

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

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General Meeting
Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 PM
at the Whittier Senior Center



*Sunrise at Elephant Mountain near WGMS Club Claim
Seen from the Oak Tree Motel where many of our field-trippers camped*

Whittier Gem & Mineral Society
Elected Officers and Committee Chairmen

2016-17 Elected Officers

President: Jerry Turner

1st Vice President:... Frank Winn..... (Rkhndfw@gmail.com) (626) 912-0404

2nd Vice President: .. Art Ragazzi

Treasurer: Jay Valle (res19pnb@verizon.net)..... (626) 934-9764

Secretary: Yvonne Morton .

Federation Director: Tony Fender.....

Directors: Joe Goetz (joenmar1@verizon.net) (626) 914-5030

..... Marcia Goetz (joenmar1@verizon.net) (626) 914-5030

..... Kathy Valle.....

Appointed Chairmen

Budget/Finance:

Bulletin Editor: Jay Valle (res19pnb@verizon.net)..... (626) 934-9764

Bylaws & Rules Jerry Turner.....

Claim Secretary: Art Ragazzi

Community Kathleen Turner.....

Relations:

Displays:

Door Prizes: Loretta Ogden.....

Field Trips:..... Joe Goetz (joenmar1@verizon.net) (626) 914-5030

Librarian:

Rockgabbers: Tony Fender

Show Chairman:..... Frank Winn..... (Rkhndfw@gmail.com) (626) 912-0404

Social Secretary: Kathy Valle (bunnie1962@yahoo.com).... (626) 934-9764

Regular Monthly Meetings: 7:30 PM 4th Thursday each month, 3rd Thursday in November & December. No regular meetings in July & August. See Map on cover for meeting place.

Board of Directors: To be announced.

Rockgabbers: To be announced. See pages 4 & 5.

Field Trips: Monthly except July & August. See inside bulletin for details.

Annual Dues: Adults – \$15.00; Married couple – \$25.00, Junior – \$5.00
1-time initiation fee - \$5.00

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

The sixty eighth annual Whittier Gem and Mineral Societies' gem show is now history and my term as president is drawing nigh. At the time of this writing, all the results of the show are not yet in, but I think that we did well. From the comments that I heard, most of the vendors were happy. I want to thank all of the members and volunteers from other clubs that helped to make this show a success.

First I need to provide a little background. Two years ago, I decided not to take an office and to encourage new members to get involved with the Board and the guidance of club operations. Unfortunately, through no fault of his own, our newly elected president could not fulfill the term of his office. I volunteered, if the board could not find a replacement, to accept the position of president. No executive can be successful without the support of his team. I was fortunate to have an excellent team.

All too often we forget the importance of the Board to the success of the organization. Each member of the board has a specific job to make the functions of the society run smoothly.

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WGMS Webpage: <http://wgmsca.com/>

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 PM

at the Whittier Senior Center

Program and Election of Officers

The Board of Officers for the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society serve 2-year terms and once again it is time to vote in the new Officers for the 2018-19 term. And we'll have a program too.

Frank Winn

2018-19 Slate of Officers

The proposed 2018-19 slate of Officers was presented at the October General Meeting. There were no other nominations for any of the proposed positions to be filled.

Here is the Slate of Officers for the 2018-19 term:

- President: Marcia Goetz**
- 1st Vice Pres. Joe Goetz**
- 2nd Vice Pres OPEN**
- Treasurer Jay Valle**
- Secretary Sandie Fender**
- Federation Dir Tony Fender**
- Director Kathy Valle**
- Director Heather Bates**
- Director Art Ragazzi**

Per our By-Laws, we will need to vote these members into office at the November General Meeting. See you there.

The Prez Sez:

(Continued from page 3)

Some Board members have accepted additional jobs. Jay Valle, for instance, not only handles the finances as Treasurer, but also every month gathers, compiles and publishes our bulletin, The Rockhounder.

When the membership elected to hold the gem show, we were unable to find Show Chairman. I asked all of the committee heads from the 2016 show to again pull together to put on a first class show. To a man (or woman to be completely PC), they did and the 68th annual show was the result. It is a great feeling for any leader to know that his team “has his back”.

Again, I want to encourage new members, and those not so new members, who have never been Board members, to get involved. Talk to the President and let him or her know that you would be willing to accept a job to support the society. The Board is not an exclusive club, and all of the jobs are not automatically assigned to elected officers. Board meetings are open to all WGMS members, and although non Board members do not have voting rights, everyone can join into discussions.

Our December meeting/Christmas pot luck will be on the first Thursday, December 7 at 6.00 PM, rather than the usual fourth Thursday, December 28, which would probably be a bit anticlimactic. More about that in my December message.

Thank you for being such a great supportive group. Serving as your president for the last two years has been a pleasure.

Jerry

**WGMS Fieldtrip to Club Claim
November 4th & 5th, 2017**

Saturday morning was delightful; there was a light breeze, broken clouds drifting across the sky. By the time we met up in the parking area we had breakfast and were packing our lunches.

