

WHITTIER

**ROCKHOUNDER**  
GEM & MINERAL  
SOCIETY

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February 27, 2014  
“Field Trips Are Fun!!!”



A beautiful Late Fall view of the Afton Canyon river valley with the Souther Cadys visible as a backdrop. This picture was taken from the Afton Canyon overflow Camping area.

# ROCKHOUNDER

## THE PREZ SEZ:

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE for February 2014

Well it is still “winter” and our prime fieldtrip season. In the bulletin you’ll find the list of the fieldtrips for the year. All of these trips will give us a chance to build memories and friendships. So, if possible come on out on as many as you can. There is the chance to find the one or two great pieces that will inspire you to make something grand.

One place for that possibility is rockgrabbers. Some of the metal crafts you’ll learn there can be applied your future projects (as a framework). And do that several times and you’ll have enough to put in a display at our annual show. And just think how it all started with a camping trip where you found that special rock.

As far as the show goes it’s not too early to start thinking about what you’d like to display. Or how you can help and make the show a success.

Don’t forget the Federation show is going to be held at the Pomona Fairgrounds this May and your help is going to be needed, so volunteer.

Somewhere in So. Cal.  
*Joe Goetz*

**WGMS General Meeting**

**Thursday, February 27, 2014**

**“Field Trips Are Fun!!!”**

**O**ur February meeting will feature Don Ogden and a slide show featuring past field trips.

*Marcia*

**Rockgabbers**

**W**ith the price of silver below \$20 an ounce we will continue to work on silver projects. This month, being Valentines Day we decided to make heart jewelry. There are several different designs that you can work on, my favorite is a string of 5 hearts in the center with a fetter and 3 chain for the back. A popular design uses two interlocking hearts on a chain of your choice. For the real adventurous amongst us, you can make the chain out of about 50 little bitty hearts with a big heart at the center, and for the less adventurous amongst us, you can make a pair of heart earrings.

The date is February 8<sup>th</sup> and the time is 1:00 p.m. and the location is Tony and Sandie’s home. You should be able to complete the necklace during the class.

I use 18 gauge sterling silver for the necklace which makes for fairly rigid links, 16 gauge can be used if you prefer the chunkier look. You will need about 4 feet of round wire to make a necklace, and about 6 inches to make earrings. (If you make earrings, use 20 gauge for the earwires.)

You will also need a clasp of your choice.

As usual we will conclude the workshop with a potluck dinner.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at Rockgabbers.

*Tony and Sandie Fender*

**2014 Field Trip Schedule**

**Feb 15-17 Baxter Wash:** Exploring the North Cady Mountains for agate, jasper, opalite, calcite rhombs, chalcedony roses, amygdules, green fluorite, onyx and much more.

**Mar 22-23 Lavic Siding Area:** Jasper, thulite, agates and others.

**Apr 26-27 TBA:** Maybe the Stoddard Wells area.

**May 17 Wrightwood:** Actinolite and visits to sites along the San Andreas Fault

**June (TBA) Cerro Gordo Mine:** Historical Ghost Town and minerals associated with the mining of silver, lead, and zinc. Noted as a location to find Smithsonite.

**July 12 Palos Verdes:** Glaucofane, barite and agate minerals.

**Aug 2 Nipomo Show/Los Olivos:** to collect Serpentine, the California State Rock. Possibly collecting Cinnabar and a stop at Tajiaguas Creek for fossilized whale bone.

**Sept 20-21 Jalama Beach:** Agate, jasper, petrified whale bone, travertine onyx, Marcasite and fossils.

**Oct 11-12 Searles Lake Club Show & field trips:** Pink halite crystals & borax minerals.

**Nov 1-2 Whittier Claim Area:** honey onyx, agate, jasper, palm root, etc.

**Nov 28-30 Wiley's Well Area:** Annual CFMS field trip for geodes, agates and other good stuff.

**Dec 6 Himalaya Mine Tourmalines:** Dig your own pink and green California tourmalines near beautiful Lake Henshaw in San Diego County, 20 miles east of Pala. This is a fee collecting site.

For up-to-date information on these field trips call Joe Goetz at (626)-622-9420.

