008, 10 AM to 4PM

13100 Spring St., Baldwin Park, CA 91706, 626-814-2257

(Map available at jeweltunnel.com)

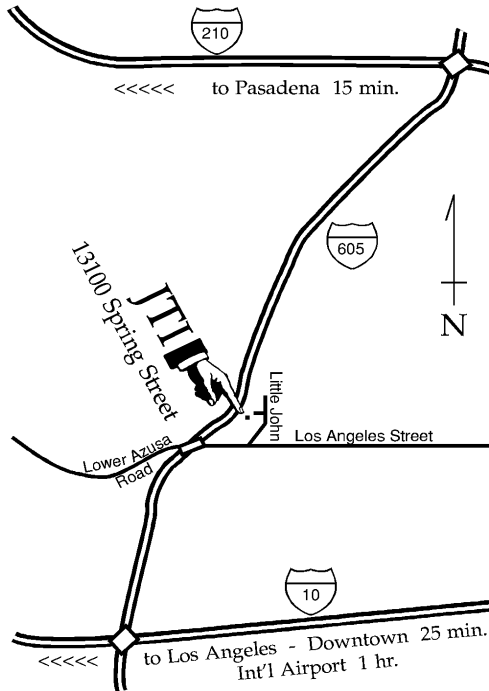
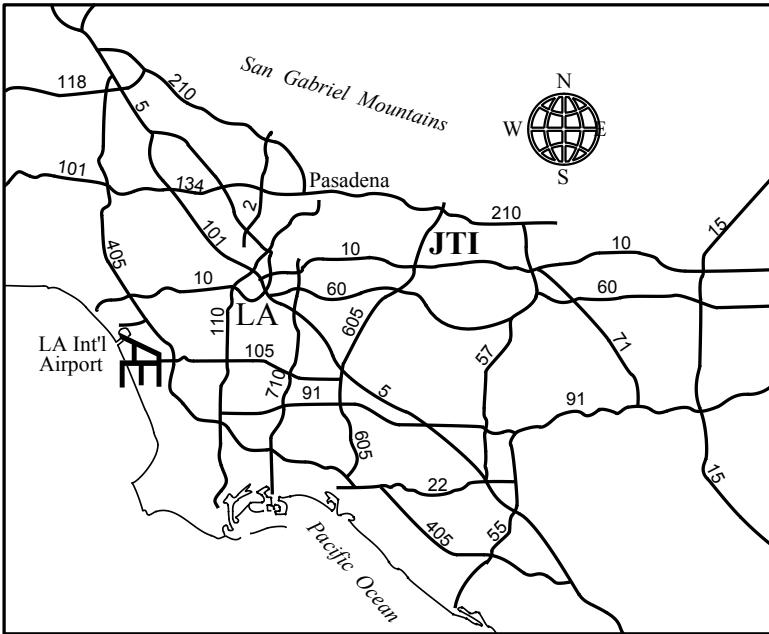
Refreshments will be served.

Jewel Tunnel Imports is a leading wholesale distributor of mineral specimens, crystals, fossils, tumbled stones and many different kinds of lapidary items like balls, eggs, jewelry etc. made from different minerals. We have a warehouse in excess of 10,000 sq. feet full of mineral related natural history items, perhaps the largest of its kind in the United States.

Historically Jewel Tunnel Imports has had limited open house parties for mineralogically and geologically oriented groups such as the students and faculty of various university geology departments and members of certain gem and mineral societies. These open houses, by invitation only, on a few weekends just preceding Christmas, offer a chance for individuals belonging to these groups to buy minerals and crystals at wholesale prices and to learn something about the wholesale gem and mineral business.

The owner of Jewel Tunnel (Rock Currier) is also interested in learning about new sources of mineral specimens and has been known to buy and trade such items. He is a micromounter and always interesting in trading for good micromount material not represented in his collection.

Directions to Jewel Tunnel Import's warehouse



**California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Annual Thanksgiving Rockhounding Field Trip
to Wiley's Well Area**

This trip is open to all CFMS Affiliated Society Members and their guests that agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics, the directions of the field trip leader, and practice safe rockhounding. A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arriving at the campsite.

