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WHITTIER  
  
**ROCKHOUNDER**  
GEM & MINERAL  
SOCIETY

General Meeting: January 28



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That is the top of a D-9 Cat in the foreground. Trust Me.

# **ROCKHOUNDER**

## **THE PREZ SEZ:**

**I**t's the day after Christmas, and as I sit down to write the first of many President's Messages for the Rockhounder, I am saddened to have to report that I was notified earlier today of the passing of Les Roy on Christmas day. Les has been a staunch supporter and dedicated member of the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society for over two decades. Les has served the club as President, community spokesman and diligent worker bee for years. When health issues restricted his active participation, he continued to support the club financially by buying an inordinate number of donation awards tickets each year at our annual show. We all remember how often we would hear the name "Les Roy" called out during the drawings.

Les was responsible for our relationship with the Boy's and Girl's Club of Whittier, where we maintained a workshop for several years and introduced young minds to lapidary. Even after we were forced to abandon the classes, Les was active supporting both WGMS and the Boy's and Girl's Club by giving lapidary related gifts out at the annual Boy's and Girl's Club Christmas party (a practice which we, WGMS, continue to this day).

I first met Les when Kathy and I returned to WGMS after an unintentional, but inevitable, hiatus when we moved away from Whittier. Les was president at that time and as the year rolled around I found myself tapped for the office. Not wanting a valuable resource to get away, I created the position of Community Relations Representative and asked Les to please continue to interface with the city officials and promote WGMS whenever possible. Over the subsequent years Kathy and I worked closely with Les, and we became good friends. We always enjoyed visits with Les & Bea, whether discussing the club or just enjoying conversation over a cup of coffee.

**(Continued on page 4)**

**WGMS General Meeting**

**Thursday, January 28, 2010**

**at 7:30 PM**

**“ Quartzsite ”**

If this is January, it must be time to go to Quartzsite. So why do we keep going back to this tiny little town, year after year? Come on out to our first program for 2010 and find out.

D t k p i " u q o g v j k p i " { q w " õ e q n n g e v g f ö  
o g g v k p i 0 " V g n n " w u " { q w t " h c x q t k v g " õ

See you there,

*Marcia Goetz*

**PREZ SEZ**

**(Continued from page 3)**

I'm sure that all of you know that Les was a WWII veteran and was active in the American Legion. Les was awarded two Purple Hearts, Bronze and Silver Stars. At the end of his military career Les found himself in a military hospital in Auburn, California. There he met Bea, an army nurse, who became his wife of around sixty years. Les lost Bea a few short years ago. At Bea's funeral, I saw pictures of Les and Bea shortly after their marriage. They were one very handsome couple. Les and Bea's daughter and her husband, Cheryl and Bill Seifert, are members of the club. They live in Riverside so they don't attend meetings, but we see them every year at the show.

We will all miss Les, and although many of us have not seen him lately since his health has prevented his attendance at monthly meetings, we will miss hearing the name "Les Roy" called out when donation awards are drawn.

*Jerry Turner*

**Rockgabbers  
January Report**

**A**fter several months of not being able to find a free weekend to have Rockgabbers, we are once again going to have a Rockgabbers meeting and class. The date is Saturday, February 6th, and the place is Jerry and Kathy V w t p g t ø u " j q o g 0

The project for this class will be loop in loop chains, and the class will be v c w i j v " d { " L g t t { " V w t p g t 0 " K h " { q w " j c x g have seen the loop in loop chains that he makes. Jerry uses a technique called fusing which requires fine silver and a bit more heat than is necessary for soldered joints. The chains can also be made by soldering all the jump rings for v j q u g " y j q " f q p ø v " y c p v " v q " v t { " h w u k p i 0

This project does not require any prior experience in silversmithing, so it is an excellent first project for those of you who have been wanting to learn silver work but were afraid to get started.

A simple single loop in loop necklace requires about 9 feet of 20 gauge fine silver for an 18 inch chain. The flat bracelet shown here is called the single side weave bracelet and it requires about 5 feet of 20 gauge wire.

As always, the afternoon will end with a pot luck dinner. We look forward to seeing you at the class.