**WGMS Board Meeting Scheduled**  
**Thursday, February 20 at 7:30 PM**  
**at Jay & Kathy Valle's House**  
**For directions, etc.**  
**Call (626) 934-9764**

**Minutes of the WGMS Board Meeting - January 16, 2014**

Incoming President Joe Goetz called the meeting to order.

Programs: Marcia Goetz informed us the the January meeting program would be a DVD about the Rewa Okan-Agodi Rubellite tourmaline.

Secretary: Marcia Goetz read the minutes from the November Board Meeting. They were approved as read.

Treasurer: Nancy Kowalski informed us about the state of our accounts. After some discussion it was decided that we would audit the books at the next Board Meeting and also prepare an official agenda for the year. Nancy was directed to pay our CFMS Dues and to do the annual State required filings, including the tax form for 2013.

Field Trips: Joe Goetz told us that a field trip meeting had been scheduled to prepare a list of proposed field trip destinations and dates for the coming year. It is going to be held at the home of Jay & Kathy Valle, January 18, starting at 10 AM.

Membership: Jerry Turner proposed a change to our By-Laws regarding how we accept new members. He wished to simplify the process and make it more timely by accepting new members immediately after receipt of the membership application and their annual dues. This would also involve the removal of the requirement for attendance at a certain number of club events and no sponsor would be required for them to join. As we are already doing this, it would codify the actual process. After some discussion, Jerry was directed to come up with the changes needed to carry out this change to the By-Laws and present it at an upcoming Board Meeting.

Refreshments: Joe and Marcia will be providing the snacks for the January General Meeting as the Turners will be Quartzsite at that time.

Sunshine Committee: Kathy Valle accepted the appointment to the "Sunshine Committee", formerly known as the "Social Secretary".

New Business: Due to privacy concerns Art Ragazi asked that his phone number and email address be removed from the inside front cov-

er of the newsletter.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for February 20 at the Valle's.

Meeting adjourned.

**Minutes of the WGMS General Meeting - January 23, 2014**

President Joe Goetz opened up the meeting with a greeting to all and the flag salute.

He then presented the list of proposed field trips for the coming year.

There was no Secretary's Report.

Nancy Kowalski gave the Treasurer's Report.

Tony Fender reminded us that the CFMS Show is coming up on May 30 to June 1 and it is being presented by the Pasadena lapidary Society at the Pomona Fairgrounds. Marcia added that the CFMS Show will feature a "Club Central" booth for clubs to greet the fairgoers and give information specific to their club. He also mentioned that if you wanted to go to ZZZZX you needed to get your application in fairly soon as it is filling up fast.

Kathy Valle had no news on the "Sunshine Committee" front. Loretta Ogden informed us that long-time member of the North Orange County Club, Don Livzey had died.

Rockgabbers has been scheduled for Saturday, February 8, location still to be determined. The project is a heart necklace and there will be an article in the newsletter with the details.

After the snack break and monthly raffle, the program for the evening, "The Story of Rewa Okan-Agodi Rubellite" was presented.

The meeting was attended by 15 members and 0 guests.

Meeting adjourned.

**February Fieldtrip to Baxter Wash  
February 15-16, 2014**

If you missed the fieldtrip over Thanksgiving and you wanted to go, then this is the trip for you. Baxter Wash is at the eastern side of Afton Canyon. There is a lot to collect; there are red, yellow, blue, plume & sagenite agates to mention a few. There is also jasper, opalite, calcite rhombs, chalcedony roses, amygdules and green fluorite and much more to mention a few more.

The camping area at this time will be again the overflow (group) camping area above the regular camp ground. Camping at Baxter Wash would be preferred with the exception of all the off roaders. If you like the sound of revving engines all night racing thru camp then this is the place for your camp.

Just think of all the collecting opportunities just on the way to Baxter Wash from camp. For those who don't camp for one reason or another, there is (some) lodging in Baker or better yet stay in Barstow.

This is an opportunity to create memories, take pictures, and collect cutting material and building friendships. There will be a potluck on Saturday evening and a campfire weather permitting.

