

WHITTIER



**ROCKHOUNDING**

GEM & MINERAL  
SOCIETY

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April 24, 2014  
“Fossils of the San Gabriel Valley”



A very young namesake seen at Burro Creek (mama was keeping baby close)

# ROCKHOUNDER

## THE PREZ SEZ:

Well March has come and gone. Hopefully we'll have April showers will happen and we'll have May flowers.

Summer will soon be upon us, but first, we'll have the CFMS show in May. This one is going to be close ie. Pomona. Our members are a talented group, we can make a good showing by putting in display cases both in competition and non-competition.

We can also volunteer to help the host club, Pasadena Lapidary Society, in whatever capacity is needed. Perhaps you could help out in the kids' corner. Of course you could demonstrate your particular facet of the hobby or even volunteer at Club Central for 4 hrs. representing the club. Who knows, we may even pick up a few new members.

While at the CFMS show, perhaps we can pick up a few pointers that we could apply for our own show. It is only 6 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> months until our show, who knows you may find the special material to make your case even more outstanding. So it's not too early to start thinking about our show.

The next fieldtrip is to Stoddard Well, more about that later in the bulletin.

Let's have fun out there!

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WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, April 24, 2014

Guest speaker: Keith Krzywiec  
"Fossils of the San Gabriel Valley"

Keith Krzywiec is our special guest speaker for April. He is presenting a program called "Fossils of the San Gabriel Valley" which is comprised of fossil finds from the San Gabriel Valley and throughout the Los Angeles basin, a diversity of fossils dating from the mid to late Miocene Epoch.

The diversity of fossils in his collection is comprised of 80 or more specimens including fish, plants, fossil wood, shell fish, whale fossils and more which will be on display for viewing. Slide projection and discussion includes an introduction of geological history and identification of artifacts on display.

This is a great program for ages 8 and up. Locally-found shark teeth may be purchased at all presentations for a donation.

Speaker: Keith Krzywiec

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**WGMS Board Meeting Scheduled  
Thursday, April 17 at 7:30 PM  
at Jay & Kathy Valle's House  
For directions, etc.  
Call (626) 934-9764**

### **Rockgabbers**

**B**ecause of all the March shows, Ventura, Monrovia, Pasadena to name a few, we skipped a Rockgabbers meeting for March. Our April meeting will be on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The projects for this month are sterling silver earrings. I have several designs which you can choose from, or you can create your own designs. Some of my designs are Celtic Knots, and there are many free websites that you can find which allow you to design your own Celtic Knots. Be careful that you don't get carried away with complexity, and remember that the wire has to be threaded through the knot and woven in an alternating over/under sequence. Generally 18 gauge works well, although thinner gauges can be used. I often use 20 gauge for the ear wires.

If anybody has a particular project they would like, or a skill they want to learn, please let me know, I'm sure that somewhere around the club we can find somebody competent to teach it.

As usual we always conclude our workshop with a potluck dinner.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at Rockgabbers.

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## **Lavic Jasper Fieldtrip**

**W**e got out to Lavic and set the signs by Friday afternoon, Mark and Linda, Carolyn and Charlotte, Rex and Chewy and family and friends of Mark were there. We got back to the hotel and were contacted by Bob Driskell and Adrian Ruiz from the Oxnard club and we suggested Peggy Sue's for dinner.

After dinner, we bid good night and we went back to hotel. Before you knew it, it was time to get up and go to breakfast. Soon we were on the road toward Lavic. Traffic was light and we made good time and in seemingly got there in no time.

Bob and Adrienne found lots of jasper in the camp area. This proves what I had reported - someone could actually park the truck and start collecting jasper as soon as you got out of the truck. After everyone signed the waiver and I gave the safety talk about possible snake encounters, driving safely while caravanning, and other safety tips.

The first place was the ravine on the south side of the tracks. It seemed that after a while people would come back with buckets full or near full after a trek down the ravine. Our next stop was to the area that Adam Dean had taken the club a couple of years ago. The area is just outside the base boundary. The jasper in this area is larger and quite plentiful. We headed back to camp for lunch and possibly pick up anyone who may have come in.

After lunch we went over to the mine in the Southern Cadys. Some palm root and other agates were collected. The black agate seems to have been collected to the point of only finding a few pieces lying at the base of the loading trench. I suspect I'll have to do some scouting and scratching around and may be able to find the continuation of the seam.

