

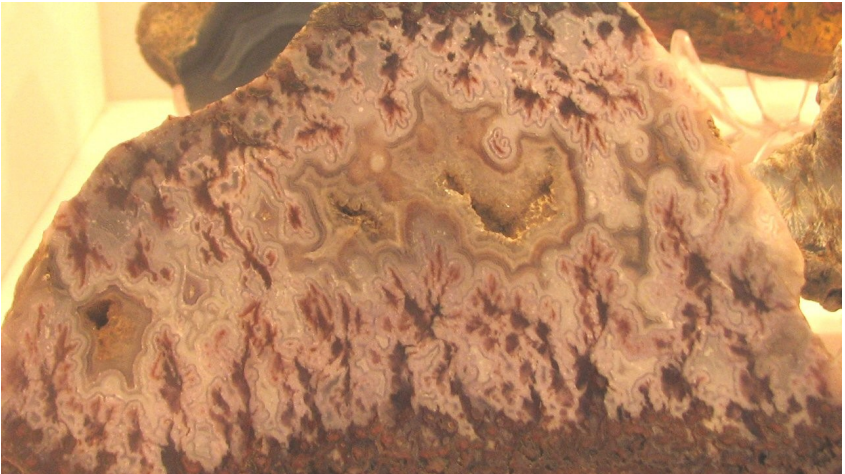
WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

M
A
Y

2
0
1
0

General Meeting: May 27



Slice of Wiley's Well Paisley Agate
From the collection of Robert Burson

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

April has passed and we are well into spring. Mount Baldy still has some snow on the peak, but the hot weather is just around the corner. Many of the clubs have their shows in the spring. Pasadena, Long Beach, Stoddard Wells, San Diego and Searchers have all held their 2010 shows. In my case it seems that I have done more show hopping than field tripping. North Orange County is soon to host a "Really Big Show", the 2010 AFMS show. It is traditional for neighboring clubs to turn out and support a club which undertakes hosting a major show like AFMS or CFMS. If any of you would like to volunteer to help, see Izzie Burns, I'm sure she will be glad to see that you have a job. You also get into the show free for volunteering.

And don't forget that we have a show coming up in October. Our theme "Hot Rocks and Cool Beads" begs for the blending of beading and lapidary. I would love to see some handcrafted beads made from the rocks that we all hold dear. At the Searchers show I was talking to Ken Wendell. He was saying that his nieces liked larger jewelry. Now I am anything but a fashionista, in fact, when I am in a department store with my wonderful wife*, and we drift into the clothing section, my eyes glaze over and I appear catatonic, but I have noticed that women are wearing larger jewelry. Perhaps this opens the door to that blending of lapidary and beading. Think about it! October will be upon us before you know it, right after summer with vacations and other distractions. Get your thoughts together and be prepared. **Think Hot Rocks and Cool Beads.....Cool Beads.....Cool Beads.**

Jerry

** Guys, never pass up the opportunity to tell your wife how really wonderful she is!*

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, May 27, 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". 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

2010 Show Update Information

Scheduled Dates: October 16 & 17, 2010

Place: Whittier Community Center

Theme: "Hot Rocks and Cool Beads"

After discussions with the City of Whittier, we will be back at the Community Center for our 2010 Show. Dealer invites have been sent out and we have commitments from 4 of them and money from 2. We also plan to work on display cases this summer. I will keep you in the loop.

JValle

SOME “PUN” ISHMENT

King Ozymandias of Assyria was running low on cash after years of war with the Hittites. His last great possession was the Star of the Euphrates, the most valuable diamond in the ancient world. Desperate, he went to Croesus, the pawnbroker, to ask for a loan.

Croesus said, "I'll give you 100,000 dinars for it".

"But I paid a million dinars for it," the King protested. "Don't you know who I am? I am the king!"

Croesus replied, "When you wish to pawn a Star, makes no difference who you are."

(From Delvings , VIA Palomar Gem 3/10)

Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him (ahem) a super callused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.

(Via The AFMS Newsletter 9/03)

A three-legged dog walks into a saloon in the Old West. He slides up to the bar and announces; "I'm looking for the man who shot my paw."

And finally, there was the person who sent ten different puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did.

(Via The AFMS Newsletter 9/03)

From CHIPS 'N SPLINTERS 5/10

**Emma Florence “Flo” Piechota
December 18, 1934 to April 13, 2010**

It is with sadness that we report that Flo Piechota, mother of Kathy Valle had a massive stroke on March 25 and passed away peacefully on April 13. She was 75 years old and had been a member of the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society for 37 years, almost half her life.



