

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

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May General Meeting:
“Agates & Local Geology”
May 28 at 7:30 PM

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Contemplation of a dendrite on quartz at the Princess Pat Mine

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

May Showers bring (desert) May flowers. It will make it difficult to distinguish the rocks from the flowers.

For those thinking of going to the CFMS Show in Lodi, now would be good time to prepare. You can find the information and reservation forms on the CFMS webpage.

<http://www.cfmsinc.org/>.

Joe Goetz

Did you know?

- A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two-tired.
- What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead giveaway).
- She had a boyfriend with a wooden leg, but broke it off.
- A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
- With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.
- Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft and I'll show you A-flat minor.
- Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.
- When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
- The man who fell into an upholstery factory is now fully recovered.
- You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
- He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
- Every calendar's days are numbered.
- A lot of money is tainted. It taint yours and it taint mine.
- Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
- Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

Fossick Gossip 12/13

**WGMS General Meeting
Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 7:30 PM**

“Agates & Local Geology”

Jason Badgley has been collecting rocks for a very long time. His main area of interest has long been “sagenitic” or “inclusional” agates, and he has a fine collection of locally collected agates and jaspers.

Jason will present a program on Agates and the local geology where they are found at our General Meeting on May 28. It should be interesting, informative and fun.

Marcia

Rockgabbers

Rockgabbers will be held on May 17 at Tony and Sandie Fender’s House, starting at 1 pm. We will be making the flower bracelet, that Sandie had on display at the meeting. Here is the supply list.

Needed for a 7 inch bracelet:

- #8 beads: 94 for flowers; 6 for ends and middles
- Total: 100 beads**
- Super duo: 70 for flowers
- Crystal or pearl, 4mm: 8 for flowers
- Nylon thread
- #12 needle
- Clasp

After making the bracelet we will have a potluck dinner.

Tony and Sandie

Medicine Wheel

The Medicine Wheel is representative of American Indian Spirituality. The Medicine Wheel symbolizes the individual journey we each must take to find our own path. Within the Medicine Wheel are The Four Cardinal Directions and the Four Sacred Colors. The Circle represents the Circle of Life and the Center of the Circle, the Eternal Fire. The Eagle, flying toward the East, is a symbol of strength, endurance and vision. East signifies the renewal of life and the rebirth of Cherokee unity.

The medicine wheel is a symbol for the wheel of life which is forever evolving and bringing new lessons and truths to the walking of the path. The *Earthwalk* is based on the understanding that each one of us must stand on every spoke of the great wheel of life many times, and that every direction is to be honored. Until you have walked in others' moccasins, or stood upon their spokes of the wheel, you will never truly know their hearts.

The medicine wheel teaches us that all lessons are equal, as are all talents and abilities. Every living creature will one day see and experience each spoke of the wheel, and know these truths. It is a pathway to truth, peace and harmony. The circle is never ending, life without end.

In experiencing the Good Red Road, one learns the lessons of physical life, or of being human. This road runs South to North in the circle of the medicine wheel. After the graduation experience of death, one enters the Blue or Black Road, that is the world of the grandfathers and grandmothers. In spirit, one will continue to learn by counseling those remaining on the Good Red Road. The Blue Road of the spirit runs East to West. The medicine wheel is life, afterlife, rebirth and the honoring of each step along the way

East = Red = success; triumph

North = Blue = defeat; trouble

West = Black = death

South = White = peace; happiness

There are three additional sacred directions:

Up Above = Yellow

Down Below = Brown

Here in the Center = Green

(Continued on page 12)

Ye Olde Englishe Rocke

The English language is replete with obsolete words and terms. Here are some that once applied to rocks and minerals:

Bonksman: The man who works at the mouth of a coal mine.

Comet-wine: Grapes growing during a year in which a comet appeared were thought to be better in flavor than those of other years, thus wine made during those years is thought to be superior in quality. Why? It was thought that comets could influence the weather, yielding a warmer growing season and better grapes.

