

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

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PICNIC IN THE PARK
“Eat, Drink and Be Merry”
JUNE 25 at 6:30 PM
MICHIGAN AVENUE PARK

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Looking South-East into the Owens Valley from Crystal Ridge. The town of Independence is in the center-right, the Owens River snakes across the center and the Eastern Sierras are seen in back. A really cool view!

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

June has arrived and at present the weather here is nice and cool. It makes it tempting to go and explore the local mountains, desert or beach for interesting things to see or collect.

June is also the time when we go “dark” for the summer. We may not have monthly meetings but there are still some things we’ll do over the summer. At some point we will have a work party for building new cases (hopefully). There will be other activities planned and some not. So you may just get a phone call a few days before some event that’ll happen, one not planned or mentioned in this bulletin.

It is also a time to travel, whether by car or plane. There is much to see around this great big country of ours. Some of you may try to travel the mother road, you know, Route 66. There are many novel things to see on the roadside. It may also help with Rock fever as you travel here and there.

This month we’ll be having our potluck in the park. It is at Michigan Park and will start at 6:30 PM (instead of 7:30). There is a map in this bulletin.

Whatever you go and do, please be safe and I’ll see you at various things this summer or at the very least the September meeting.

*Which way did they go?
Joe Goetz*

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, June 25, 2009

at 6:30 PM

“Eat, Drink and Be Merry”

It is time for our annual **WGMS Picnic/Potluck in the Park**. It is going to be held on **June 25 at 6:30 PM** to allow more members to attend this fun social event.

We will commandeer a group of picnic tables at Michigan Avenue Park (see map below) and meet up at 6:00 PM to enjoy the camaraderie and delicious food with our fellow club members and friends.

As always, you should bring an entrée, salad, dessert or side dish to share, and don't forget that it is BYO (bring your own) plates, silverware and drinks. You should also bring conversation, friendship and perhaps a little attitude to enhance this special alfresco dining experience.

So come join us on the 25th at our June picnic.

Marcia Goetz



Summertime Events

Though we close during July and August, several activities are planned for this summer including gold panning, a trip to Big Bear Lake and a pool party/potluck. A couple of work parties will hopefully occur as well. Here is the list and current information. Not all of the dates and times are known yet so we will let you know when they happen.

Field Trips

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Material</u>
East Fork San Gabriel River	TBA	Gold Panning
Big Bear Lake	TBA	Druzys, Crystals, other stuff
Other Collecting opportunities	TBA	Day Trips, etc.

Other Activities

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Summer Pool Party	August 22	3-7 PM (see article below)
Work Parties, various	TBA	TBA

WGMS Summer Event

Pool Party

Saturday, August 22, 2009

Place: Jay & Kathy Valle's House
Time: 3:00 - 7:00 PM

You are cordially invited to a mid-summer get-together on Saturday, August 22nd. Come join us as we enjoy Jay and Kathy's cool, refreshing (and wet) swimming pool and to feast on a delicious potluck and barbeque (and if the weather is too hot, you can go inside to cool off.)

The party begins at 3:00 PM. If you want to enjoy the pool, bring a swimsuit and towel. As always, the host(s) will only go in the pool if some our guests also indulge in a dip. Bring something food-wise to share. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided, as will water, coffee and some soft drinks, plates and silverware. Any other beverages you wish to bring is ok and purely BYO (bring your own).

For more information or directions contact Kathy Valle at (626) 934-9764.

Owens Valley Trip

Marcia & I left Friday before noon, the weather was pleasant enough. The traffic was light, so highway speeds were good. We got there about mid-afternoon, checked into our motel and went in search the rest of our group. Most were at Diaz Lake. Even though the temperature had climbed into the nineties, it seemed a lot cooler under the trees by the lake. After a bit we found out our cell phone didn't work up there virtually at all, so Mark Nelsen called Chris and Marlene Kyte and found out they were staying at the private RV resort about ½ mile south. So off we went like a herd of turtles. We pulled in the driveway of the resort and low and behold they were in the first spot on the corner.

After a bit Chris, Marlene, Marcia and I went into town for dinner at the High Sierra Cafe. It was a delightful meal and the company was good. I went looking for a card with the hours and found out they never close, they are open 24/7, which is great if you get a hankering for pie in the middle of the night. The rock shop in Lone Pine is a very nice one, there is a lot to see, books, rocks, and some more common equipment such as gold pans and rock hammers.

