

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

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General Meeting: April 22



Mojave Blossoms

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

I can't believe that it is April already! It seems like just last week that I was putting the last of the Christmas decorations away, and no, the living room lighting doesn't count. We're into the second quarter of the year and the Tax Man commeth as he does every April 15th. Why does it always seem like there is plenty of time to get around to doing the taxes and then suddenly there's April 15th staring you right in the face. Enough of this trivial stuff like keeping the US Treasury solvent, we have a club to run.

At our last general meeting Dottie Jacobs displayed some material that was collected during the last field trip to Lavic Siding. This was pretty nice material. I'm sorry that I wasn't able to make that trip. Robert Burson from the Searchers dropped by to leave some flyers for their show (May 1st & 2nd, 2010). He mentioned that their club had recently collected in the Cady Mountains. Apparently the rains have exposed a lot of materials, and he left us salivating at the stories of their finds. I wonder if he is a fisherman as well as a rockhound?

As I told you last month we have a theme for our show "**Hot Rocks and Cool Beads**". We wanted to include the bead aspect in our show theme, hopefully to broaden our draw from the very large beading community. Both beaders and lapidaries are jewelry makers. This will be a bit different for us, since we tend to focus upon collecting and lapidary. Try to give some thought to how you can incorporate the "Cool Beads" into your display cases. The show seems like a long way off but before you know it summer will be over, and just like April 15th, October 17th will upon us.

Jerry

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, January 28, 2010

at 7:30 PM

**"The Journey of Gems"
(Part II)**

The program for this month is the second of the DVD on "The Journey of Gems". As you may remember the first part was on how different methods were used to mine gems around the world. It spanned everything from very advanced methods of separating diamonds from the valueless waste to very primitive hand tool removal deep underground.

Well, we stopped at the chapter of grading gems and so that is where we'll start. It will give us some insight on how to grade gems and therefore help us be better jewelry buyers. I can hardly wait!

See you at the meeting!

Marcia Goetz

Seen on a Fortune Cookie

Life is not a problem to be solved but rather a mystery to be lived.

Board Meeting

April 15 at 7:30 PM

Jerry & Kathy Turner's House

The April Board Meeting has been scheduled at Jerry & Kathy's Whittier house for the 15th. All members are welcome and encouraged to join in the discussion of Club business. Contact the Turner's for questions or directions.

Care of your stones - Part 1

Though diamonds are hard, they are not indestructible. Diamonds can split along cleavage planes when used roughly. Here is a brief rundown on stone preservation.

Crystals

Stones cut from crystals (tourmaline, garnet, ruby, sapphire, diamond) are the most durable. However, some crystals have sensitive cleavage planes as do diamonds, kunzite, tanzanite, and topaz. Inclusions make emeralds vulnerable to breakage. Emeralds have more inclusions than average, that's what gives them their beautiful color. Pink and red tourmalines also have many inclusions.

Heat and ultraviolet light can harm some crystals such as kunzite and amethyst which fade under long exposure to sunlight or other ultraviolet sources. Salt water is also detrimental to crystals.

Most crystalline gems benefit from a cleaning in a commercial jewelry cleaner on a weekly basis. Not all crystals should be cleaned in a home ultrasonic unit. Zapping dirt with sound waves can harm emeralds, peridot, tanzanites and zircons.

Rock Conglomerates

These gems are composed of several different minerals and are far less durable than crystals. Turquoise, malachite, lapis lazuli and rhodonite are all chalky and fracture easily. Do not clean these gems with commercial chemical cleaners or in an ultrasonic unit. Chemicals eat at the loosely compacted layers and the ultrasonic cleaner shakes them apart. Do clean with mild, soapy water. Keep silver cleaner off the stones.

To be continued next month

*Shelly Ruehn Maplewood News, date unknown
Via Gems of the Foothills 3/95; edited by the Breccia via Breccia
04/99*

**Lavic Jasper Trip
March 20th & 21st, 2010**

Well, Marcia and I arrived Friday afternoon to the hotel we stayed at. We were unable to get the trailer ready in time for this trip. So we relaxed and later had dinner at Peggy Sue's. Early the next morning we went to Penny's cafe which is right next to the hotel and had breakfast. We also found out they had a great sack lunch deal, which included two sandwiches, a piece of fruit, a bag of chips and some cookies. So we got two of them to take along.

