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WHITTIER



ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

General Meeting: February 25
“Basics of Professional Bead Stringing”



Yep. That's Chris Kyte checking out an Arizona gold mine and tailings.

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Last night was the first meeting of the year and the first of my term in office. As usual, the January meeting was lightly attended, with many members off to Quartzsite. Marcia gave a fine program on Quartzsite which was enjoyed by all, with many members joining in with tidbits of information.

At the board meeting, held earlier in the month, we discussed a memorial donation for Les Roy. We decided that the WGMS donation should go to the Jurupa Post of the VFW. As has been the practice for the last few years, memorial donations have been made by "passing the hat" at meetings. I have to cop to a modicum of disorganization since I did not have that item in my notes for the meeting. In view of my own forgetfulness and the fact that the January meeting is usually under attended, we will have to be a little late and take up the collection at the February meeting. If any of you would like to contribute and will not be able to attend the meeting, let Izzie or myself know what you would like to contribute and the club will cover your donation and catch you later.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all of the "unsung heroes" who continuously give their time and their money to make the survival of the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society possible. Among these are the Rice's, who have manned the kitchen at our show for the past several years, and run the door prize drawings at each of our meetings. Larry and Vivian have provided much of the food and prizes at their own expense, refusing compensation from the club. Art and Ginger Ragazzi, have provided storage facilities for WGMS show materials at no cost, which has eliminated a large budget line item expense. Joe and Marcia Goetz have provided storage of rock for the sales table, and provided a venue for a "Rockhound Yard Sale". Jay Valle spends a great deal of time and personal expense scouting potential field trip areas in order to make our field trips a pleasant and productive experience. I know that whenever one itemizes the accomplishments of others, someone will certainly be left out, so I wish to thank all of you, from the individual who takes the extra effort to drop off fliers when they attend another club's show, to the person who calls our Social Secretary to notify her that a member is under the weather. All of these things make WGMS strong. Thank you one and all!

Jerry

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, January 28, 2010

at 7:30 PM

Basics of Professional Bead Stringing

Ever wanted to bead string your favorite beads? This 36 minute DVD teaches high caliber stringing. It covers tips and time-saving techniques, necessary tools, calculating necklace length and choosing materials. The DVD also covers how to use French wire, knotting between pearls, finishing with bead tips, restringing and cleaning. For us that have bins of beads awaiting stringing, this is going to be a great DVD to watch.

See you there,

Marcia Goetz

Board Meeting

February 18 at 7:30 PM

Jerry & Kathy Turner's House

A Board Meeting has been scheduled at Jerry & Kathy's Whittier house on February 18. All members are welcome and invited to join in the discussion of Club business. Contact the Turner's for questions or directions.

Short 2010 Show Report

The planning for our annual show is off and running. The Show Committee members (the Board, actually!) selected the theme, "**Hot Rocks and Cool Beads**".

If you want to be a part of the planning and operations side of our yearly gem show, come to the Board Meeting scheduled for February 18.

Field Trip Schedule for 2010

This is the field trip list for the new year.

- Jan 21-24 QIA at Quartzite. No camp site because people have their own agenda.
- Feb 13-15 Chuckawalla Springs (agate, fluorite, bloodstone)
- Mar 12-14 Stoddard Wells tailgate (mostly self-guided)
- Mar 20-21 Lavic Siding/Southern Cady's (agate, jasper)
- Apr 24-25 Pala area to Henshaw lake on Saturday and possibly Blue Lady on Sunday (tourmaline, crystals, pegmatite minerals)
- May 29-31 Owens Valley (garnets, fossils, crystals, maybe petrified wood)
- Jun ?? Gold Panning day trip TBA (get wet, cool off)
- Jun ?? Big Bear TBA (cystals, agate, druzy, chance for summer cool off)
- Jul ?? Refugio for whale bone (petrified whale bone, agate, jasper)
- Aug 6-8 Nipomo Club Show (a group heads here every year)
- Sept ?? Jalama Beach (whale bone, fossils)
- Oct 23-24 Whittier Club Claim, Barstow (honey onyx, palm root, agate, etc)
- Nov 25-28 Afton Canyon or Rainbow Ledge
- Dec 4 Castle Butte day trip