*Tony Fender*



## **CUTTLEBONE CASTING**

**C**uttlebone casting is both spontaneous and easy. No casting kiln required and it can be done at our workshop or at home. Give it a try or talk with Drew Wilson (President of Pasadena Lapidary Society, PLS) about hosting a workshop for this fun process. There are many ways to create a mold, but the direct method of carving directly into the bone is a simple, low tech process. You'll be able complete a cast in less than an hour and have a unique element to inspire your next design. Large cuttlebones can be purchased from jewelry suppliers, small from pet stores. One supplier of large cuttlebone is Bracken Bird farm (bring the children to feed the birds and farm animals) 10797 New Jersey St., Redlands, CA, (909) 792-5735.



**Materials:** Cuttlefish bone, Sterling silver scraps, Powdered casting flux, Concrete block, Carving and marking tools (pencil, dental tools, paint can opener, awl, square tubing, round tubing, etc.), wire cutters, Soft brush, Masking tape, Acetylene torch with a large and medium tip, Fireproof surface with adequate ventilation, Fireproof brick, Respirator mask, Crucible.

To prepare mold for casting, divide cuttlefish bone in half in a straight line with awl. Determine centerline and score. Make several passes into line with awl until groove cuts completely through soft side of bone and you can feel scraping against hard shell. Next, break shell by snapping along score line; should break evenly in two.

Rub each half with soft surface down on smooth sand paper. Hold bone firmly and apply a light, even pressure as you rub. Continue to remove material until each half has flat, smooth plane. If outer shell begins to scrape on concrete, carefully clip that area of shell with small wire cutter.

After carving is complete, use soft brush to remove dust and loose material. For a well-defined casting, firmly brush both sides of mold to ensure it is clean and dust-free. Hold both sections of cuttlefish mold together and firmly secure halves with masking tape. Make sure tape tightly holds bones together with no gaps or spaces where molten metal could escape. Secure mold firmly in a place where it will not tip. What-ever holding method you choose must be secure,

fire-proof, and placed on a fireproof surface. Proper ventilation is essential. A coffee can filled with sand works best for many.

Preheat the crucible until a slight glow appears and care-fully add metal. Try w u k p i " u e t c r " u v g t n k p i " n g h v q x g t u " h t q o you can purchase casting grain from a jewelry supply company. Once metal is molten, add a small amount of flux with steel tool. For a small casting, less than 1.8 teaspoon is sufficient. Flux helps keep metal clean and aids flow as it is poured into mold. Ensure that the pouring edge of crucible is red hot, so metal doesn't cool before entering mold. Pour molten metal into mold, being very careful not to get fire too close to casting. Be sure to keep torch aimed at crucible until all metal has been poured. The smell will be quite unpleasant and you will be thankful for proper ventilation.

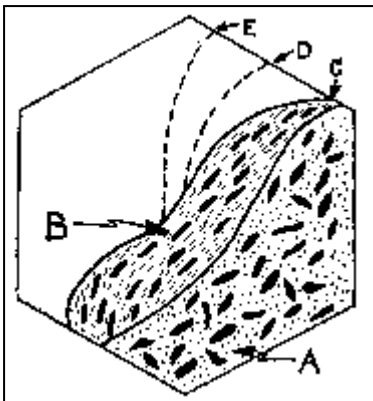
When cool, remove masking tape from piece to reveal casting. Dispose of mold and clean silver with dishwashing detergent and a brass brush. The final casting is now ready to be used in your jewelry design.

For photos and step-by-step details, view Cuttlebone Casting by Karen J. Lauseng at <http://www.jewelryartistmagazine.com/projects/cuttlebone-casting>.

From PLS Rockhound Rambling, 1/10

### **How Speed Effects Tumbling**

**T**he rotary speed of the drum for maximum effect is that which causes a maximum of sliding effect. Let us assume that we are using a hexagonal drum. The diagram shows the effect of different speeds of rotation.



**LEGEND**

- A. Nearly stationary material.
- B. Sliding layer where grinding and polishing takes place.
- C. Point of start of sliding at 15 r.p.m.
- D. Start of sliding at 25 r.p.m.
- E. Start of sliding at 35 r.p.m.

