

Little Gems

Exploring Pueblo Ruins North of Flagstaff ...Gary Gann Photo

Volume 2 Issue 10

October 2009

Message from the President



Hi "Gemstoners"

Before I get into the President's Message I want to take a moment to thank our Field Trip Chairman for putting together a really fantastic overnight field trip to Flagstaff. The rock hounding was great, the food and friends around the campfire were even better.

We had our first chance to use the new portable rock saw at the Honey Onyx claim in September. All fifteen members that were there got some really special pieces.

At our last meeting a Nominating Committee was appointed. Jack Hommel is the Chairperson and will be calling on all members in an attempt to get you to volunteer for one of the offices. These are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at Arms, and one three year Board of Director's spot. Don't be afraid to jump in and put your name on the ballot.

This month at our general meeting we will have the Mohave County Community College representative giving a presentation. If you have any questions for the representative be sure to be there. It should be a very enlightening program.

The Lake Havasu club is having their annual show on November 14th and 15th, and they would like to know if any Gemstoners would be interested in entering a display case. Havasu has all the cases, all you need to do is fill it. Call me or call Christine Stone at 928-453-0972. Also, it is not too early to start thinking about our show in April.

See You at the Meeting
"C" Russell , President
Mohave County Gemstoners

Katherine Heidenreich Senior Center
1776 Airway Ave., Kingman, AZ

Tuesday, October 10, 2009

Catch up and Chat 6:00 PM
Regular Meeting 7:00 PM
Officer Nominations this month

Guest Speaker: Representative from
Mohave County Community
College

Next Month is Elections



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🌀 Club Information 🌀

The Mohave County Gemstoners' Club is a member of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) and associated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS).

The purpose of the Mohave County Gemstoners is to:

1. Stimulate interest in Mineralogy and Lapidary Arts
2. Stimulate individual's interest in cutting and displaying of minerals, fossils and gemstones.
3. Stimulate interest in Stonecutting, carving and setting of fine gems and jewelry.
4. Stimulate interest in other areas, such as faceting, jewelry design, jewelry fabrication and metalsmithing of jewelry.

The Gemstoners meet the second Tuesday of each month at Kathryn Heidenreich Senior Center, 1776 Airway Ave., Kingman, AZ at 7:00 PM. In March, June, September and December there is a potluck dinner that starts at 6:30 PM.

Fiscal year for memberships runs from January 1st thru December 31st. Dues are \$15.00 per person, \$20.00 per couple and \$25.00 for family (residing in the same home). Family sponsored Junior Membership cost is \$8.00. Annual dues are payable on January 1 and are delinquent after the February meeting. Remit payment to Membership Chairman.

Name badges will be required for all members at a cost of \$8.00 for pin type and \$9.00 for the magnetic type each.

Little Gems is published monthly. It is available online at www.gemstoners.org Submissions are requested to be to the editors by the 15th of each month, preferably by email :

gemstoners@live.com or @928-263-1480. *Little Gems* is also published via email - if you have internet, please share your address with the editors. This saves the club money (just under \$1.00 per issue per membership) and you will have the newsletter immediately and be able to view it in color. The Newsletter is in PDF format so it will be necessary to download AdobeReader (free program) to view the newsletter.

🌀 2009 Club Leadership 🌀

Elected Officers:

President - "C" Russell (928) 846-0927
 Vice President - Pete Hansen (928) 565-4321
 Secretary - Fred Bunge
 Treasurer - Dave Sims (928) 692-3797
 Sergeant At Arms - John Smith
 Board of Directors:
 One-Year Position: George Tirpak
 Two-Year Position: Leonard Deutsch
 Three-Year Position: Laraine Smith
 Club Committee Chairpersons

