

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

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General Meeting: March 22

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These two small cacti were spotted while exploring near Brenda, Arizona.
(They look like a spiny pair of Mr. Potato Heads.)

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Greetings everyone. It was great to see several of you at our recent trip to Stoddard Wells. As I promised last month, it was not hot, particularly as the wind picked up during pot luck time Saturday night. We entertained a rockhound guest from Vermont with our wonderful four-wheel roads and two stops to deal with tire problems. We haven't had tire problems on any of our outings in a long time, then two in one day on Saturday.

At our last Board Meeting, we formally voted to have our show on the week-end of October 20-21, 2012. The theme is still to be determined. If you have any suggestions, give someone on the Board a call with your thoughts.

At our last Board Meeting we also set Saturday, March 31, 2012 as the date for a Rockgabbers get together. Tony and Sandie will be our hosts. It will follow the usual format, work on a project until approximately 5:00 p.m., at which time we will have a potluck dinner. Elsewhere in this newsletter you should find a write-up about the project that we will be working on. With the price of silver today, we decided to tackle a very attractive piece of bead jewelry. I have seen examples of the finished product and am looking forward to this session.

In addition to seeing you at the next General Membership meeting on March 22, I hope to see many of you on the week-end of March 24-25 at Lavic siding. Where we camp has easy access for any vehicle, and there is collecting right in camp. It is also another venue that can be handled as a day trip if necessary.

That's it for this month. Hope to see you around the campfire.

Art

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, March 22, 2012

at 7:30 PM

"Tree Stories"

The March program is a video titled "Tree Stories". It may be a story of the life and petrification of a tree, perhaps from the viewpoint of the tree. We

Marcia Goetz

The Ultimate Desert Magazine Resource

http://mydesertmagazine.com/Desert_magazine_archive.html

One of the best magazines ever published (in my not-so-humble opinion) is Desert Magazine. It was a wonderful magazine covering everything closely relating to the desert. Founded in the 1930s, the periodical that Randall Henderson edited with a keen eye on what the desert symbolized. His editorial in the December 1937 issue was titled "There Are Two" introduction to this magazine. It is found on page five of this issue and reads in part: "... the as possible in word and picture, the spirit of the real Desert to those countless men and women who have been intrigued by the charm of the desert, but whose Henderson succeeded in this mission.

Desert Magazine ran until 1985, but its heyday was from its founding issue through the 19 frontier and the writers of the magazine could trace their own memories back to the "Wild West of its glory and fearful magnitude. Much was still left to be explored during those years, and not all the roads were paved. Wilderness had not been ,, desi

nature of these vast landscapes. Mining information was provided in each issue. Lost treasures hid in unexplored corners. In the oldest issues, wonderful photos of the desert showed the history of its people (homesteaders, Native Americans, and travelers).

In the 1960s and 1970s, articles about oases and down into Baja California. Photos from world famous photographers, including David Muench of Santa Barbara, graced the covers.

Truthfully, I heartily encourage you to browse these issues and get into the history of the articles (many detailing places no longer open to the public) but slowly expanded into the history, nature, and stories provided on the other pages.

To visit these wonders, just go to the link. You will find a gallery of all the covers of all the issues. Just pick one and click on it. You will be provided the scanned pages of the entire issue. I promise you will find something that will strike your interest. Please join me there.

Submitted by Lowell Foster, via The Rockhound Rambling 11/11, via The Rock Bag 12/11

Coach Bill Courtney said what?

õ R n c { g t u " y k p " i c o g u í " E q c e j g

Consider that a rock club is like a sports team with the coaches being the Board of Directors and the players the general membership. The "coach" sets the strategy and plan strategy one year at a time. But without the players, those plans fail. Both need a challenge is to get the players to invest in those plans so they agree to carry them out. They need to õ y k the players.