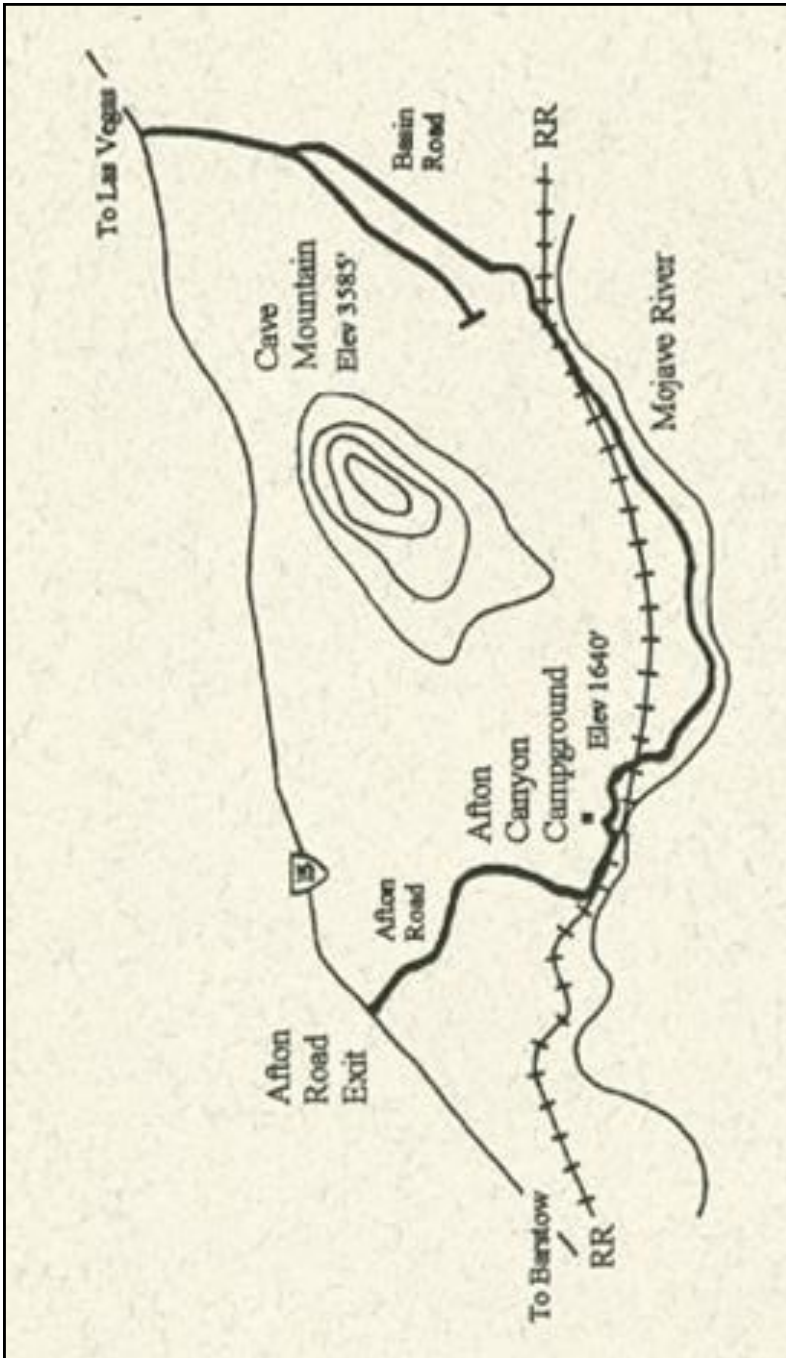
Having an adventure (lost) somewhere in California

*Joe Goetz*

**RV Dump Stations**

I have found a website which lists RV dump stations by state. <http://www.rvdumps.com/dumpstations/> It appears that most of the information is fairly up to date.

*Tony Fender*





**CFMS FIELD TRIPS—SOUTH  
THULITE COLLECTING TRIP  
Ludlow, NV  
February 22, 2014 – Saturday**

**WHEN:** February 22, Saturday

**WHERE:** Ludlow, NV

**MEET:** Saturday at 9:00 am at the hotel/restaurant parking lot in Ludlow south of I-40 for orientation and sign in. Waiver of liability will be signed at the meeting spot. Last location for food and gas is Ludlow.\*

**MATERIAL:** We will be collecting Thulite that has a nice pink color and works well for spheres, carvings and slabs. Other materials at this site may include agates and jaspers, nearby is Pisgah Crater, a young volcano with an extensive lava field and we may stop there as well for some Lavic Jasper. For these other sites 4wd recommended but high clearance mandatory.