Potluck was wonderful as always. There was a broad assortment of foods and the company of folks all crowded behind Carolyn's trailer, which happened to be where the shade was.

After returning to the hotel and soon to sleep, Sunday morning arrived seemingly so early. After breakfast we were off like a herd of turtles. The group in camp was smaller Sunday morning but no less enthusiast about collecting some more. Marcia and I did a exploring the day before and

found the area Marcia had found a really nice piece of jasper a while ago. So this is where we went Sunday. As it turns out this is just south of camp and next to the tracks on the north side.

After that we all went exploring and went into an area where we found the 1930's alignment of route 66. In the 1930's jasper was mined and ground up and added to the asphalt that paved route 66 in this area. We found some jasper and soon headed back to camp but along the way Marcia and I did some more exploring and found where the old railroad crew quarters indicated by trash pits. In the pits we found there was purple glass and bits of china and stoneware. As we were exploring we found where a rockhound had dumped some material not from the Lavic area. We had found a slab of jade and pieces of howlite that sawed and other assorted materials as well.

After lunch we decided to explore the area to the east toward Ludlow. We found out the area is devoid of jasper except for one small area off a gas pipeline road and that wasn't great at all. With shadows getting long in the afternoon we headed down to the frontage road and get into Ludlow for gas and ice cream!

The bridge on old Hwy 66 going into town had a section missing. So we drove through the wash bypassing the bridge. We ended up at the 76 and DQ. This is where Sheryl Aitton starting having engine problems. I suspect the very bumpy gas road may have knocked some scale loose. So I suggested she put in some injector cleaner into the tank.

While the rest of the group went back to camp to prepare for dinner Marcia and I followed Sheryl to Lenwood. When we all got off there, Sheryl said her truck was in fact running better. Two hours later we received a text saying she had arrived home safely and she had no further troubles with her truck.

So Marcia and I went back to our hotel and had dinner and soon went to la-la land. So as we headed home, I reflected on the weekend and all in all it was a good trip.

I'm looking forward to the next fieldtrip.

Lost somewhere in Calif.

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**April 26th & 27th Fieldtrip  
Stoddard Wells Area**

The April fieldtrip was to be to the Pinto Basin, however after a harrowing scouting trip, it was determined that it was not a trip for our club. Unless you're an extreme mineral collector that doesn't mind washed out roads clinging to the mountainside. And are willing to spend hours if not days examining mine dumps for that special mineral specimen, then as rockhounds it would be better to go to a site better suited to rockhounds.

The place that was chosen is the Stoddard Wells area. It is close, about 1 1/2 hrs. travel time. And there is a fair amount to be collected. There is jade, verde antique marble, blue dolomite, soapstone, tri colored marble and other collectables not far away.

Camping at the site of the tailgate is actually quite nice. And for non-campers Victorville offers lots of lodging possibilities.

It is close enough that a day trip is easy to do, however camping offers unique opportunities such as seeing the sunrise that can only be enjoyed while camping and not seen in town. As well as sunset can be spectacular after a day of collecting and exploring. At night seeing the stars in the sky is absolutely fantastic, you probably didn't realize just how many stars can be seen when the city lights are dim.