Other possible trips or day trips TBA:

- Adalanto for florescent material (Princess Pat mine)
- Wrightwood
- Gem Hill
- Felix Mine

Joe Goetz, Field Trip Chairman

How to Field Trip

by Steve Duncan, Searcher's Gem & Mineral Society

Here, in no particular order, are some thoughts about field trips:

- Most trips are for the weekend, although there are some 1 day trips, and some longer ones.
- Most campsites are dry campsites (no facilities, no water etc).
- Campsites are usually accessible by any vehicle.
- Some people tent camp, some sleep in their pickups, some sleep in their RVs, and some sleep back in town at the nearest motel.
- Saturday night there is a potluck and campfire.
- Collecting trips may require high clearance or 4x4 vehicles. If you don't have one we will carpool you with someone.
- Your most used tools will be a rock pick and a spray bottle, this is enough for most trips.
- When this is not enough you may want sledges, gads, shovels etc.
- I have found that backpacks are the most convenient way to carry rocks, although you will see many other methods being used.
- I like shoes with stiff soles (as compared to soft soled running shoes), but the soft soles will work.
- Hats are good.
- Gloves are good.
- Glasses to protect your eyes from flying rock chips are good.
- Sun screen and water are good.
- Snacks when out collecting are good.
- You won't see many critters, and most want nothing more than to be left alone, be careful reaching into holes, under bushes etc.
- Many places have been picked over some, that just means that you need to work harder to find good stuff.
- Look under bushes, on the side of steep hills, etc. Wherever no one looked before.
- Not sure what you are looking for? Ask someone. We will all be glad to help you.
- It never hurts to follow the field trip leader's recommendations about how and where to collect.
- Realize that although finding rocks is certainly the goal, half the fun is in just being out there and spending some time with friends.

- Leave the collecting site cleaner than you found it.
- Fill in holes, if that is not possible slope the sides so that a critter that falls in can get out.
- Don't pick up or bother a tortoise, you will literally scare the pee out of them, and with the loss of that liquid they run the risk of dying of dehydration.
- Drink lots of water, and pace yourself. It is easy to become dehydrated yourself.
- Don't mess with a rattlesnake.
- Do show your rocks to others, at the trucks, at the campsite etc. We do like to look at rocks.
- Bring along friends. You do not have to be a Searcher to come on one of our trips.
- You will need to sign a waiver.
- Once you have found all these cool rocks there is the question of what to do with them. You can certainly have the coolest yard in the neighborhood (or at least the most rocky), but learning to work the rocks will increase your enjoyment of them.
- When you are out collecting in the desert you may notice the lack of something: noise. Pause for a moment and enjoy it. Take a second to renew your connection with Pachamama (the earth Mother).
- It is nice to find a great rock, but it is really nice to give that rock to a youngster or rockhounding newbie and watch their eyes light up.
- Spending time with your friends is good.
- Breaking out of your everyday routine, and getting out of the city is good.
- Finding rocks in the parking lot is good.
- Finding rocks in the road is good (literally "in" the road).
- Telling stories about the nice rocks you have found is acceptable, telling stories about the great rocks is encouraged.
- I find that when I arrive at a site I am not "seeing" the rocks well, but as some time goes by, and my mind slows down, and I find a few examples, all of a sudden it seems like I can see all the good ones.
- The driving can be exciting, collecting requires a different pace.
- Field trips are one of the great things the Searchers has to offer you.
- You really ought to take advantage of them, we have a lot of fun.

The Rock Slab News, 01/10

**Field Trip
Chuckwalla Springs
February 13-15, 2010**

The February Field Trip is a multi-day adventure to the Chuckwalla Springs area. We will be collecting agates (plume, moss, fortification, and banded), and Jaspers of many colors. Sagenite is found here too. There are also agate filed geodes and amygdales. Plan to arrive on Friday after work to camp at the Graham Pass/ Chuckwalla Springs junction - between Desert Center and Blythe.

