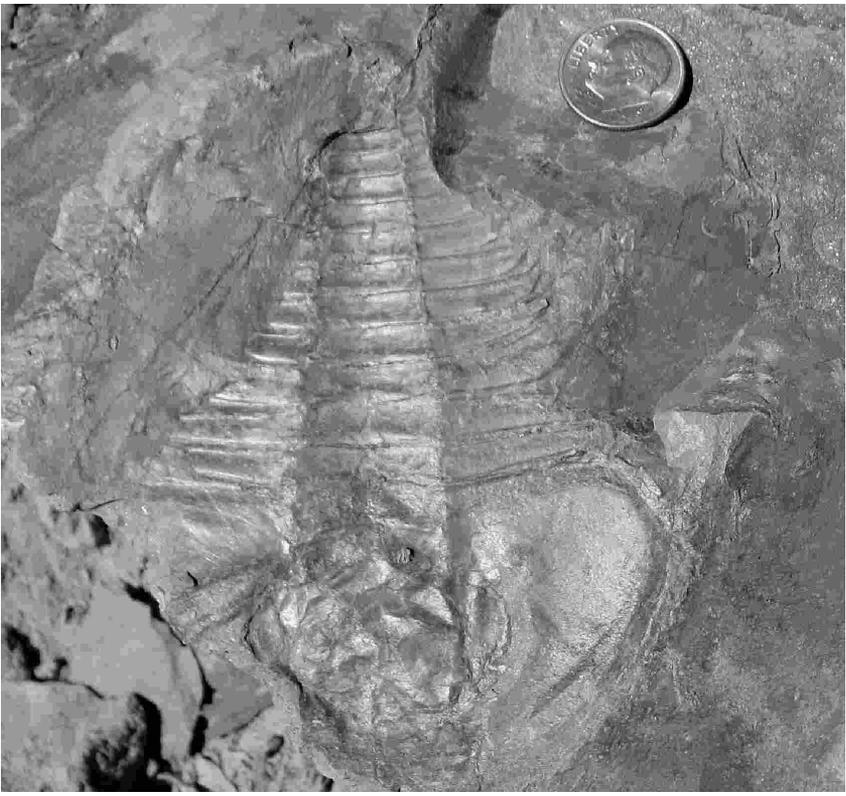


WHITTIER

**ROCKHOUNDER**  
GEM & MINERAL  
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**Ugly Rock Beautiful Rock!**



A spectacular and nearly complete Trilobite, collected at the Marble Mountains by a couple from the Victorville Gem Club while I dug nearby.

# ROCKHOUNDER

## THE PREZ SEZ:

Well as you probably all ready know the President signed the Omnibus lands bill. What the exact fall out will be we'll have to wait and see. When it all goes into affect is yet to be seen. We may still have time for most of our fieldtrips.

This month we have a fieldtrip to Castle Butte, it is on the 11th & 12th. It should be a good trip with lots of material to be collected. Potluck is on Saturday night.

We need a theme for the show, so get your thinking caps on and at the meeting we'll decide on one. There is a tentative theme of "California Treasures". There are lots to do; there are cases to build, planning the various aspects of the show and so on and so on. Case displays to plan out and stones to cut and polish and jewelry to make.

Sometime this year we are going to have a yard sale. So get your items ready as we'll hopefully have it soon. Come on out to support the club.

And as always, let's be safe.

**Joe Goetz**

### Totally Useless Information

At five minutes and six seconds after 4 AM on the 8th of July this year, the time and date will be...

04:05:06 07/08/09.

This will not happen again for a thousand years.

*From the Internet, forwarded by Nancy Bird*

**WGMS General Meeting**

**Thursday, April 23, 2009**

**at 7:30 PM**

**Marcia Goetz**

**Presents**

**“Ugly Rock Beautiful Rock”**

**T**his month the program is “Ugly Rock Beautiful Rock”. I am sure most all of you have a really ugly rock as well as a beautiful rock you like to brag about. Is it a rough piece or a slab or finished cab, does it have a picture in it, is it an interesting one, one of unusual colors or patterns?