We left the hotel and got to camp about 8:00 am. We talked with Jay, Rex, Dave, Paul, Vern and Sylvia and a couple of out of state rockhounds Ann and Bob while we were waiting for day trippers to arrive. We did do some collecting right there in the camp area. We discussed what the itinerary was for the day. About 8:45 am Dotty and her friend arrived and we were off like a herd of turtles. We did leave a note taped to Vern and Sylvia's 5th wheel that we would be back to camp at lunch time for anyone that arrived after we had left.

First stop was the big wash south of the tracks. Everyone found something of interest, even Rex's kids and his wife. After about 1 hour we headed over to the flats and more often than not someone found a piece of the flower garden jasp-agate. By the time we got back to camp it was lunchtime (time flies when you're having fun).

During lunch some friend's of Rex drove into camp in a minivan and had lunch. Soon we were discussing whether the minivan would be able to get to the afternoon locations. We figured that it would, so soon we packed up and headed out. Oh, by the way, those lunches we got, well, they were great!

While we were heading out to the Thulite area we stopped in a location we could pick up chalcedony roses. Now, Marcia wasn't real hot on going to the Thulite, however since she was riding shot-gun, she was a willing partner. We stopped at the chalcedony rose area and there were kids everywhere, all excited about picking up roses - all we had to do was to show them and off they went with moms in tow. And did they did find roses - and some of the prettiest ones I have seen. Before long we were moving again and a relatively short trip and we were there.

Dave had a piece to show the kids what thulite looks like and where to go look for it. Marcia went over to one of the spots as well, and, when she saw the pretty pink color in the stone my rock bag got heavy in a hurry. It seems that at this location the thulite can be all pink or more pink than green on the western side and all green or more green than pink on the eastern side of the ridge. I fol-

lowed Jay over to the eastern side after I had dumped off my bag. By the time I got there Jay was already down in a hole that exposed the seam of thulite. Next thing you know Jay had pried off a fairly large piece and looked at me and asked me if I wanted it. Now I not going to turn down a pretty stone especially if someone else already has it broken free! It now resides in our garden.

The last place we went on Saturday was to an old mining site. Now we have been there many times before over the years and a mine head frame was clearly seen even from camp. Well we were in Ludlow and I was convinced to take the frontage road until we found the right road to take. We found a road and went up it. Well I really lived up to my nickname "Wrong Way", because we were at the right location only you couldn't easily see it, so I turned right which as it turned was wrong. We almost drove back to Ludlow before I turned us around. When we went back low and behold there was the trench and we were able to drive up to the top of the mine area. Before you knew it the kids were here and there and everywhere. I found some clear agate and some black agate and a few odd pieces of this and that. Dotty found a nice piece of palm root with eyes all over it.

A child's imagination is a great thing, as one of the youngest boys was observed carrying a couple of rocks in each hand and was heard saying he had to protect his pirate booty. Needless to say everyone had a good time, especially the kids, many on their first rock hunt. The shadows were getting long and all too soon it was time to go back to camp.

We delivered our charges to camp and Marcia and I were tired so we decided to head for the hotel. Jay, Dave and the couple from the out of state club were not with us at the mine. They went to check out possible locations for the Sunday collecting. So what happened on Sunday? You'll just have to ask Jay.

Probably going the wrong way somewhere...

*Joe Goetz
Fieldtrip Chairman*

Jay's (brief) Sunday Report

On Sunday, we collected at several of Mary Francis Strong's Desert Gem Trails locations for the Southern Cadys, including one which was shown to us by our neighbors from the Needles Club, Bob & Ann Ferguson. It was a fine day and rock was collected. Need I say more.

Jay

**Tourmaline Fieldtrip
April 24 & 25, 2010**

How would like to find a tourmaline, like miners have done in the past and are even doing now? Only you are doing it for fun. On this trip you can! You can do it at Lake Henshaw and (possibly) at the Blue Lady Mine. At Lake Henshaw the owners of the Himalaya Mine load a dump truck from the old mine tailings and bring them down, then you get to go through the tailings and you get to keep anything you find. Of course there is more than just tourmaline to collect, there is the possibility of collecting quartz crystals, lepidolite, topaz, morganite and other pegmatite minerals.