Academic Advisor - Rick Vromen
 By-Laws - Nan Russell
 Newsletter Editor - Donna Robinson
 Education - Open
 Field Trips - Gary Gann
 Greeters/Hostess - Cheri Hommel
 Historian - Leonard Deutsch
 Jr. Leader - Laurel Nelson
 Membership - Nan Russell
 Program Director - Open
 Publicity - Open
 Photographer - Melanie Hecht
 Refreshments - Mary Gann
 Show Chairman 2009 - Nan Russell
 Scholarship / Donations - Open
 Social Director/Special Events - Susi Green
 Sunshine - Open
 50/50 - Open
 Ways and Means - Open
 Telephone - John and Laraine Smith
 Webmaster - Leonard Deutsch



Stay up to date, check often
www.gemstoners.org

Mailing Address:

Mohave County Gemstoners
 P.O. Box 3992
 Kingman, AZ 86402

Minutes of the
September 2009
General Meeting



Membership – Nan announced that we now have 102 members. New members present, introduced themselves.

The evening started off with our quarterly Potluck Supper. Guests for this evening were members of Troop 66, Boy Scouts of America. Their help with set-up and tear-down made things go smoother at the 2009 Gem, Mineral and Craft Show.

The Guest Speaker for the evening, was one of our own, Jack Hommel. His presentation focused on preparedness for trekking in the desert wilderness.

With our hot summers and we go off the beaten path, this presentation was of extreme value to our membership. Subjects he covered included: Being prepared for the weather, getting stuck, hydration and food, "critters" you may meet, first aid and some equipment you should bring along.

For those who were unable to attend, you missed a terrific presentation.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by our President, "C" Russell. The flag salute was led by the Secretary.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Approved as printed in newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: An accounting of receipts and expenditures was presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Field Trip – September's trip is back to Flagstaff for more petrified wood.

October we return to Burro Creek for a campout.

A listing of trips thru December will be in the "Little Gems" Newsletter in October.

Editor – Need contributions from membership for the "Little Gems" Newsletter.

Historian – Club Directory is out.

Web Master – Rick Vromen will be teaching many classes at MCC. Members should take advantage of these classes.

Refreshments – Members are encouraged to bring cookies to the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Letter to the MCC Board of Trustees met with positive results concerning continuing of classes in silversmithing, lapidary and metal casting. (CLOSED)

2. Web Master is working on a new directory for 2010. (OPEN)

3. Getting young people interested in Geology – to committee. (Board of Directors)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Election of Officers – Election Committee is Jack Hommel, Mary Gann, Laurel Nelson and Bill Purkiss.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

1. KAOL HS Gymnasium will be the new site for our 2010 Gem, Mineral & Craft Show.

50/50: Clarkie Seagraves - \$50 and Christine Purkiss - \$25.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Bunge, Secretary



Hellgate Breezes, 8/00
via Beehive Buzzer 5/01 & others



**Gemstoners 2010
Membership
Directory**
By
Leonard Deutsch

I have been working on a new 2010 Membership Directory for the Mohave County Gemstoners. I felt that it would be easier to have one that includes a photo of each of the members.

Some of us are getting up in age, I myself am lucky to remember my name on occasion, let alone the names of all the members. I do a little better if I can put a "face" with the name. I have been able to get almost all of the 102 current members photographs. I am having trouble getting the 8 "missing in action" photos. Some live out-of-state, and visit lovable Kingman during winter. Others, do not attend many meetings, and I just missed taking pictures of them. If you are at a meeting, please come to see me if I have not taken your picture. I will be trying to get the missing photos during the next two months so the directory will be ready for 2010. I will send out emails, calling and taking pictures at the Sept - Dec. meetings.

If you do not want your picture in the directory, please, please let me know. No worries ! See you all at the meetings. If anyone has any pictures of the missing photos you may forward them to me at: Somamaster@netzero.net or Somamaster@npgcable.com

Thanks in advance for your assistance and cooperation.