The next morning we met at the visitor's center by 9 A.M., by 9:15 we were off with a mighty hi ho silver away, oops I got a little carried away. Many of the older westerns were filmed there in the Owens's Valley. First stop was the Haystack and collecting aquamarine crystals. I also found epidote which was quite heavy and had a large group of unidentified crystals. I also found an interesting dolomite with a cavity that had botryoidal calcite in it. The aquamarine, though not faceting quality, will certainly produce some nice cabs. Marcia, Caroline and Charlotte found quite a few interesting specimens including aquamarine there on the flats.

When everyone came back to the vehicles we were down the road heading north to our next stop. It was in Union Canyon where we collected ammonites, no climbing involved. Every one got some but, unfortunately one of our group had an accident. Caroline Duncan tripped and fell. There was a fair amount of blood. Mark Nelsen is trained in first aid and he did what he could to aid her. Marcia told Caroline that I had said there was a good veterinarian hospital in town. Everyone got a good laugh. And now she's plotting how to get even with her about the comment. "I hope the plotting keeps mind off her ovey and entertained to boot". Mark took Caroline into town to a people hospital to be checked out.

After a bit of a rest, Marcia and I went to the hospital to find out how Caroline is doing. We wound our way through the sprawling building to finally find the ER. There, in one of the examination rooms, lay Caroline. One knee had seven

stitches in it and even though the other leg was swollen they didn't see a fracture in the x-ray. They decided to take a few more, just to be sure. Marcia and I went into the waiting room where Mark and Linda were. Mark and I discussed how we were going to get Caroline into her trailer. The suggestion of a rope in the tree next to the trailer, if long enough would allow Caroline to swing into and out of the trailer. I suggested that perhaps a couple of bungee cords would put some spring back into her step, if attached to the top of the door.

After a bit, we headed over to the lake and potluck. Shortly after we got there Caroline and Charlotte arrived, they slowly circled the camp. It looked like Caroline was taking a victory lap after a race. Caroline decided that they would head home on Sunday, so Jay and I as well as a few others hooked up their trailer to their truck. The potluck was absolutely fantastic. And the night did cool off nicely. We headed back to our motel and bed.

Sunday arrived all too fast. We met at camp at 8 a.m. By 8:30 we were gone, headed north toward Independence and the Crystal Ridge area. Chris led off all the way to the apache tears area. After approximately 20 to 30 minutes we got into our vehicles and Marcia and I led to the road that went up the canyon and up the mountain to the saddle. We discovered our 4 wheel drive was not working properly. So I rode up to the collecting site with Mark and Linda. Of the 10 people who were there they would pick up the white quartz and asked if this was what we were looking for. I'd walk over to where they were, looked down and picked up a crystal, held it up to show them what we were actually looking for and then I'd hand it to them as an example. I gave away far more than I collected in that first half hour. I did get my share though. We were there an hour or more. Mark then drove back down, we stopped at the mine where I years ago found hundreds of bags of cores. Well, I am sad to report the bags that are there are full of ground up samples and the cores are gone. Before long we were headed up the road, again heading north.

This time we were headed to Bishop and the Tungsten Hills to the west. We drove into the hills to a mine identified as the Tungsten Blue Mine. At this mine tungsten ore that is in the contact zones with the country rock often form secondary minerals, in this case it is red garnets. The garnet bearing ore could be found just about anywhere around the site. I'm sure everyone got some garnets. Before long the shadows started to get longer and it was time to head back. Jay, Chris, Marcia and I decided to eat at the Country Kitchen in Big Pine. While we were there it tried to rain on us, just enough to get the vehicles spotty.

As we headed back to the motel, Marcia and I decided that it was good to come out and "play". The next morning we actually got up early and had breakfast at the High Sierra Cafe and were on the road by 6:30 a.m. All in all it was a good trip.

Come Screen for Benitoite Gems

Hello fellow Rockhounds,

The Benitoite Gem Mine has re-opened for screening at a location with easy access.

Here's your chance to come and find the California State Gemstone "Benitoite" one of the rarest and most valuable gemstones in the world!

Pricing: \$70 per person, kids 12 and under \$20, seniors 70 and over with proof of current rockhound membership, \$35.

Reservations: See www.calstategemmine.com

Large Groups: Large groups should give us a call and let us know what days you are comming.

Open: We are open Saturdays and Sundays.

Sign-in and Demonstration Time: 9:00AM to 10:00AM.

Collecting Time: 10:00AM to 3:00PM/

Destination: The historic old Road Camp. 48242 Los Gatos Rd. Coalinga, CA 93210

Directions: Follow Los Gatos Canyon Rd., 18 miles west of Coalinga, CA. On right side, look for white buffalo.

