

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

PICNIC IN THE PARK
JUNE 25 at 6:30 PM
MICHIGAN AVENUE PARK

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Sienna enjoys a good garnet mine as much as her dad (Paul Wendling)

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

I mowed and the flag is on display. Many of our members are in the Owens Valley collecting rough. Kathy said that if I did find u q o g v j k p i " K " y q w n f p ø v " d g " c n n q y g f are spending the day at home cutting rock (small) and doing some jewelry making in preparation for the upcoming show. I hope that when the field trips restart after the show that everything will be adequately healed and I will be able to carry a horse. Well maybe not a horse, but a very small pony, or better yet a nice big chunk of sagenite.

Speaking of cutting, I recently stopped by Dion & Sons in Long Beach to get some cutting oil. The Amberlite M has been replaced by Amber Neutral 100, a very clear odorless oil. Oil, like gasoline, has skyrocketed in price. Including waste fees, and container, 5 gallons will set you back about \$50. It seemed a shame to add this r t k u v k p g " q k n " v q " v j g " f k t v { " o g u u that when I get around to scraping the gunk out of the saws, I will completely switch over to this new oil.

Summer usually represents a hiatus for the club. After our **June potluck at the park**, we will not meet again until September. This does not mean that we are resting on our laurels. Remember that we have a **yard sale on the 17th of July**, and a **pool party at Jay & M c v j { " X c n n g ø u** also **pellet** **what** **Joey** **can't** **make** us all rich panning gold later this summer.

And last but not least remember the show. Start getting your ducks in a row for your display cases, and any donation items you plan on for our donation awards. All too often good intentions go array when all too soon time runs out. We will have less than one month after our next business meeting till Show Time!!!

Jerry

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, June 24, 2010

at 6:30 PM

"Picnic (Potluck) in the Park"

The June meeting has always been a start-of-summer potluck
ago we moved the potluck from the regular meeting place to
Michigan Park in Whittier. This has allowed us to spread out and
enjoy the early summer daylight and excellent Southern
California weather.

That said, it is time for our annual **WGMS Picnic/Potluck in the Park**. It is going to be held on **June 24 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 on facing page) and meet up 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
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 24th 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. The Nipomo Show is a great tailgate c p f " u j q y 0 " C p f " f q p ø v " h q t i g v " v j g " U w o o g 8). Not all of the dates and times are known yet so we will let you know when they happen. As always, if you have any questions or want to know about changes in the listed dates, contact Joe Goetz.

Field Trips

Location	Date	Material
Big Bear Lake	June 27	Druzys, Crystals, other stuff
East Fork San Gabriel River	July 10	Gold Panning
Nipomo Show	August 6-8	Fun show, camping, etc.
Other Collecting opportunities	TBA	Day Trips, etc.
Pool Party	August 28	3-7 PM
Work Parties, various	TBA	TBA



**Field Trip Report
Owens Valley
MAY 28-31, 2010**

Joe and Marcia arrived in Big Pine Friday afternoon and checked into their motel and then took off to the Glacier View campground to see who had also arrived. We found that Vern & Sylvia Cliffe, Chris Kyte, Carolyn Duncan, Charlotte Bane, Mark & Linda Nelson, Paul & Julie and Seinna Wendling, were there and said they had gone up to the garnet area that day. Dottie Jacobs and Ron Fisher had arrived and they were trying to set up their tent. The wind was blowing and half of those in camp were at Dottie's camp site fighting against the wind to set up her tent. They won. After visiting a spell Joe, Marcia, Dottie and Ron went over to have dinner while the rest stayed in camp and had dinner.

On Saturday Jay Valle, Frank and Anthony Winn, and Don Ogden were at camp waiting for the trip to begin. Jill Pinson, her husband and their 3 children arrived and threw up their tent and we left to go to the crystal gathering location. While driving into the location Carolyn punctured a tire and the people closest to her (Jay & Frank) were able to help her change it. Luckily she was on a flat spot in the road. On the ridge, we all found crystals and beautiful views of the valley. We ate lunch after we were off that hill and then headed to the fossil location to see what was there. Soon it was time to head back to camp but Carolyn went into Independence to get her spare fixed.

The next day, on Sunday, Rex and Chewy and their kids arrived. We decided to go to Nevada to find opalized wood. It was at the intersection of 395 and 6 that our group was reminded why Joe signs off "Wrong Way Joe" or "Lost Somewhere in CA" as he directed everyone to turn into the great collecting spot of Kmart/Vons shopping center, and with the exception of a few, most followed. We found our way back to highway 6 to go north. Yes, we did make it to the site and found some pretty opalized wood. After that location Jay and a few others went to find more opalized wood but the rest of us wanted to see if we could find the obsidian. After not finding the location we went into Benton's rock shop to ask and they directed us to just north of the Nevada border. So off we went again to the north and did locate of the obsidian. There is a agriculture inspection station about a mile inside California and the lady there must have wondered about us going through the check two times in about 2 hours. Potluck back at camp was great.