Missing Photos List

Ainley, Connie, Mooney, FW & Loa, Morgan, Charmayne, Noland, Judy, Palmquist, Michael & Family, Smith, Ed,



Can you spot
the figures

Artist unknown

Show Schedule October-November

October, 10-11, 2009 Payson

Rimstones Annual Gem & Mineral Show,
Tonto Apache Res. in the Mazatzal Casino
on Hwy. 87, Payson, AZ

Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4

Admission: \$3.00, children under 12 free

Parking: Free

Show Chairpersons: Barry & Margaret Jones,
Payson, AZ, 928-951-3787 cell;
paysonrimstoneshow@gmail.com

October 17 & 18, 2009 Sedona

Sedona Gem & Mineral Show, Sedona Red
Rock High School Cafeteria, 995 Upper Red
Rock Loop Road, W. Sedona, AZ 86336

Sponsored by: Sedona Gem & Mineral Club
Website: www.sedonagemandmineral.org

Hours: Sat., Sun. 9-4

Admission: Free, parking free, children free

Co-Chair & Dealers Contact: Pat McMahon,
P.O. Box 3284, Sedona, AZ 86340,
agates920@yahoo.com

November

November, 14-15, 2009 Lake Havasu City

40th Annual Gem & Mineral Roundup

Community (Aquatic) Center, Relics & Rods
Hall, 100 Park Ave., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404

Sponsored by:

Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society
Website: www.lakehavasugms.org

Hours: Sat., Sun. 9-5

Admission and parking: Free

Show Chairpersons:

Ruth De Woody & "C" Russell
showchair@lakehavasugms.org

November 28-29, 2009 Wickenburg

9th Annual Gem & Art Fair,

Wickenburg Community Center,
160 N. Valentine St., Wickenburg, AZ 85390

Sponsored by:

Wickenburg Gem & Mineral Society

Over 40 vendors, with gems, minerals, jewelry,
artists, photo exhibit, door prizes, grab bags,
spinning wheel, food and more

Raffle drawing Sunday: Tickets \$2 ea. or 3/\$5

Admission and parking: Free Hours: 9-5 Show
Chairperson & Dealers Contact: Beth

Myerson, 21825 W. Date Creek Rd.,
Wickenburg, AZ 85390, 928-684-0380,
myerbd@gmail.com

Pegmatite Dikes

By
Mark & Julia Warner

A pegmatite is a very coarse-grained plutonic rock which forms when magma intrudes into much cooler rock without reaching the surface. Often in the form of a dike or sill, this magma cools very quickly. A dike is produced when magma is injected into fractures. When crystallized, these tabular structures have thicknesses from one centimeter to more than one kilometer. Most dikes are a few meters thick and extend no more than a few kilometers. They often weather more slowly than surrounding rock to create walls.

Pegmatite rock forms in the last stages of crystallization where progressive concentrations of trace elements exist. These trace elements were not removed by earlier crystallization during the solidification of the bulk of the magma. This fluid-rich, residual magma is what creates the abnormally large crystals, from one centimeter to more than ten meters, that define pegmatite rock.

Most pegmatite rock consist of granite that is made up of quartz, feldspar, and mica. Also common are rare earth minerals and gemstones. These may include beryl (aquamarine, emerald), fluorite, garnet, topaz, tourmaline and many others.

Editors Note: In inches = 25.4 millimeters mm

Ft feet = 0.305 meters m

Yd yards = 0.914 meters m

Mi miles = 1.61 kilometers km

Source: *About.com*

Source: *Earth, an introduction to physical geology*

Source: *Peterson field guild to rocks and minerals*



Above shows the incredible stress and pressure that pegmatite intrusions exert on the existing rock. Here you can see where the strata of the rock has been bent beyond a 90 degree angle by the pegmatite intruding into it and bending it out of the way.



Above: Shows the white pegmatite quartz with pink feldspar crystals formed along the contact zone. It is at this contact zone that many colored gemstone crystals such as amethyst, citrine, tourmaline and others would be found.