Soon we had 31 people raring to go and start collecting rocks. All had signed the release and a short safety talk was given. We all got into our vehicles and we were off like herd of turtles. The first place we went was to the claim. We arrived at the camping site where there was a pile of decent rock that could be sorted through. Others started going up the nearest hill and two went over to the actual club claim.

After an hour we got back into our trucks and within a few minutes we were there. We had arrived at the red moss agate area. Everyone scattered looking for the elusive cutting material (I sure wish it had rained really hard a few weeks ago, oh well). All too soon we were headed to the wide spot in the road.

I'm sure our guests were surprised at just how wide it really was. When asked what were we collecting I just bent over and picked up a piece of very colorful agate and showed them, I also informed them as to the petrified palm as well as other materials that were in the area.

Before long we were headed over to the green ash hills in the Calicos. No sooner had we arrived and people were everywhere in surrounding hills. I remember when I was younger and full of energy, I was one of the people rushing about picking up stones, seems like last week. One lucky person found the find of the day..... a twenty dollar bill!

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WGMS Fieldtrip to Club Claim

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The last location for the day was to the petrified palm rootlets. After a while we headed back to the hotel. Soon we reconvened back at Peggy Sue's for dinner. Everyone, I believe, enjoyed the repast of the restaurant. All too soon dinner was over and I went to the gift shop to get two tootsie rolls and a new hat!

The morning on Sunday came all too soon for my taste, but it came anyway. Our number had diminished a little bit but there were still most of us there, ready for the day to begin.

The wind had picked up from Saturday. There were dust flurries in the dirt parking area across the street. The clouds weren't lazily floating by, but racing like the Kentucky derby in the sky. And the funny thing is when you move through the canyon, it seemed they were flying south. Move a bit and it seemed they had stopped and turned so that they were going east.

The first site we went to was the brown agate area which also is the pastel spider webbed color jasper. Folks were everywhere, even Marcia went off and found some interesting chunks of palm root. However, when chipped a bit the quality wasn't there. Oh well, there are many others to find just not enough time.

The second place we went was to the algae agate area. Well, I didn't find the agate and others did, but I did find a piece of real petrified wood. I didn't think that area had any pet wood.

Before you know it, both the big and little hands on the pocket chronograph were both on the 12 and that signified it was time to go home and dream of the rocks left behind.

Happy Hunting
Joe Goetz

Afton Canyon Trip
November 23-26, 2017

The second trip this month will be to Afton Canyon, November 23rd thru 26th, 2017. The camping area will be the overflow camping area overlooking the regular campground which can be reached by taking the Afton Canyon exit and going south.

There is stuff in many of the areas throughout the canyon. Some old mines you may find even a geocache or two. The canyon is a great place to explore and if you like to take pictures, you could use up a gig or two with all the photogenic areas there are.

If you're not camping, the closest town is Baker, California. Potluck will be on Thanksgiving and any other day the group decides. We'll be leaving camp at 8:30am.

To get to Afton Canyon, take Interstate 15 (I-15) east until you see the Afton off ramp. Take the road south, it is a long road to the campsite and that will be on the right side of the road. Stay on the main road, I know some of the side roads are tempting to go and see, but remember there is safety in numbers and you might not get a signal out there to call us to come to help you if you get stuck.

Let's be safe out there and have fun!

Lost somewhere in California,

Joe Goetz
(626) 260-7239

Rockgabbers Report

Since the Field Trip and November Rockgabbers fall on the same Saturday, we will not have Rockgabbers in November.

The October gathering was one of our best attended Rockgabbers. Everyone had a great time making the obsidian needle wind chime.

In December and January, we will not have Rockgabbers. So, February is our next gathering. This will be a silver chain project. An example and what to bring will be given out at the January meeting. In April we will be making Brass or copper leaves. This project is great to relieve all of your stress of tax season. (This project was a request from a member)

We have included a calendar for next year's meetings so you can plan ahead.

January: DARK

July: No club gathering

February: 3 - Silver chain project.

August: No club gathering

March: DARK

September: No club gathering

April: 7 - Hammered leaves

October: 6

May: 5

November: Field Trip

June: 2

December: 1

Tony and Sandie Fender

Federation Report

The annual business meeting of CFMS will be November 11. This meeting is where the business of CFMS is reported on and discussed, and the election of officers for the 2018 year.

A web link was sent to me on how to request a campfire permit on BLM land. You watch a video, answer some questions and then fill out the form. This permit is good for the year, anywhere on California BLM land.

Link: preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit -

Marcia Goetz will move up in the officer chairs and be installed as 2nd Vice President. I will become 1st Vice President/President Elect.

Tony Fender

Kid's Corner at Our Show

Remember when you first started collecting rocks? Over thirty children had fun selecting rocks & minerals for their egg carton collections. The families came from the local area as well as the San Gabriel Valley, North Orange County, and places in between!

I wish to thank everyone who contributed a wide variety of material - Frank & Kim Winn, Judy & Marvin Belcher, Dottie Jacobs, Jeff Rumble, Sylvia Cliffe, and Marcia Goetz.

A special thanks to Kim and Judy for volunteering their time to assist the children.