Eagle-stone: Generally, an eagle-stone was a piece of iron ore. Eagles were believed to carry these stones up to their nests because the stones would prevent their eggs from rotting. Alternatively, an eagle-stone was a fossil that rattled when shaken because of a small loose fragment inside it. The eagle-stone was necessary for the eagle to raise healthy young. Eagle-stones also found use by pregnant women who wore them as a charm to prevent miscarriages.

Old-man: If underground miners broke into older, forgotten mine workings, they'd say that "the old-man has been here" or that they "got into an old-man."

Puttingstone: It was the custom among great houses in Scotland to keep a huge stone by their gates. Thrown from the shoulder, the stone was used for trials of strength. It was perhaps an ancestor to the shot put.

Sand-knocker: Sandstone was ground into grit, and the sand-knocker made it and sold it door-to-door for use in sanding down floors.

Sea-dog: Sailors viewed the sea-dog, a meteor seen on the horizon shortly before or after sunset, as a sign or portent of bad weather to come.

Slocking-stone: To promote a mining scheme, investors might be shown a slocking-stone, which was a very rich specimen of ore from the mine, as an inducement to buy.

Surface-coal: Another term for cow “chips” or cattle dung, which was widely used for burning.

Thunderstone: The thunderstone was a rock supposedly created by thunder. The belief in thunderstones might have its origin in the fulgerite, which is a fused rock created when lightning strikes sand or soil. Fulgerites may have a forked or branching structure; thus they were thought to be thunderbolts, or thunderstones.

Verter-water: Rainwater that collected in small hollows in rocks and tombstones was thought to work as a cure for warts.

Warming-stone: Warming-stones were pebbles used by bakers to indicate that their ovens were hot enough for baking. When the stone turned white, the oven was ready.

Reference: Kacirk, J., 2000, *The Word Museum*, Touchstone, Simon & Shuster, New York, NY.

From RockyReader July 2011 via Via The Glacial Drifter 4/15

**Field Trip: Primm, Nevada
Colosseum Mine & Mesquite Dry Lake
May 9-10 , 2-15**

Trip leader Jimmy Peterson cell (714) 904 8573

This trip will be another combined field trip with other Southern California clubs.

We will be staying at Whiskey Petes in Primm, Nevada (Stateline) or the Gold Strike in Jean and then going up to the old Colosseum mine. We will be collecting pyrites, chalcopyrites and other iron minerals.

We will meet Saturday morning at 8:30 at the Yates Well Rd. off ramp on I-15. This is the 1st off ramp west of Primm. It is also the off ramp for the big solar electric plant. The road is steep and rough so a high clearance vehicle is required. Bring a



small (or bigger) hammer to break rocks. We will go to a buffet at one of the hotels for our Saturday night potluck.

Sunday morning we will go to Mesquite Dry Lake to collect Selenite crystals. For people joining on Sunday we will meet the Shell station just west of Jean at 08:30. The room rates currently are just under \$50 per night for two people. It is a good idea to make reservations early. Hope to see you there.

April Field Trip Report: Kramer Junction

The word that best describes the April field trip to Kramer Junction (and surrounding collecting areas) is WINDY. The wind it was a blowin' all day Saturday. Oh, and it was cold, at least it was at 8:30 AM at the agate mine meeting place (it did get warmer throughout the day, though no less windy.) The agate mine is a great place to camp and fine agates can be collected right there in camp. Only one brave camper actually spent the entire weekend at the campsite due to the wind (did I mention it was WINDY on Saturday). They reported being bounced around a bit but survived unscathed.

That said, Saturday morning we had an excellent turnout of 17 vehicles with about 35 eager rockhounds, with skill levels ranging from veteran 'houncers to first trip ever folks.

Robert Burson of the Searchers led the Saturday collecting and he took us to two productive agate locations near the campsite and later to the Boron area for jasper, green opal and more agate. Rock was found and collected by our participants and a fine day of rock hunting was had by all in spite of the wind which blew like crazy and threatened to blow us off the desert much of the day.

