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ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

I hope you all have survived the Holidays and this message finds you in good health. Now that it is a new year, it's time to plan out activities for the coming year. Each New Year brings on new challenges and new experiences. There are fieldtrips to plan, our show in October and projects to be done.

Going on day trips to collect cutting material can be a real hoot. Just recently Jay and I went on a day trip to the Calico Mountains. We collected sagenite agate. We also did some exploring near Minneola Road and found some nice material in a spot no one thought to look. We were home right around sunset, a very interesting day indeed.

One of the biggest challenges I have as president is to get members to take on a job within the club. In doing some of these jobs, the work you do helps not just the club, but all the membership as well. A newer member will have a different point of view. Ideas are always welcome; it's just the implementation of those ideas is where we have the problem i.e. in having people willing to do them.

I compare it to the parable of an ox cart with 4 oxen. A greenhorn who is setting out for the west goes to hook up the oxen to the cart, but he doesn't know how to do it right. He hitches the oxen to the cart with each of the oxen facing a different direction. When the greenhorn tries to get the cart going it doesn't move at all. However, when someone with a little more experience helps the greenhorn re-hitch the oxen they are all facing the same direction and when the greenhorn snaps the whip, it's discovered that the oxen are hitched facing the cart, and it only goes backwards. Now, when a veteran comes and re-hitches the oxen so they are all facing the same direction away from the cart, and the whip is snapped, all the oxen pull together in the same direction and the cart easily is moved forward and progress is made.

So, too, when someone new to the club takes on a job and veteran rockhounds help then as a club we move forward as we'll all be pulling in the same direction and then a lot can get done. Plus the more experience is more enjoyable.

Ok, I'm getting off the soap box now. The fieldtrip planning meeting will be this month on Sunday, January 11 at 12:00 PM at my house.

Did a group of people come through here? I need to find them as.....I'm their leader.

Joe Goetz

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, January 22, 2008

at 7:30 PM

Marcia Goetz

Presents

“Miniature Caverns”

Have you ever bought a geode at a gem show, watched it cut in half, then been the first person to see the beauty inside? Geodes contain some of the most beautiful natural art on Earth and Marcia has taken a series of photographs of special geodes which she is going to share with us at the January meeting

If you are not going to be gone to Quartzsite, come and be amazed by the wonderful art of nature.

See you there,

Marcia Goetz

Dues Are Due!

It only seems a year ago that we were reminding you that your WGMS **DUES ARE DUE** and here it is that time again. As always, if you have already paid for 2009 or joined the Club at our October Show, you do not need to pay again.

The Dues Schedule is as follows:

Single Adults - \$15.00

Married Couple - 25.00

Juniors (under 18) - \$5.00 each

Students (18 or over, in college) - no charge

Thank you for your continued support for our club.

Rockgabbers

Rockgabbers did not meet during the month of December, and because of Quartzite, they will not meet during January. The next meeting will be on February 7th 2009 at Jerry and Kathy's home.

The primary project will be foldforming. Using this method we will make leaves out of copper, brass or tin. The material needed is a sheet of fairly thin metal. Sandie and I have experimented with brass and tin with quite satisfactory results. The sheet needs to be about 3 X 6 inches and about 24 gauge or so. Much thicker than that and it becomes very hard to work as you fold it up, and much thinner than that and the finished product doesn't have the structural strength required. The tools required are a small vice, a couple of pairs of duck billed pliers, a small hammer or mallet, a raising hammer, an anvil and a pair of shears.

As always the meeting concludes with a potluck dinner.

Sandie and Tony Fender

Ten Golden Rules to Take Care of Amber

Atuber is a delicate and gentle stone and must be treated with respect and taken care of. There are certain rules that you have to follow to keep your amber jewelry in a perfect condition.