Flo was born in Washington, DC in December 18, 1934. Apparently she was a really cute kid because in March 1938 she won a baby picture contest and her photo appeared with the other winners in "National Parent-Teacher" magazine. The photo shows her "darning a sock" and the caption reads, "They do pucker, don't they?" She was just 3 years 4 months old and already a star.

Graduating from Northwestern High School, Maryland in 1953, Flo applied for and was offered a job with FBI. She turned it down though when she found that she would have to ride the bus home at night from downtown DC, not a real safe proposition even in those days. Instead she went to work for National Geographic. Flo became active with the USO in Washington, DC as a junior hostess entertaining troops on leave until she was married. Both her mother and grandmother decided to join her at the USO as well, making it something of a family affair. A photograph of the three of them together was published in the Winter 1953-1954 edition of "USO News Magazine" and in a Washington DC newspaper. Flo loved to dance and was partnered with a professional dancer. They did exposition dancing at many USO events during this time. The story is told that a US Marine

got a little too friendly at one of the USO sponsored dances and she slapped him, knocking him out cold.

Flo and her future husband Ed Piechota met at a Y M C A Democrat-Republican debate. Flo was a Republican and Ed was a Democrat. They must have really hit it off because they became engaged two weeks later and were married six months after that at the Washington Grove Methodist Church in Washington Grove, Maryland on April 28, 1957. Kathy came along in 1962 and the family moved to Whittier when she was 2 years old. When Kathy entered school, Flo became active on the local PTA and continued until Kathy was through high school. In 1973, the Piechota's visited a local gem show, found an interest and joined the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society. They participated in many years of field trips, gem shows and various other club activities.



Everyone collects something and Flo collected mice. She was proud of her collection of “mousy” things and they were prominently displayed around her room. She also had three dollhouses, one of which was handcrafted by her father and handed down to her when he died (reputedly it is haunted).

Flo kept in contact with her family and friends over the years of her life by way of letters and phone calls (she never caught on to the computer). She was still exchanging Christmas cards with friends from high school, though the list has been getting shorter over the last few years as people passed on. Flo had a warm and friendly, outgoing personality. She will be missed.

Memorial Day Weekend Field Trip

One of our most popular weekend field trips is to the beautiful Owens Valley. This trip will take advantage of Memorial Day Holiday weekend from **May 29-31**.

As your field trip leader, I promise a fun field trip for the individual or family - including a return to the great crystal-collecting site at Crystal Ridge. We will also collect ammonite fossil casts in Union Wash. Paul Wendling has volunteered to demonstrate how to separate the fossils from the matrix. The field trip team and I are “fielding” the options of a visit The Haystack and collect epidote and beryl specimens, collecting apache tears, exploring the Tungsten Hills where good garnet specimens may be collected. One tantalizing possibility is to a little-known petrified wood collecting site. There are many collecting places to choose and it should be a great trip.

The campsite is the Glacier View Campground Diaz Lake, located one-half mile north of Big Pine, CA on Highway 395. The campground includes showers, 39 campsites - 9 with water and electrical hook-ups are available. Camping spaces are available for tents and larger RV's. No dump station available. Rates for dry camping is \$12.00 per night and \$17 per night for a space with hook-ups. They do not accept reservations, so folks are advised to arrive as early as possible - even consider coming in on Thursday night.