That evening, the traditional Saturday potluck was cancelled due to "*Mother Nature*" (ie. WIND) and was instead moved to Domingo's Mexican Restaurant in Boron. It was at this time the full force of the wind made itself known to Robert and Sharon Burson and attempted to forcibly remove one of their car doors. Enough damage was done to the door that it was deemed unsafe to drive off-road and they headed for home the next day (Sunday) to attend to repairs.

Sunday was beautiful and perfect for rock hunting. The wind was back to normal, the skies were clear and it was comfortably warm. Jay Valle led the somewhat smaller, though no less enthusiastic group to several other collecting locations for jasper, agate, green opal and "dog bone" agate. One of our field trippers was exploring and found a mostly untouched agate/jasper field a couple of hills over from where we were collecting at the time. We moved our collective selves over to this new (to us) location and enjoyed the plentiful collecting there.

The only mishap on Sunday happened to a non-4x4 van which found itself briefly trapped in the deep sand of a desert wash. We pulled it to solid (?) ground and continued with the important business of finding lapidary stuff. The day ended at the Borax Mine Visitor's Center for some information, a view of one of the largest open-pit borax mines in the world and some light collecting from the much depleted borax mineral piles.

Gold and Fools Gold: Which is which?

Since James Marshall's discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in 1848, more than 106 million troy ounces of gold have been mined in California. This huge amount of gold was obtained through sacrifice, determination and many long hours of hard work by thousands of miners throughout the years.

During this long period of mining activity, other minerals were encountered in the streams of California that closely resembled the much-sought-after gold ore. A bright golden gleam from the bottom of a pan full of gravel caused many gold-hunters' hearts to skip a beat. Tests at the assayer's office would later prove that the find was not gold, but merely a gold-colored mineral. Often a man would return to his claim empty-handed, having been fooled by a worthless, "false" gold - "fool's gold".

What exactly is fool's gold? It is any mineral that can be mistaken for gold, including a number of common California minerals. The minerals most often mistaken for gold are iron sulfides-pyrite, chalcopyrite, pyrrhotite, marcasite-and biotite.

Pyrite is the mineral most often referred to as fool's gold. It occurs as veins or as scattered grains in many types of rocks. Seen in exposed surfaces in a rock or as grains in a stream, it is often brown color on the outside, because the exposed parts have been oxidized to limonite, a more stable iron mineral. The crystal faces are often striated parallel to the edges of the face. Pyrite can be distinguished from gold by its greater hardness, its lower specific gravity (or weight), its dark streak, and by the striations on crystal faces when they are present.

Chalcopyrite, pyrrhotite, and marcasite are not as common as pyrite, but can be found in veins or as scattered grains in many rock types in California. These minerals, like pyrite, all have a dark streak and are lighter in weight and harder than gold. Pyrrhotite, when pure, is magnetic and can be picked out of mixed gravel with a strong magnet. None of these minerals commonly occur in crystalline form and most often are found as irregularly shaped, homogeneous masses. They all tarnish easily, going from bronze or brassy yellow to yellowish or greyish brown.

Biotite is a common accessory mineral in the igneous rocks of the Sierra

Nevadan batholith. As these rocks are eroded, the small black flakes of biotite are washed into streams and, after a short exposure to air and water, turn a dull brassy yellow. These flakes, because of their light weight and flat shape, often are concentrated in quiet eddies and along sand banks. Flakes of biotite are the most common form of fool's gold seen in the Sierra Nevada foothills by those who are panning for gold. While gold does occur in small flakes and is as soft as biotite, it has a golden yellow streak and is very much heavier.