The Himalaya Mine digging site is at 26439 Highway 76, Santa Ysabel, Ca. This is a fee dig and the cost is \$75 per adult, 12 - 15 year old 1/2 price, under 12 years old is free (forget trying to use a student ID, they're too smart for that). Special rates: Seniors 65 years and older and military rate is \$60. Group rates: 5+ is \$70, 10+ is \$55 and 20+ is \$50 per person. What you need to bring: shoes that can get muddy, a hat (broad brim works best in the sunshine), gloves, plastic baggy to put you tourmalines in, old toothbrush for scrubbing tourmalines, lunch and plenty of drinking water. They will provide all tools for digging at no extra charge.

This is an easy one day fieldtrip or for those who choose to make it an overnighter of it, lodging (ph: 760-782-3487) and camping is available. There are tent camping sites as well as R/V sites. One R/V and one tow vehicle \$25.00 per day, 4 persons (additional persons \$1.00 each) phone: 760-782-3501. Other lodging is available in Julian, Fallbrook and Warner Springs Ranch. Also there are Casinos in the area, for those that are interested.

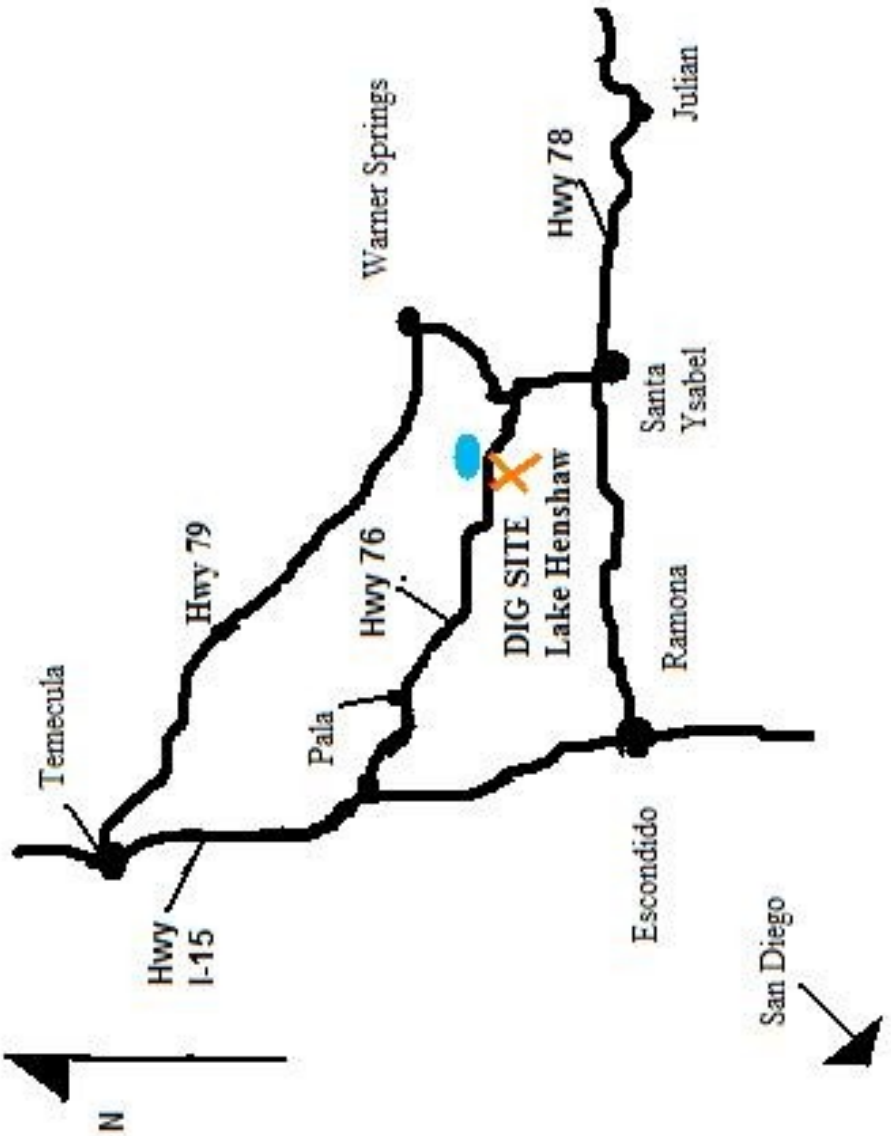
The directions: Take the 210, 10 or 60 freeways east to I-15 south toward San Diego. About 10 miles south of Temecula, take CA-76 east toward Pala. Continue 24 miles and look for the sign for the diggings. If you miss it, go to the Lake Henshaw Office and ask them for directions. You should not have to pay a fee to enter if you are just going to the digging site.