Left: Shows two veins of pegmatite quartz that is the result of the silicon rich liquid cooling after intruding into the rock.

*Photos and descriptions courtesy of Robert James FGA, GG
www.YourGemologist.com*

Beware, This Can Happen to You

On November 1, 2008, my fiancée, Dori, and I were criminally charged with collecting Staurolites on U.S. Forest Service land. Local collectors have been going to this location to collect Staurolites for over 30 years. Our friends, Tonya and Barry, informed us of the location in Blue Ridge. We visited this area four (4) times in the summer and fall of 2008. The Staurolites we found on the surface were mostly poor quality. However, just a few inches under the surface using a scraper we found much better quality ones. We used hand tools including a scraper and a small pick. I feel we were very careful not to damage the site. We did not dig more than 6 or 7 inches and completely filled in our holes and raked the dirt to ensure the site looked undisturbed.

On November 1, 2008, Officer Mike Tipton of the USFS approached us. We did not attempt to hide ourselves because we had no idea we were doing anything wrong. He stated he had set up a video camera at the site and had been watching us. This was very alarming to us. I assured him if he had approached us that first time and explained that the Forest Service did not wish us to collect here, we would have politely left and never returned. He will attest to the fact that we were cooperative. He even complimented us stating we were "not like most of the individuals he deals with." Officer Tipton approached us and asked us what we were looking for. We told him we were looking for Staurolites. He did not know what Staurolites were, but informed us we needed a mining permit to dig for any type of mineral. He told us any Staurolites we find are government property. Next, he confiscated our scraping tools, knap sack and bucket. He separated us and read me my Miranda rights. At this point he asked me if I would allow federal agents to search my home in Rome for any other federal property. When I said "no", my interview was over. Evidently he tried to obtain a search warrant, but was unsuccessful. Officer Tipton repeatedly inquired as to whether we sold rocks. I told him I have never sold minerals and Staurolites have only intrinsic value. In the past there have been locations in Blue Ridge (Hackney Farm) that have allowed individuals to collect a bucket of them for \$5.00.

On January 11, 2009, Officer Tipton gave us a courtesy call. He stated we are being charged criminally with 261.9(a) destroying a natural feature or property of the United States (\$250.00 fine) and 261.9(b) removing a natural feature or property of the United States (\$250.00 fine). These are criminal misdemeanor offenses and can result in a criminal record. I strongly feel the section we are being charged under is both vague and does not address the important point that we were collecting minerals. Mineral collecting is generally allowed on most U.S. Forest Service lands including public domain lands and acquired lands. Unfortunately, each individual Forest Service can now make the rules (on acquired lands) dictating the rules for rock hounding, and Georgia has one of the most restrictive policies. Under this charge it appears we are vandals or

even worse thieves. I told Officer Tipton I was considering going to court. Five days later when I received my ticket it had doubled to \$400.00 for each offense for a total of \$2000.00.

In conclusion, I feel strongly we took the utmost care to treat this land with care. We spent at least 15-20 minutes each time to leave the ground looking undisturbed. I feel the US Forest Service in Georgia is treating mineral collectors like criminals. Mineral collecting has in the past been considered a wholesome and educational activity. In other states, the US Forest Service has been much more responsive to working with mineral collectors and even encourages collecting. I am saddened that in Georgia the US Forest Service is now considering it a criminal offense. Thank you for the time you spend considering this matter.
(Signed) Robert Madden, M.D.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

Note: This is the Federal Code that Dr. Madden was charged with violating. The specific items in the charges are noted in "Bold" print.

36 CFR 261.9 - Property.

Code of Federal Regulations - Title 36: Parks, Forests, and Public Property (December 2005)

TITLE 36 - PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC PROPERTY
CHAPTER 11 - FOREST SERVICE, DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

PART 261 - PROHIBITIONS

subpart a - GENERAL PROHIBITIONS

261.9 - Property

The following are prohibited:

(a) Damaging any natural feature or other property of the United States.