Monday morning some of the ones who had not gone to the garnet area on Friday went there and then afterwards went to Bishop to go to Schatz Bakery.

The traffic through Bishop was heavy - it kinda reminded you of the LA Basin at the beginning of "rush hour" - especially around the Bakery. If you were lucky enough to find a parking spot, then when you walked in it was like being at Disneyland only smaller, with people everywhere, lines snaking around and wall to wall people. However, Marcia and I were able to get a few things and be out of there within a hour. After lunch at camp we all headed over the Wingate Pass to go to an area in the next valley to the east where it is rumored there is an area to collect smoky crystals, milky crystals and a few other things. It was a pleasant drive but not much was found. On the way back Joe and Marcia tried to locate a place we had gone to maybe 15 years ago for galena but with no luck...maybe next time. Most of us decided to go to the little coffee shop for dinner. The food was good and the prices not bad.

Tuesday was going home day. And I for one am glad that we waited until Tuesday to go home. A stretch of 395 is under construction and was down to one lane. So all of those who left on Monday really had a rough time of it. And it was nice to get home early!

Somewhere in California going the wrong way
Joe Goetz

WGMS Summer Event

Pool Party

Saturday, August 28, 2010

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Time: 3:00 - 7:00 PM

You are cordially invited to a mid-summer get-together on Saturday, C w i w u v " 4 4 p f 0 " E q o g " l q k p " w u " c u " y g 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.



One-Day Field Trip to Big Bear Lake Area

Date: June 27, 2010

Time: 9:00 AM

Meeting Place: Big Bear Resource Center on north side of Big Bear Lake.

Things to bring: Bring water and lunch, snacks, etc. Cameras are never a bad idea (you never know what you may see and Big Bear is a beautiful area.

Useful Tools: E q n n g e v k p i " d c i . " t q e m " j c o o g t . " 3

Since it will probably be warm at the end of June, we have decided on a field trip to Big Bear Lake. There will be several possible materials to collect including agate, jasper, marble and quartz crystals. Gold panning may be offered as well (depends on how time flies). We are meeting at the Big Bear Resource Center at 9:00 AM and will leave from there. High clearance vehicles are NOT needed and some hiking may be required to get to some of these locations.

For more information contact Joe Goetz at (626) 914-5030.

Directions: Take the 210 Freeway to Hwy 330 north to Running Springs. Follow Hwy 18 east to Big Bear Dam. Continue on Hwy 18 on the north side of the lake (stay left - do NOT cross the dam). Go through Fawnskin to the BLM Big Bear Resource Center.

**GOLD PANNING at the
EAST FORK SAN GABRIEL RIVER
Saturday, July 10 at 8:30 AM**

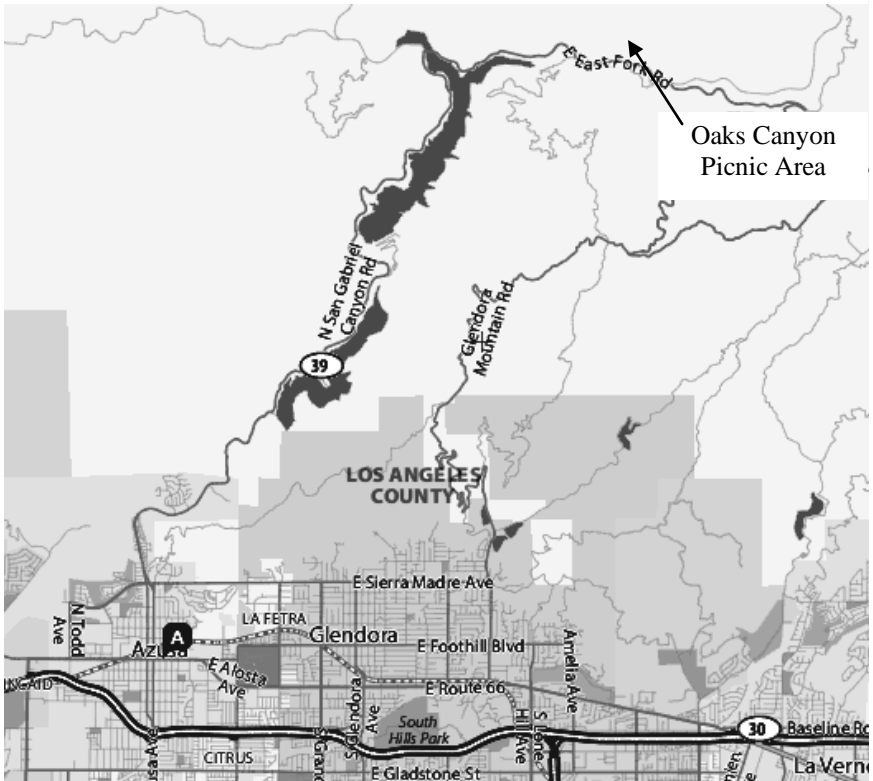
Place: Across from Oaks Canyon Picnic Area, East Fork San Gabriel River

