

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

Special Summer E-Edition

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Miner's dugout at Scout's Cove, Opal Mountain Field Trip

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Mid Summer Night Dreams

Summer is more than half over, yet the places to go and have fun are still out there. How many of them will you still get to before summer's end? Have you thought about the show at all? I know it's still a few months away, however it will be here before you realize it, then it'll be 'oh-my' where has the time gone!

The best way to avoid the 'oh-my's' of the show time this year is to decide what is going to be displayed and set it up. When it's set, take a picture and then pack it in a box and the when the show time here all you have to do is get the box with the display and the liners and go. Oh wait where did I put the box with the display? After a few minutes you'll find it and then you'll be off and running. Enjoy the getting to all those fun places for the rest of the summer.

Let's be safe out there

Joe Goetz

ROCKS ROCK! SHOW COMING

Get Ready!!! Our show is coming. Mark your calendars for Saturday October 17 and Sunday October 18 with set up on Friday, October 16 starting at 3 PM. Show day hours are 10 AM to 5 PM.

Rocks Rock!, our theme this year, appropriately relays our enthusiasm for rocks, gems, minerals and all the items related to them.

The Case Chairperson will be calling our members to find out how many cases you would like to put in the show this year. We all have an interesting collection of some sort we like to show off and this gives us an audience to wow with our creations or collections.

WGMS will also have raffle tickets to sell coming up at the September meeting. The WGMS is looking forward to donations for the raffle from its members - remember, please donate something you would be proud and happy to have received as a prize.

We will once again have a kitchen, silent auction and demonstration area. We are relying on our members to assist at the show. We will have a sign up sheet at the September meeting.

Marcia

Know Your Rocks

Leaverite: Also known as Dropite, Junkite, and Crudite. This type of rock should be discarded immediately. It constitutes 90% of most rocks. This includes Sourgrape Agate and Mutilated Quartz.

Sack Rock: This is material that is stuffed into a sack but falls from the top as the bearer struggles back to the car. If taken home, it will be tossed into a

corner and forgotten.

Wonder Rock: You always wonder why you brought it home and where you found it.

Braggin' Rock: Also called Pocket or Eating Rock. This material is licked, rubbed, spit upon, and fondled until it assumes a near polish and is frequently passed around for admiration.

@#S%& Rock: A large, heavy, possibly angular rock that falls on your foot as soon as you have removed your hiking boots.

The Rock Collector 5/08; via Shawnee Slate 1/13; via Rocky Mountain Fed. News Feb 2013 Behive Buzzer 3/13, via Chip 'N' Tumble, 4/14

August Field Trip Information

Hello All,

After last night's meeting I decided to change the August fieldtrip from August 2nd to August 9th to correspond with the Nipomo Show. That way people can enjoy the show as well as going up to collect serpentine and soapstone in Los Olivos. So remember to tell people in your respective clubs of the change.

However, we have one small problem... no one to lead the field trip. Could someone e-mail me if they can lead the trip to Los Olivos as I am trying to heal from toe surgery. If no one can lead the trip, I feel we should cancel it.

So if you are/were planning on going up to Nipomo next weekend, contact me first to confirm if we have someone to lead it.

THANKS!

Joe Goetz
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So What is Ghost Rain Again?

This question came up during a field trip as to the nature of ghost rain, and doesn't it have another proper scientific name?

*As it happens it does have a proper name - **Virga**, though for my money Ghost Rain is way cooler and more descriptive. The following article is from Wikipedia. If you do an Internet search you can find other articles as well. ED*

Virga

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

In [meteorology](#), **virga** is an observable [streak](#) or shaft of [precipitation](#) that falls from a [cloud](#) but [evaporates](#) or [sublimes](#) before reaching the ground.^[1] At high [altitudes](#) the [precipitation](#) falls mainly as [ice crystals](#) before melting and finally evaporating; this is often due to compressional heating, because the [air pressure](#) increases closer to the ground. It is very common in the [desert](#) and in [temperate climates](#). In North America, it is commonly seen in the [Western United States](#) and the [Canadian Prairies](#). It is also very common in the [Middle East](#), [Australia](#) and [North Africa](#).

Virga can cause varying weather effects, because as [rain](#) is changed from [liquid](#) to [vapor](#) form, it removes heat from the air due to the high [heat of vaporization](#) of water. In some instances, these pockets of colder air can descend rapidly, creating a dry [microburst](#) which can be extremely hazardous to [aviation](#). Conversely, precipitation evaporating at high altitude can compressionaly heat as it falls, and result in a gusty [downburst](#) which may substantially and rapidly warm the surface temperature. This fairly rare phenomenon, a [heat burst](#), also tends

to be of exceedingly dry air.