1. Never leave your amber under direct sunlight.
2. Keep your jewelry away from too much hot or cold temps.
3. Always apply your perfume and hairspray before wearing the jewelry.
4. Never wash dishes or laundry with your amber jewelry on.
5. Do not cook or clean your house with household cleansers while wearing amber.
6. Store your amber in a separate jewelry case and protect it from getting in touch with other materials.
7. Clean your jewelry every time you wear it.
8. Ultrasonic or steam cleaner isn't suitable for amber.
9. Always clean your amber jewelry with a mild solution of soapy and slightly warm water and use a flannel cloth.
10. Polish and make it shiny with olive oil and a soft cloth.

From The Glacial Drifter, Rock Rollers 9/08 via Delvings 11/08

Calico Mountains Day Trip

Just recently Jay and I went on a day trip do some exploring in the Calico Mountains. It was the first time I actually went rock hunting with snow on the ground. With a good truck navigating through the snow, while challenging did not pose much of a problem. We went and collected sagenite agate.

We went over hill and dale, the road was not visible except for the fact it was the wide spot between the bushes and tracked well on the GPS. Driving through the snow was very interesting. Going down snow covered hills is one thing; going back up them could prove problematic. We got to the site and parked, Jay explained where on the hill we would find the agate. Of course with the snow being on the ground, it became more than just walking up the hillside.

The snow hid almost all the features of the area. It also hides cavities below the surface of the snow. As we approached, a rock was poking through the snow and there were little areas around the protruding rock that didn't have any snow. The snow had also become crusty, so to remove some of it was fairly easy. Then finding the material was fairly easy too.

Getting back out over snow covered hilly roads was the challenge. Jay put the truck into 4 wheel low and stepped on it. The truck fish tailed one way then the other, but we made it over the hills.

When we got back to Mule Canyon, we drove on the road to the eastern end exit from the canyon. We fishtailed on that road too, not because of snow, rather the combination of melted snow and the ashy dirt making mud! We stopped here and there, walked around and found bits and pieces in the wash leading out of the canyon.

From there we went over to Minneola Road and explored below the ash hill just adjacent to the road. We found lots of petrified palm and bog agate. Jay and I were both curious about the white ash hills that extend to the south toward the freeway. We took a road that went past the last electrical tower on the lowland. As we drove to the south around the point we found a mine entrance. Just what they were mining is anyone's guess. We'll have to leave that mystery for another day. We did however find an interesting seam of yellow jasper that had green jasper on the top and bottom of the yellow.

By this time the shadows were getting long and it was time to go home. Traffic was light and we were back around sunset. It truly will be a trip I'll remember for a long time. It was a lot of fun and a real hoot.

Joe Goetz

Information about Fluorescent Minerals

The following information was received via an e-mail and is included for your information. Ed

- Fluorescence refers to optical phenomena that occurs when high energy light photons are absorbed by a material, then released as visible light.
- Light comes in many wave lengths, even though we can only see a certain range. UV light is higher in energy (and shorter in wave-length) than the visible spectrum.
- There are several different wave-lengths that are commonly used for mineral (and other) examinations. Short wave is called UV A or 254 nm. Long Wave is called UV B or 370 nm. There are some newer lights referred to as mid-wave that are about 312 nm.
- Short wave will light up about 90% of mineral specimens showing fluorescence while long wave will light up about 15%. Midwave is relatively new and I have not seen stat's on this yet.
- Fluorescence occurs if the visible light is given off only while the light is on. Phosphorescence occurs if light continues to be given off some time after light is removed (Terlingua Calcite). Tenebrescence occurs if UV light REVERSIBLY changes color of specimen (hackmanite).
- UV lights can be dangerous. Don't look at them directly. Better yet, when using high power lamps use proper protective goggles. And don't shine on bare skin.
- UV systems makes some of the best lamps I have seen. There are others out there. Look at the web page of the Fluorescent Mineral Society for good background information and links: www.uvminerals.org.
- As I understand it, the phenomena of fluorescence was named due to observations of fluorescence in specimens of fluorite from England. These green fluorites fluoresce in broad daylight.
- Many organic items fluoresce too... hydrocarbons from days long gone by, scorpions (careful what you pick up when prospecting at night in the desert), laundry detergent.