(Continued on page 10)

**2010 Quartzsite Show Schedule**

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Show</u>
1/1 - 2/28	Desert Gardens International Gem, Mineral Show
1/9 - 1/24	The Main Event
<b>1/20 - 1/24</b>	<b>41st QIA Pow Wow Rocks &amp; Minerals</b>
1/27 - 1/31	Hobby, Gem, & Craft Show Big Tent Event
1/1 - 2/7	Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show

(<http://www.xpopress.com/QZ-RR-show-schedule.html>)

**Quartzsite Field Trip Information**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Trip #</u>	<u>Destination</u>
Wednesday, January 20	1	Plomosa Road
	2	Quartzsite
Thursday, January 21	1	Plomosa Road
	2	Stone Cabin
Friday, January 22	1	Quinn Pass
	2	Salome*
Saturday, January 23	1	Earp
	2	Wiley Wells
Sunday, January 24	1	Plomosa Road
	2	Hwy 10 @ MM45

\* High clearance

\*\* Mileage figures are approx.

All trips depart at 9 a.m. sharp. Come early!  
Wear comfortable walking shoes. Bring a hat.

**Meeting Places**

- North.....Tyson Drive 100 yd east of the fire station
- South.....Hwy 95 near mile marker 103, south of the intersection
- East.....North side of Kuehn Street, east of Riley Street
- West .....West 0.6 miles on frontage road past the intersection

**Field Trip - Quartzsite  
January 21 to 24, 2010**

**A**gain, in 2010, our monthly field trip experiences will begin from Jan. 21 - 24. There are basically three B.L.M. no-fee campgrounds in the area with Dome Rock, approximately six miles west of Quartzsite, being the first en-route. This is dry camping, however there are plenty of supplies and amenities in Quartzsite. There will be many opportunities to join field trips provided by the local club and shopping for your special specimens.

Contact Joe Goetz at (626) 914-5030 for more information

Material	Miles **	Where We Meet
Red/Yellow Jasper, Agate	18	North
Alunite	3	East
Red/Yellow Jasper, Agate	20	North
Birdseye Rhyolite	30	South
<u>Green Banded Rhyolite</u>	17	North
Marble	30	East
Purple Jasper, Hematite	47	North
Banded Agate	50	West
Barite	15	North
Desert Roses	30	East

vehicles only  
proximate and one-way.  
ly and check in with the Wagon Master.  
at, sack lunch and plenty of drinking water.

**for Field Trips**

ation off Hwy 95, north of Quartzsite  
of Quartzsite  
ggles Road (Exit 19)  
Love's Truck Stop (at Exit 17), near Super 8 Motel



## How Speed Effects Tumbling (Continued from page 7)

The material at "A" is doing little or nothing except climb the side of the barrel. At point "C" it begins to slide on its return to the bottom of the barrel and 90% of the grinding and polishing takes place in this area, "B." As the speed is increased from 15 r.p.m. to 25 r.p.m., the start of the slide point moves to "D" but the total amount of the material contained in the sliding mass is less. If one has an open-end drum and can watch the work as it moves in the barrel, these effects are readily apparent.

As the speed is further increased to 35 r.p.m., the sliding mass almost disappears and the material rolls or tumbles to the bottom of the barrel. When this happens grinding and polishing ceases for all practical purposes. All of these effects are easily proven experimentally and anyone with a tumbling barrel can verify them for himself.

### **Establish the Best Speed**

The speeds given are for illustration only and will vary with each individual case. Experiment with your drum until you find the right speed to give the maximum thickness of the sliding layers and consequently the maximum cutting effect. One manufacturer states that with a 30" diameter barrel operating at 20 r.p.m., the sliding layer is three inches thick.

I think that from the above and by reference to the drawing, it is plain to see that the maximum cutting rate will be obtained with a drum that is approximately half full. More or less material, or "charge," will decrease, not only the number of pieces finished, but also will cut down on the cutting speed by decreasing the thickness of the sliding layer.

Many users of barrel polishing use only abrasive and water in addition to the pieces being ground or polished. However, some have found that the addition of such materials as sawdust, ashes, paper packing material, confetti, fiberboard, walnut shell meal, etc., are a great help, especially in the final or fine grinding and polishing.

Author Unknown. From "Gems & Minerals," January 1955, pp 12, 71.  
Via <http://www.omsinc.org/tumble1.html>

**Catching a Hint**

**L APIDARY HINT**

Remember to sand wet whenever possible. We know that in most cases dry sanding produces better results faster. But consider the hazards to your health. Many of the materials that we work with are toxic or just plain poisonous. The less dust we inhale, the better, Water also helps keep the shop cleaner. Be sure to clean out the sanding machine after each use. The dregs from wet sanding will dry out and become available for a real dispersion. Dust To Us!!!