**VEHICLES:** From the meeting spot we will caravan East to for about 20 minutes to collecting site and low clearance vehicles are not advised. While the roads are basically traversable in most high clearance sedans, high clearance trucks and SUVs highly recommended.

**WHAT TO BRING:** collecting bags/buckets, rock hammer, digging equipment, safety glasses and spray bottles. Bring lunch, plenty of water and a camera.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Stay-overs may camp at a number of undeveloped sites or at the hotel in Ludlow. If you would like to stay for the weekend this general area also offers the Southern Cady's for a wide variety of material. Bring your rock collecting guides.

**WEATHER/GENERAL:** This is the heart of the Mojave Desert and the weather can be unpredictable at this time of year so dress accordingly. This trip may be canceled at the last minute due to bad weather, so please feel free to contact me the night before if weather is questionable.

**SAFETY CONCERNS:** This widespread field offers no shade. (BRING PLENTY OF WATER/LUNCH) \*Gas up in Ludlow.

Treat the desert with respect - tread lightly and pack it in / pack it out.

For more info contact:

**CFMS South Co-chairs:**

**Adam Dean:** [thegatehunter@verizon.net](mailto:thegatehunter@verizon.net) (909) 489-4899

**Robert Sankovich:** [rmsorca@adelphia.net](mailto:rmsorca@adelphia.net) 805-494-7734

## PLANT FOSSILIZATION

**F**ossilization is the process where plant and animal remains are preserved in sedimentary rock. The fossilization process begins when a plant or animal dies and is quickly covered with sediments. The loose sediments protect the remains from the elements, bacteria and other forces that cause decay, preserving some of the remains. Sediment layers continue to collect becoming hard solid rock.

Plant fossils include roots, wood, leaves, seeds, fruit, pollen, spores, phytoliths, and amber (the fossilized resin produced by some plants). Fossil land plants are recorded in terrestrial, lacustrine, fluvial and near shore marine sediments. Pollen, spores and algae are used for dating sedimentary rock sequences. The remains of fossil plants are not as common as fossil animals, although plant fossils are locally abundant in many regions worldwide.

The earliest fossils clearly assignable to Kingdom Plantae are fossil green algae from the Cambrian. The oldest known fossils of embryophytes date from the Ordovician, though such fossils are fragmentary. By the Silurian, fossils of whole plants are preserved, including the lycophyte *Baragwanathia longifolia*. From the Devonian, detailed fossils of rhyniophytes have been found. Early fossils of these ancient plants show the individual cells within the plant tissue. The Devonian period also saw the evolution of what many believe to be the first modern tree, *Archaeopteris*. This fern-like tree combined a woody trunk with the fronds of a fern, but produced no seeds.

The Coal measures are a major source of Paleozoic plant fossils, with many groups of plants in existence at this time. The spoil heaps of coal mines are the best places to collect; coal itself is the remains of fossilized plants, though structural detail of the plant fossils is rarely visible in coal. In the Fossil Forest at Victoria Park in the stumps of *Lepidodendron* trees are found in their original growth positions.

The fossilized remains of conifer and stems and branches may be locally abundant in lake and inshore sedimentary rocks from the Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras. Sequoia and its allies, magnolia, oak, and palms are often found. Petrified wood is common in some parts of the world, and is most frequently found in arid or desert areas where it is more readily exposed by erosion. Petrified wood is often heavily silicified (the organic material replaced by silicon dioxide), and the impregnated tissue is often preserved in fine detail. Such specimens may be cut and polished using lapidary equipment. Fossil forests of petrified wood have been found in all continents. Fossils of seed ferns such as *Glossopteris* are widely distributed throughout several continents of the Southern Hemisphere, a fact that gave support to Alfred Wegener's early ideas regarding Continental drift.

*Mojave Desert Gem and Min bulletin, 02/12 via The Ammonite 01/14*

## **Why Pyrite Crystals Have Different Shapes**

**S**ome minerals come in a variety of crystal forms. For example, pyrite commonly forms cubes, octahedrons, pyritohedrons or some combinations of these forms. All pyrite is FeS<sub>2</sub> with the same internal arrangement of iron and sulfur atoms. Why then, should pyrite crystals take on different shapes? All these forms reflect the same internal atomic symmetry, so the reasons must involve the conditions under which the pyrite forms. These are such things as temperature, pressure, acidity, and the composition of the fluids from which the pyrite grew.