We Supply: Screens, screening tables, buckets, water, and a quart sized ziplock bag. We have a UV dark room to look through your washed material. Employees will be there to assist, demonstrate, and identify your finds. A port-a-potty is available.

You Need to Supply: Tweezers for picking up gemstones and a plastic apron or something to keep you dry. Bring your lunches, drinks, and lawn chair, a pop-up shade if you need it, rubber gloves if you need them. It's a muddy job screening for Benitoite, so you might want to bring your rain gear.

Rules of the Hunt:

1. Stay in the immediate area between the screening pile and parking lot.
2. Do not go into buildings unless permission is granted.

3. You are allowed to take home your ziplock bag full of finds.
4. If you find something too large for your ziplock bag and would like to purchase, we will negotiate a price.
5. Kids are allowed to play freely, please keep them close.
6. Pets are free. Keep them on a leash please.

Sign-in Procedure: Park in the parking lot next to the white buffalo. Line up at the walk-in gate in front of the small cabin. If you concerned about not getting a screen, pay in advance, via PayPal. (See www.calstategemmine.com)

Contact Us:

Owner: dave@calstategemmine.com
Co-owner: jl@calstategemmine.com
Cell: (559)-284-4126
Home: (559)-935-5909

Thank you,
Dave & John-Luke

Submitted by Vern Cliffe

New shopping experience

A new supermarket opened recently. It has an automatic water mister to keep the produce fresh. Just before it goes on, you hear the sound of distant thunder and the smell of fresh rain.

When you pass the milk cases, you hear cows mooing and you experience the scent of fresh mown hay.

In the meat department there is the aroma of charcoal grilled steaks with onions.

When you approach the egg case, you hear hens cluck and cackle, and the air is filled with the pleasing aroma of bacon and eggs frying.

The bread department features the tantalizing smell of fresh baked bread and cookies.

I don't buy toilet paper there anymore...

Via John Martin

Headline: Dinosaur Crimes

Montana man gets 60 days for dinosaur bones theft.

By MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press Writer

A commercial fossil hunter, whose discovery of the world's best-preserved dinosaur brought scientific acclaim, will serve 60 days in jail for stealing raptor bones from private land.

Nathan Murphy, 51, a self-taught paleontologist, was convicted in March of felony theft for taking the raptor fossil from a ranch in northern Montana.

He is scheduled to be sentenced on July 9 in a separate federal case involving more fossils taken from Bureau of Land Management land.

In 2000, Murphy discovered a mummified, 77-million-year-old duckbilled hadrosaur known as Leonardo, which is considered the best preserved dinosaur in the world.

The bones of the turkey-sized prehistoric raptor at the heart of his theft conviction were found by one of Murphy's workers in 2002. Authorities have seized the bones.

Murphy had sought to have molds of the fossils made that could have brought up to \$400,000 in the sale of casts on the retail fossil market, investigators said.

Since he was charged last year, Murphy had claimed honest mistakes led to the investigation. But in an interview Monday with The Associated Press, he acknowledged concealing the truth about where the raptor bones were found and asserted that he is not the only fossil hunter to do so.

"The investigation created a poster boy," he said. "They're going to have Nate Murphy to hold up to the public and say, 'Don't pick up nothing on public land, and know where you are at.' They needed somebody like me."

He must serve his 60 days at some point during the next 6 months.

At his sentencing Wednesday, District Judge John C. McKeon also fined Murphy \$2,500 and ordered him to pay \$650 in restitution.

The Montana attorney general's office did not have an immediate comment on the case.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090602/ap_on_re_us/us_dinosaur_crimes/

Tick Removal

Spring will be here soon and the ticks will soon be showing their heads. Here is a good way to get them off you, your children, or your pets. Give it a try.

Please forward to anyone with children... or hunters or dogs, or anyone who even steps outside in summer!!

A School Nurse has written the info below -- good enough to share -- And it really works!!

I had a pediatrician tell me what she believes is the best way to remove a tick. This is great, because it works in those places where it's some times difficult to get to with tweezers: between toes, in the middle of a head full of dark hair, etc.

Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for a few seconds (15-20), the tick will come out on its own and be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away. This technique has worked every time I've used it (and that was frequently), and it's much less traumatic for the patient and easier for me.

Unless someone is allergic to soap, I can't see that this would be damaging in any way. I even had my doctor's wife call me for advice because she had one stuck to her back and she couldn't reach it with tweezers. She used this method and immediately called me back to say, "It worked!"