Rock Pile via Dusty Rocks 1/91

**CONTAMINATED BUFF**

If scratches develop on your cabochons after polishing with a felt buff, it is sometimes because the buff has gotten contaminated with grit, sometimes even one grain of grit will be the culprit. Take a soft block of wood, such as balsa wood, turn on the wheel, and while the buff revolves, hold the wood firmly against the buff. The soft wood will pick up the offending grit. Then keep the buff covered with an old shower cap or plastic bag when not in use.

Via The Stonecutter, Dusty Rocks 9/94

**DON'T LOSE THE LAP POWDER**

To keep from losing a large share of heavy grinding powder off of the lap and into the drip ~ try beeswax. Before starting heavy lapping of flats, cover the surface with a thin coating of melted beeswax applied with a brush. One coat will last for several lappings and can be reused for final lapping. It is necessary only to rub the lap with beeswax to hold the powder.

**MEASURING GRIT**

Most tumbling instructions tell you how much grit and polish to use per pound of rock, and this is almost always given in ounces. An easy way to arrive at ounces, use a standard measuring spoon and level off with a knife.

Coarse grit = 1 oz is 4 tsp. Medium grit = 1 oz. is 4 tsp.

Fine grit = 1 oz. is 4 tsp. Polishing Powder = 1 oz. is 8 tsp.

Via Coral Geode 9/89

**POLISHING STONE IN SETTING**

To hand polish a stone in a setting, use a piece of chamois skin, suede or soft leather. Apply polishing compound and some water. Dip stone in water, rub on polishing powder.

Via Gem-N-I (Dec. 89)

*From Lake City Rockhound News, 10/08*

## **Desert Survival Tips**

**M**any people each year have mishaps in the Mojave Desert which could have been avoided or made less serious with some preplanning. Following is a list of preparations to be made before your trip to the desert, a basic list of supplies, and suggestions for what to do if you become stranded.

### **PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE**

- Let someone at home know your travel plans and a time you will return. If you do get lost or break down, the people at home will know where to start looking. Also, let these people know if your plans change.
- Check local travel conditions before you depart and again at time of travel.
- Learn about the area, get accurate maps, and plan your agenda conservatively if you are traveling to an unfamiliar area.
- Bring gear appropriate to your activity, the expected range of conditions and the planned length of your stay. Many people have been fooled by changing conditions.

### **SURVIVAL TOOLS**

- Proper clothing for your activity (sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, or warmer clothing for changes in weather).
- Good walking shoes (or boots) and walking stick.
- Food (High energy - non-melting snacks).
- Water; at least one gallon per person per day. Purification tablets and high tech water filters are recommended also.
- Know how to read maps, use a compass, and gain a knowledge of the area prior to trip (note landmarks as you travel). Carry a GPS unit with you, and know how to use it.
- Small first aid kit.
- Waterproof matches (in a case or film canister).

- Camping and emergency tools (depending on transportation)-
  - ⇒ Knife
  - ⇒ road flares
  - ⇒ rope or cord/ duct or electrician's tape
  - ⇒ small tarp or ground cover
- Day pack, cargo carrier or saddle bag to carry the preceding gear.
- Vehicle tools, high-lift jack, extra fuel, and spare parts (spark plugs, fan belts, hose clamps), depending on your vehicle.

**IF LOST, STRANDED OR BROKEN DOWN**

- Stay with your vehicle or otherwise make yourself visible.
- Stay put, unless you have a clear and specific destination.
- Avoid walking during the heat of the day; morning and evening walking is better for conserving your body's moisture.
- Seek shelter from the elements, but try to make yourself visible (like with smoke or a signal fire, or a bright colored tarp).