Well that is the idea for this month, we’d like to see it and hear the tall tale or short story about it. We all know how much rockhounds like to talk about their rock treasures. Maybe the piece defies description, so you’ll have to show it. Is there an unusual story that goes with it? We’d like to hear it. Virtually any rock you have “found” qualifies (whether bought or found in the wilds).

It should be fun!

***Marcia Goetz***

**Editor's Warning**

**T**his is the April issue of The Rockhounder and that means that there is a slight, very remote, hardly worth mentioning possibility that one or more of the articles in this month’s newsletter is not necessarily the absolute and unvarnished truth. It might even be, heaven forbid, an “April Fool’s Joke”.

Just thought I needed to bring it to your attention so you can be wise in your reading.

***The Editor***

**Tony, Sandie and Bunker are pleased to introduce Qana (pronounced Kana)**

Qana is an Alaskan Husky puppy who came into our lives on March 20<sup>th</sup>. She was born in Chena Hot Springs in October, and had been living at the Loving Companions Animal Rescue in North Pole Alaska, until we spotted her on the internet. She was a bit timid when we first met her, but she has warmed up a lot over the past week. She is all white, and Qana is an Eskimo word meaning snow.



Last weekend she went on her first field trip to Lavic Siding, and her first experience at camping in the motorhome. We left for the trip with a nice clean white dog, and returned with a “Lavic sand brown” dog. I think we will get very familiar with the groomer. She and Bunker fell in love with each other the moment they met, and she often sleeps on the couch, resting her head on his hip. We hope you will all come to the Easter field trip and have a chance to meet her in person.



**Rockgabbers**

Rockgabbers didn't meet since the last bulletin, so this is a recap of the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Rockgabbers will be on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2009, and will be held at Tony and Sandie's home in Altadena. The project for next month will be to make a locket. This is a project that we have looked at several times before, and this time we will be planning on three sessions to complete the project. The first session we will cut, texture and shape the outer covers of the case. The second session we will fabricate the inner panels of the locket with the cut outs to hold your pictures. The third session will attach the hinges, the clasp and the bail. We will also look at some other designs for lockets in books and discuss how they could be fabricated.

We look forward to seeing everybody at the Rockgabbers meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Tony and Sandie Fender*

**Clarence Pool Celebrates 100 Years**

**O**n February 8 Clarence Pool celebrated an amazing milestone, his 100th birthday, surrounded by his family and many friends.

Clarence joined the Whittier Club in 1959 and soon became a die-hard field tripper. He first participated, then later led many of the legendary field trips to such widely spaced areas as New Mexico and Oregon. At his Pico Rivera home he still has many of the rocks, big and small, that he collected over the years.

Mr. Pool invented many tools for rockhounds to make their lapidary ventures easier and faster. He still sells a cabber to make perfect domes on cabochons and his GyRok Vibratory Tumbler for quickly producing tumbled stones. For a few years Clarence sponsored a cabochon making competition and awarded a trophy to the best cab entered. And for many years his tumbled stones have been in the grab bags sold at our annual show and given out to kids at the Boys & Girls Club events.

So Congratulations and Happy Birthday Clarence.



Picture from the Whittier Daily News, February 10, 2009

## **Field Trip Report—Lavic Siding**

Lavic Siding is always a good place to spend quality time. There is good collecting right in camp and nearby in the Southern Cady Mountains. This year, 25 avid rockhounds enjoyed the excellent weather on Saturday (March 21) and the not-so-nice weather on Sunday (March 22).

Arriving Friday afternoon, I set out the usual signs and went out to explore some possible collecting spots. A lot of jasper was exposed in the washes in areas we had not visited in recent years. Jerry & Kathy Turner and Ginger & Art Ragazzi arrived early afternoon and so we enjoyed our own small potluck. Later a warm campfire was employed and enjoyed. During the night, Paul & Julie Wendling and their beautiful new daughter (5 weeks old) Sienna Sky arrived and set up camp.