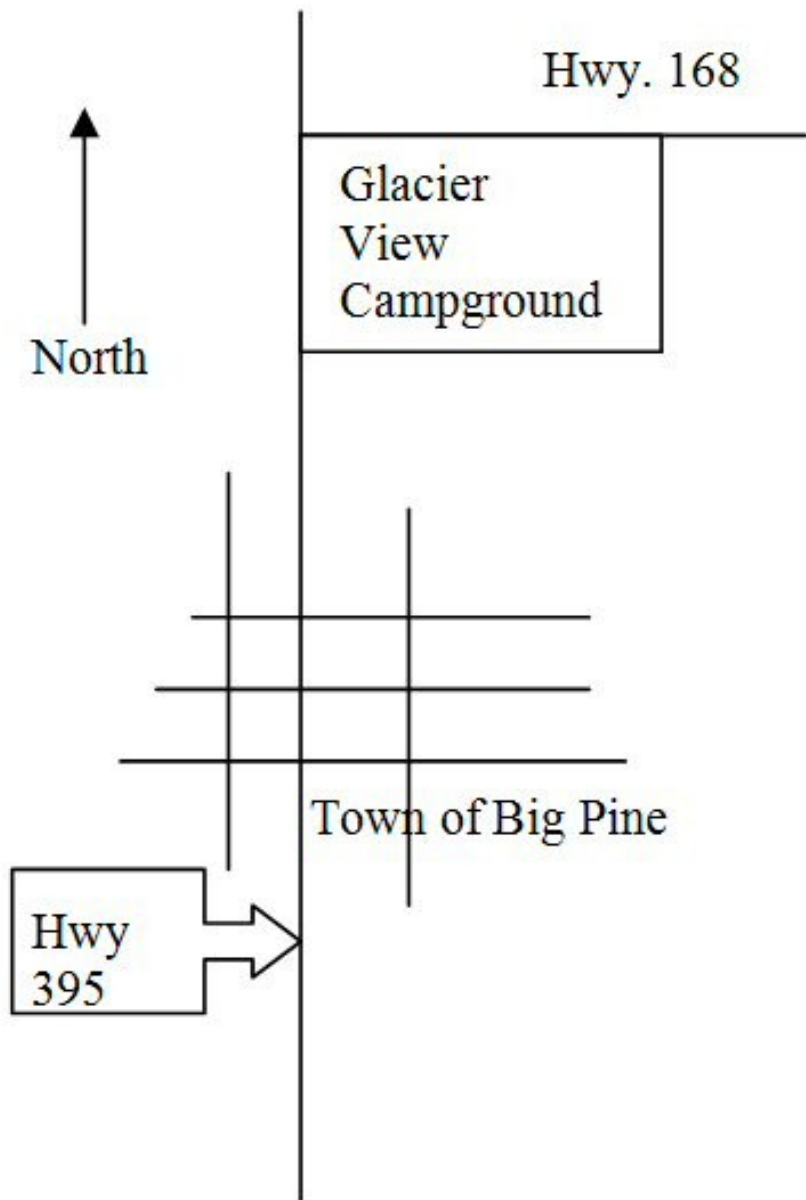
If you are inclined to motel camp you had better make a reservation ASAP. This weekend is Bishop Mule Days and motels fill up quickly. As the Bishop motels fill the overflow will stay in Big Pine or even Independence. As of April 25th there were a few available at the Starlight, Big Pine and Bristlecone Manor Motels in Big Pine and at Ray's Den Motel 26 miles south in Independence (\$85 inc tax and breakfast). Web Sites with motel listings are: <http://local.yahoo.com/CA/Big+Pine/Travel+Lodging/Hotels+Lodging/Hotels+Motels> for Big Pine motels, and <http://www.independence-ca.com/lodging> for motels in Independence. Bishop is only 15 miles north and they have a lot of motels, subject to availability.

The plan is for all of us to meet Saturday morning (May 29) at 8:30am at the entrance to the Glacier View Campground. Hope to see you there!

Directions: Take I-15 or CA 14 north from the L.A. Basin to U.S. 395 north. Continue along this historic route until you get to Big Pine. Watch for the campground on your left as you pass Big Pine.

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

Joe Goetz



Tourmaline Adventure April 24th & 25th, 2010

Marcia and I got away later than I had hoped, but the traffic was light and we got to the Henshaw campground/resort by 9:20 A.M. We were able to check in, so we had a place to sleep Saturday night. We asked and were given directions to the "Gem Dig" area. We waited at the gate and I was wondering where everybody was. A guest show up by the name of John Perrier. The Dig manager showed up, opened the gate and we parked in the parking area. Then suddenly more familiar rockhound faces showed up. Now let's see if I can remember...there was Mark & Linda Nelson, Caroline Duncan & Charlotte Bane, Paul, Julie and baby Sienna Wendling, Mark Nelson's sister and nephew, Gregory Jittlov and family.

Once all of our group arrived time seemed to go faster and since we had twelve adults we got the discount. Soon we were digging and sifting the tailings. Almost immediately you heard shouts about what was being found. Time past and the pile got smaller and more tourmaline and quartz crystal were being found. The weather was great sunny and clear, not too hot and there was a breeze that kept the area cool.

Other people arrived, would stay a couple of hours and then were gone. And we were still there. Becky, the mine rep was surprised at our tenacity to hang in there and continue to work the dirt pile. There lots of green, some pink and watermelon tourmaline found. They had unscreened material for sale at \$100 a bag (about a five gallon bucket size). Paul bought two bags and what he was pulling out was very encouraging.

