

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

S
E
P
T
E
M
B
E
R

2
0
1
0



Head frame at the Lucky Baldwin Mine
Baldwin Lake in the background
(Big Bear summer field trip)

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Jay called today asking for a president's message for the upcoming bulletin. And here I thought we were in the middle of the summer hiatus. Ah --- time flies when you're having fun! Actually the summer has been somewhat uneventful. Aside from our annual trek to Nipomo for the Orcutt Mineral Society show, we have done very little on the pursuit of the hobby. To be sure, we are working at getting ready for the show in October as I am sure all of you are (hint! hint!). Aside from that unabashed nudge, I have very little to report, and what I do have is sad.

Muriel Berg passed away this summer. Muriel has not been a member of WGMS for several years. Those members who have been around for a while will remember Floyd and Muriel Berg who were active field trippers and decidedly part of that group of "worker bees" that are the life blood of any organization.

Clarence Pool's health is failing, and he has entered hospice care. Clarence, a life member, has been a strong supporter of WGMS through donations of materials for our Boy's and Girl's Club jewelry gifts at the annual Christmas Party. Clarence celebrated his 100th Birthday a couple of years ago.

As I discovered when Jay called, it's later than we think. If you have been procrastinating getting ready for the show, now is the time to get started. Nuff said?

Jerry

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, September 25, 2010

at 7:30 PM

B.Y.O.R.

(Bring Your Own Rock)

Gaze deeply into your rocks, and bring the dramine (sometimes it makes you woozy). At the September meeting we will look at rocks close up using a microscope and then project the image onto a screen. It is great fun to explore a slab.

We invite you to bring a slab, cab or faceted piece (polished preferred) or small chunk of rock no more than an inch tall you want to look at closely. Joe and I found that colorful and detailed, or highly textured rock worked best as the area that gets magnified is small. We will also bring some pieces we hope will be interesting. If you have any pieces with a vug, that could be a good one also.

Marcia Goetz

Board Meeting

September 9 at 7:30 PM

Jerry & Kathy Turner's House

The March Board Meeting has been scheduled at Jerry & Kathy's Whittier house for September 9. All members are welcome and encouraged to join in the discussion of Club business.

Contact the Turner's for questions or directions.

WGMS Show News

It's coming! In just 6 weeks we will be hosting our 61st Gem Show. Are you ready for this?

Our theme is “*H o t R o c k s & G o u a r e l e n c e B r a g a d s*” to go with that motif for your own displays and show cases. And speaking of cases, Nancy Kowalski is taking reservations for display cases and you need to let her know how many you will want to properly showcase your treasures.

We will have 7 dealers again this year with that number perhaps increasing next year. Bob & Leilani Backus dropped out this year but they have been ably replaced by Paul “the book guy” and his wife Ingrid with Lapidary Originals.

As always, there is never enough people to help with all the jobs so please plan on working the show. Friday night, before the show, we do the setup and workers are needed to move equipment from storage, skirt tables and set up display cases. During the show we need workers in the kitchen, sales table, silent auction, etc. Jerry & Kathy Turner are always looking for demonstrators of lapidary skills. Sunday evening is teardown. Finally, Donation award tickets are late this year but hopefully they will be in the mail in the next couple of weeks.

Jay Valle

Twitter Glitter

There was a young rock hound from Whittier,
Who was sure that all's gold that's a glitter.
But when he was 'hounding,
And glitter was founding,
He pocketed pyrite instead.

Wrong Way Bart

**Clarence Pool
February 8, 1909 to August 26, 2010**

We are saddened by the loss of long time member and staunch supporter, Clarence Pool. He was 101 years old.

Clarence Pool was born in Casper, Wyoming during the worst blizzard in Wyoming history. The delivery was performed by his 2 aunts and grandmother because the doctor couldn't get out to the family ranch due to the weather. He was 3 days old when the storm abated and the doctor was finally able to fight his way through the snow to check on mother and child.