Time: Meet at parking area at 8:30 AM

Directions: Take the Azusa Rd. exit (Hwy 39) off the 210 Fwy north toward the mountains. Stay on this road past the two reservoirs and turn right on bridge over upper lake (East Fork Road). Continue past the tiny town of Follows Camp until you reach the Oaks Canyon Picnic Area. This is where we are meeting this year.

Tools: The basic tools you will need are a gold pan, shovel, 5-gallon bucket
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as we have extras that you can borrow.

NOTE: A WILDERNESS PASS is required to park anywhere in the canyon. A one-day pass can be purchased at the main entrance station or at the store at Follows Camp.



A Guide to Opal Care

By A. Michael Bankston G.G.

With care, opals will retain their original appearance indefinitely going strong!!

Cleaning Your Opal:

Solid opals are very simple to clean. They should be immersed in warm water with a mild detergent and cleaned with a soft toothbrush or cloth, do not use anything else, bleach, chemicals and cleaners should be avoided as should ultrasonic cleaners, they vibrate quite violently and may cause cracking. Once cleaned the opal should simply be rinsed gently dried with a soft cloth. Doublets and triplets can be wiped with a damp soft cloth but should not be soaked as they can be damaged beyond repair (see: opals and water). Triplets and doublets have a very

LIKE WATER!!!!

Wearing Opal Jewelry:

As with all jewelry, rough treatment is not recommended. Common sense should be used and care should be taken as it would with any precious stone. Take your opal off if you plan to work in the garden as sand and soil is an abrasive and can scratch the surface of your opal.

the stone on a hard surface that can cause damage.

If Your Opal Loses Its Shine or Gets Scratched:

If you opal does happen to become scratched or loses its shine, a reputable jeweler that works with opal can repolish the opal, usually for a reasonable price.

Characteristics of Solid Opal:

Precious opal contains around 5-6% water, and up to 13% in jelly opals from Nevada and Mexico. Therefore opal may crack or craze if subjected to extreme conditions. Avoid very high or very low temperatures i.e. boiling water, freezers. Normal weather changes are fine. Low humidity bank vaults also should be avoided unless precautions are taken (see below, storing your opal).

Storing Opals:

Storing your opal for a period of time is quite simple. It is recommended that you wrap your opal in some cotton wool and place it in a sealed plastic bag with a few drops of water. This will give the opal a controlled environment and will prevent cracking. It is safe to keep your opal in a safety deposit box or bank vault for long periods by storing the opal in this manner. This is how we store our more expensive opals in our banks safe.

Opals in Water:

Water does not harm solid opals. There are different opinions associated with solid opals. Some say it is good for the opal to be immersed in water overnight to maintain water content. Whether you place the opal overnight in water or not, it will not harm the opal. Doublets and triplets are another matter. They should never be placed in water as the glue which is usually a 2 part epoxy resin holding the layers together may break down leaving behind a ruined doublet or triplet. This is where the old wives tale of "opal going white" came from. Excessive water or heat can destroy the resin sending it white. Oils and hand creams: Oil will discolor your opal. It is not recommended to store opals in oil, however, general hand creams and body oils will do no harm to your opal other than maybe building up in
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sponge for water, BEING part water!!! They get thirsty.

MLMS Ghost Sheet, 5/10

Spring Rains Give Us Mud
(And Civilization)

By Heath Shive

A r t k n " u j q y g t u " d t k p i " O c { " h n q y g t
d t k p i u " w u í O w f #

The mud that kids splash with delight is anathema to adult life. It dirties our cars, splatters our clothes, and forces you to clean your dogs before you bring them back inside.

But as rockhounds, we can have a different attitude towards mud. The most important ingredient in mud is clay. And believe it or not, clay is a mineral. Clay is also, perhaps, just maybe, humankind's first mineral,
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Clay is a mineral? Yes! Clay is basically an aluminum silicate (technically a phyllosilicate) with bonded water attached. Of course, there are variations. These variations produce clays from kaolinite to montmorillonite, from smectite to illite. Clay crystals are very small, about 0.7 microns in diameter and 0.005 microns in thickness (one
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thin flakes, whose sides are electrically charged. That charge attracts water, which is what makes clay into a very slimy mud. But it also gives clay its plasticity; its ability to be molded into a mindboggling array of shapes.