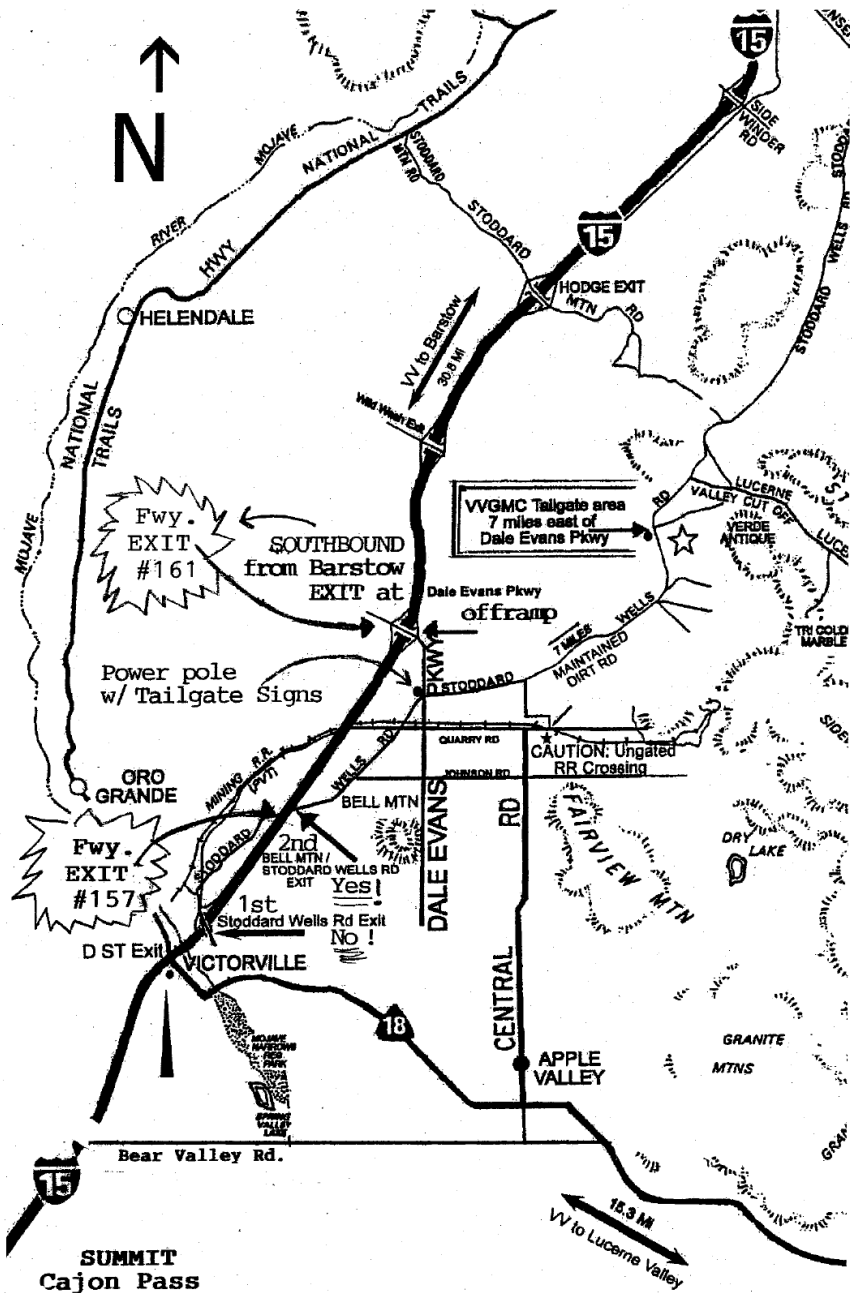
A potluck or a run into a Victorville restaurant would be on Saturday night. And later, weather permitting, a campfire back at camp (not in the restaurant!)

Bring all the usual things like a hat, sunglasses, lunch, sunscreen, water, rock hammer, a bag to put rock into and dress in layers. April can still be cool in the morning and quite warm in the afternoon and downright cold at night.

Since the snakes have already come out because of the warm weather. The common sense things such as not putting your hands where you can't see or not walking between two large bushes because it is a place snakes like to lurk. And dress in loose jeans or pants and wear boots that go over the ankles and of course be aware and look carefully at your surroundings. It's about being careful and still having fun. I hope to see you out there!

Lost somewhere.....

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**SUMMIT  
Cajon Pass**



## **Re-Opening of Clear Creek Management Area, San Benito County, California**

The Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) will re-open to the public on March 15, 2014 after a nearly 6-year Resource Management Plan (RMP) process. This article describes the essential features of the approved RMP as they affect rockhounds within the so-called ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern) which is essentially co-extant with the area of serpentine and related rocks which host the majority of collectible minerals in that area. On BLM maps the ACEC will be shown as a solid line encircling the serpentine zone and all of the routes discussed here. The “number of days” limits are derived from the EPA study and are based on the alleged health risks associated with the kinds of recreation we do in CCMA.