Yvonne Morton

Loupe 101 (Excerpted)

Loupes come in several varieties. Gemologists prefer the hand loupe. For gemologists, the 10X loupe (with ten-power magnification) is the standard for hand-held gem identification.



Although you'll find more powerful loupes, the depth of field (the area that's in focus) is so small above 10X that they're hard to use. With lower-powered magnification, you just can't see as much detail.

How to Use a 10X Loupe

Using a loupe gracefully takes some practice but soon becomes second nature. Before you focus on anything, consider the light around you.

To evaluate cutting and polishing, you need to see the gem surface. Shine your light down on the stone. This is simple in a room with overhead lighting. If your best source is a window, position yourself so the light comes over your shoulder. Most importantly, avoid casting your shadow on the stone. To see the inclusions in a gem, you need to see the interior. Place your light behind the stone and shining through it.

With minimal adjustments and a little thought, you can often see both the surface and interior of a gem. Having too little light to see well is usually the only limitation. When you open a loupe, the cover becomes a handle. To focus your loupe, slide your index finger through the opening, then rest your hand against your

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Loupe 101 (Excerpted)

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cheek to steady the loupe. Now, you only have one hand to move for focusing.

Keep both eyes open to reduce eye strain. Position the gem in front of the loupe. Next, move it slowly towards and away from the loupe until it comes into focus. Practice adjusting the focus from the top surface to the far side. On a small gem, you can get the entire stone in focus at once. On a larger gem, you'll have to focus on one area at a time.

To judge the quality of a gem's lapidary work, you need to study its surface. A smooth, glass-like surface is the sign of a perfect polish. You may see pits or scratches. However, if they are few and invisible without magnification, they'll have little effect on the beauty of the gem.

Sometimes, you'll see a stone with small pits covering its entire surface. Although invisible to the naked eye, they do affect the gem's brilliance. If you compare the stone to non-pitted stones of the same species, you'll see the reduction in brilliance more readily.

Occasionally, you'll have trouble distinguishing whether marks are on the surface or inside the gem. To resolve this, rotate the gem so the light reflects off the facets. When a facet acts as a mirror, inclusions beneath it disappear. However, scratches on the surface remain visible.

An unpolished girdle reveals the gem cutter was in a hurry. (A custom gem cutter would finish this off). Diamonds are an exception. Gem cutters cut them differently than colored stones

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Loupe 101 (Excerpted)

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because of their extreme hardness. Rounded, unpolished girdles are common in diamonds.

To further evaluate cutting quality, look at the facet meets. On a well-cut gem, they form sharp corners. All the facets in a row will be the same size and shape. You'll frequently see facets vary in size and corners that don't meet or overlap. If the differences are small, they won't affect a gem's beauty significantly. However, as the problems increase, the brilliance of the gem suffers. Examine the sharpness of the facet edges. Due to diamond's hardness, they have the sharpest edges. This clue helps identify them. The edges of harder colored stones, such as rubies and sapphires, and cubic zirconia come in a close second. Softer gems (below a nine in hardness) usually have slightly rounded facet edges. Once in a while, you'll encounter a custom-cut gem with exceptionally sharp edges in a material of only 7 or 8 hardness. Although you may be unable to appreciate all the subtle decisions made cutting a gem like this, you can spot the workmanship by the polish, meets, and facet edges.

Next, turn the gem upside down and look at the culet. Sometimes, gems carried together in paper wrappers suffer chips on the culet. This is called paper damage. Again, if invisible without magnification, this won't impact the gem's beauty significantly.

To read the entire article follow the link below:

<https://www.gemsociety.org/article/10x-loupe-the-gemologists-best-friend/>

From the Agate Explorer, 02/17

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

Nov 18-19 LAKESIDE, CA. El Cajon Valley Gem & MinSoc
Lakeside Rodeo Grounds, 12584 Mapleview Street
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Website: www.ecvgms.org [Show Page](#)

Nov 18-19 OXNARD, CA. Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society
Oxnard Performing Arts Center, 800 Hobson Way
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
Website: <http://oxnardgem.com> [Show Page](#)

Dec 9-10 RIALTO, CA. Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
Near Rialto City Hall Lot, 105 South Palm Avenue
Hours: 9 - Dusk daily
Website: <http://OBMSrocks.yolasite.com> [Show Page](#)

Jan 20-21 EXETER, CA. Tule Gem & Mineral Soc, Visalia
Exeter Veterans' Memorial Building
324 N. Kaweah Avenue
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Website: www.tulegem.com

Feb 16-25 INDIO, CA. San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival
82-503 Highway 111
Hours: 10 - 10 daily

Mar 3-4 VENTURA, CA. Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 West Harbor Blvd.
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Website: www.vgms.org [Show Page](#)

Mar 10-11 SAN MARINO, CA. Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Drive
Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5
Website: www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org [Show Page](#)

WGMS MEETING LOCATION!
Whittier Senior Center
13225 Walnut Street, Whittier



Affiliations



California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors



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Meeting Date: November 16, 2017 at 7:00 PM
Location: Whittier Senior Center
(See page 4 & 15 for information)