(b) Removing any natural feature or other property of the United States.

(c) Damaging any plant that is classified as a threatened, endangered, sensitive, rare, or unique species.

(d) Removing any plant that is classified as a threatened, endangered, sensitive, rare, or unique species.

(e) Entering any building, structure, or enclosed area owned or controlled by the United States when such building, structure, or enclosed area is not open to the public.

(f) Using any pesticide except for personal use as an insect repellent or as provided by special-use authorization for other minor uses.

(g) Digging in, excavating, disturbing, injuring, destroying, or in any way damaging any prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resource, structure, site, artifact, or property.

(h) Removing any prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resource, structure, site, artifact, property.

(i) Excavating, damaging, or removing any vertebrate fossil or removing any paleontological resource for commercial purposes without a special use authorization.

(j) Excavating, damaging, or removing any cave resource from a cave without a special use authorization, or removing any cave resource for commercial purposes.

Reprint from AFMS June/July 2009

The final outcome is unknown



Tips are gathered from multiple sources and are not proven, use at your own risk

Using Acid for Cleaning

Quartz Minerals

Oxalic Acid: Though classified as a weak organic acid, it is much stronger than acetic acid. It's primary hazard is skin irritation, with greater hazard if taken internally by mouth or breathing (classified as a poison). Recommended protective equipment includes gloves, apron, goggles, and respirator when used in poorly ventilated areas. Full MSDS info at:

<www.jtbaker.com/msds/englishhtml/o6044.htm>

Muriatic Acid: AKA Hydrochloric acid – an extremely strong mineral acid with serious safety concerns. Severe damage can result from tissue or eye contact. Inhaling the fumes or ingestion may be fatal. I've used this myself, but wore butyl rubber gloves and apron, face shield,

and used outdoors on a non-windy day to minimize inhalation concerns. Typically available commercially from 20– 38% concentration, you MUST add the acid to water if dilution is needed, never add water to acid. MSDS:

<www.jtbaker.com/msds/englishhtml/H3880.htm>

When using any acid, note that spills or solutions remaining after use should be neutralized with an alkaline material. Some fairly common household items to do that would include soda ash, lime, or baking soda. How do you know when you have enough neutralizer? You can use the old high school chem lab stand-by – litmus paper. Or, get some red cabbage at the grocery, and use the juice as an indicator. At pH 2 (acid), it will be red; at pH 12 (alkaline), it will be greenish-yellow. At neutral pH of 7, it's blue.

Happy...and safe cleaning.

Source: www.amfed.org/news/n2009_06.pdf



Field Trips

By

Donna Robinson

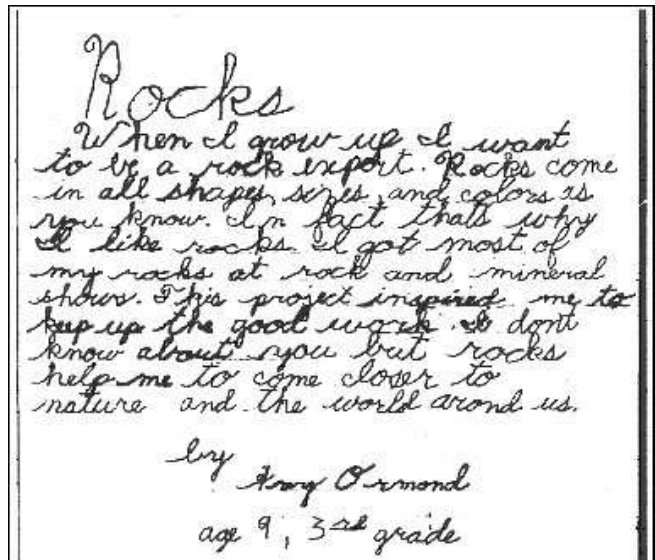
Our club has members from Yucca, Oatman, Hackberry, Golden Valley, Kingman, Meadview, Lake Havasu and even Bullhead City. So out of about 100,000 plus people 102 belong to Mohave County Gemstoners. That makes us a very special group of souls with a love of what nature has given us.