TRIP LOCATION: The Wiley Well District is 10 miles southwest of Blythe, CA and is one of the most popular collecting areas on the Colorado Desert.

WHEN: Thanksgiving Weekend, November 24-30, 2008. There will be folks camping all week.

DIRECTIONS TO CAMPSITE:: From the 10 Freeway, exit on Wiley Well Road and turn south from the freeway, 14 miles to camp. Around a mile or two down the road, the pavement will turn towards the right. Don't follow that road; stay straight onto the dirt road. Stay on this dirt road past Fire Agate Mine and the Coon Hollow. You will see a sign for the Imperial County Line. The camp will be just past this sign on the right-hand side. If you get lost, call Adam at (909) 489-4899.

COLLECTING TRIPS: November 27th, 28th, and 29th. Open to all CFMS affiliated society members and their guests.

Each day we will leave camp at 8:00 am and return in the late afternoon except on Thanksgiving Day when we will be back in time for our Feast at 2:00 pm. Be sure to carry your lunch and water when we go to the collecting sites, we will not come back to camp during the day.

27th – Pebble Terrace/Fire Agate.

28th – Paisley Agates, Black Agate, and Nodules.

29th – Geode Beds

VEHICLES: A 4-wheel drive vehicle is not a “must” for this trip, but is highly recommended. No low-clearance vehicles advised. A 4-wheel drive vehicle “is” necessary to get to Fire Agate and Pebble Terrace. We will make arrangements for those without a 4-wheel drive to ride with those who do. These sites are remote, so bring food, water and all required supplies. The nearest stores are in Blythe, California.

CAMPGROUNDS & FACILITIES: This is a dry camping area, no water, no services, no hookups, no toilets. There is a dump station at the rest stop at the Wiley Well exit off I-10; however, there is no potable water. Blythe has a free dump station and good water 2-blocks south of I-10 at the Lovkin Ave. exit. Blythe is also good place to get food, supplies, ice and gasoline. It is approximately 25 miles from Blythe to the campsite. There are numerous good motels in Blythe with a wide range of rates. The closest town to the campsite is Palo Verde, approximately 16 miles through Coon Hollow and over the Mule Mtns. There is a convenience store (food, etc.), gasoline, a couple of restaurants and rock shop in Palo Verde, the road is okay for 4-wheel drive vehicles but not 2-wheel drive vehicle.

CLIMATE & WEATHER: We are planning on nice weather—sunny days; cool, clear, star filled nights. But remember it can rain this time of year so be prepared and plan ahead.

MATERIAL TO COLLECT: Fire agate, geodes and a large variety of miscellaneous fossils, limestone, jasper, petrified wood, agates and very old Stromatolites. Also, we plan to search for the Paisley Agate Beds, Black Agates and nodules.

TOOLS: Sturdy bags, hard rock tools, safety glasses and gloves. It may be wise to carry a first-aid kit. I also recommend a dust mask as the volcanic ash may irritate your lungs.

CLOTHING: Wear clothing in layers as it can be very warm during the day and extremely cold at night. Bring extra jackets and blankets.

DINNER: Thanksgiving - 3:00 pm; O.B.M.S. and C.F.M.S. will host a potluck dinner for all those willing to contribute. Please bring your own plates, utensils, drinks and chair. We welcome everyone. If you plan to join us for dinner, here is the guideline to follow:

If your last name starts with:

A, E, I, M, Q or - please bring a main dish.

B, F, J, N, R or V - please bring a starch.

C, G, K, O, S, W or X - please bring a vegetable or salad.

D, H, L, P, T, Y or Z - please bring a dessert.

For further information, please contact

Adam Dean @ (909) 489-4899 or e-mail him: theagatehunter@verizon.net
or Shep Koss @ (661) 248-0411 or e-mail: freudonetoo@yahoo.com

A ROCKHOUND'S DESERT SUNSET

The golden sun's hot dragon tongue
Sears the turquoise sky.
The heavens shatter with the force
As flames intensify.