Rockgabbers March Report

Rockgabbers is awakening from its winter hibernation with a new beading project. The meeting will be on Saturday, March 31st, at the home of Sandie and Tony Fender, with the class starting at 1:00 pm and a pot luck dinner at 5:00.

This project will be a bracelet known as a Golden Glow. The material list is shown below, and all materials should be available at San Gabriel Bead Co. in Temple City. I have made this bracelet with amber round beads and amber large bicones, then using a dark colored accent bead. This I think makes a nice color combination. I have also seen very similar designs using contrasting colored beads and large bicones which makes a very different effect.



If you have any questions about materials, please feel free to contact Sandie or me, or just take this list to San Gabriel Bead Co. and ask them for help and advice.

Materials:-

Qty	size	description	comment
7	8mm	bicone crystals	see note 1 below
24	6mm	round crystals	see note 1 below
64	4mm	bicone crystals	see note 2 below
4 gm	15°	charlottes	gold color looks good
1		clasp	your choice of clasp
2		crimp beads	see note 3 below
2		crimp covers	see note 3 below
2		wire guards	see note 3 below
	6lb	fireline	
	.012-.015	flexible beading wire	see note 3 below
	#10 or #12	beading needle	

Note 1: These should either match or contrast. See description above.

Note 2: These should complement the round crystals.

Note 3: We will have a supply of crimp beads, covers, wire guards and flexible beading wire available for you if you choose.

LAVIC SIDING

March 24-25, 2012

Wouldn't it be nice to go to a place like the same spot? Well that place is Lavic siding - off the I-40.

After a good night's sleep you step in hand and you wonder where you'll find you realize all you really need to do is bend over and pick-up the very stone you're there to collect!

That's right! The stone is jasper, of brown, yellow. Some are mixes of these colors and others have "windows" with flecks of color in them.

You'll have this chance on this field trip in this one area - well this isn't true at all! I've been driven down the day before and check the washes that run north to south, you'll probably find even larger pieces.

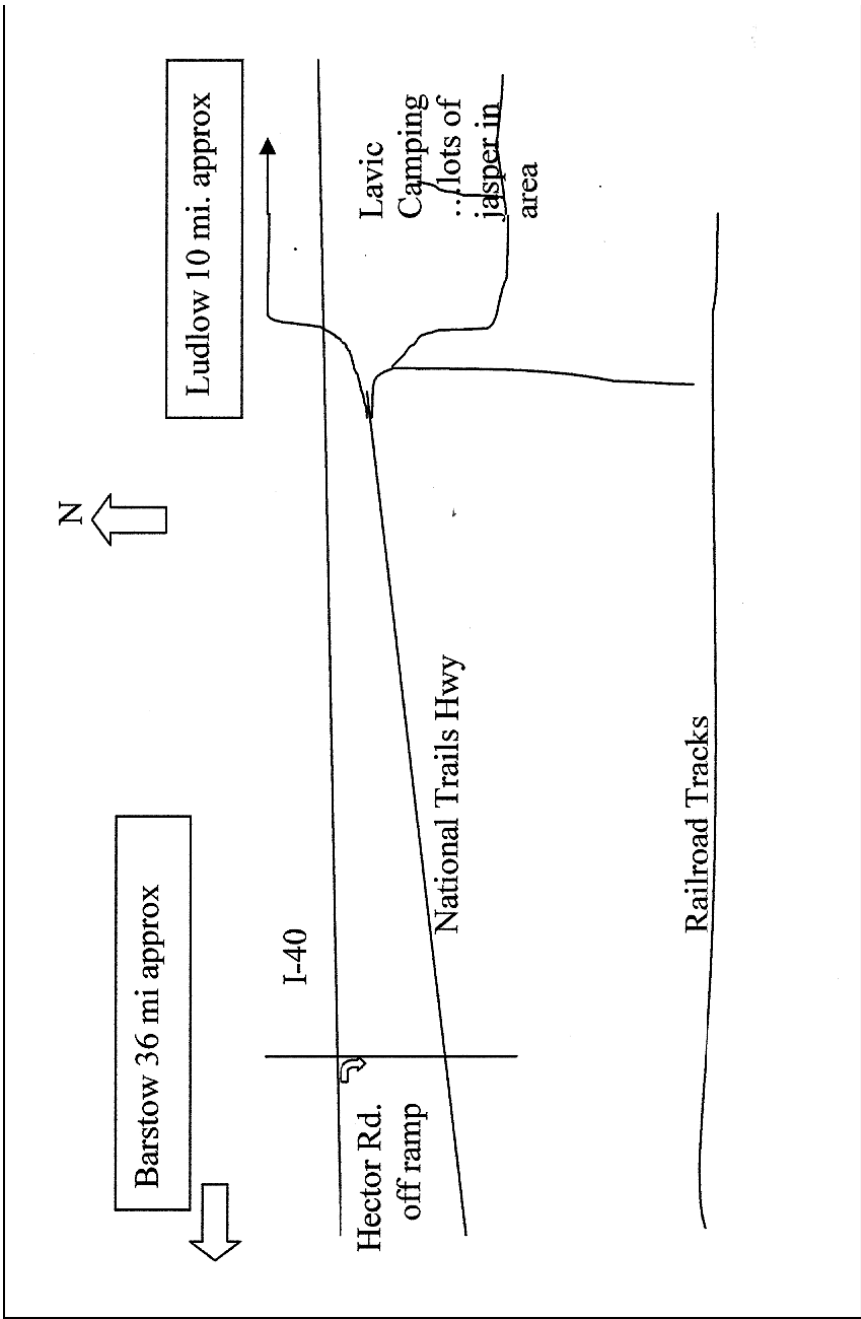
Across the freeway are the Cady mountains, a treasure trove of stones and minerals to collect. Minerals such as, psilomelane, gypsum and copper to name a few.