The table compares the physical properties of gold and the 5 most common fool's gold minerals:

<i>MINERAL</i>	<i>COLOR</i>	<i>HARDNESS</i>	<i>SPECIFIC</i>		<i>FORMULA</i>
			<i>GRAVITY</i>	<i>STREAK *</i>	
Biotite	black	2.5-3.0	2.7-3.1	none	complex silicate
Chalcopyrite	brassy yellow	3.5-4.0	4.1-4.3	green black	CuFeS₂
Marcasite	pale bronze yellow	6.0-6.5	4.85-4.9	brown black	FeS₂
Pyrite	pale brassy yellow	6.0-6.5	4.95-5.1	green black	FeS₂
Pyrrhotite	bronze yellow	3.5-4.5	4.58-4.64	grey black	Fe (n1)Sn
GoldA	golden yellow	2.5-3.0	19.33 (pure)	golden yellow	Au

Many fine specimens and replicas of specimens of gold can be seen at the California Division of Mines and Geology mineral museum in the Ferry Building in San Francisco. Crystals, sheets, wires and many other forms are represent-ed in the museum's collection, as well as a number of famous nuggets. A display showing the common types of fool's gold is part of the exhibit.

The museum, located on the 2nd floor of the Ferry Building, is open from 8:00 to 5:00 Monday through Friday and is closed on weekends and holidays. Groups are welcome and tours are available, if advance notice is given. Admission is free.

For museum information, write or call: California Division of Mines and Geology

Ferry Building, Room 2022
San Francisco, CA 94111

* STREAK refers to the color of the powdered mineral and can best be seen by rubbing the specimen across a piece of white, unglazed porcelain., A GOLD is malleable, the fools gold minerals are not.

California Geology, April 1977

Medicine Wheel

(Continued from page 5)

Winter = go-la

The color for North is Blue which represents sadness, defeat.

It is a season of survival and waiting.

The Cherokee word for North means "cold" u-yv-tlv.

Spring = gi-la-go-ge

The color for East is Red which represents victory, power.

Spring is the re-awakening after a long sleep,
victory over winter; the power of new life.

The Cherokee word for East is ka-lv-gv

Summer = go-ga

The color for South is White for peace, happiness & serenity.

Summer is a time of plenty.

The Cherokee word for South means "warm" u-ga-no-wa.

Autumn = u-la-go-hv-s-di

The color for West is Black which represents death.

Autumn is the final harvest; the end of Life's Cycle.

The Cherokee word for West is wu-de-li-gv.

RED is symbolic of success. It is the color of the war club used to strike an enemy in battle as well as the other club used by the warrior to shield himself. Red beads are used to conjure the red spirit to insure long life, recovery from sickness, success in love and ball play or any other undertaking where the benefit of the magic spell is wrought.

BLACK is always typical of death. The soul of the enemy is continually beaten about by black war clubs and enveloped in a black fog. In conjuring to destroy an enemy, the priest uses black beads and invokes the black spirits-which always live in the West, bidding them to tear out the man's soul and carry it to the West, and put it into the black coffin deep in the black mud, with a black serpent coiled above it.

BLUE symbolizes failure, disappointment, or unsatisfied desire. To say "they shall never become blue" expresses the belief that they will never fail in anything they undertake. In love charms, the lover figuratively covers himself with red and prays that his rival will become entirely blue and walk in a blue path. "He is entirely blue," approximates meaning of the common English phrase, "He feels blue." "The blue spirits live in the North.

WHITE denotes peace and happiness. In ceremonial addresses, as the Green Corn Dance and ball play, the people symbolically partake of white food and, after the dance or game, return along the white trail to their white houses. In love charms, the man, to induce the woman to cast her love with his, boasted, "I am a white man," implying that all was happiness where he was. White beads have the same meaning in bead conjuring, and white is the color of the stone pipe used in antiquity in ratifying peace treaties. The White spirits live in the South.

Two numbers are sacred to the Cherokee. **Four** is one of those numbers, it represented the four primary directions. At the center of their paths lies the sacred fire. **Seven** is the other and most sacred of numbers. Seven is represented in the seven directions: north, south, east, west, above, below, and "here in the center" the place of the sacred fire. Seven also represented the seven ancient ceremonies that forms the yearly Cherokee religious cycle.

Medicine Wheel - Circle of Life

The native people believe the medicine wheel is sacred because the Great Spirit caused everything in nature to be round. The Sun, Sky, Earth and Moon are all round, thus, man should look upon the Medicine Wheel (circle of life) as sacred. It is the symbol of the circle that marks the edge of the world and so, the Four Winds that travel there. It is also the symbol of the year. The Sky, the Night, and the Moon go in a circle above the Sky, therefore, the Circle is a symbol of these divisions of time. It is the symbol of all times throughout creation.