In 1911, the family moved to California. Clarence went to high school in Redlands. His coaches found him to be a fine athlete, excelling in the 100 yard dash, chin ups, rope climbing and the broad jump. His coach was grooming him for an Olympics try when he broke his back and effectively killed his athletics career. Clarence was just 17. He was also an Eagle Scout with the Beaumont, California Boy Scouts.

After graduating High School, Clarence worked and went to college until 1927 when he landed a job at Douglas Aircraft as an Electro-mechanical Engineer. He had always had an intuitive "feel" and understanding for how things worked and this talent served him well during his working life. While working at Douglas, he developed several innovations, including a technique for flush riveting on aircraft. It was during this period that his hearing was first damaged by the high noise levels of the riveting machines. Aircraft of the time were controlled by hydraulic systems and at some point he became interested in the field. He eventually was able to solve some hydraulic packing problems that had been troubling Douglas (and other aircraft manufacturers). He also developed hydraulic valves for use in Douglas' aircraft. In 1939, he left to form his own business.

During his time at Douglas Aircraft, Clarence met a lovely lady named Frieda Young, who was to become his life-long partner. He was a member of the local YMCA and she belonged to the local YWCA. They met at a dance hosted jointly by the two clubs. Ont thing led to another and they were married August 16, 1930 at the "Wee Kirk o' the Heather Church" located at Forest Lawn in Glendale. Together, they raised a girl and 3 boys.

In 1940, Clarence started his first business, Hydropack, and built various types of hydraulic equipment. One of his innovations was a chevron packing for the hydraulic devices used in aircraft that was good to 65 degrees below zero. Though these hydraulic systems are no longer used, at one time his equipment

was in every airplane.

After Hydropack, he started another company called Caltron. This business specialized in injection molding and made a variety of molded products. Caltron continues on but is now run by his son in Bishop, California.

Somewhere along the way, Clarence picked up the love of rocks. After attending a gem show in Whittier, he joined the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society in 1959 (after some arm twisting by Dora Stern). He loved the field trips and led many of the most memorable outings, including trips to New Mexico and Oregon. He collected rocks in about half of the United States. Clarence also created the Tagit Trophy which was awarded each year to the best case of cabochons.

Among his other interests was photography and he was a skilled and avid photographer. He won several photography contests and 11 of his pictures were featured in a calendar several years ago. He was a long-time member of the NRA and a good hunter. He especially enjoyed his deer hunts in Wyoming.

Clarence's own lapidary specialty was tumbling. He started out with a standard barrel type tumbler but didn't like to wait 6 months to see the results. So he designed a laboratory (vibratory) tumbler which would do the job in a week and he marketed it under the name of Tagit. (The name Tagit came from an I.D. tagging product he developed for marking cattle and the name stuck.) The barrels for his Tagit Tumblers were designed and produced at Caltron, his own molding company. Another product he designed and produced was a cab preformer tool for making the "perfect" cab.

Other products Clarence designed: an electric organ and an air rifle. The electric organ was designed just before the Korean War and, once hostilities began, it was impossible to get the resistors and transistors that he needed. The air rifle was developed in 1947 or 1948 but there was no commercial or military interest in the weapon so it was not pursued.

Frieda died in 2008 but he is survived by daughter Patricia and her husband Bob Tryon, Lionel and Gail Pool of San Juan Capistrano, Dan and Colleen Pool of Bishop, and Dick and Donna Pool of Tehachapi, all in California. There are also 11 grand-children, 30 great grand-children, and 2 great-great grand-children (at last count—2004).

Jay Valle, Whittier Gem & Mineral Society

Don Ogden, North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society

Field Trip - Paul Bunyan Agate Area
(With an eye toward Mule Canyon)
September 25 - 26

The weekend of September 25-26 we are planning to spend some quality time looking for fine lapidary materials in the Calico Mountains and at other nearby collecting spots. This will be a multi-club trip including WGMS, PLS, NOC and the Anaheim Searchers. Our base of operations (campsite) will be at the Paul Bunyan Agate mine.