Agates of plume, moss, banded and fortification, as well as jaspers of all colors possible, similar to what is found in camp. You could quite literally spend a week or two exploring and still not find everything that is out there.

This is a good trip for both the first-timer or the veteran rockhound; there is lots of stuff - 1/2 hours from Pasadena, so come for the one day!

Typically we will be leaving camp to the collecting sites around 8:00AM. On Saturday evening we will have a potluck dinner at 4:30PM. Hope to see you there!

..... Somewhere in Calif **Joe Goetz** goes



**Roadman Mountains Petroglyphs
Lucerne Valley / Barstow Area
By Don Ogden**

On February 2, 2012 Jay and I went on a scouting trip and visited the Roadman Mountains Petroglyphs. Following is information from the web on the area and pictures we took.

Situated in the Mojave Desert about 30 miles northeast of Lucerne Valley lies a historic wash where Indians once came to leave us reminders of the past. These “rock art” engravings were 12,000 years using stone tools. p u

Some believe the rock art was left by the Cahuilla or the Chemehuevi Indian Tribes. We may never know for sure. Over the years the petroglyphs site has been visited by hundreds of people.

The BLM is keeping the access roads open, marked and available but the exact location is still somewhat unadvertised to help keep the destructive weekend warriors away. There is unfortunately a part of society that is not content with viewing and observing the beauty and history surrounding us.

The petroglyph visiting rules are quite simple: Only take pictures and leave footprints. A vehicle with good ground clearance is recommended. 4WD is not necessary. At the entrance there is forget your camera and film.

Petroglyphs are found here due to the presence of lava rock and minerals suitable for “rock art” activities.

pet-ro-glyph - A carving or line drawing on rock, especially one made by pre-historic people.

Today, the largest threat to cultural resources is unintentional damage caused by visitors. Many archaeology sites are scattered across the desert landscape. Although they have been present for thousands of years, they are not indestructible. Time and effects of nature are slowly erasing these precious traces of our past. The impacts of man accelerate this natural decay. When visiting archaeological and historical sites, please use minimum impact techniques. You may say, it's just a couple o f thousands of visitors saying the same thing. If you do enter an archaeological or historical site, you should first STOP, LOOK, and THINK.