Saturday: Caravan from camp to collecting sites near the Orocopia Mtns to a fluorspar mine and bloodstone collecting area, then continuing along the old Bradshaw Train and over to Graham Pass Road from the south. A brief stop at the Graham Pass summit to collect at the sagenite area then back to camp. If we are having too much fun we may have to edit some of the Saturday activities.

On Sunday we will spend the entire day in the Chuckwalla Springs area. This is an all day adventure. Some of us will return home on Sunday afternoon, others will do some further exploring and collecting Monday morning before returning and breaking camp.

The camp will be accessible by RVs and cars, although the last stretch of the road may need to be driven carefully. This will be a dry camp, so bring what you need. Don't forget sunscreen, hats and lots of water. It could be hot during the day and cold at night. Gas and simple supplies are available at Chiriaco Summit. Blythe has anything you could need, including motels (check the discount Desert Winds Motel). We will be having our traditional potluck on Saturday night, so bring something good to share. Telling lies around the campfire is also on the agenda. We will leave the camp every day at 08:30 AM. A high clearance vehicle will be necessary to reach the collecting sites, so we will carpool as required. You will want to take your lunch each day. Standard rock tools should suffice - rock pick, small shovel and spray bottle. You may also want a small sledge and gad to work the crevices.

Directions: Take I-10 east to Ford Dry Lake off ramp (exit 217) east of Desert Center. Turn right onto Chuckwalla Road (which parallels the freeway), and go back west for 2.9 miles to the junction with Graham Pass Road. This road has a sign (BLM vertical type). Turn right and go south for 5.9 miles to the junction with Chuckwalla Springs Road (there should be a sign here). Take the right fork and continue 5.1 miles to the campsite (camp 1 in the book). Chuckwalla road is paved but very torn up and rough. Graham Pass road is a good, graded,

dirt road. From the Chuckwalla Springs turn off to camp is washboardy. Look for club signs to help you find your way. These directions are mostly taken from the Desert Gem Trails book. Without traffic it is about 3 hours from Pasadena to the free-way turn off. Cell phone reception is possible and we will be on FRS radio frequency 14-0.

Please confirm your attendance in case there are changes. To confirm or for questions about the trip you can contact our trip leader, Joe Goetz (626) 914-5030, or Jay Valle of WGMS at (626) 934 9764.

Here are some links to geode sites in this same area. Within each link you can link up to other sites in this same area:

<http://www.desertusa.com/magO7/augO7/raineyswell.html> <http://www.desertusa.com/magO7/jan/blackag.html>

Article courtesy of Mark Nelson, PLS Newsletter, 02/10

CFMS Field Trip to Ant Hill February 27, 2010

WHERE: Ant Hill, Bakersfield, CA

WHEN: Saturday, February 27, at 9AM

MATERIAL: 15 million year old fossils of shark teeth, whale teeth, seal teeth, porpoise teeth, whale bone, etc from Middle Miocene Marine beds.

MEETING SPOT: 9AM NE of Bakersfield on the corner of Lake Ming Rd & Alfred Harrell Hwy at the Chevron station. Alfred Harrell Hwy can be reached by heading east from Bakersfield on Rte 178 or heading east on Rte 58 to Comanche Rd then turning north. Comanche Rd becomes Alfred Harrell at Rte 178. From here go about two miles to Lake Ming Rd and meeting spot. Here we will sign Liability Waivers, review specimen samples and receive digging instructions. From the meeting spot we will drive about another mile to parking area then hike about 3/4 mile on a uphill slope which gets steep the last 200 yards. The fossil trenches are near the summits of steep hills. Be advised: this is a known Valley Fever area and snakes and spiders inhabit these hills. Wear masks if you are concerned. To find fossils requires a combination of sifting debris or prying out chunks of the "wall". These hills will soon undergo housing development so collect while you can.