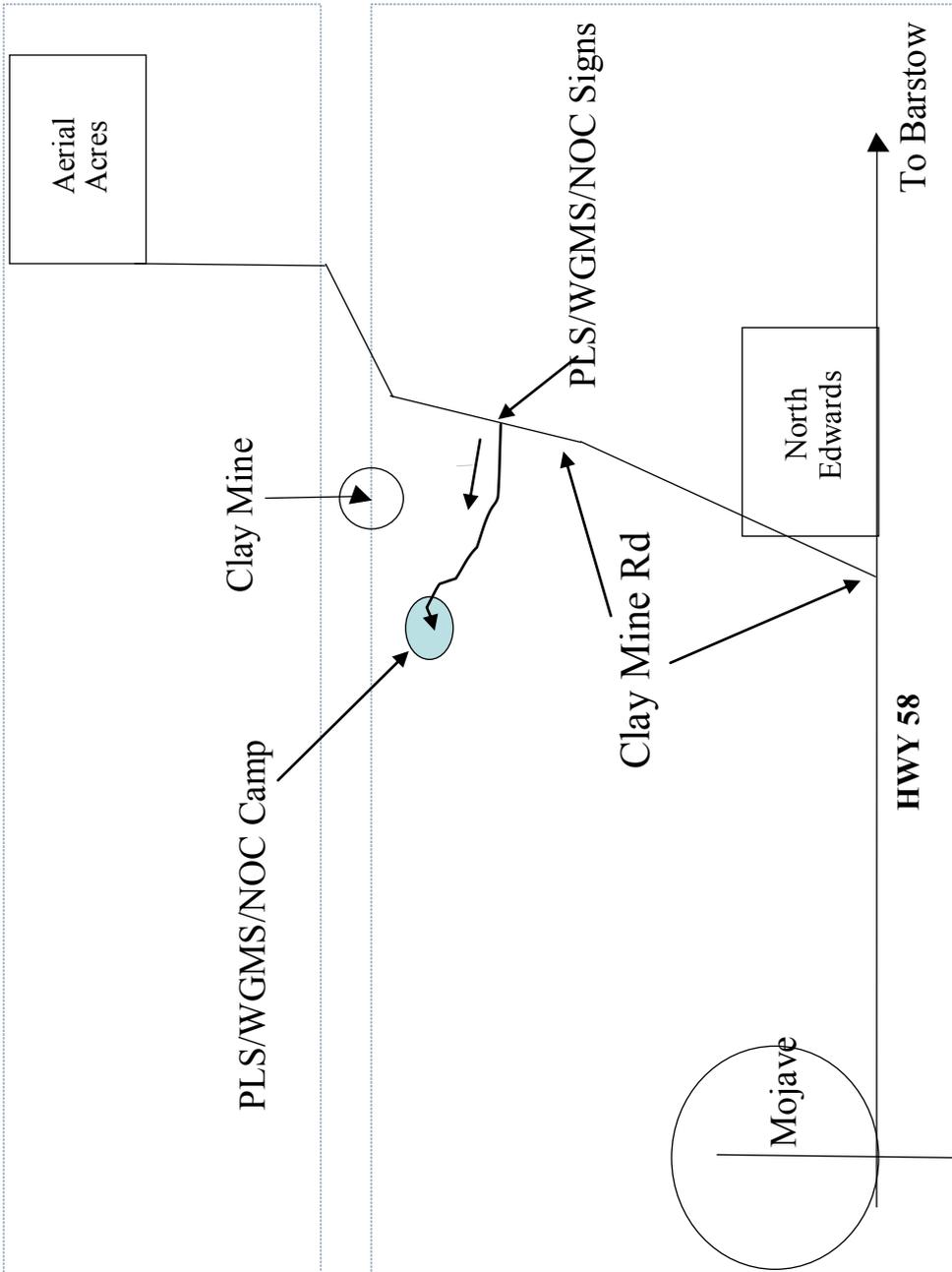
Saturday morning, we caravanned to several local jasper locations, returning to camp for lunch. It was determined that we should visit the Chase-Bagdad Mine. What we found was a locked gate and no trespassing signs. After more discussion, it was decided that we should go collect thulite east of Ludlow. However, the gate off the freeway could not be located and so we returned to camp for more jasper collecting (Art & I returned to look for the gate and found it, wide open. My fault—sorry). The field trippers who remained at camp enjoyed a potluck feast and a visit from a not-so-friendly BLM Ranger.