Many sites have fragile artifacts lying just beneath the surface. Try to visually

identify each part of a site so you can avoid walking on it. If a trail has been made across a site, stay on it.

Remember, cabins and can dumps are archaeology too. The desert is dotted with the remains of old mining cabins, stage stops, and homesteads. The preservation of historic and prehistoric sites is equally important. The more time you spend within a site, the greater the chance for serious impacts to occur. Archaeological sites should not be used as picnic areas or camp sites.

Archaeological sites are protected by law. If you discover any illegal activity, please notify your local BLM office.

The Rodman Mountain Petroglyph site is just one of those very, very good reasons to get out NOW and explore the Mojave before precious sites like this get discovered by idiots who see nothing wrong with demolishing and destroying historical property, ruining entire desert experiences for many people, forever. If you're caught altering t h e about a \$90,000 fine + possible jail time. That sounds just about fair to me.

Luckily this particular site is relatively spotless, except for a couple recent crude scratchings in the rock which will be gone in a hundred years, these petroglyphs are in pristine condition. Some of them have been accurately dated back to about 10,000 years old.

We know this to be a fact because there is a certain desert fungus that grows over the rocks in the desert. This fungus takes about 10,000 years to form and a few of the petroglyphs are completely covered in this fungus.

They are extremely important in understanding how life even came to be in this part of the world (my favorite drawing is that of a 10,000 year old flying craft). Flying crafts are actually easy to believe considering that about 200 yards from this site, there are 2 rock formations built into the ground which can o n l y b e s e e n f r o m t h e a i r . O n e of a boomerang. These intaglios are fenced in for their protection but it also makes them easy to find in this flat landscape.

Cahuilla Tribe

The Cahuilla were a desert tribe which dwelled slightly north of Barstow. Although their location indicates a good possibility that they produced the Barstow glyphs, several aspect of their culture do not fit with the clues given by the pictures themselves.

(Continued on page 12)

Roadman Mountains Petroglyphs

(Continued from page 11)

The Cahuilla were **not migratory**. They travelled to different levels of the desert region through different seasons depending on what vegetation or game was in season. They would hunt the mountain goats of higher elevations during one season, wait for a crop of acorns slightly lower another season, or even harvest small shrubs in the lower desert regions. However, they did not travel significantly aside from these seasonal migrations and were not terribly likely to have stayed in the Barstow area long enough to create these glyphs.

Chemehuevi Tribe

The Chemehuevi were a small tribe of Native Americans who migrated to Southern California in the 1770s. The Chemehuevi were peaceful and quiet; in fact, other Native American tribes. The Chemehuevi were **migratory people**, spending only three months out of the year in the Twenty Nine Palms area and the rest of the year at Bear Valley during the pinion season and at Banning and Indio during the fruit harvest. Their territory started in the Kingston Range, south of Death Valley and stretched through the Providence Mountains to the boundaries of Riverside and Imperial Counties. It is within these boundaries that our petroglyphs lay. Perhaps it is the ancestors of these people who created the younger glyphs of the swastika, migratory symbol.

Among the tribal officials of the Chemehuevi, there existed a **shaman**, or powwand as he was referred to. His power came to him through dreams and visions (sprouting from doses of jimson weed). There were shamans for rain, medicine, and hunting. It is not unlikely that a shaman was the artist responsible for the petroglyphs currently being studied. The glyphs may be a depiction of one of his more important visions or it may indicate how he used these rocks (alignments) to observe and understand celestial motions. In fact, the shaman himself may be drawn into the Barstow petroglyphs in the human-like form of one of the shapes.