Medicine Shield

The medicine shield is an expression of the unique gifts that it's maker wishes to impart about his or her current life journey. This can be a new level of personal growth, or illustrate the next mountain a person wishes to climb.

Every shield carries medicine through it's art and self-expression. Each shield is the essence of a time and space that carries certain aspects of knowledge. All persons carry shields of the lessons they learned from the four directions on the medicine wheel.

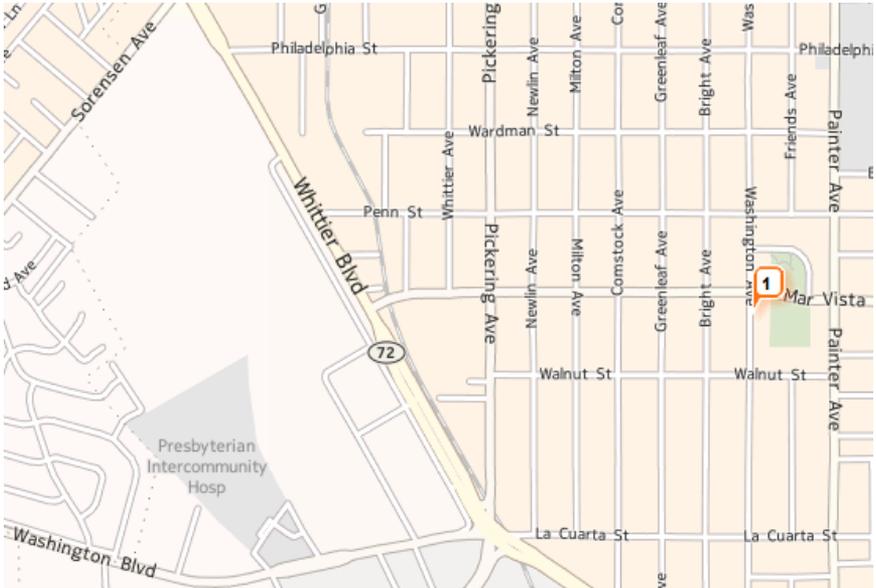
They are the healing tools we give ourselves to sooth the spirit and empower the will. The truth needs no explanation,, just reflection. This allows intuition to guide the heart so that humankind may celebrate more than it mourns.

<http://www.dances-with-snakes.com/>

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- May 9 - 10 ESCONDIDO, CA.** Palomar Gem & Mineral Club
California Center for the Arts, 340 N. Escondido Blvd.
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Website: www.palomargem.org
- May 9 - 10 RENO, NV.** Reno Gem & Mineral Society
Reno-Sparks Livestock Event Center
1350 North Wells Avenue
Hours: Sat 10 - 4; Sun 10 - 5
Website: www.renorockhounds.com
- June 6 - 7 GLENDORA, CA.** Glendora Gems & Mineral Society
Goddard Middle School, 857 East Sierra Madre
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
- June 12 - 14 LODI, CA. California Federation of Mineralogical Societies**
2015 SHOW & CONVENTION: *Rocks & Vines*"
Hours: Friday & Saturday 10-5; Sunday 10-4
<http://www.cfmsinc.org/2015show/2015Show.html>
- Jun 27 - 28 CULVER CITY, CA.** Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Blvd
At Culver Blvd, near the 405 & 10 Freeways
Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5
Website: www.culvercityrocks.org [Show Page](#)
- Sept 26 - 27 DOWNEY, CA.** Delvers Gem & Mineral Society
Elks Lodge, 11233 Woodruff Avenue
Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4
- Sept 26 - 27 MONTEREY, CA.** Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairgrounds Road
Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5
Website: www.cvgms.org
- Sept 26 - 27 SANTA ROSA, CA.** Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, 50 Mark West Springs Road
Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5
Website: www.srmgs.org

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



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Affiliations



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Meeting Date: May 28, 2015
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(See page 4 for information)