The field trips are more than the hunt for stone. It is a chance to be with other folks that share a common interest. I, personally am no longer able to climb hills or hike too far, but have never been disappointed with an outing. Almost all of my treasures are either roadside or in a flat wash. It is something I truly enjoy.

Every member should try and come on some of the trips throughout the year. There are some that are purposely planned for two wheel drive and easy walking. It is an opportunity to share ideas and expertise. The vistas are always unique and the wild life worth watching. The campouts are planned so that you can come for a day visit or stay over only a night or two. Sharing rides to a collecting site with someone that has four wheel

drive almost always works out one way or another.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you at some point during the year. Come on out and share the fun!



Introduce a child to world of minerals and geology

Trip Report, Flagstaff Campout

By Mary and Gary Gann

What a great time! As with most of our campouts, people were arriving Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; while others were leaving Sunday and Tuesday. Because of the loose structure of arrivals and departures, from here on out including Burro Creek we will be meeting at the campground. Any caravanning will be arranged between those caravanning. The main things to be concerned with are the dates for the campout and the time that the club will be leaving camp each morning to go collecting. On a personal note: Dave, I can't tell you how badly everyone felt when we got the message that we had missed you. Unfortunately, while most have cell phones, the phones do not always have signal. And in this case none at all.



Saturday was cloudy and rain sprinkled down in between bouts of wind gusts. When we arrived, only Donna and Nan were in camp. We had finished setting up by the time the rest of the campers returned from a trip to the petrified wood area. That night we gathered around a beautiful fire and talked and roasted giant marshmallows. At this point there were Nan & C, Donna & Dennis, Julia & Mark, Clarkie & Kenny, Fran & Roger, and Gar & I.



Sunday, Clarkie & Kenny had to head for home. Nan & C, Gary, Roger, Donna, Julia, and Mark went on an exploratory drive of the nearby area. No rocks, but the scenery was worth the drive. We were also joined by Laraine and John. We gathered around a campfire and enjoyed each other's company. Sadly we did not know at the time that Dave was in a motel in Flagstaff.

Monday, we hooked up with Brad, Linda, Cindy, and two other members of the Flagstaff Club. We went to the Agate field, not far from the petrified wood. There is much more than agates. We found jasper, petrified wood and some is very colorful, fossils, and Moqui bowls. If you don't know what these are, look for them at the meeting, as I am sure there will be some in the show & tell rocks. The ground is covered with all sorts of colorful rocks, and kept our attention for

the morning hours.



In the afternoon we spent our time collecting petrified wood. An immense amount strewn over the ground, mixed liberally with more agates, jasper, and fossils. This is where the famous petrified wood fire ring is located. Roger and Fran, astride their Quads were able to venture out farther than those of us on foot. I am very curious to see what they came back with as I was told that the more colorful and agatized wood is farther out where not many have ventured. It was hard to leave both places when we finally called it a day. Our friends from Flagstaff had left earlier.



That evening I had a raging headache and so missed the communal camp fire get together. It is so much fun showing off our best finds and swapping stories.

Tuesday was departure day for most of us that were left. Roger and Fran, Gary and I decided to stay and spent most of our day taking in the Sunset Crater Scenic drive. I am so glad we did. The rock formations, the Pueblo ruins, the plants and scenery were all awesome. I kept looking for doorways until, near the end of the drive, it dawned on me that they climbed ladders to get to the roofs, and then a ladder to get down into their homes. Duh. Also, although the scenery and the pueblos were magnificent, the evident lack of moisture would have had me living closer to a running river. To think that they farmed and had livestock, and depended on rain in this arid place is amazing to me.

