

WHITTIER

**ROCKHOUNDER**  
GEM & MINERAL  
SOCIETY

**Show Time!**

**October 15-16**

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**Meeting Date: October 27**

**"Beads Around the World"**

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Sunrise at the Whittier Club Claim

# ROCKHOUNDER

## THE PREZ SEZ:

Well it's that time again! And what happens in October? Not that silly party in Bavaria that's been going on every October since 1810, I'm talking about the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry show. I think I've mentioned it a couple of times before. I know that you have all got your acts together and have lots of great stuff to display. Jay is handling the cases this year, so if you plan to display, or are just trying to decide what to display, stop the wool gathering and give Jay a call. Our theme is "Desert Treasures". That takes in just about any lapidary items you have, so don't hesitate to share them with the public.

This year we will have not only the gymnasium at the Community Center, but the adjoining room as well. This means that we have to have more people working the show. Please plan to attend both days and help out with all those mundane things that make a passable show great. If somebody has not already drafted you, volunteer! Find Kathy, myself or one of the other show committee persons, or just go to the welcome desk. I'm sure that we can find something for you to do. Our club has gotten a bit smaller over the past few years, but we still have a reputation for putting on a "Must See" show. It just takes a little extra effort on everyone's part.

On the lighter side, this is the last time that I will be lecturing you about the show. I hope that next month I will be celebrating how wonderful the show went. Mark your calendars, October 15 & 16. Cancel all unimportant events, like weddings, family reunions etc., and I'll see you at "The Greatest Gem & Mineral Show on Earth". (Sorry PT, but it is such a good line, that I just had to use it)

*Jerry*

**WGMS General Meeting**

**Thursday, October 27, 2011**

**at 7:30 PM**

**"Beads Around the World"**

**B**eads are among the earliest objects worn as jewelry, either as hunting trophies (bear claws, etc.), religious symbols or as objet-de-art. They have been found in the remains of every vanished civilization we know of and have been discovered in the trash piles of groups pre-dating organized cities.

With that in mind, Janie Duncan, longtime member and editor for the Monrovia Club will be our featured guest speaker as we kick off the return from the heat(?) of Summer. Janie is a knowledgeable collector of rare and interesting beads and is bringing part of her collection for our edification and interest, including some from early Egyptian and pre-Egyptian civilizations.

So please join us on September 22 at 7:30 PM for an exceptional program.

**Show Schedule**

**O**ur **2010 Gem Show** is here on **October 16 & 17**. As always we are planning a quality experience for our members and guests.

**Show Schedule:**

<b>Fri, Oct 14:</b>	8:00 AM	Meet at Joe & Marcia's
	9:00 AM	Go to Art & Ginger's to load cases & show equipment
	3:00 PM	Take to Community Center by 3:00 P.M. for setup
	8:00 PM	Community Center access closed for the evening

<b>Sat, Oct 16:</b>	8:00 AM	Doors open for venders and members
	10:00 AM	Show opens to the public
	5:00 PM	Show closes for the day.
<b>Sun, Oct 17:</b>	9:00 AM	Doors open for venders and members
	10:00 AM	Show opens to the public
	5:00 PM	Show ends. After all public gone from hall, teardown begins
	8:00 PM	All done
<b>Mon, Oct 18:</b>	8:00 AM	Meet at Joe & Marcia's
	9:00 AM	Drop equipment off at Art & Ginger's warehouse

**Raffle Tickets:** Raffle tickets sales are our big money maker at the show, and the show provides the lion's share of the income needed to continue the club each year. Please sell tickets and buy tickets. Kathy Valle has more if you need them. And it is certainly NOT too early to give Kathy your prize donations for the show raffle.

**Setup and Teardown:** These two important phases of our show are the most physically demanding, and literally, *the more hands the less work*. If you don't mind a little manual labor and getting dirty (we are rockhounds, after all) then we can use your assistance. Setup starts at about 3 PM on Friday and teardown begins right after the show closes on Sunday.