Mr. Ranger pulled into camp at about 7:30 PM, just after dark, and demanded to know what the P/W on our signs stood for. I explained that the initials P & W stood for Pasadena Lapidary Society and Whittier gem & Mineral Society. He replied, “Oh...you are ROCK...PEOPLE!” in an angry voice. I replied that, yes, we were rockhounds. The conversation went downhill from there. I want to point out that most Rangers, BLM, State or National Park Service are nice friendly people who are usually very helpful and respectful. This man was none of those things. In any case, we went to bed without a campfire due to increasing winds—not the Ranger.

Sunday, with heavy clouds and high winds moving in, we made a foray into Southern Cadys, collecting some nice seam agate until the skies opened up and rained on us (horizontal rain at times). Then the clouds blew past and the dust storm began. Making a dash back to camp, most of the remaining collectors wisely headed for home while a few of us rode out the storm in the relative comfort of the Turner’s motor home.

On this weekend, Lavic Siding lived up to its well-deserved reputation as a virtual wind tunnel. But we had a good time and rock was collected.

*Jay Valle*



**Field Trip: Castle Butte  
April 11-12, 2009**

The April field trip will be to the Castle Butte/Boron Dry Lake area. We will be camping with the Whittier, Pasadena, North Orange County and Palmdale Clubs. The dates for the Campout are April 11-12, 2009.

If you are camping come early and bring plenty of water and fire wood. There will be a Potluck Saturday afternoon or early evening, then a Campfire get-together. If you are coming for the day be sure to bring plenty of water, table, chairs, place settings and your dish.

We will be hunting for Bloodstone, Chapenite and Petrified wood around the Castle Butte and Brown Butte areas.

**If you get lost or need assistance call:  
Tony Fender – (626) 277-7689  
or Jay Valle – (626) 602-5849  
(cell phones)**

HWY 14

Rosamond

Lancaster

**Agates (Part III) - Some Classifications**  
**By Ron Gibbs**

**N**ext on our list is the sagenitic agate, sometimes just called sagenite. This describes agate that encases straight needles. The needles are often radiating in hemispheres or fan-like structures, and like plume agates they are often found at the agate bedrock boundary.

Although completely spherical single structures can be found apparently floating in the chalcedony. These spherical sagenites are sometimes referred to as PomPoms and thus the name “pom-pom” agate.

It is more difficult to understand how nearly perfectly placed needles can form after the chalcedony has hardened or even gelled, so it may be the case that the needles formed first in the cavity and were later incorporated in to the growing agate.

Similar structures are found when growing quartz incorporates rutile crystals during the quartz crystallization. Most radiating crystals, forming sagenitic agate, can be traced back to their nucleation point on the outside wall of the agate.

In the case of these needles it seems most likely that they grew in the cavity without any barrier, and formed in a natural manner.

For reasons I don't fully understand, most sagenities reach market without much locale information. Most plume agates and even dendritic agates are named for their location or given creative names with known locations. At best most sagenites seem to have only a country designation.

Another “named agate type” is the tubular agate. Tube agate forms when flow channels are captured in the structure of the growing silica. They often appear as nearly perfect circles, or as elongated structures that seem to flow throughout the interior of the agate. The structures can often be seen as long tubes running throughout the interior. Secondary mineralization forms around the tubes and captures what might have been an invisible feature of the agate. When sliced, they appear as colored circles, or closed structures with colored edges.

The edging material is often an iron precipitate and can be yellow to yellow - orange in color. The white edging is once again a form of hydrated silica (opal). They sometimes form with concentric circles giving them a lacy appearance.

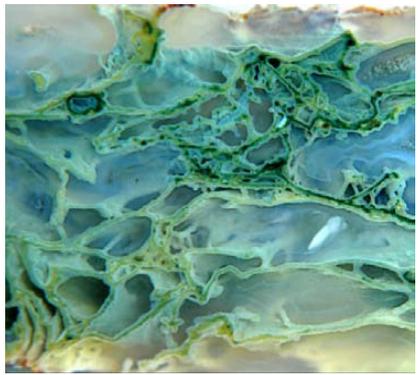
The distinction between some tubular agate and some moss agate is not well defined.

We'll finish the agates in the next installment showing a variety of others not thus far covered.