Some basic overall points:

- < First, off-road motorcycling is prohibited within the ACEC.
- < Overnight camping within the ACEC is prohibited unless on private property with the permission of the owner
- < Camping is available at 3 campgrounds just outside the ACEC boundary (Live Oak, Jade Mill and Condon/County Line. Another is north at Laguna Mountain.)
- < Access into the ACEC by vehicle is limited to 5 days per year and by permit only
- < At this time access is via the Clear Creek entrance (west) or New Idria entrance (NE) only. By Fall 2014 BLM intends to open another entrance from the Condon campground.
- < Permits are issued to individual people, not vehicles, so everyone in the car needs a permit
- < Any permitted vehicle must be highway licensed, and most backcountry roads will require 4WD
- < Personal access to the ACEC by foot may be permissible to a maximum 12 days per year if you can hike into and out of the ACEC between dawn and dusk on each day.
- < Permitting processes will be cumbersome, so allow adequate leadtime for application and mail delivery of permits from the Hollister office, or pick them up in person in Hollister.
- < No permit issued by BLM implies BLM’s permission to collect on private property or on any land (such as the San Benito Mountain Reserve) designated off-limits.

BLM visitor maps will designate two types of routes—public routes and so-called “backcountry” routes, and each has its own permitting process.

**Public Route Permits.** All parties entering the ACEC by vehicle must obtain a

public route permit. This permit will cost \$5/person and will eventually be obtained via [www.rec.gov](http://www.rec.gov). As of this date, the rec.gov link has not been set up, so temporarily these permits can be obtained only from the Hollister BLM office by phone or mail. A public permit entitles you to drive the “Scenic Loop” comprised of Clear Creek Road, the Ridge Road from the New Idria gate to the Joaquin Rocks gate and a loop that begins and ends on Ridge Road that most notably goes past the entrance to the benitoite mine. You are entitled to hike and collect on any BLM land that you can access by foot from any point on this Scenic Loop. Most of the collecting localities of interest to lapidarists are closely adjacent to the roads that make up the Scenic Loop, and if that is the case, you may have no need for a backcountry permit.

**Backcountry Permits.** Officially the backcountry routes are designated by BLM as “Closed/Admin” routes. Historically most of the mineral collecting localities for garnets, clinocllore, perovskite, chromite, artinite and other mineral specimens have required transit on one or more of these Admin routes to avoid a long and difficult hike. Under its “adaptive management” rules, BLM is making most of these routes available for limited access by rockhounds, hunters, botanists and others by means of a “backcountry permit”. Such permits are in addition to the public permit and will always be obtained from the Hollister office, even after public permits become available online. Current plans call for no additional fee for a backcountry permit, but to obtain one, you must specify your collecting destination to BLM, and BLM will specify the routes you are permitted to drive on to get there. Information assembled from permit applications will provide BLM with guidance relevant to future route adjustments and route maintenance .

Based on recent discussions with BLM, most of the historically active mineral locations will be accessible; some clarifications are still in progress. Condition of Admin roads will be highly variable from the smooth and wide open R002 to the barely negotiable T169. The northern portion of R008 will probably continue to be off limits for a variety of reasons, as will R019 through the Atlas Superfund site. As a result of the latter, the White Creek area will be accessible only via an old ATV trail from the Ridge Road, making collecting there difficult. While the Clear Creek Mine sits astride the Scenic Loop, and lapidarists’ needs may be fulfilled with only a public permit, mineral species collectors who want access to the upper workings should apply for a backcountry permit to drive on R004, R002 and/or R006. As with the public permits, you may collect on any BLM land to which you can hike from your permitted route. This is intended as a quick overview of the new system. The official policies are set by BLM, and in the event of any question, check with the BLM website or the Hollister office.

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## **Safety Matters – Wear The Mask for the Task by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair**

Perhaps you have heard the expression “Wear the right mask for the task at hand.” Then again perhaps you may not have heard of it, seeing’s how I just made it up. Because it rhymes, it may be more memorable as a safety message. Catch phrases are handy for making a safety guideline a rememberable guideline. What the expression “wear the right mask for the task” is meant to convey is the message that for many rockhounds, silver and goldsmiths, lapidary tasks and so on, wearing a specific for the task mask may be advisable.

Rockhound tasks often involve being in an area of dry, wind-blown dust. For such situations a simple, properly fitted, dust mask would be suitable for protecting the lungs from air-born dust.