When asked about the Blue Lady, I said I had been there once and I had studied the maps, so I thought we'd have a 50/50 chance of actually finding it. I also said the tourmaline was typically small, but there is plenty of other things to collect, some very interesting mineral specimens. And the fact that the tourmaline was blue is why it's called the Blue Lady, not that lady companion held her breath until she turned blue!

Sunday morning started with fog and the sound of wild turkeys somewhere in the woods. We did actually see some of the wild turkeys and they weren't friends or a couple of bottles on a shelf. Marcia and I packed and went to breakfast. With that we started the line up and soon we were all there and soon we were off like a herd of turtles. The fog was still in the air and less than a mile down the road all was clear. When we turned onto highway 79 and head-

ed north I looked back and the fog was still hanging over the campground (made you think of a Stephen King mystery).

Before long we were going through the town of Warner Springs, then Oak Grove and finally we got to Chihuahua Road. There were familiar cars on the side of the road waiting. Marcia pulled over and Chris and Marlene Kyte, Davis Coghill, Ed Imlay and Jim Gerbach pulled in behind us and we headed out. The countryside in the area was really beautiful and changing as we got closer to Lost valley Road. Oaks gave way to chaparral and before you knew it we were at the turn off for Lost Valley.

So across the road we all went, the dirt road evidentially had been bladed since Dave Kelty had been there earlier in the week. So much for the blue feldspar that Dave told me about eroding out of the road. The road went up and down and around in such a short distance and just around the bend, there it was up the mountain, the Blue Lady. Now just to find the access road. It was further over then I remembered, but we found it. The access road though rutted and really uneven was still passable and soon we were all parked.

I gathered everyone to give a little safety talk about the dangers that they had to be aware of in this area; be aware of the rattlesnakes that were around and to stay out of the tunnels they would find as they are unstable. I also pointed out where they might find the blue tourmaline.

So as people started up the hill I set up some facilities should nature call. Once that was done up the hill I went. Before long I was at the main tunnel of the mine. I worked my way to a spot I had been before. I found at least two pencil lead thick pieces and a fair amount of maybes. I did a little exploring and found samples of quartz/feldspar that had a crack that evidentially was large enough for the hot water with tourmaline in solution to pass thru on its way to a pocket and feed the growing tourmaline. What was still in the crack then froze and solidified without forming any real crystals and it is very blue in color.

Everyone had a good time exploring and soon as the day wore on we began to loose people. Chris helped Marcia and me fold up the port-a-potty shelter, how we finally got it folded I'm not sure. Then we were on our way home, thus ending another great trip.

Going somewhere in California the wrong way

Joe Goetz

TALE OF A TRILOBITE

by Gary Grayson

Imagine a sunny day 500 million years ago on the continental shelf off Laurentia. The continent that would ultimately become North America was called Laurentia back in Cambrian times. So you are nestling down in the soft sand occasionally popping up to see all your friends and family happily feeding.

Littering the shelf as usual are many shed exoskeletons from trilobites of various sizes. Actually, your current skeleton is starting to feel a little snug and you are planning on shedding it this summer. All of the other ocean creatures like sponges, snails, and jellyfish are also there happily enjoying this beautiful underwater Cambrian day.



Then...the silt begins to churn up making the water cloudy and the ground begins to shake. You cannot see. Before you can react sand and rock pour down over you burying you and your other trilobite friends. You try to wiggle to get out, like that one time when you barely escaped a similar underwater landslide, but this time you are trapped. You cannot move enough to feed yourself and you eventually die amongst the others.

So you lay there for millions of years as more sediment piles on top of you, completely squashing your body into a flattened representation of its former self. All of your soft tissue eventually decays into the silt and over time the silt turns to sedimentary shale rock. Your skeleton eventually loses all of its organic matter being replaced by minerals leached out of the surrounding rock. The continent of Laurentia moves about with sections submerging and resurfacing several times. Over time your final shale bed gets uplifted completely above the water line <gosh its dry>. The many earthquakes and volcanism present in Laurentia and later California push the formerly submerged shale upward to form the end of the Marble mountains.

The strata eventually becomes tilted by about 45 degrees to the ground. There, uplifted in the now dry California desert, our trilobite friend lay awaiting eternity.