By Keith Hayes via Robyn Hawk

Quartzsite Shows

If it is January then it must be Quartzsite time! It is a continuous offering of rockhound swap meets from January 1 through the end of February. The *REALLY BIG SHOE* is the **Annual Pow Wow**, also called **QIA**. That is when the local club, The Roadrunners, display their treasures and lead field trips to local collecting areas. For your browsing pleasure here is a list of the various shows and dates.

The Main Event

January 10 - January 25, 2009

General Swap meeting/Rocks/Gems/Arts/Crafts/Hit & Miss Engine Show

Tyson Wells Rock/Gem/Mineral Show

January 2 - January 11, 2009

Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama

January 16 - January 25, 2009

Tyson Wells Art & Craft Fair

January 30 - February 8, 2009

Quartzsite Sports, Vacation & RV Show

January 17 - January 25, 2009

Rock & Roll Classic Car Show

January 28 - February 8, 2009

Hobby, Craft & Gem Show

January 28 - February 1, 2009

ANNUAL POW WOW (QIA)

January 21 - January 25, 2009

Prospectors Panorama

4 Shows from November 1, 2008 - February 15, 2009

1-928-927-6467

Desert Gardens International Rock Gem & Mineral Show

January 1 - February 28, 2009

Tyson Wells Bluegrass Festival

February 27 - March 1, 2009

Miles *+ Where we meet

Pow Wow Field Trips - 2009

Material

Trip # Destination

Date

Wednesday,	1	12-Mile	Agate, Fossils	12	North
January 21	2	Stone Cabin	Desert Roses	24	South
Thursday,	1	Brenda *	Red Jasper	20	East
January 22	2	Bouse	Green Banded Rhyolite	12	North
Friday,	1	Salome	Marble	20	East
January 23	2	Quartzsite	Alunite	4	West
Saturday,	1	Plomosa Road	Jasper, Hematite	19	North
January 24	2	Aguila	Apache Tears	90	East
Sunday,	1	Plomosa Road	Bacon Rock	15	North
January 25	2	Palo Verde	Pastilite	48	East

* High clearance vehicles only ** Mileage figures are approximate and one-way.

All trips depart at 9 a.m. sharp. Come early and check in with the Wagon Master.

North Tyson Drive east of the fire station off Hwy 95, north of Quartzsite

South Hwy 95 near mile marker 103, south of Quartzsite

East North side of Kuehn Street, east of Riggles Road (Exit 19)

West West 0.6 miles on frontage road past Love's Truck Stop (at Exit 17), near Super 8 Motel

Subject: Putty

You make putty by crushing Calcite to powder and mixing it with boiled linseed oil. Predating caulk by decades, window putty was designed to make a seal between dissimilar materials (glass and wood), to remain flexible for a long time, and to be paintable.

Putty dries by oxidation of the linseed oil. It takes about a day for the surface to dry enough to be paintable, which slows further drying.

The linseed oil acts as a glue and forms weak cross bonds as it sits. By kneading it you break some of the cross bonds and it becomes more pliable.

So the next time you glaze a window, give thanks to the calcite specimen that was sacrificed to make the putty. But don't put the putty under a black light -- it might glow if the original Calcite was fluorescent.

Kreigh Tomaszewski via Rockhounds@drizzle.corn

Origin of Desert Varnish

Caltech News Release via California Geology (3/78)

Desert varnish, a smooth black coating that accumulates slowly on rock formations ranging from small boulders to cliffs hundreds of feet high, has puzzled naturalists for many years. On the underside, where it is not exposed to the air, a varnished rock often acquires a glossy red-orange finish through interaction with water and minerals in the soil. Because of its striking appearance and widespread occurrence, the varnish frequently attracts attention, especially in national parks such as Grand Canyon and Zion where visitors query rangers about its cause.

For years scientists have assumed that desert varnish was composed primarily of manganese and iron oxides, precipitated out of the rock through weathering processes. However, the varnish structure eluded precise analysis because it is composed of particles too fine to be characterized by X-rays, the main diagnostic tool of mineralogical investigation.