**Working the Show:** Show time is about the busiest event of the year and we can use all the help you can give. We need helpers at the Sales Table, Raffle Prize Table, Greeter's Table, Kitchen, Security and with the Demonstrators. These positions also can use much-appreciated relief during the show.

**2 six packs & Baked Items:** Members are asked to donate 2 six packs of name brand sodas, diet or regular and a baked goods item. Here is a list of bakery items members could donate for the show: Cookies, Brownies, Cup cakes, Muffins, Pie slices, Sliced loaf cake, Pastries. All items should be individually wrapped in clear plastic wrap or clear zip locked bags.

So there you have it. Prepare your cases, tell your friends, sell tickets and come out to help us put on a great show.

**Smilodon**

by Isabella Updyke-Welch  
A Junior member of SCVGMS

**M**y friend has three cats who are soft, and fluffy, and friendly. One of them has sharp claws and leaves scratches all over my friend's hands. Your regal house cat weighs about fifteen pounds. The Smilodon is also a cat that lived long ago, but a Smilodon compared to a kitty cat is a monster. I want to tell you about this monster.

What is the state fossil? Thousands of bones of this monster have been found in La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles. The second most common bone found there was the Smilodon. That's why it became known as the state fossil. The animal has two names. The common name is Sabertooth and the scientific name is Smilodon. In Greek, Smilodon means chisel tooth. The three types of Smilodons are gracil, fatalis, and populator.

What did they look like? They looked more like a bear than a cat. They weighed approximately 880 pounds and could open their mouths 120 degrees. Their teeth were 7 inches long. Their teeth got broken during hunting. This part I like the most, how they hunt. They hunted in packs by driving their prey into one another. They had powerful legs to help them sprint. They ate lots of meat and had a very strong bite because of their really long teeth. They like to bite to the throat, or the belly, and held on tight. Do you know who found the first Smilodon? Danish naturalist and paleontologist, Peter Wilhelm Lund, found the first Smilodon in North and South America.

When did the Smilodon live and die? Smilodon lived 2.5 million to 10,000 years ago, that is one old cat. They lived in the Cenozoic era. They lived through lots of ice ages but the last one was hard for plants and animals. Lots of plants died out and the most big plant eaters died out that Smilodon ate. It was hard with barely enough food with the people eating his prey that was left and they cannot eat the smaller prey because their jaws were too big to bite their prey.

It is sad that this interesting predator went extinct, and in a happier thought we do not have big monsters in our world. It would be awesome to be able to see and study these awesome predators in a zoo today. I love these great predators, they had such fantastic fighting skills.

*From Breccia 9/11*

## **The Agates of Northern Mexico**

**D**id you happen to attend rock shows in the 50's and 60's and fall in love with the beautiful banded agates of Laguna and Coyamita? Did you dream of the day when you could take a trip to Mexico and hunt the agates yourself? According to author Brad Cross, your best chance is to watch for estate sales from Texas rockhounds.

The credit for discovering Mexican agates and Laguna, in particular, goes to Dr. Ralph Mueller and a reference published in *Lapidary Journal* in the late 1940's. Most of the agates are named for the large ranches (Spanish land grants of over 35 million acres to seven families between 1884 and 1922) in the Mexican state of Chihuahua. The state of Chihuahua includes migrating sand dunes, the Mexican portion of the Sonoran Desert (grassy plains) and igneous mountains overlaying limestone deposits. Mining and cattle ranching are the two primary businesses. Each agate site produced distinctive banding, different from the others. Manganese com-pounds produced shades of violet and iron contributes reds and yellows.