Via the Internet, submitted by Carolyn Duncan

Bruneau Jasper

Did you ever wonder why you see so little Bruneau jasper and when you do, why it is so expensive? It is only found in Idaho's Bruneau Canyon and it occurs in only one area along the steep walls of the canyon. It is commonly known as a 'thunder egg' formation which is extremely rare. Bruneau jasper has beautiful designs and ranges in colors of red, tan, and brown. It is a pleasure to work with and polishes to a high luster. The claim where it is found is privately held, and permission to dig is rarely given. This make the rock more valuable due to the demand (exceeding the controlled supply).

Via Mendo Coast Gems 1/04, via Napa Gems 10/05, via Breccia 03/06

Short Quiz for Know-It-Alls

Wow, this is not so easy!! This is a "who knows everything" quiz. I found out in a hurry that I didn't. These are not trick questions. They are straight questions with straight answers

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them.
7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
9. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 'S.'

Answers To Quiz:

1. Boxing
2. Niagara Falls (The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.)
3. Asparagus and rhubarb.
4. Strawberry.
5. It grew inside the bottle.(The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.)
6. Dwarf, dwell and dwindle.
7. Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation marks, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.
8. Lettuce.
9. Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts.

Italian Tomato Garden

An old Italian lived alone in New Jersey. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was hard.

His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament:

Dear Vincent,

I am feeling pretty sad, because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days.

Love, Papa

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

Dear Pop,

Don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried.

Love, Vinnie

At 4 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left.

That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Pop,

Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

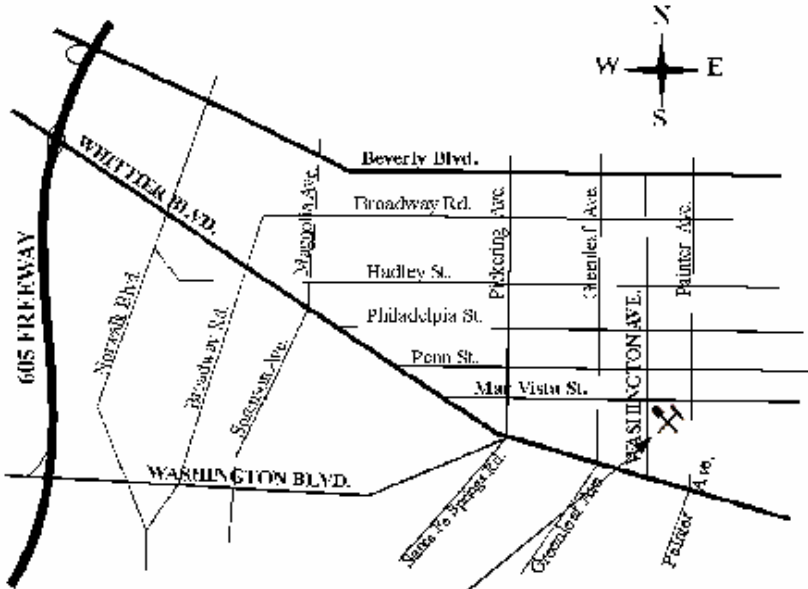
Love you, Vinnie

Received from Nancy Bird

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- June 13-14** **Cayucos, CA.** San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club
Cayucos Vets Hall, 10 Cayucos Drive
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
- July 11-12** **Culver City, CA.** Culver City Rock and Mineral Club
Veterans Memorial Auditorium and Rotunda
4117 Culver Blvd
Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5
- August 7-9** **Nipomo, CA.** Orcutt Mineral Society
St Joseph's Church, 298 South Thompson Avenue
Hours: 10-5 daily
- August 14-16** **Tehachapi, CA.** Techachapi Gem & Mineral Society
St Malachy Catholic Church, 407 West E. Street
Hours: Fri. &: Sat. 8-7:30; Sun. 8-5:30
- Sept 12-13** **Vista, CA.** Vista Gem & Mineral Society
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
2040 N. Sante Fe Ave.
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4
- Sept 19-20** **Paso Robles, CA.** Santa Lucia Rockhounds
Pioneer Park & Museum. 2010 Riverside Ave.
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
Richard Smith (805) 467-2966
- Sept 26-27** **Downey, CA.** Delvers Gem & Mineral Society
Womens Club of Downey, 9813 Paramount Blvd.
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10-4
- October 3-4** **Fallbrook, CA.** Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society
Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Museum
123 W. Alvarado Street
Hours: 10 - 4 both days
- October 10-11** **Trona, CA.** Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
Searles Gem & Mineral Show Building
13337 Mian Street
Hours: Sat. 7:30-5; Sun. 7:30-4
Website: www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub

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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(See page 4 for info & map)