The Paul Bunyan Agate mine is an excellent camping location with many collecting sites nearby, including the Silver-lace Onyx Mine and Mule Canyon. The famous red plume agate named for this site can still be collected, though the tailing piles have been much diminished.

The weather is usually nice - you should plan for warm weather but it can be cool too, so be aware of that possibility (this is the desert after all!)

Saturday night we are planning to enjoy a potluck dinner and campfire (Mother Nature and the BLM permitting.)

For those who do not wish to camp, Barstow is nearby with motels and restaurants, and the ever-popular Oak Tree Inn is 1 short exit past the Fort Irwin Road off-ramp, about a block from Peggy Sue's.

This trip is suitable for those who can only come out for the day (Saturday or Sunday). If you are planning a day trip, though, you should contact us so we know you are coming and can wait for you.

Directions:

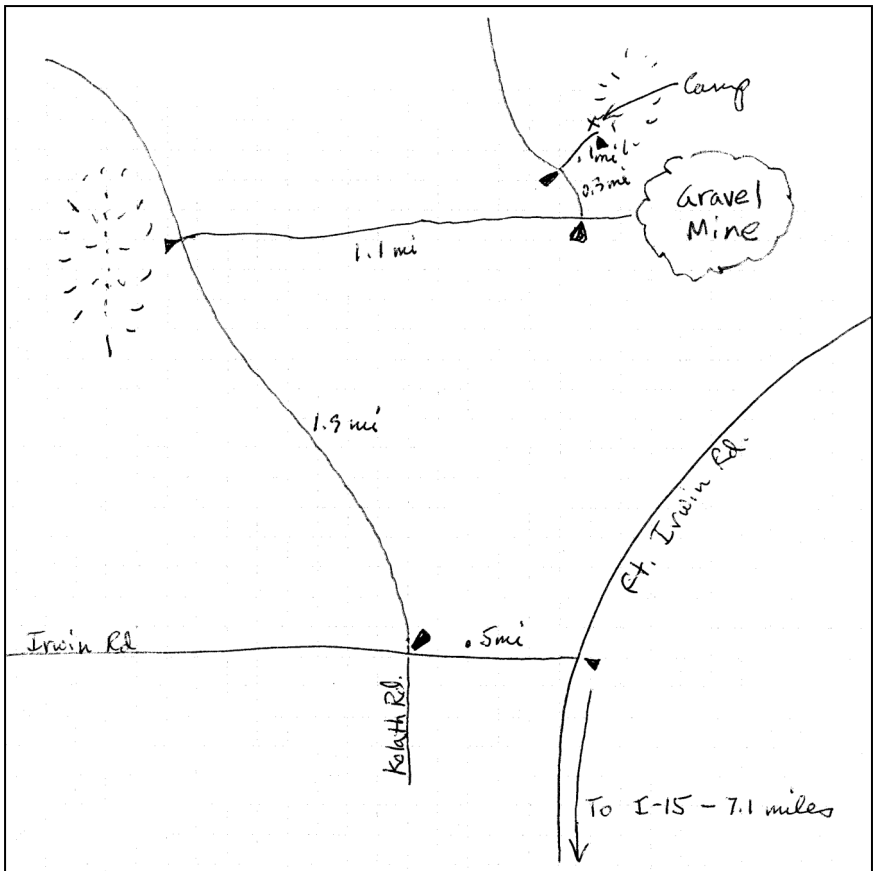
- Take I-15 past Barstow to the Fort Irwin Rd. turnoff.
- Go left over the freeway (North) for 7.1 miles to Irwin Rd.
- Turn left and go 1/2 mile to dirt road on the right. (Kolath Road is on the left.)
- Turn right onto the dirt road and go 1.9 miles to a road from the right at the base of a small hill.

- Go right (it is a sharp turn) and follow for 1.1 miles.
- Turn left and go just 0.3 miles to the turnoff on the right to camp, about 0.1 miles further.