The Chemehuevi learned to farm and lived off small game such as rabbit, lizards and other reptiles. This makes sense since one of the glyphs we observed appears to be that of a lizard. Such animals, so important to the sustenance of the Native Americans, were often viewed as gods or links to the gods. To hunt small game such these, the Chemehuevi would throw stones at the animals, or use a bow (which was only about three feet in length).

Perhaps their ancestors used the older weapon, the atlatl, pictured in one of the older glyphs.



The Digital Rockhounder

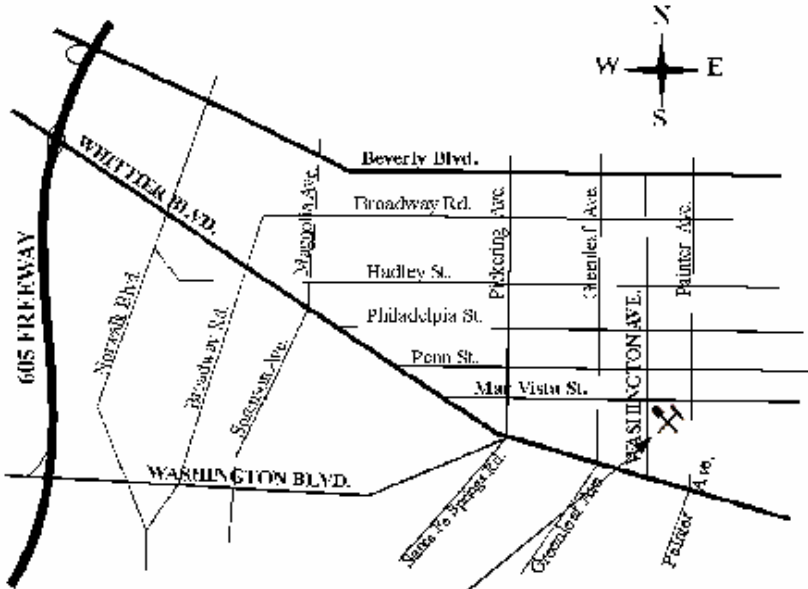
This Newsletter is available by e-mail as a full-color PDF. If you wish to receive the WGMS Rockhounder directly to your computer, send an e-mail to res19pnb@verizon.net.

Editor

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- Mar 3-4** **ARCADIA, CA.** Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.
LA County Arboretum, 301 Baldwin Avenue
Hours: 9 - 4:30 daily
Website: www.Moroks.com
- Mar 3-4** **VENTURA, CA.** Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds. 10 W. Harbor Blvd.
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Website: www.vgms.org
- Mar 9-11** **VICTORVILLE, CA.** Victorville Valley Gem & Min Society
Tailgate at Verde Antique Quarry (**Stoddard Well Tailgate**)
Bell Mountain/Stoddard Well exit from I-15
Hours: 9 - 5 daily
Website: www.vvgmc.org
- Mar 10-11** **PASADENA, CA.** Pasadena Lapidary Society
Masonic Hall, 3130 Huntington Drive
San Marino, CA 91108
Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5
- Mar 16-18** **SAN BERNADINO, CA.** Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
Western Regional Little League Ball Park
6707 Little League Drive
9am to Dusk daily
Website: www.obmsrocks.yolasite.com
- Apr 13-15** **VISTA, CA.** S a n D i e g o C o u n t y C o u n c i l
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
2040 N. Santa Fe Avenue
Hours: 9 - 5 daily
- Apr 28-29** **LANCASTER, CA.** Antelope Gem & Mineral Society
Lancaster High School. 44701 - 32nd Street West
Hours: 9 - 5 daily
Website: www.avgem.weebly.com
- May 5-6** **ANAHEIM, CA.** Searchers Gem & Mineral Society
Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W. Crescent Avenue
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4:30

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



MAR VISTA & WASHINGTON AVE.  WHITTIER COMMUNITY CENTER

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Affiliations



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(See page 4 & 15 for info & map)