*From The Goldrush Ledger, 1/08*



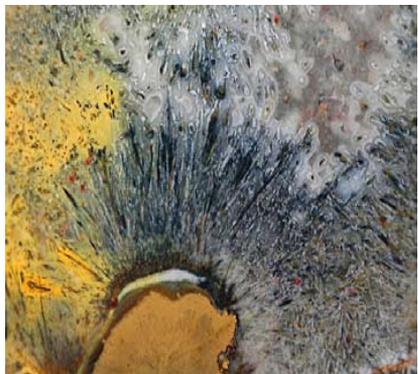
*Sagenite (Mexico)*



*Horse Canyon Tube Agate (Calif)*



*Keegan Ranch Tube Agate (Oregon)*



*Sagenite (Unknown)*

## **“Skunk” Rocks of the Southern Cadys** **By Professor Semoure Bottoms**

Recently I was called in to investigate reports about an outbreak of *Lithic Scatter*, commonly known as *Rock Pox*. The incidents were occurring in a remote area of the Southern Cady Mountains of Southern California and had so far been limited to no more than a half dozen cases. As you know, this viral infection is characterized by a rabid desire to get out and collect things, usually but not limited to rocks of various types. The disease can be controlled by various methods such as drugs and alcohol (and Government intervention) but never cured.

My involvement in this case was due to an unexpected development in the symptoms - the victims had an unfortunate body odor that rivaled the worst skunk smell ever encountered. Breathing apparatus in place, I examined one of the affected individuals. Even with the gas mask I could barely stand to be in the same room as her. She told me that she had been exploring a not-yet closed area of public lands when she saw an outcropping of what she thought was volcanic ash, a common rock occurrence in the California Deserts. This deposit was different somehow. It contained an assortment of unusual egg-shaped rocks which were mostly white with black stripes on one side, starting at one end of the “egg” and continuing to the other end. They appeared to be “Shiva Lingham” stones! She related how excited she was at this unheard of occurrence of a rock type previously only found along the sacred Narmada River in India. She picked up several, intending to take them to the nearby University of Yermo Geology Department for confirmation of the find. Being a die-hard rockhound though, she just had to see what was inside so she hit it with her rock hammer. Instead of popping a window in the rock, the rock exploded, covering her with a pungent oily liquid with a stench so overpowering that she was rendered unconscious for several minutes. Briefly regaining her senses, she managed to pull out her cell phone, which fortunately worked at her location, and called 911 before passing out again. When she awoke again she was in the isolation ward at the UCLA Research Hospital in Monterey Park.

With this information in hand and after recovering from a gagging fit, I decided to see the deposit for myself. Homeland Security had confiscated her small collection of “skunk” rocks as possible terrorist devices so I packed my gear and headed for the Southern Cadys. When I arrived at the road leading into this popular collecting area, I found that the Government had already closed the area to cars and SUVs, naming it a Wilderness Area and closing all access routes.

A BLM Ranger showed up about this time and informed me that the area had

been declared an area of Critical Environmental Concern due to the possible presence of Native American Artifacts in the area. He admitted that experts on Indian tool making could not conclusively identify these objects as true artifacts and suggested that this was merely a ruse which allowed the BLM to prevent any members of the Public from accessing their own Public Lands. He noted that this technique had been successfully used in other local mountains and rockhound collecting area.

The deposit I was interested in was at least 20 miles into a remote section of the mountains and I am partially disabled due to an old football injury. I asked the Ranger about handicap access as required by the Federal Government for other public and State owned properties. He said that I would have to take that up with Senator Diane Feinstein who previously stated that she understood the problem but handicapped people would no longer be allowed on Public Lands anyway, except for a few select and Federally controlled areas, and that they "should just go pound sand".

I continued to argue with Ranger Richard Head. Finally, he touched his sidearm and asked if I wanted to "educated" or "cited" (ie. shot). Being endowed with at least ordinary intelligence and confronted with an armed and irrational Federal employee, I decided that an education camp, though Stalinistic, was better than DEATH and thus escaped with my life. I am writing this article from the DiFi Re-education Camp for unrepentant citizens who think they should be able to actually visit their own Public Lands without Government permission.