When you first begin researching, it sounds like the supply of beautiful agates is never ending. They are produced in the gas pockets of volcanic flows that may be as thick as 500 feet and contain as many as 20 different flows. More reading reveals that the agates occur in only the top layers, and not in all of them. Finally you learn that in the 40's and 50's when rockhounds first began collecting, the agates lay loose on the ground, product of countless years of weathering. Once the ground surface had been cleared, local people began hand digging in the hard andesite matrix to free the agates. Most of the favorite and best known sites have been exhausted to the point only small and not particularly colorful agates are produced, if any. Geodes and crazy lace agate is still fairly plentiful.

The local people in Chihuahua are well aware of the value of the agates produced there, so don't kid yourself into thinking you can take a trip and get good agates cheaply! The mines are hand dug with picks and shovels and rarely with bulldozers. Top grade agates are rare so miners like to sell \_mine run. Since they deal commercially with wholesalers, (Mr. Cross says) they will probably not even show their best finds to the vacationing visitor.

*By Nova Wells via The Pineywoods Rooter, 8/05; via Scribe CD, 2004, via Golden Spike, 11/01; via Hound's Tale, 2/00 ; via Breccia 8/2011, Delvings 09/11*

**WGMS October Field Trip  
Whittier Club Honey Onyx Claim  
October 22 - 23, 2011**

**A**fter the WGMS Show, our field trip is typically an outing to the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society's Honey Onyx Claim, located just east of Barstow. The honey onyx is still there but it is hard rock mining. If you have any or have seen it, you know that it is well worth the effort involved. Usually we use our Claim as a base of operations for daily field trips to the surrounding collecting areas. The access to the camp area requires unlocking a combination lock and opening a locked gate. **The combination is 4321.** After you pass through the gate, you must lock it behind you. Follow the 'W' or 'PLS' signs to camp (see map on facing page).

**You will find a combination lock on the gate.  
The combination is 4321.**

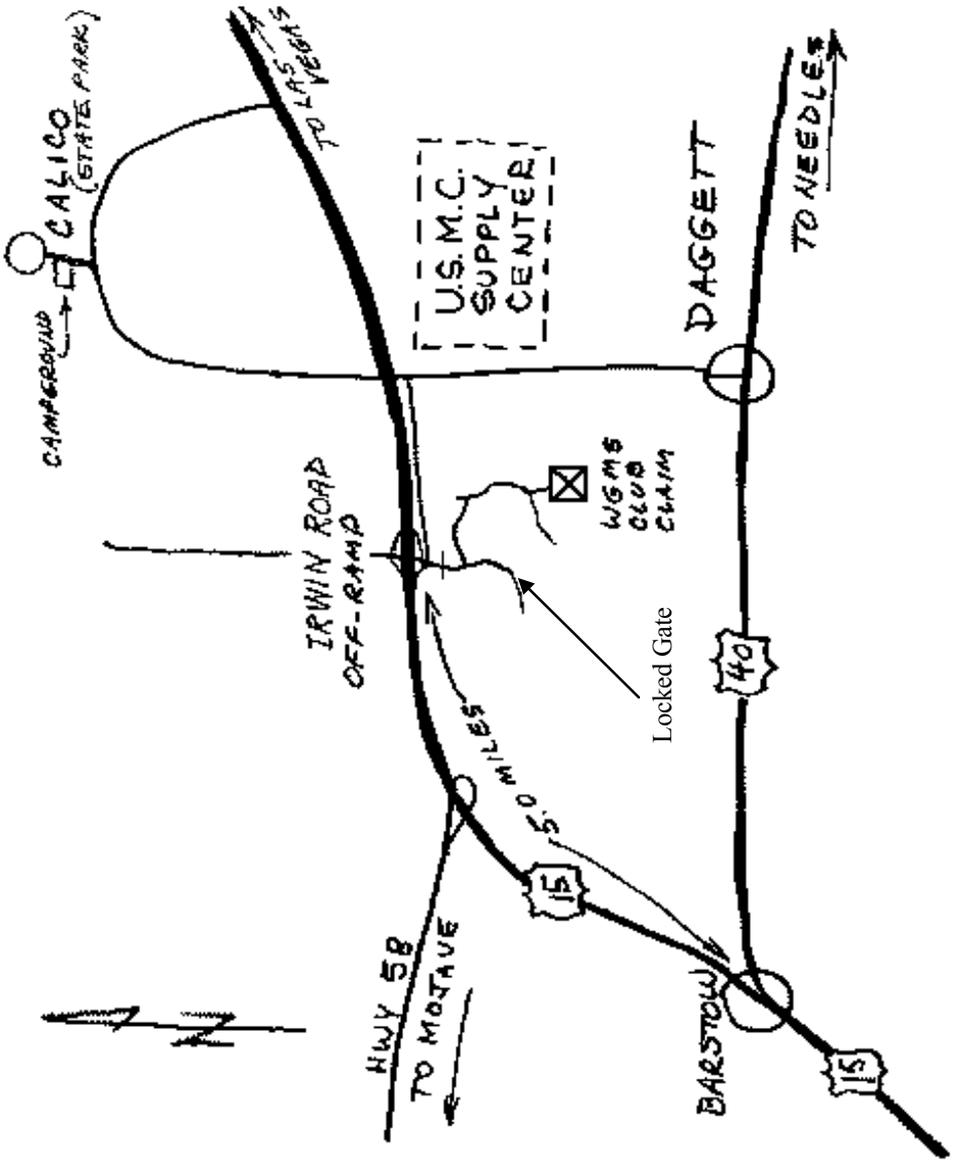
There will be guided field trips on both Saturday and Sunday and we will leave camp each day at 8:00 - 8:30 AM. Saturday evening will feature a traditional potluck dinner, followed by a warm campfire, if the weather permits.