Knowing what controls the different forms may be of practical value. Geologists studying pyrite in copper mines in Peru, Japan and Utah noticed that the richer parts of ore veins contain pyrite as pyritohedrons while the poorer zones contain pyrite as octahedrons and the barren zones contain pyrite as cubes.

The conditions forming the different sorts of pyrite crystals have been studied recently by Murowchick and Barnes at Penn State University. They grew pyrite crystals under controlled conditions in the laboratory. They found pyrite could form rods, smooth cubes, striated (grooved) cubes, octahedrons, pyritohedrons or dendrites under varying temperatures and degrees of supersaturation. These factors control the speed at which the crystals grew. For example, the rod shaped pyrite crystals form when growth rates are the slow due to a combination of low temperatures and low amounts of dissolved iron and sulfur. These crystals are very similar to the needle-like pyrite crystals found in geodes at Halls Gap, Kentucky.

If the temperatures are a bit higher or the supersaturation greater, smooth cubes of pyrite form. As the degree of supersaturation increases, the cubes become more and more striated. Eventually, at higher temperatures or degrees of supersaturation, octahedrons

form, then pyritohedrons. These are the common forms of pyrite found in many places through the world. Now, we see that their distribution and occurrence is not random, but gives important information on the chemical conditions of the area at the time when the pyrite grew.

At the highest degrees of supersaturation, crystal growth is very fast and odd dendritic clumps of pyrite form looking like the branching frost crystals that form on windows. Natural pyrite crystals showing this habit are very rare, but have been reported around hot springs on the deep sea floor. In these settings pyrite growth is very rapid as the hot water comes out of the crust and chills instantly against sea water.

At the mines studied, it appears that the richest parts of the veins were where the pyrite was forming, the fastest, likely closest to the source of the fluids. It is thus possible to map an ancient hydrothermal system just by using pyrite crystal forms. This could lead to cheap and easy ways to find new deposits and understand old ones.

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

#### References:

Amstutz, G.C. and Ligasacchi, A., 1958, "Mineralization zoning based on habit changes of pyrite, Geol. Soc. Amer. Bulletin vol. 69, p., 1529- 1530.

Murowchick, James and H.L. Barnes, 1987, "Effects of temperature and degree of supersaturation on pyrite morphology" American Mineralogist, vol. 72, p. 1241-1250

*Via Leaverite News, v. 19, no. 1, p. 7*

*<http://minds.wisconsin.edu/handle/1793/48105>*

**Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows**

- Feb 15-24**     **INDIO, CA.** San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society  
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival  
46350 Arabia Street  
Hours: 10 - 10 daily  
Email: [bert67@verizon.net](mailto:bert67@verizon.net)
- Mar 1-2**        **ARCADIA, CA.** Monrovia Rockhounds  
Los Angeles Arboretum & Botanic Gardens  
301 Baldwin Avenue  
Hours: 9:00 - 4:30 daily  
Website: [www.Moroks.com](http://www.Moroks.com)
- Mar 1-2**        **VENTURA, CA.** Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd.  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
Website: [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org)
- Mar 8-9**        **SAN MARINO, CA.** Pasadena Lapidary Society  
San Marino Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Drive  
Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5
- Mar 29-30**     **TORRANCE, CA.** South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society  
Ken Miller Recreation Center  
3341 Torrance Blvd (entrance on Madrona Ave)  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4  
Website: [www.palosverdes.com/sblap](http://www.palosverdes.com/sblap)
- Apr 26-27**     **THOUSAND OAKS, CA,** Conejo Gem & Mineral Club  
Borchard Park Community Center  
190 Reino Road (at Borchard Rd.)  
Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
Website: [www.cgamc.org](http://www.cgamc.org)
- May 2-4**        **BISHOP, CA.** Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society  
Bishop Fairgrounds, Sierra Street & Fair Drive  
Hours: Fri 5 - 10; Sat 9 - 7; Sun 10 - 3
- May 3-4**        **YUCAIPA, CA,** Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Scherer Senior Center, 12202 First Street  
Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun. 10 - 4  
Website: [www.yvgms.org/wiki](http://www.yvgms.org/wiki)

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



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**Bulletin exchanges:** are welcome and requests should be sent to the editor.

**Affiliations**



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