Weather and roads: Roads are paved until last 300 feet to parking area. Weather is unpredictable although this soil is more rain tolerant. Dress accordingly for temperatures and conditions.

TOOLS: hammer, chisel or screwdriver, 1/4" mesh sifting screen or plastic kitchen colander, shovel, bucket, zip lock bags, water spray bottle. hiking shoes and clothes to get dirty in.

How Old Would Grandpa Be???

Stay with this -- the answer is at the end. It will blow you away.

One evening a grandson was talking to his grandfather about current events. The grandson asked his grandfather what he thought about the shootings at schools, the computer age, and just things in general.

The Grandfather replied, 'Well, let me think a minute, I was born before:

- television
- penicillin
- polio shots
- frozen foods
- Xerox
- contact lenses
- Frisbees and
- the pill

There were no:

- credit cards
- laser beams or
- ball-point pens

Man had not invented:

- pantyhose
- air conditioners
- dishwashers
- clothes dryers
- and the clothes were hung out to dry in the fresh air and
- man hadn't yet walked on the moon

Your Grandmother and I got married first, and then lived together.

Every family had a father and a mother.

Until I was 25, I called every man older than me, 'Sir'.

And after I turned 25, I still called policemen and every man with a title, 'Sir.'

We were before gay-rights, computer- dating, dual careers, day-care centers, and group therapy.

Our lives were governed by the Ten Commandments, good judgment, and common sense.

We were taught to know the difference between right and wrong and to stand up and take responsibility for our actions.

Serving your country was a privilege; living in this country was a bigger privilege.

We thought fast food was what people ate during Lent.

Having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins.

Draft dodgers were people who closed their front doors when the evening breeze started.

Time-sharing meant time the family spent together in the evenings and weekends-not purchasing condominiums.

We never heard of FM radios, tape decks, CDs, electric typewriters, yogurt, or guys wearing earrings.

We listened to the Big Bands, Jack Benny, and the President's speeches on our radios. And I don't ever remember any kid blowing his brains out listening to Tommy Dorsey.

If you saw anything with 'Made in Japan' on it, it was junk.

The term 'making out' referred to how you did on your school exam.

Pizza Hut, McDonald's, and instant coffee were unheard of.

We had 5 & 10-cent stores where you could actually buy things for 5 and 10 cents. Ice-cream cones, phone calls, rides on a streetcar, and a Pepsi were all a nickel. And if you didn't want to splurge, you could spend your nickel on enough stamps to mail 1 letter and 2 postcards.

You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600. . But who could afford one? Too bad, because gas was 11 cents a gallon.

In my day:

- 'grass' was mowed,
- 'coke' was a cold drink,
- 'pot' was something your mother cooked in and
- 'rock music' was your grandmother's lullaby.
- 'Aids' were helpers in the Principal's office,
- 'chip' meant a piece of wood,
- 'hardware' was found in a hardware store and
- 'software' wasn't even a word.

And we were the last generation to actually believe that a lady needed a husband to have a baby.

No wonder people call us 'old and confused' and say there is a generation gap...

And how old do you think I am?

I bet you have this old man in mind...you are in for a shock!

Read on to see -- pretty scary if you think about it and pretty sad at the same time.

Are you ready ?????

This man would be only 59 years old.

Via SCRIBE Newsletter Oct-Dec 2009

**Diamonds -
Carbon by any other name!**

The largest diamond ever found was called the Culligan diamond and weighed in at 3,106 carats. (There are 5 carats to the gram, and hence it weighed in at 1.36 lb.) The largest diamond cut from the rough was the 530 carat Star of Africa and is now part of the British Crown Jewels.

This year at the historic Culligan Mine, a 507 nearly flawless stone was discovered. Also this year several other large stones were uncovered, including a 168 carat, a 58.5 carat, and a 53 carat stone.