Note: If you know this area, there are a lot of “short cuts”. These directions guarantee that you will arrive at our camp, not that you will cover the shortest distance. Look for signs - either the Orange NOC, or Blue/Yellow PLS/WGMS. They will lead you to camp.

For questions and further information contact:

Jay Valle at (626) 934-9764.



The Perfect LightWeight First Aid Kit by Chris Rylands

Did you know that rockhounds field trip the internet, too? Recently, the rockhound e-mail exchange group had an interesting discussion. It started when Chris Rylands (BRIOSA@aol.com) attempted to describe the perfect light-weight first aid kit. See if you agree with Chris or perhaps you think of something that should be added. -Mel Albright, Chair, Safety (AFMS)

The idea is that this kit is small and lightweight but yet is an all around life saver.

- **One of those blue plastic eye cups** if you need to wash out your eye, and an eye patch and eye ointment for infections. Most rockhounds do not bother using their eye protection. Next time you go out watch...
- **Water purification tablets.** The cheapest of one of those fancy pocket water purifiers if you are in a mineral rich area with springs or flooded mines.
- Hmmm. Nice vug. Lost your footing? AAAAAAAHHH!!! WHAM!!! **Roll of black electrician's tape.** It is elastic, waterproof, and air tight and can be used for things like splinting, arm slings, worse yet tourniquets.
- I hear the plane and can see it but they cannot see me. There is no wood or its too wet to have the smoking fire. Go to your local boat supply for **orange smoke pots.** Not flare guns, unless you want to burn to death in the forest, or be on CNN as the subject of the all-time most stupid rescue.
- **Water out of sand for you desert rock hounders:** 2 dark green thick jumbo plastic garbage bags and one 3 foot long, 1/4" diameter plastic fish tank tube. First dig a 3 foot diameter by 2 foot deep hole and place one bag in the bottom center of the hole, shaping it as a cup. Then, lay one end of the plastic tube in the cup bottom and up and out of the hole. Now, cover the hole with the other plastic bag one layer thick and totally seal the circumference of the hole and bag with sand. Place a small stone in the center so as to make a depression in the bag over the cup. Then you can suck on the tube-straw. Remember, you can also soak the pit sand with whatever fluid you want as long as it has H₂O in it: radiator fluid, wet dirt, mashed up weeds/foilage, etc, or even your own you-know-what. After all, this is what the astronaut's life support systems do.
- 30-something, sealed, wax-dipped, strike-anywhere, **wooden matches**, wrapped with wax-dipped paper. By the way, did you know you can start a camp fire with fine steel wool and your flashlight battery?

- **Pocket thermal space blanket.**
- **Chemical toe warmers.** These are about \$2.00 a pair at your local sports stores and can be used as a warm compress or to save your cold toes or fingers.
- You may have a big geode stuck in your mouth, and cannot yell for help, and it is night. **One phosphorescent snap-and-glow stick.**
- One of those oval, green, rubber **shake-bite kits.**
- **A pocket card on CPR, heat injuries, shock, burns, fractures, dislocations, cold injuries, bleeding etc...** Most fire departments and/or hospitals have these free items. After all, if you save your partner's life, he or she may give you their rock collection.
- **One safety pin,** for among many things, picking out things.
- **One candle.**
- **A pencil and a 3x5" card.**
- **Some waterproof cloth type Band-Aids.**
- And remember, if you are in a cold or damp climate, "**COTTON KILLS**".

Did I forget anything?

From AFMS Newsletter 11/96 via Opal Express 01/97

YOU MIGHT BE A ROCKHOUND IF...

- Certain lovely areas like national parks are slightly less interesting to you now because you can't take home the rocks you find there.
- The severe sunburn acquired on your last vacation was a one inch wide strip of skin at the gap between the tail of your shirt and the top of your pants.
- You think Franklin, New Jersey might be a cool place to go on a vacation.
- You buy silicon carbide grit in 50lb loads and congratulate yourself for saving money.
- You care more about what happened to the diamond than the people in the movie "Titanic".