**Materials which may be collected:** Honey onyx, red moss agate, petrified wood & palm root, algae agate, and other unnamed agates, jasp-agates, jaspers, fossils, etc.

**Tools:** Rock pick & bag for general collecting; Sledges, wedges, chisels, pry bars, etc. for those rockhounds who really want to get serious with the honey onyx.

**Supplies:** Barstow is very close. For beginning rockhounds (without campers, trailers, etc.) you may wish to stay in a motel in town and drive to the Club Claim each morning. This is also a easy way to get to know the "workings" of a rock club field trip.

**Contact:** Joe Goetz at (626) 914-5030 for questions or further information.



## **Moganite** **A Common Mineral with a Disapproved Name**

**M**ineralogists assume that they have described the common minerals of the crust. They also pride themselves on having a rigorous international system for approving new mineral names to assure the names that get into print really do represent uniquely different minerals. Recently both of these assumptions have been thrown into disarray by a mineral called “moganite”. Moganite turns out to be so common that virtually every Rockhound has unknowingly found, polished or bought it.

Moganite refers to a mineral closely related to quartz. Quartz is  $\text{SiO}_2$  and crystallizes in the hexagonal system. Moganite is also  $\text{SiO}_2$ , but it crystallizes in the monoclinic system. It was discovered in 1976 by a group of geologists lead by the Russian O. W. Florke. This team was studying the rocks near Mogan in the Canary Islands and found it as fine-grained gray fibers intergrown with chalcedony and opal in cracks in the lava flows. Moganite’s physical and X-ray properties are almost identical to quartz.

Florke submitted a description of moganite to the International Commission on Mineral Names and Naming (I.C.M.N.N.), who disapproved of it. They felt that not enough evidence was presented to show that moganite was not simply a mixture of quartz and other minerals. Florke and his coworkers then committed a cardinal mineralogical sin by publishing their data, using the name moganite as though it had been approved. They published more articles on moganite over the next decade, proving it was a unique mineral. They never resubmitted their data to the I.C.M.N.N. The I.C.M.N.N. just as stubbornly refused to approve the name without such an official resubmission. So goes mineralogy politics!