One day millions of years later there is a pounding that echoes thru the rock surrounding you. Some of the rock around you fractures and you can feel the pressure on your fossilized body decreasing. Suddenly, you feel like you are being moved. It is as if your bed of shale has been broken into a large slab <oh gosh what will happen next>. More pounding occurs, this time the vibrations ring through your whole body. The shale around you begins to crack <is this the final end you wonder>, then in an instant you are blinded by an extremely bright light, brighter than anything you have ever seen before in 500 million years. There is no water and the air around you is wispy, much thinner than it used to be and has an odd smell to it that reminds you of an underwater volcanic vent. As you look up towards the light you see a giant creature holding your fossilized body, it is soft like a jelly fish, but has several holes in it with stuff growing out of the top. One hole opens and closes causing pressures on your body that sort of tickles. Is this some sort of giant jellyfish you wonder? Is it going to eat me?

Instead, this creature cares for your corpse, cleaning the dirt off of it and brushing away the salts that grew into the shale. The creature then props you up on a stand and shines a light in your face constantly. Other creatures like your captor come by and look at you. As you glance around you see other trilobite fossils just like yourself, also prepared and on stands. They do not say much, but you wonder if they have a similar story about how they got here. You also wonder if someday you will make it back to your old shale bed.

The Rock Slab News, 4/10



2010 AFMS/CFMS Gem Show
HIDDEN TREASURES
Hosted by: North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society
June 18th, 19th & 20th, 2010
Fri, Sat & Sun 10am-5pm
Located at:
Southern California University of Health Sciences
16200 E. Amber Valley Drive
Whittier, CA 90604
NOCGMS supports the youth of La Habra!

- Jewelry & Gems
- Fossils
- Displays
- Raffle Prizes
- Games
- Food
- Kid's Room

FREE Parking

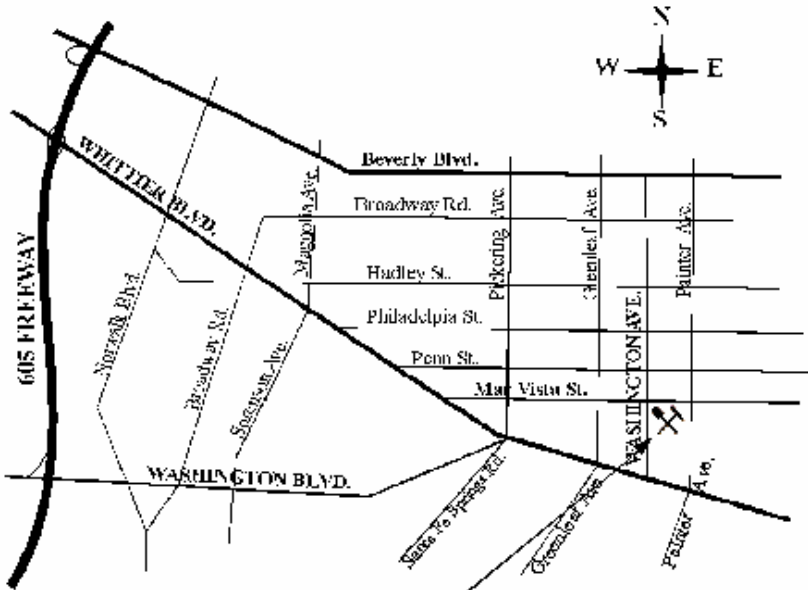
For more information, visit our website at: www.nocgms.com
Show Chairman: Don Warthen (562) 946-0828 or odwarthen@verizon.net
Dealer Information: Ofelia Warthen (626) 330-8974 or odwarthen@verizon.net



Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- 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 & Convention
Hosted by North Orange County Gem & Min. Soc.
So. CA University of Health Sciences Campus
16200 E. Amber Valley Rd., Whittier CA
Hours: 10-5 daily
- Jul 10-11 Culver City, CA.** Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
Veterians memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Ave
(Overland & Culver)
Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5
- Aug 6-8 Nipomo, CA.** Orcutt Mineral Society
St. Joseph's Church, 298 S. Thompson Ave.
Hours: 9-5 daily
- Sept 11-12 Downey, CA.** Delters Gem & Mineral Society
Woman's Club of Downey, 9813 Paramount Blvd.
Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun 10-4
- Oct 3 Fallbrook, CA.** Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society
Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Facility, 123 West Alvarado Street
Hours: 10 - 5 Daily
- Oct 9-10 Trona, CA.** Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
Searles Gem & Mineral Show Building, 13337 Main Street
Hours: Sat; 7:30-5; Sun. 7:30-4

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



MAR VISTA & WASHINGTON AVE.  WHITTIER COMMUNITY CENTER

Editor: Jay Valle, 1421 Latchford Avenue, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
Home: (626) 934-9764; E-Mail: res19pnb@verizon.net
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: May 27, 2010 at 7:30 PM
Location: Whittier Community Center
(See page 4 & 15 for info & map)