Our thanks to the MLMS Ghost Sheet, via Polished Slab 07/10

Making Cabs

Take a rock and check for fractures,
If the phone rings, don't answer,
You are quality testing.
Set your saw and slab a section,
If the phone rings, don't answer,
You are creating.
Outline your cab on a flat section,
If the phone rings, don't answer,
You are designing.
Trim your cab and shape it,
If the phone rings, don't answer,
You are sculpting.
Polish and set in your best style,
If the phone rings, don't answer,
You are perfecting.
Wear and admire in a mirror,
If the phone rings, answer,
It is time to tell the world!

c Peter Martin, 2010, with apologies to E J Mudd

Procrastination

The ability to put off to Tomorrow what should have been done Yesterday.

Three simple steps to success.

Do it. Do it right. Do it right now.

Words of Wisdom

A clean house is a sign of a broken computer

The grass may be greener on the other side of the fence, but it still has to be mowed.

EDITORS are always WRITE.

Even if you are on the right track You'll get run over if you just sit there.

This page from SCRIBE July-Sept, 2010

Remembering Muriel Berg

Muriel Berg passed away August 15. She was at her son's home and suffered from a fall and a broken hip. She was a former member of Whittier Gem & Mineral Society along with her husband (Floyd), who preceded her in death. They were both very active members in the club, serving on most committees and attending meetings. They led field trips and helped on shows. Muriel was President of WGMS in 1969 and 1972, Editor of our Bulletin for several years. She always acknowledged help from other members for doing things for the club.

When the North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society was formed Muriel and Floyd joined it and helped with many projects. They worked long hours on developing the club's Constitution and Bylaws, and other government required forms to be a nonprofit organization. They gave time, ideas, and worked on the NOC/CFMS Show - The ORANGE JUBILEE OF GEMS. The profit, \$35,190.01, from that show was shared with the CFMS. The money was used to buy equipment for classes and some of it is still in NOC's saving bank account.

Muriel and Floyd retired and moved to Lake Elsinore where they soon found a new Gem Club. It was Lake Elsinore Gem & Mineral Society. They became a part of that group and were busy working with the juniors, who won youth awards for their displays. About this time Muriel, along with Floyd changed their names to Beverly and Bob.

Muriel and her side kick have, also, helped with many clubs Shows, served on CFMS Committees and were on every field trip for rocks and gems until age limited their ability. Muriel (Beverly) has been a wonderful Rockhound and a life long friend. Bill and I will greatly miss her. Her services will be at the Lake Elsinore Elks Club sometime soon.

Izzie Burns

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- 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 24-26 San Bernardino, CA.** Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
Little League Baseball Park, 6707 Little League Dr.
Hours: 9:00 a.m. to Dusk
- Oct 3 Fallbrook, CA.** Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society
Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Facility, 123 West Alvarado Street
Hours: 10 - 4 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
Website: www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub
- Oct 9-10 Vista, CA.** Vista Gem & Mineral Society
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Sante Fe Ave.
Hours: Sat; 20-5; Sun. 10-4
- Oct 16 West Hills, CA.** Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman Way
Hours: 10-5
- Oct 16-17 Whittier, CA.** Whittier Gem & Mineral Society
Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Avenue
Hours: 10-5 both days
- Nov 6-7 Landcaster, CA.** Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 West Ave. H & Hwy 14
Hours: 9-5 both days
- Nov 6-7 Ridgecrest, CA.** Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society
Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 south Richmond Road
Hours: 9-5 both days
- Nov 13-14 Victorville, CA.** Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club
San Bernardino Co. Fairgrounds, 14800 – 7th Street
Hours: Sat. 9-5 Sun. 9-4

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



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: September 23, 2010 at 7:30 PM
Location: Whittier Community Center
(See page 4 & 15 for info & map)