As of the penning of this, the deposit of "skunk" rocks is now protected from prying eyes within an impenetrable Wilderness and a psycho BLM Ranger. No cure has yet been found for the unimaginably fetid aroma exuded by the victims who had been "skunked". I also heard from an associate that the entire wing of the UCLA Research Hospital has been closed off for "seismic retrofitting". Hopefully they can contain the outbreak before it despoils the entire region. Perhaps they should declare the hospital a Wilderness Area and make everyone walk in from miles away. That would at least prevent inadvertent contact with this new and frightening virus.

And as for me, I should be out of the DiFi Re-education Camp soon. All I have to do is swear allegiance to the Sierra Club and foreswear free thought. So far I have resisted but I am missing my family, and it appears that my job at the Yermo University is also on the line if I don't. So it will probably be soon.

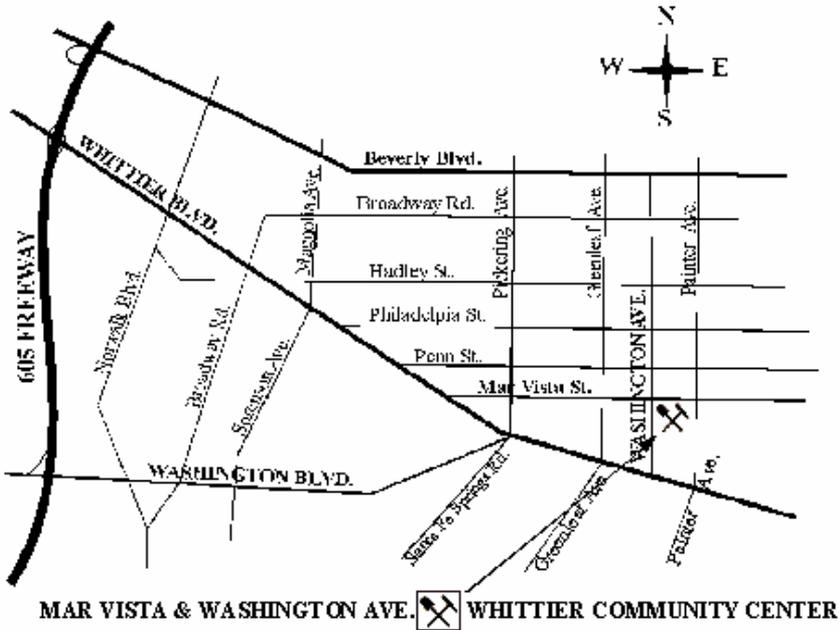
Have a nice April Fools Day.

Professor Semoure Bottoms  
University of Yermo

**Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows**

- Apr 3-5 Bakersfield, CA.** San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society  
Kern County Fairgrounds  
1142 South P. Street - Corner S. P & Belle Terrace  
Hours: 9-5 Daily
- Apr 3-5 Vista, CA. San Diego Co.** Council of G&M Societies  
The Tractor Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave. & Museum Way  
Hours: Fri. Noon-5; Sat. & Sun. 9-5
- Apr 18-19 Lancaster, CA.** Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral club  
Lancaster High School, 44701-32nd St. West  
Hours: 9-5 daily
- May 1-3 Bishop, CA,** Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society  
Tri County Fairgrounds, Bishop  
Corner of Sierra St. & Fair Drive  
Hours: Fri. 6-10; Sat. 9:30-4; Sun. 10-3
- May 2-3 Anaheim, CA.** Searchers Gem & Mineral Society  
Brookhurst Community Center  
2271 West Crescent Ave.  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4:30
- May 16-17 Newbury Park, CA.** Conejo Gem & Mineral Club  
Borchard Park, 190 Reno Road  
Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4:30
- May 16-17 Yucaipa, CA.** Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Yucaipa Community Center, 34900 Oak Glen Road  
Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4
- May 30-31 Glendora, CA.** Glendora Gems  
859 E. Sierra Madre Ave.  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4
- June 5-7 Woodland Hills, CA.** Rockatomics Gem & Mineral Society  
Pierce College - Victory & Mason  
Hours: 10-5 Daily
- June 6-7 La Habra, CA.** North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society  
La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd.  
Hours: 9 - 5 both days

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



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Affiliations



California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
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**Date: April 23, 2009 at 7:30 PM**  
**Location: Whittier Community Center**  
**(See page 4 & 15 for info & map)**