On Sunday at the Blue Lady Mine if it checks out we can go and collect. What is found is blue tourmaline aka indicolite. Of course bring lunch and drinking water, as well as all the usual fieldtrip tools and clothes. At the Blue Lady at this time of the year we'll have to be careful of snakes that inhabit the area. With a little care, being able to wrest out tourmalines from the ground is a unique experience.

Hope to see you there!

Somewhere in California going the wrong way.....

Joe Goetz



Our Very Own Fault

Biggest and most famous of all the fractures between the independently moving North American and Pacific plates, that's our very own San Andreas. On the surface it may run a mile wide, and it extends more than 25 miles deep into the crust of the Earth. We know that earthquakes accompany movement on the fault, or at least release strain, but where precisely do the quakes begin? This question plagues scientists. They are studying the problem at the San Andreas Fault Observatory at depth, a project drilling deep into our famous fault. The purpose of the project is not so much to learn how to predict earthquakes, as to see if they are predictable. The drilling site is near Parkfield where the fault behaves oddly. Formed by the Pacific and North American tectonic plates grinding together, the fault curves some 800 miles up western California, the plates locked and straining against each other. The strain is released in irregular but shattering quakes. At Parkfield the fault changes; the section just north of Parkfield creeps along at about 1.3 inches a year. The five-acre drill site is on the transition between the locked section and the creeping section.

This area cranks out magnitude 2 quakes, too small to feel on the surface, with metronomic regularity every couple of years. They produce identical patterns which, scientists feel, offer the team a chance to build a three-dimensional map of a fault in action. Information gleaned from the test hole, drilled in 2002, down 1.4 miles, has enabled the crew to begin the main hole in 2004. The main hole will drop vertically for the first mile and then to bend and angle to the fault. They hope to soon have a football-sized section of the fault under observation using fiber optic cable. They can watch essentially the same earthquake over and over for the next 20 years. It is hoped that the earthquakes give off some warning signal, in which case underground monitoring stations could be saving lives one day. Up to the present day, earthquakes have been context-free. Unlike hurricanes with their rising winds or floods with their rising waters, there is no measurable preamble to an earthquake. Placing instruments underground, right where the plates start slipping, will provide crucial information about the nucleation zone where the earthquakes are born.

Ref. Discover 3/05 via Petrograph, 3/05 via Breccia 3/08 via Delvings 4/10

Will California Eventually Fall Off into the Ocean?

The USGS says: “No”. The San Andreas Fault System, which crosses California from the Salton Sea in the south to Cape Mendocino in the north, is the boundary between the Pacific Plate and North American Plate. The Pacific Plate is moving northwest with respect to the North American Plate at approximately 46 to 55 millimeters per year (the rate at which your fingernails grow). The strike-slip earthquakes on the San Andreas Fault are a result of this plate motion. The plates are moving horizontally past one another, so California is not going to fall into the ocean. However, Los Angeles and San Francisco will one day be adjacent to one another (in about 15 million years)!

*From <http://earthquakes.usgs.gov/learning/facts.php>
via The Pegmatite, 5/06 via Breccia 3/08 via Delvings 4/10*

Definitions...

- **ADULT:** A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.
- **BEAUTY PARLOR:** A place where women curl up and dye.
- **CANNIBAL:** Someone who is fed up with people.
- **CHICKENS:** The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.
- **COMMITTEE:** A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.
- **DUST:** Mud with the juice squeezed out.
- **EGOTIST:** Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.
- **HANDKERCHIEF:** Cold Storage.
- **INFLATION:** Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.
- **MOSQUITO:** An insect that makes you like flies better.
- **RAISIN:** Grape with a sunburn.
- **SECRET:** Something you tell to one person at a time.
- **SKELETON:** A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.
- **TOOTHACHE:** The pain that drives you to extraction.
- **TOMORROW:** One of the greatest labor saving devices of today.
- **YAWN:** An honest opinion openly expressed.
- **WRINKLES:** Something other people have, similar to my character lines.

Via John Martin, ALAA Webmaster

**Flat Lapping -
Making Rocks Shiny the Old-Fashioned Way**

The process of flat lapping is so simple that anyone can do it even if you don't have a flat lapping machine. So go to it and polish the bookends you want or that clock face.

Just get a piece of aluminum about 12 to 14 inches square (larger for larger pieces). Place it on a flat surface. Take a teaspoon of 120 grit (or even 90 grit if you have saw marks on your slab) Mix your grit with Vaseline or water. (I like Vaseline because it holds the grit better, doesn't dry out, and doesn't splash.