Infrared spectroscopy, a technique which illuminates mineral samples with infrared light and records the pattern of absorbed wavelengths, was applied to the study of desert varnish by two Caltech scientists. George R. Rossman, associate professor of mineralogy, and Russel M. Potter, Caltech graduate student, used rock samples from 20 locations in California, New Mexico, and Arizona in the analysis of desert varnish. The samples included quartz, granite,

basalt, rhyolite, quartzite, feldspar, and sandstone.

The results of the analysis revealed that the main constituent in desert varnish, totaling about 70%, is clay, not manganese and iron oxides. The oxides form the remaining 30%. The red coating on the underside of the varnished rocks, previously believed to be iron oxide, turned out to be 90% clay incorporating an iron oxide stain, similar to the iron in the black finish on the rocks' exposed portions. In addition it was found that all desert varnish, whether it formed on the side of a cliff or on a 10-inch boulder, shares a similar composition.

It was concluded that most of the coating collects from sources outside the rock rather than from material leached out of it, as many geologists had believed. One reason for this conclusion is that varnish is found covering non-manganese or iron bearing quartz crystals. Although some rocks may contribute oxides through weathering, the primary source seems to be wind deposited particles.

Fine, windblown clay particles are a critical ingredient in forming the varnish which first forms on rough, porous surfaces. These surfaces allow dew and other moisture to collect, depositing a thin film of clay when the water evaporates. This film of sediment on the rock's surface encourages water to migrate through tiny pores inside the film, depositing traces of manganese and iron as the water evaporates.

The formation of desert varnish is interdependent upon the clay and oxides. The dry, fluffy clay particles depend on the oxides to form a resistant cementing agent. The oxides, in turn, require clay particles for transportation and deposition. This is the underlying reason why all desert varnish that was examined contained both clay and manganese and iron oxides -- never one without the other.

Lithosphere (4/93); Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.; Fallbrook, CA

Daily Geology Newswire

This is the homepage of a site that updates geology news daily. It seems to cover a lot of mining and drilling interests as well as earthquakes and fossils. With over 15,000 articles in the archives I am sure there is something for everybody.

<http://www2.topix.net/science/geology/>

Via John Edward <johnedward53@sbcglobal.net>

A Beginner Guide to Quartzsite

by Terry Caskey, CCM&G member

Have you heard of Quartzsite and don't have any idea what it's all about? Well, I suppose that everyone who goes there has a different experience, but everyone with an interest in gems, minerals, rocks, junk, RV's, old books, rockhounters, camaraderie, or desert scenery should go there sometime.

Some people go year after year, but I've only been there a few times. Quartzsite is located in the Arizona desert, a few miles past the California border on the way from Palm Springs to Phoenix. The first time I saw it was mid January 2003. We were driving east on I-10 in Arizona and topped a hill that overlooked the valley. Below was a small town with a couple of gas stations surrounded by thousands of motor homes and trailers covering the desert floor for miles. The Chamber of Commerce claims 1.5 million people visit in the winter.

During the 1960's some of the "Snowbirds" who had been coming to the area for years started a group called the Quartzsite Improvement Association (QIA). They were interested in improving the town and bringing some structure to their winter life. One of their first fundraisers was a rock hound tailgate show in 1967, which apparently was quite successful. It has become the QIA Pow Wow, the center piece of activities the last Wednesday through Sunday in January.

It is one of the largest rock hound gatherings anywhere; with a large building filled with world class display cases and more than 400 dealers both in the building and the surrounding property.

The town has grown a little since that first tailgate sale, with a few houses, a police and fire dept., a library, some stores, RV campgrounds, restaurants, etc. The summer population is probably no more than a thousand or so, but during the winter there are tens of thousands of people in the motels and camped in RV's all over the desert for miles in every direction. Many clubs and other groups camp together on the BLM land surrounding town.

We stayed with the Old Timers Gem and Mineral Club, north of town in a free area. Some places closer to town require a small camping fee.