Virga also has a role in seeding [storm cells](#) whereby small particles from one cloud are blown into neighboring supersaturated air and act as [nucleation particles](#) for the next [thunderhead](#) cloud to begin forming.^{[[citation needed](#)]}

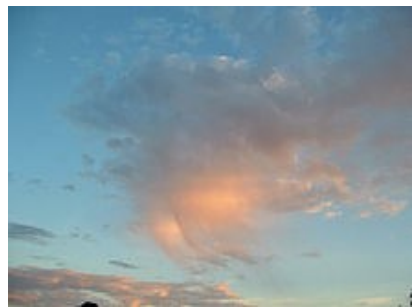
Virga can produce dramatic and beautiful scenes, especially during a red [sunset](#). The red light can be caught by the streamers of falling precipitation, and winds may push the bottom ends of the virga so it falls at an angle, making the clouds appear to have [commas](#) attached.

The word is derived from [Latin](#) *virga* meaning "twig" or "branch".

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virga>



[Nimbostratus](#) virga



Virga falling from [Alto cumulus](#)

Collecting Equipment

In order to enhance your prospecting for gems, minerals, rocks and fossils you will need certain equipment that will allow you to remove your samples from surrounding rock and sediment. The type of materials you will be collecting in, the kind of samples you look for and the surrounding environment will determine how to conduct the collecting and what type of equipment you must bring to the site. Specific locations might require the basic equipment in addition to optional or specialized equipment.

Most of the basic and optional equipment can be purchased at your local hardware store, Home Depot or Lowes. Specialty companies include Ward's Natural Science, Diamond Pacific, Raytech Industries, Amateur Geologist, Kinsley North and Geo

Tools

Basic Equipment:

- Rock pick or masonry hammer
- Chisel with 1-1 1/2" wide edge
- Work gloves
- Safety goggles or glasses
- Work boots/sturdy shoes (No sandals or open footwear)
- Bucket or knapsack for samples
- Newspapers for wrapping samples
- Small container or plastic bag for holding crystals
- First aid kit
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- Water
- Magnifying glass or 10x loopStreak plate
- Glass square
- Hat

Optional Equipment:

- Hardhat

- Crack hammer
- Sledge hammer 8+ lbs
- Crow bar or pry bar
- Screen sieves 1/4" mesh
- Shovel
- Rake
- Long shaft chisels
- Brush/whisk brush for removing sand & dirt
- Garden kneeling pad or strap on knee pads
- Cart or wagon
- Reflective safety vest
- Rubber boots/rain gear

Specialized Equipment:

- Ultraviolet light to detect fluorescent minerals
- HCL acid for testing for carbonate minerals
- Geiger counter to test for radioactive minerals
- Metal or plastic gold mining pans
- X-Ray Fluorescence Analyzers
- Metal detector

Helpful Suggestions:

Colored Coded Equipment. Some collectors paint part or all of their collecting equipment with a bright color so it is easier to see and retrieve them. If you loan out your equipment it is easier to distinguish your items from those of other collectors.

GPS Positioning. More collectors are now using GPS technology to locate the exact position of a collecting site. Having accurate directions and precise location coordinates helps to find the site faster and increases valuable collecting time. GPS technology is available on cell phones, built in car navigation systems and systems such as Garmin, Magellan and Tom Tom.

http://www.limineralandgeology.com/LiMags/Collecting_Equipment.html

**WORKING WITH FAULTY ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
CAN MAKE YOU BECOME A REAL LIVE WIRE!**

By Mark Nelson, Safety Committee

One of the great things about the lapidary hobby is that most of the powered equipment that we use is simple, reliable and serviceable. Saws, polishers, grinders and such are often passed down through various users to clubs and from clubs to individuals. With just basic maintenance a piece of equipment that is 40 years old can perform as well as it did when it was new!

One of the hazards we face when we work with older electrical equipment is in the electrical service. Extension cords and connections are not meant to last forever and must be inspected and serviced or replaced as needed. Here are some of the common conditions found on lapidary equipment that must be corrected:

Grounding. Grounding is the process used to safely eliminate unwanted voltage by directing that voltage to a safe connection to the earth. Electrical equipment must be properly grounded. At one time buildings were constructed without integral grounding (that round hole in a plug outlet connected to a little green grounding wire). When electrical devices, such as polishers, were manufactured with internal grounding their power cords had two flat prongs and a round ground prong. When the new three-prong cords would not connect to the old two-prong outlets, users simply cut off the round ground prong. Now the equipment could be used, but there was no longer protection from electrocution! If your equipment has a cord with the grounding prong removed it must be fixed. Buy a grounded plug and replace the hazardous one. It is easy to do with a screwdriver, snips and a pocket knife.

Frayed Connections. With time and use the point at which a power cord connects with a piece of electrical equipment can become frayed. This will eventually lead to either the equipment shorting out, a fire, injury or all of the above. When you find this condition you may be able to re-insert the cord into the device's connection box and tighten

the clamping screws. Otherwise, an electrical appliance shop can replace the cord at a small charge.