Now take your slab to be polished and dop a piece of wood to it so that you have a handle and can hold it down on the grit. Be sure that your grit is always under the slab. Don't run it over dry aluminum. Move the slab in any pattern you wish, adding grit as you feel necessary.

Keep at it until all the saw marks are well gone. Wash your stone and aluminum between grades of grit using progressively finer grits as you go. The slab should now be ready for polishing.

To polish, use a piece of leather about 12x12 inches. Stick it to a board and keep it for polishing only. Don't tack it down because the tack heads can scratch. Put your favorite polishing mix all over the leather and start polishing your stone. This is the oldest way to polish slabs and it still works well, if slowly.

In answer to the statement that it will take a long time; a question, "What else would you be doing?"

Via the Rock Pick and Chisel 11/05, via Ozark Earth Science News, 12/03, via Quarry Quips 11/03, via Breccia 3/06

Hints n' Such

Have you polished a fine dark cab only to find white specks of oxide in the cab after spending a lot of time on it? Dark materials such as black agate, petrified wood and dark jasper can be cleaned by using black jeweler's rouge and muslin buff. The buff will remove most of the white compound and the rouge will render it almost invisible.

Source: Quarry Quips, 04/05, via T-Town Rockhound, 12/05

**Feather River Lapidary and Mineral Society
Second Annual Rock Tumbling Contest**

Announcing the Second Annual Rock Tumbling Championship! This contest is open to everyone, any age, worldwide, who enjoys tumbling rocks and wants a shot at being the best in the world.

- Send in a completed application (see below) with a \$40.00 entry fee postmarked no later than May 1, 2010.
- By May 14th, we will ship about four pounds of Royal Nevada Jasper tumbling rough from a private mine in Nevada.
- You will have over three months to tumble the rock in a rotary or vibratory tumbler and mail a half-pound (1/2 lb) of your best pieces back to us for judging. The entries must be received by us no later than September 25, 2010.
- Once your entry is received, it will be assigned a number and your name will be known only to the contest coordinator.
- Steve Hart, author of the book Modern Rock Tumbling, has agreed to evaluate each entry on the basis of smoothness, shape, shine and overall appeal. He will select the top five entries to be displayed at the FRLMS Rock and Gem Show held in Oroville, California the first week-end of October.
- Everyone attending the Rock and Gem show has a chance to cast a ballot and the top three winners will be determined by popular vote. The results will be announced at the end of the show.

This year's prizes are:

1st Place: \$250.00 + Perpetual Trophy Inscription + Bragging Rights
2nd Place: \$100
3rd Place: \$50

Every tumbler is encouraged to try. You could be a winner. (Note to rock clubs: Consider sponsoring one of your members. This is especially an exciting opportunity for your club's junior members.)

Go to <http://www.oroverture.rocks.com> and follow the links to open a word document of this information containing an application form. Print the document, fill out the application form and mail the form with your check or money order to FRLMS Contest Headquarters, P.O. Box 2645, Oroville CA 95965

If you have any questions concerning the contest, email contest@oroverture.rocks.com for more information.

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

Apr 9-11 Vista, CA. San Diego County Council
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Avenue
Hours: 9-5 daily

Apr 10-11 Lancaster, CA. Antelope Gem & Mineral Society
Lancaster High School, 44701 - 32nd Street West
Hours: 9-5 daily

Apr 24-25 Newbury Park, CA. Conejo Gem & Mineral Club Show
Borchard Park Community Center, 190 Reno Rd. & borchard Rd.
Hours: Sat. 9-5 - Sun. 10-4:30

Apr 30 – Bishop, CA. Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society
May 1-2 Tri-County Fairgrounds (Robinson Bldg.)
Corner of Sierra St. & Fair Drive
Hours: Fri. 6-9, Sat. 9:40-4, Sun. 10-3

May 1-2 Anaheim, CA. Searchers Gem and Mineral Society
Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 West Crescent Ave.
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4:30

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 daily

Jun 5-6 Glendora, CA. Glendora Gems
Goddard Middle School, 859 East Sierra Madre
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4

Jun 18-20 La Habra, CA. AFMS/CFMS Show and Convention
Hosted by North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society
So. CA University of Health Sciences Campus
16200 E. Amber Valley Rd., Whittier CA
Hours: 10-5 daily

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



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(See page 4 & 15 for info & map)