We had been told that the drive was about 2 to 4 hours, however we took 5 hours and could have taken longer, but tiredness won out. We went back to camp, had dinner and gathered for the ritual communal fire get-together, though there were considerably less people, but it was just as lively. Wednesday morning we packed up and headed for home.

Anyone who has not had the pleasure of a Flagstaff campout should consider going on the next one.

Trip Report, The Christening of the Saw

By Mary and Gary Gann



Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009-a dozen Gemstoners gathered at our Honey Onyx Claim. Mark & Julia, Kenny & Clarkie, Dennis & Donna, Liz and her son Trey, Jack, Bill & Shirley, Charlie, Gary & I, and "C" were all in attendance for the momentous

occasion. Most everyone dug, raked, drilled, jack-hammered (guess who had the Jack hammer), and otherwise did what they could to clear the rubble away from the lovely white stone. One giant piece was split into four more manageable pieces and levered out by strong backs and large pry bars. Liz manhandled the largest piece out of the way. Go Liz!!

Gary brought a 55 gal drum which he placed uphill, it was filled with water and quick-connected to a garden hose and TA DA! Gravity fed water to the saw so no one had to hold a gallon bucket in the air. When everything was ready our fearless leader fired up the club's saw and proceeded to slice up Honey Onyx. "C", Mark, and Kenny kept at it until there was enough for everyone, and some left over. I'm sure it will show up at the meeting so that everyone gets some. The saw worked like a charm, and so did the guys. There was very little waste-you know, the little chips and pieces that you can't resist picking up but then what the heck do you do with them.



For those of you who are not familiar with Honey Onyx it rivals agate if you go after it with a hammer and chisel. It is a rather soft rock-once it is cut, which is a beautiful warm honey

color with white bands and swirls. It is easy to shape and polish, and is used for many applications from jewelry to bathtubs, countertops, and floors. A quick search on the internet will bring up several excellent sites that show some of the ways this awesome stone is used. Don't miss your chance to get some at the meeting.

More Field Trip Pictures



Lava fields in the Bonito Campground

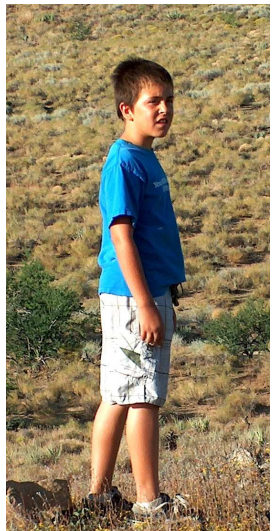
Windblown group around the petrified fire ring



Wind carved sandstone



Sidewalk Superintendents



Our new Junior member, Trey scouts the area



Everyone helps expose the work site For "C" to let the saw cut like a hot knife through butter



FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES - MCG



Sign in is 15 minutes before departure.

- Leader will state approximately how far, road conditions, and if 4WD is required when each member signs in.
- Each vehicle is to keep the one behind in sight and STOP if the car or truck is not visible (unless otherwise stated by the leader).

- Always notify the leader if you are hiking or driving to another site and your approximate return time. Participants must notify the leader if they are leaving the group and not planning to return and sign out (with time) and return the radio.
- Members are requested to wear name badges.
- Handheld radios: stay on Channel 3



FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE FOR THE BALANCE OF 2009

WHEN /MEET	WHERE	VEHICLE	MINERAL	Miles
October 4th Powerhouse 8 AM	Cook Mine Area, hills and washes	4-wheel	Jasper & misc	Round trip cancelled
October 17th-20th	Burro Creek/Camp-over	Any to camp 2 & 4-wheel for back-road	Pastelite and much more	Round trip 150
October 31st	Bar in the Desert	Any to bar 4-wheel for back-road	Unique place to visit May take side trips	Round trip 200
November 8th	Dollar Bill Mine	4-wheel	Hard rock collecting	Round trip 260
November 14th	Lake Havasu Gem Show	any	everything	Round trip 125
November 22nd	Acoma Wash	Any Short walk to wash	Various ..Jasper, agate, chalcedony	Round trip 160
November 25th	Alamo Road Holiday Camp-over	Any 4-wheel for exploring	Many different available	Round trip 160
December 6th Marty's on Hwy 68	Black Mts Between the hills	Any possible 4-wheel recommended	Chalcedony geodes	Round trip 75