Exposed electrical openings, wires or terminals. Electrical hazards exist when wires or other electrical parts are exposed. Wires and parts can be exposed if a cover is removed from an electrical connection, outlet or breaker box. Electrical terminals in motors, appliances, and electronic equipment may be exposed. Older equipment may have exposed electrical parts. If you contact exposed live electrical parts, you will be shocked. You need to recognize that an exposed electrical component is a hazard. Replacement covers for holes and motors are available at your local hardware store and typically need only a screwdriver to make them safe.

Extension Cords: Defective or inadequate insulation is a hazard. Insulation prevents the electrical conductors from contacting each other or you. A split or cut extension cord that exposes the internal wires is a sign that there may be more severe damage that you cannot see. Replace damaged cords. Never attempt to repair a damaged cord with tape. Never hang extension cords from nails or sharp objects. Do not run extension cords through doors or windows.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters: Many industrial plants and construction sites are using 2-foot extension cords equipped with a 3-way plug fitting and a built in GFCI. These devices interrupt the electrical circuit to a load when a fault circuit of 6mA or more is detected. It has to be manually reset after a trip incident, an important feature that prevents equipment from re-starting without correcting the problem. Cost: between \$19 and \$59.

Of course, always disconnect the power to the cord or equipment before performing service or repairs.

Be safe out there!

Via CFMS newsletter, 5-15

Just For Fun List of 'ologies Used In Association With Rocks & Minerals

With all the “ology”s floating around in everyday vocabulary, I thought it would be interesting to provide some definitions so that someone could impress their friends with a few big words. Not all of these are “ology”s but you’ll get the idea.

Geology: The study of the earth, its rocks, minerals, fossils, and all earth building processes.

Mineralogy: The study of minerals. What they are used for, how they are formed and what they can be used for.

Crystallography: The study of crystals, natural or man-made, for the purpose of gaining knowledge on the creation of new materials and how to use them.

Lithology: The study of rocks in hand-size samples. This is useful for studying how geologic features are formed, including ore bodies.

Stratigraphy: The study of layers in sedimentary rocks.

Sedimentology: The study of how sedimentary rocks form.

Structural Geology: The study of forces on earth systems including earthquakes, volcanos, and building large structures on the ground.

Volcanism: The study of volcanoes.

Psycho-Geodeology*: The attempt to predict what is inside a geode before it is cut or broken open.

Leaverite: A rock, when found while collecting in the field, which is best left right where it was found. Leave 'er right there!

Lapidary: The art of taking any rock, or rock type material, and polishing it to make it more desirable.

Tele-identification*: What people expect us to do at the rockshop when they call and ask us to identify their rocks over the phone using terms like rounded, redish, and large.

Crystal-Ball Appraisalogy*: Method of appraising rocks which you can not see. We are often asked to do this when people call or come in without their rocks, and want to know how much they are worth.

Myth-Crystollography*: When someone wants legendary crystals or stones such as Merlin's stone and the Arkenstone, which don't really exist (or do they)?

Hyper-identology*: When somebody brings in a very common and cheap rock (leaverite – see above) or mineral and wants us to tell them its incredibly rare and valuable. Often arguing for extended periods of time over its value.

** indicates terms that may only be used in our rock shop.*

<http://www.rocks4u.com/mineral-ology-list>

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- Aug 7-9 NIPOMO, CA.** Orcutt Mineral Society, Santa Maria
Nipomo High School, 525 North Thompson Avenue
Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Website: www.omsinc.org
- Aug 14-16 TEHACHAPI, CA.** Tehachapi Valley Gem & Mineral Society
St. Malachy's Church, 407 West E. Street
Hours: 9 - 5 daily
Website: www.tvgms.org
- Sept 26-27 DOWNEY, CA.** Delvers Gem & Mineral Society
Elks Lodge, 11233 Woodruff Avenue
Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4
- Oct 3-4 BORON, CA.** Mojave Mineralogical Society
Boron Park, 12000 Boron Avenue
Hours: 9 - 4 daily
- Oct 3-4 VISTA, CA.** Vista Gem & Mineral Society
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
2040 North Santa Fe Avenue
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Website: www.vistarocks.org
- Oct 10-11 TRONA, CA.** Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
SLG&MS Show Building, 13337 Main Street
Hours: Sat 7 - 5; Sun 7 - 4
Website: www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub [Show Pages](#)
- Oct 17 WEST HILLS, CA.** Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman Way
Hours: 10 - 5
Website: www.rockchippers.org [Show Page](#)
- Oct 17-18 WHITTIER, CA. Whittier Gem & Mineral Society**
Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Avenue
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Marcia Goetz (626) 260-7239

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



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