The sun becomes camelian—
It struggles as it dies!
Precious opal's every hue
Honors its demise.

Clouds of howlite disappear.
New colors are intense
As garnet vies with ruby
To spread the opulence.

Royal amethyst intrudes
Upon the blazing scene,
And bands of bright chalcedony
Are vivid in between.

And as the sunset softens
To amber's honey flow,
Saguaros are black onyx
Silhouetted in the glow.

Shadows of obsidian
Stretch out across the land
As weary rockhounds trudge to camp
Across the citrine sand.

The campfire seems to imitate
The dazzling heaven's rite
As fire agate's gleaming coals
Epitomize its light.

Then sparkling gems appear above.
The seekers rest content.
Sky treasures in full glory
Complete the wonderment.

*From "Gemstone Adventures in Verse"
by Joan Greenlees Abramson*

The Jades: Colors and Controversies**By Lyle G. Gable**

Jade and the color green are so inexorably linked that many people believe all jade to be green. Theoretically, pure jade, both nephrite and jadeite should be white. Metallic salts in the form of oxides and silicates which are present, either alone or in combinations and in varying degrees, are responsible for the vast array of colors, hues, shades, tints and tones, including multi-colors, possible in jade. In rare instances, four or five colors may appear in a single stone. The green of jadeite is produced by chromium, the green of nephrite by iron. The degree of coloring agent present is presumed to determine the intensity of the color, a supposition partially refuted by the occasional occurrence of near-white nephrite with a high iron content.

That jade has a wide range of colors is not in dispute, but opinions differ as to whether jadeite or nephrite has the greater range. Gerald Hamrich writes in *Handbook of Jade* that the color range of jadeite exceeds that of nephrite. Judith Moorhouse contends in *Collecting Oriental Antiques* that the range (of color) in nephrite is greater.

While near-whites and off-whites are not extremely rare, a true pure-white jade is rare. Unusual jade colors such as red, lavender, blue, mauve, and purple are acknowledged, but the existence of pink jade is very much in doubt. Of twenty books, in whole or in part, which treat jade and its colors, eight list pink as a color for either jadeite, nephrite, or both. Joan Hartman in *Chinese Jade of Five Centuries*, concludes that pink jade is non-existent, having never found even one example in the course of her research. Richard Gump, in *Jade: Stone of Heaven*, postulates the occurrence of pink jade and includes a color plate of what supposedly is a pink nephrite cup.

While it is probable that I will remain uncertain as to the existence of pink jade, it is even more probable that I will continue to hear someone exclaim, "But I thought jade was always green!"

(Excerpted from 1996 AFMS Honorable Mention article. From *Jax Gems* 8/95, via *Drywasher's Gazette* 3/98, via *Pegmatite* 09/98)

Hammer Safety

Hammers used by rock hounds come in every size, type and construction, and include rock hammers, bricklayer's or mason's hammers, blacksmith's or sledge hammers, machinist's peen hammers, jeweler's hammers, setting hammers, soft face hammers, lead or copper faced hammers, trimmer's and welder's hammers, as well as a variety of mallets, such as rawhide, rubber, and tinner's. I have even seen napping hammers (a 3 pound high carbon steel hammer with tapering faces used for forming stones during road construction or similar stone work) and railroad track mauls (used for driving railroad spikes). As it is hard to anticipate what a rockhounds "favorite weapon" will be, I thought I would present a list of general hammer safety practices followed by the proper use of some of the more common hammer types.

1. Always select the proper type, size, and weight of hammer for the job.
2. Always wear eye protection.
3. Always strike a hammer blow squarely, avoiding glancing blows and over and under strikes. The hammers striking face should be parallel with the surface being struck.
4. When striking a chisel, punch, or wedge, the striking face of the hammer should be 3/8" larger than the struck face of the tool. Both the striking hammers face and the struck face of the tool should be free of oil.
5. Do not strike another hammer with a hammer.
6. Do not strike a harder surface with a hard surface hammer.
7. Never use a hammer with dents, cracks, chips, mushrooming, or excessive wear. Replace the hammer-redressing is not recommended.
8. Replace worn or damaged handles. A qualified individual should replace hammer handles. Most hardware stores will replace hammer handles for a nominal fee. They can also provide a rubber sleeve for sledge hammers, which will prevent handle damage just above the head.