A recent article by Peter Heaney and Jeffrey Post in Science added insult to injury. They reported finding moganite in nearly all of the 150 samples of finegrained quartz they tested from the Smithsonian’s mineral collection. Some samples contained over 75% moganite mixed with quartz. Chert had the most moganite. Flint contained 13-17% moganite. Agate had 5 to 20% moganite. Silicified corals from the Tampa Bay area in Florida averaged 20% moganite. The only samples found with no moganite were jaspers from iron formations, the weathered outer rinds of agates and Arkansas novaculite. Clearly moganite is a very overlooked mineral.

Why moganite forms is not known. In the Canary Islands it forms under extremely dry surface conditions. Since moganite is more soluble than quartz, it leaches out of chalcedony, which could account for chalcedony's lower density and higher permeability.

Here is a mineral we all have that doesn't have an approved name. What is a conscientious mineral collector to do? We'd best just label things "quartz", "agate" or "chalcedony" until the semantic dust settles.

Dr. Bill Cordua, University of Wisconsin – River Falls.

**References:**

Florke, O.W., U. Florke and U. Giese, 1984, "Moganite: a new microcrystalline silica mineral", *Nues Jahrb. Mineralogy*, vol. 149, p. 325-336.

Heaney, Peter and Post, J.E., 1992, "The widespread distribution of novel silica polymorph in microcrystalline quartz", *Science*, vol. 255, p. 441-444.

*From Leaverite News, 1994 v.19 no.2, via Rock Chatter 09/11, Black Hawk Smoke Signals 10/11*

**Stolen Gems**

**W**hen small insignificant pits are present in your nearly finished cab, and you go to the final polish, these insignificant pits will collect the polishing compound and show up like a sore thumb. Of course we don't want our material to have pits in the first place, but unfortunately we are not in a perfect world.

Prior to starting the final polish take a little super glue and coat the area of the small pits. After allowing the super glue to cure, a very light sanding will remove the excess super glue, which sands quite nicely.

To complete the stone, go to your final polish. The pits, being filled with the clear super glue, will no longer trap the polishing compound. This tip came to me from Bill Meyers.

*From Les Connally, via the Rock Prattle 2/09, Rock-n-Rose 2/09, Stoney Statements 06/09, St Croix Rockhounds Leaverite News 3.10*

**Unfortunate Laws of the Universe  
(strange but true)**

**1. Law of Mechanical Repair** - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.

**2. Law of Gravity** - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

**3. Law of Probability** - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

**4. Law of Random Numbers** - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

**5. Variation Law** - If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).

**6. Law of the Bath** - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

**7. Law of Close Encounters** - The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with wearing something you don't want to be seen in.

**8. Law of the Result** - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

**9. Law of Biomechanics** - The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

**10. Law of the Theater & Hockey Arena** - At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle, always arrive last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the performance or the game is over. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs or big bellies and stay to the bitter end of the performance. The aisle people also are very surly folk.

**11. The Coffee Law** - As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

**12. Murphy's Law of Lockers** - If there are only 2 people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

**13. Law of Physical Surfaces** - The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor, are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

**14. Law of Logical Argument** - Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

**15. Brown's Law of Physical Appearance** - If the clothes fit, they're ugly.

**16. Oliver's Law of Public Speaking** - A closed mouth gathers no feet.

**17. Wilson's Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy** - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.

**18. Doctors' Law** - If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there you'll feel better. But don't make an appointment, and you'll stay sick.