Diamond is the hardest natural substance on the earth, actually it's an element. Diamond is pure carbon, and most of what exists on the earth's surface comes from the lower regions of the earth, originating in the mantle. (A little diamond may have arrived on earth with meteors.)

Diamond is the stable form of carbon in the mantle, and graphite would be rare in that environment. Whereas graphite is the stable form of carbon at the earth's surface with diamond being more rare.

In order for the diamond in the mantle to reach the earth's surface it had to take a super-sonic ride in a huge volcanic pipe. The diamond is incorporated in the kimberlite (the pipe's composition is known as kimberlite) and is carried to the surface with other mantle minerals.

The very high speed is necessary for the diamond to make the transition from the ultra high pressure and high temperature environment in the mantle to the low temperature and pressure system found at the crust. If it was carried slowly it would actually burn up during the trip.

The largest supply of diamond as traditionally come from South Africa, but the newest and potentially even larger supply is now coming from Canada, the newest diamond frontier.

Via Gold rush Ledger Jan-Feb '10

Recommended Basic First Aid Kit

A general first aid kit should contain the following:

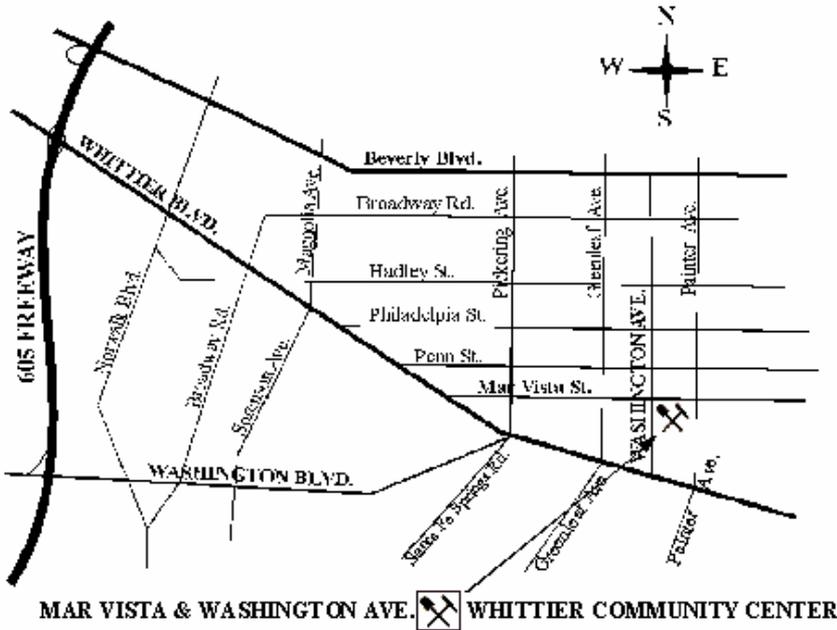
- Ace bandage 2" and 4"
- Aspirin a reasonable quantity
- Ice bag chemical type
- Adhesive compresses (band-aids) . assortment of sizes
- Ammonia inhalant ampoules several
- Antiseptic..... Merthiolate, Metaphen (cinder suds), or shaving cream
- Baking soda small container or 1/2 tsp. env.
- Blanket in vehicle or space blanket
- Cotton (sterile) 1/2 oz.
- Quarters four
- Flashlights with extra batteries
- Flares several taped to kit or reflectors
- Vaseline small tube
- Salt small container or 1/2 tsp. env.
- Sterile compresses 2", 3" and 4" gauze pads
- Sterile bandages 2", 3" and 4" widths (may include 1" for digits)
- Tape adhesive, 1/2"
- Emergency Telephone Numbers
- Specialized items
- First aid manual
- Tape scissors
- Antihistamine & sting killer

Submitted by Joe & Marcia Goetz

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- 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 12-14 Victorville, CA.** Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Stoddard Wells Tailgate, Bell Mountain/Stoddard Well exit I-15
Hours: 8-5 daily
- Mar 13-14 San Marino, CA.** Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Drive
Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5
- 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

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



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(See page 4 & 15 for info & map)