Bricklayer's or mason's hammers are designed for setting or splitting bricks, masonry tile, and concrete blocks. Never use them to strike metal or drive tools such as chisels. The blade of a bricklayer's hammer should be kept sharp by redressing at a 40 degree angle with a bench grinder. Keep the metal cool while grinding by quenching often in water to protect the metals tempering.

Hand drilling hammers are used with chisels, star drills, punches, and hardened nails. Never use common nail (claw) hammers for striking metal, such as chisels, as they are designed for driving unhardened nails and their shape, depth of face, and balance make them unsuitable for this use.

Machinist's peen hammers (ball, cross, or straight) are designed for striking chisels and punches and riveting, straightening and shaping metal.

Blacksmith's or sledge hammers are designed for striking wood, metal, concrete, or stone, depending on size, weight, and shape.

When using a hammer, grip the handle near the end where it is designed for gripping and will give you the best control and impact with the least effort. Watch your hands, shins, and feet. It may be advisable to wear gloves, long sleeve shirts, and high lacing safety shoes to protect from flying debris and sharp shards if the situation warrants it.

When storing hammers for a period of time, lightly lubricate metal parts, but wipe any oil or grease from rubber mallets or rubber handle grips to prevent damage to the rubber.

So get out there and hammer up a storm, safely.

Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety chairman, March 2000 EFMLS News

Total Immersion Geologists

Total immersion geologists: Are you totally obsessed with geology? If so, then you are a total immersion geologist. Here are the ten warning signs:

- You judge a restaurant by the type of decorative building stone they use rather than their food.
- You manage to turn any conversation into a discussion of geology, as in: "What did you think of that Superbowl game last night?" "I must have missed that conference. Who sponsored it? Geological Society of America?"
- The only thing you notice about attractive members of the opposite sex is the stone in their jewelry.
- You refuse to let nightfall stop your field excursions and continue looking at the outcrops using the headlights of your field vehicle.
- You like rock music only because it's called "rock" music.
- You will try to claw through the water flowing in a stream to get a better look at the bedrock at the base of the channel.
- You will walk across eight lanes of freeway traffic to see if the outcrop on the other side of the highway is the same type of rock as the side you're parked on.
- You name your children after rocks and minerals.
- You're not sure if you have children.
- You view non-geologists as subhuman.

From The Internet, via CHIPS 12/00

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- Nov 1-2 Ridgecrest, CA.** Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society
Desert Empire Fairgrounds, Mesquite Hall
520 S. Richmond Rd.
Hours: 9-5 both days
- Nov 1-2 San Diego, CA.** San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road
Hours: Sat. 9:30-5, Sun 10-4
- Nov 8-9 Lancaster, CA.** Palmdale Gem & Mineral Society
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 W. Ave. H, Hwy 14
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
- Nov 22-23 Oxnard, CA.** Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society
Performing Arts Center, 800 Hobson Way
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 10-4
- Dec 6-7 Barstow, CA.** Mojave Gem & Mineral Society
Cora Harper Community Center, 841 S. Barstow Road
Hours: 10-5 Both Days
- Feb 13-22 Indio, CA.** San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival
Gem and Mineral Building Bldg #1
46-350 Arabia Street
- Feb 27 - Mar 8 Imperial, CA.** Imperial Valley Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Gem and Mineral Building on Fairgrounds
Hours: Fri, Sat & Sun - Noon - 10, Mon-Thu 4pm - 10pm
- Mar 7-8 Ventura, CA.** Ventura Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Seaside Park, Ventura County Fairgrounds
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4
- Mar 13-15 Stoddard Wells, CA.** Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club
Held off Stoddard Wells Road in Apple Valley
Tailgate Map (Google): N34.670650 W117.108983
Hours: 10-5 Daily

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



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