*[http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow/desert\\_survival\\_tips.print.html](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow/desert_survival_tips.print.html)*

**Desert Survival: Further Observations**

**Y**ou can never have too many tools. Here are few that have come in handy or flat out saved my bacon.

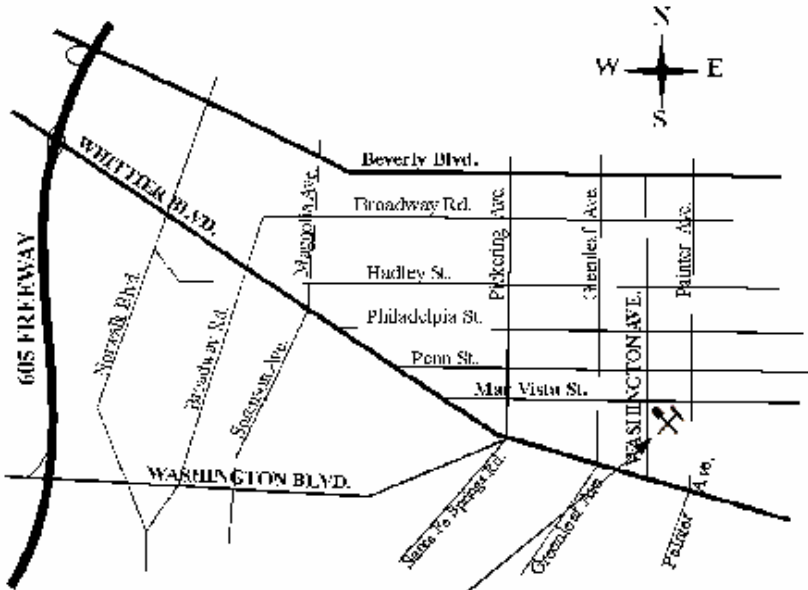
- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Hack saw                      | Bolt cutters                            |
| U o c n n " e c t r g p v g t | Soukët setç SAE & metric                |
| Self drilling deck screws     | Gorilla glue                            |
| Canvas repair kit             | Hoist                                   |
| Tire puncture repair kit      | Cans of Fix a Flat                      |
| Motor oil                     | J q u g " e n c o r u " ( " 3 1 4 ö     |
| Duct tape                     | Portable winch/come-along               |
| 4 ø z 5 ø " r k g e g u " q h | Axe, hand" and full skzøp m " u c p f + |

If you decide to walk out, follow your tracks and stay on a road ô shortcuts can be fatal.

**Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows**

- Jan 16-17 Exeter, CA.** Tule Gem & Mineral Society  
Exeter Memorial Bldg., 420 N Kaweah (Hwy 65)  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4
- Feb 12-21 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 26-27 Northridge, CA.** Del Air Rockhounds Club  
United Methodist Church, 9650 Reseda Blvd. (at Superior St.)  
Hours: Fri. 3 p.m. -9:30 p.m. - Sat. 10-5
- Mar 6-7 Arcadia, CA.** Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.  
LA Co. Arboretum & Botanic Gardens, 301 Baldwin Ave.  
Hours: Sat. & Sun. 9-4:30
- Mar 6-7 Ventura, CA.** Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
Seaside Park, Ventura Co. Fairgrounds, 10 W. harbor Blvd.  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4
- Mar 20-21 Bakersfield, CA.** San Joaquin Valley Lapidary society  
Kern County Shrine Club  
700 south P. Street (P & Bell Terrace)  
Hours: 9-5 daily
- Mar 20-21 Escondido, CA.** Palomar Gem & Mineral Club  
Army National Guard Armory, 304 Park Avenue  
Hours: Sat. 9-5 Sun. 9-4
- May 15-16 Yucaipa, CA.** Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Yucaipa Community Center, 34900 Oak Glen Road  
Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4
- Jun 4-6 Woodland Hills, CA.** Rockatomics Gem and Mineral Society  
Pierce College, 6201 Winnetka Ave., Woodland Hills  
Hours: 9 5
- Jun 5-6 Glendora, CA.** Glendora Gems  
Goddard Middle School, 859 East Sierra Madre  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4

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



**MAR VISTA & WASHINGTON AVE.  WHITTIER COMMUNITY CENTER**

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

**Affiliations**



California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors



**Whittier Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.**  
Post Office Box 865, Whittier, California 90608-0865  
**Editor: Jay Valle, 1421 Latchford Ave.**  
**Hacienda Heights, CA 91745**

**Date: January 28, 2010 at 7:30 PM**  
**Location: Whittier Community Center**  
**(See page 4 & 15 for info & map)**