In addition to the Pow Wow. there are many other dealers and vendors selling jewelry, rocks, rough material, crafts, fossils, stuff, things, crystals, and whatever. If you really want it, you probably can find it in Quartzsite. These dealers operate between early December and the end of February. Toward the end of January, they set up an enormous tent and hold a huge RV and sports

equipment show followed by a Hobby Craft and Gem Show then a Classic Car show in early February.

If you get tired of going to shows and flea markets, there are many other things to do and see around Quartzsite. Ye Olde Timers Gem and Mineral Club has a charity auction towards the end of January and the QIA offers classes and field trips to the surrounding area. The sunsets are often spectacular if you are interested in photography, and if you like old, used books, check out the Readers Oasis.

From Diablo Diggin 's 12/07, via Breccia 10-08, via Delvings 1/09

Subject: EVER WONDER ...

- Why don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?
- Why is 'abbreviated' such a long word?
- Why is it that doctors call what they do 'practice'?
- Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?
- Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
- Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?
- Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?
- Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?
- You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?!
- Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?
- If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?
- Why they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering.

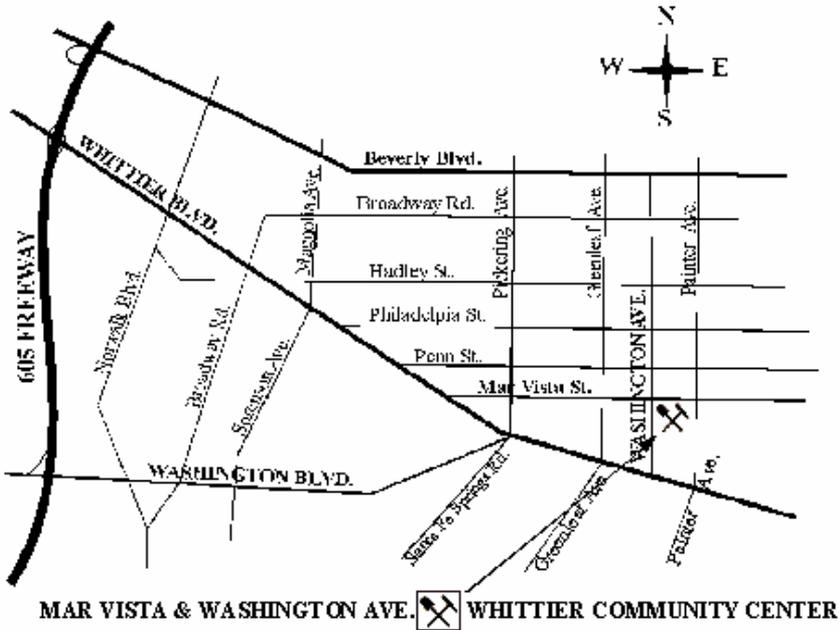
Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays all!!

Allan Burns

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- Jan 17-18 Exeter, CA. Tule Gem & Mineral Society
Exeter Veterans Memorial Building
324 N Kaweah Avenue
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4
- Feb 13-22 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 27-28 Northridge, CA. Del Air Rockhounds Club
United Methodist Church
9650 Reseda Blvd. (at Superior Street)
Hours: Fri. 3p.m. - 9:30p.m.- Sat. 10-5
- Feb 27 - Imperial, CA. Imperial Valley Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Mar 8 Gem and Mineral Building on Fairgrounds
Hours: Fri, Sat & Sun, Noon - 10
Mon. thru Thur. 4pm - 10pm
- Mar 7-8 Arcadia, CA. Monrovia Rock Hounds, Inc.
LA Co. Arboretum & Botanical Garden
301 North Baldwin Ave.
(1 block South of I-210, Foothill Freeway)
Hours: 9 - 4:30 both days
- 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
Hours: 10-5 Daily
Tailgate Map (Google): N34.670650 W117.108983
Website: www.vvgms.org
- Mar 14-15 San Marino, CA. Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Drive
Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5

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



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(See page 4 & 15 for info & map)