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towards civilization began with clay. Ancient tribes and peoples began making idols and pottery as early as 12,000 years ago. And are we ever thankful. Thanks to clay pottery, humans learned to cook foods like soups and stews, which not only broadened our palate, but allowed humans to ingest the previously unavailable nutrition of cereals like barley and maize. Clay pottery made cooking (and with it, cereal agriculture) worthwhile. And if you leave a barley-water mixture
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their first constructive use of chemistry in the form of viniculture.

Perhaps needless to add is how clay was used to form bricks, stucco and
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the brightly colored oxide pottery finishes (think malachite or azurite)
seemed to magically yield refined metals like copper, thanks to high
temperatures and oxidation. Smelting was born and with it came the
Bronze Age. The first written words of history were recorded on clay
tablets.

So thanks to clay, humans took their first steps in the sciences of
cooking, chemistry, metallurgy, city-building, and the written word.

Clay influences our lives to this day. Clay is used for the cups we drink
from, the dishes we eat from, the tile we walk on, and the toilets we sit
on. But clay is also used for paper and rubber production, cosmetics
manufacturing, petroleum exploration and certain medicines.

C e e q t f k p i " v q " v j g " W p k v g f " U v c v g u
Commodity Survey 2010, Americans last year used over 25 million
tons of clay (valued at \$1.4 billion) taken from over 830 working clay
quarries.

So my sympathies for parents and pet owners who have to clean up
their loved ones after a rainy day.

But people playing with mud is how civilization began!

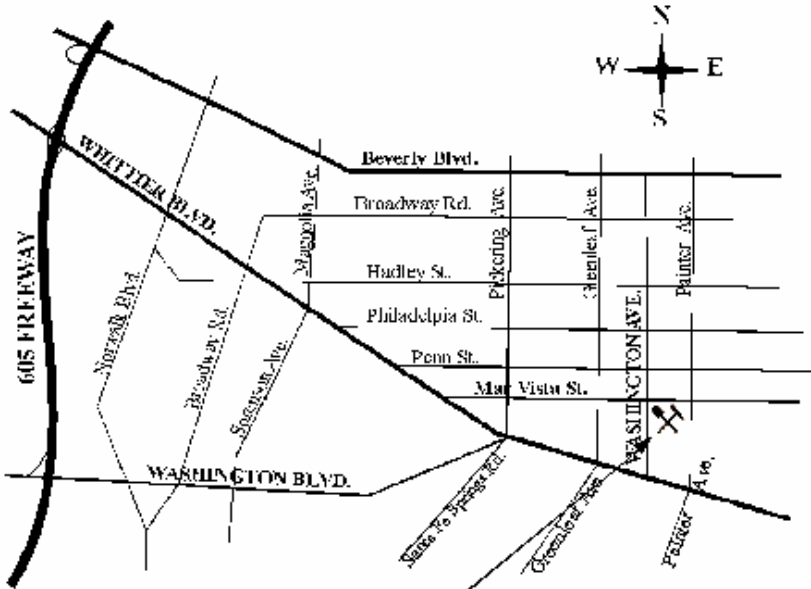
References:

1. USGS Mineral Commodity Survey data from their website at
<http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/clays/#pubs>.
2. E n c { < " V j g " J k u v q t { " c p f " G x q n w v k q p
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3. E n c { " o k p g t c n " e j c t c e v g t k u v k e u " t g
Guide to Rocks & Minerals (published by Simon and Schuster
Publishing, Inc.).

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- Jun 18-20 La Habra, CA.** AFMS/CFMS Show and Convention
Hosted by North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society
Southern CA University of Health Sciences Campus
16200 E. Amber Valley Rd., Whittier CA
Hours: 10-5 daily
- Jun 19-20 Cayucos, CA.** San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club
Cayucos Vets Hall (next to Cayucos Pier), 10 Cayucos Drive
Hours: 9-5 Daily
- Jul 10-11 Culver City, CA.** Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
Veterans 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.** Delvers Gem & Mineral Society
Woman's Club of Downey, 9813 Paramount Blvd.
Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun 10-4
- Sept 18-19 Paso Robles, CA,** Santa Lucia Rockhounds
Pioneer Park, 2010 Riverside Drive
Hours: 10-5 Daily
- 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
- Oct 9-10 Vista, CA.** Vista Gem & Mineral Society
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
2040 N. Santa Fe Avenue
Hours: Sat; 20-5; Sun. 10-4

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)