Silver and gold smithing operations may also involve dry dust such as when using rouge or polishing powder to finish a piece of work. Smithing tasks may also involve fumes from soldering and pickling operations. A dry dust type of mask would not offer suitable protection to the lungs from the detrimental effect of soldering fumes. Masks providing protection from harmful fumes would be a more appropriate choice. Even under the best of circumstances where a suitable ventilation system is being used during soldering operations, wearing a mask for protection from vapors may be advisable.

Lapidary tasks, on the other hand, usually involve the need for lung protection from the presence of wet dust. Wet dust requires a different type of mask – one that catches the dust but does not block the flow of air to the lungs. A standard dry dust mask would rapidly clog and be rendered useless when used in a wet dust environment. Another common material used in lapidary tasks is the mixing and application of epoxy resins. Epoxies, as I’m sure you have noted from reading the safety labels, emit volatiles that are harmful if inhaled. Labels on epoxies usually stress using the product in a well-ventilated area. If the usage is in an area not all that well ventilated, a mask suitable for epoxy vapors may be used.

Were one to look in any reasonably complete safety equipment catalog, one would find a bewildering array of safety masks made by numerous vendors and suitable for every imaginable task. No brief safety article can mention all the various products available for rockhound, smithing and lapidary tasks, but catalog sales representatives could easily offer mask guidance for your particular needs. Even in modestly equipped hardware and building

supply stores one may be able to find masks suitable to the task at hand. The takeaway message in all this discussion is that your lungs are important and need to be protected. There are numerous safety masks which can offer that protection. The trick is to choose the mask which fits the task. Actually, a similar statement may be made for many rockhound tasks: use the right hammer and chisel, select the right safety goggles, wear the right footwear, choose the right gloves, and so on. Being safe involves making good choices. Please be informed, please be safe.

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### Petoskey Stones

**P**etoskey Stones are fossilized colony corals (*J g z c i q p c t r g t e c*). Their origin is traced back to Devonian seas that covered Michigan's Lower Peninsula about 350 million years ago. The soft, living tissue of corals is called the polyp. A limey substance is secreted by the polyp, hardening into corallite—a skeletal base which supports the polyp and keeps it from being buried alive by bottom debris.

Petoskey stones found in Michigan consist of massive corallas of varying sizes. The limey skeletons were replaced by calcite or silica in a cell-by-cell process called petrification.

When glaciers scraped the bedrock surface, fragments of this rock were carried and deposited elsewhere, primarily in the north half of the Lower Peninsula. In 1985, the Michigan legislature became the first in the nation to select a fossil as its state stone.

Petoskey stones may be found on beaches, road cuts, ditches, gravel pits and sand blows all over the state. Similar fossils of the *J g z c i q / p c t g e n u s* occur in many parts of the world, but the *r g t e c* is limited to the Traverse Group.

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**Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows**

**Apr 7**      **CULVER CITY, CA.** Culver City Rock & Mineral Club  
Veterans Memorial Auditorium  
4117 Overland Blvd., MultiPurpose Room  
Hours: Mon 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Website: [www.culvercityrocks.org/meeting.htm](http://www.culvercityrocks.org/meeting.htm)

**Apr 11-13**    **VISTA, CA.** Vista Gem & Mineral Society  
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum  
2040 North Santa Fe Avenue  
Hours: 9 - 5 daily  
Website: [www.vistarocks.org](http://www.vistarocks.org)

**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**      **ANAHEIM, CA.** Searchers Gem & Mineral Society  
Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W. Crescent Avenue  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4:30  
Website: [www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

**May 3-4**      **PASO ROBLES, CA.** Santa Lucia Rockhounds  
Pioneer Park & Museum, 2010 Riverside Avenue  
Hours: 9 - 5 daily  
Website: [www.slockhounds.org](http://www.slockhounds.org)

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**2014 CFMS Show and Conference**  
**May 30 - June 1**  
**Fairplex, 1101 W. McKinley Ave, POMONA, CA**  
**to be hosted by the**  
**Pasadena Lapidary Society**  
**Show Website: [www.cfms2014show.com](http://www.cfms2014show.com)**

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



**Editor:** Jay Valle, 1421 Latchford Avenue, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745  
Home: (626) 934-9764; E-Mail: [wrongwaybart@yahoo.com](mailto:wrongwaybart@yahoo.com)

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

**Affiliations**



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**Whittier Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.**  
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**Editor: Jay Valle, 1421 Latchford Ave.**  
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