*Via the Internet*

**SUMMER ROCKHOUND**

*By - Cindy Lind*

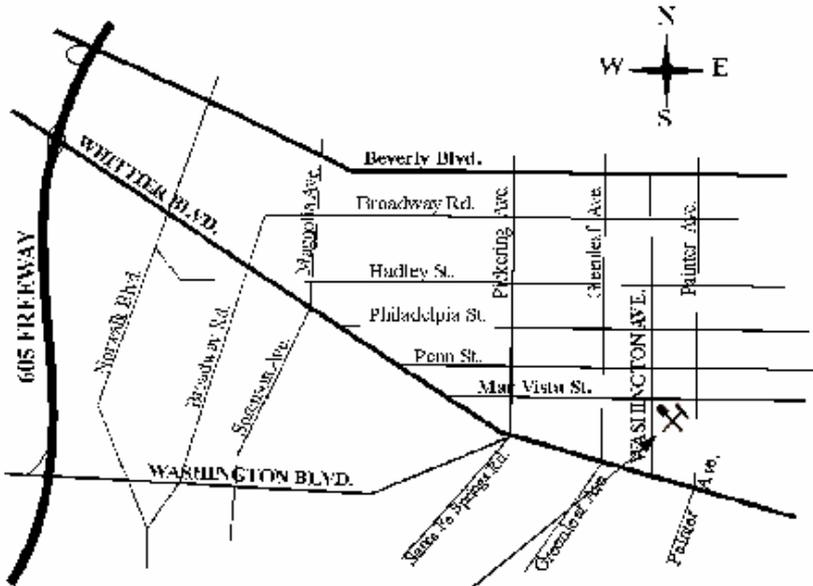
The 'Skeeter and the Rockhound both  
Went out to hunt one day.  
The Rockhound wanted specimens,  
The 'Skeeter wanted prey!  
The Rockhound found a likely spot  
And settled with his gear,  
He'd dug a short time when he hears  
A buzzing in his ear.  
The Rockhound swatted at the noise  
And stood to look around.  
He missed the 'Sketter but he saw  
A great stone on the ground!  
The Rockhound bent to lift the stone  
His backside in the air.  
The 'Skeeter took advantage then  
And bit the Rockhound there.  
The Rockhound jumped and squashed the bug  
His bottom to defend.  
The Rockhound and the 'Skeeter had  
Both got it in THE END!

*From Gulfport Gems 07/08, via Beehive Buzzer 09/08, The Calgary Lapidary Journal 10/08, Black Hawk Smoke Signals 10/11*

**Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows**

- Oct 8-9**      **TRONA, CA.** Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society  
13337 Main Street  
Hours: Sat; 7:30-5; Sun. 7:30-4  
Website: [www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub](http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub)
- Oct 8-9**      **VISTA, CA.** Vista Gem & Mineral Society  
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum  
2040 N. Sante Fe Avenue  
Hours: 10 – 5 Daily
- Oct 15**      **WEST HILLS, CA.** Woodland Hills Rock Chippers  
First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman Way  
Hours: 10 - 5
- Oct 15-16**    **WHITTIER, CA. Whittier Gem & Mineral Soc**  
**Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington**  
**Hours: 10-5 Daily**
- Nov 5-6**      **LANCASTER, CA.** Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 West Ave. H & Hwy 14  
Hours: 9-5 daily  
Website: [www.palmdalegemandmineral.com](http://www.palmdalegemandmineral.com)
- Nov 5-6**      **RIDGECREST, CA.** Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society  
Desert Empire Fairgrounds (Mesquite Hall)  
520 West Richmond Road  
Hours: 9 - 5 daily
- Nov 5-6**      **SAN DIEGO, CA.** San Diego Mineral & Gem Society  
Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road  
Hours: Sat. 9:30-5; Sun. 10-4  
Website: [www.sdmg.org](http://www.sdmg.org)
- Nov 19-20**    **OXNARD, CA.** Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society  
Oxnard Performing Arts Center, 800 Hobson Way  
Hours: Sat. 9–5; Sun. 10–4  
Website: <http://www.oxnardgem.com>

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



**MAR VISTA & WASHINGTON AVE.  WHITTIER COMMUNITY CENTER**

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**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



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**Date: October 27, 2011 at 7:30 PM**  
**Location: Whittier Community Center**  
**(See page 4 & 15 for info & map)**