Agate Rendezvous 2009

By
Melanie Hecht

On September 28th I jumped into my car and headed for Apache Creek, NM to attend the Agate Rendezvous 2009 which is an annual event sponsored by the Chaparral Rockhounds of Roswell, NM. It is an inter-federation campout and fieldtrip event for the Rocky Mountain, California, and South Central Federations. This year over 50 rock hounds from 11 states attended making this the largest group ever.

This was the longest rock hounding trip I had taken so far and I was very excited about it. It didn't matter to me that I'd be camping where there was no water or electricity, or that no one

from the Gemstoners was going. This was my chance to get rocks with fancy names--Luna Blue Agate, Luna Gold Agate—as well as rocks I had never seen such as green and purple fluorite and chalcedony roses.

When I arrived, I quickly found Liz and Lou Porter from Lake Havasu, who Nan Russell had hooked me up with just before I left. They immediately took me under their wing and made me feel well taken care of, especially when I discovered that I had accidentally left a few necessities at home. Two things about them that I'll never forget are the morning Lou came out of their 5th wheel and said "Melanie, here's your coffee" and the delicious steak dinner they invited me to the night before they left. They even gave me the leftovers to eat the next day.

Continued next page

The event was led by Yonis Lone Eagle who has been leading it for 3 years. The day trips to each site ranged from 50 to 200 miles round trip (the longest was the first trip). About a third of the driving time was on rugged dirt roads that made 4-wheel drive vehicles desirable, if not necessary.

Every morning we would meet at Yonis's tent and he would go over the details for that day's trip. He was good about answering questions and often had samples of what we'd be finding that day. Then we'd caravan to the site.

The first day, Saturday the 29th, was definitely the most strenuous. We went up a steep, rocky hill with lots of loose stones looking for fluorite, a beautiful rock that glows under a black light (i.e., it fluoresces). The good thing about this site was that you could find fluorite no matter where you were, even on the road where we parked. However, the biggest and best fluorite was much higher in the tailings near the mine that was about two thirds up the hill. A few of us went even higher and found some fairly large specimens. Of course, that meant we had to carry them down and the altitude was around 8200 feet so the rocks felt really heavy. I realized that I had been a bit over-enthusiastic about finding the best fluorite when I turned around to go back down the hill.

The terrain at the sites was a lot less steep for the next four days. On Sunday we went to a cinder dome area where there was agate, purple bloodstone, jasper, and petrified wood. Not everyone found all of these, but the rocks were easy to find and mostly on the surface. Later in the day we went to another site where we found chalcedony roses. They weren't the best specimens, but still very interesting.

The next day, Monday, we went to a huge, flat meadow near the town of Luna to look for Luna Gold Agate. Most people found lots of small specimens not too far from where they parked their cars. Others spread out over the meadow and found some good ones. Some people, including me for a while, dug deep into the dirt in the dry creek bed that ran through the meadow. Some of my best specimens came from the creek. A few people went deeper into the hills alongside the meadow and brought back some impressive rocks.

Tuesday was the day I found the best rocks of the trip. We went to another area near Luna to find Luna Blue Agate. This place was magical and had large areas where there were hundreds of rocks to pick from. The best ones often had only a small piece sticking up from the dirt. I'd see something interesting and up would come this large, beautiful rock.

There were lots of crystals, druse, blue banded agate, white agate, jasper, and others whose names I don't know. I probably spent two hours in one spot and picked up more than I could carry. I had to choose which ones to keep and which ones to leave in order to carry them back to the car.

On Wednesday, we went to a place called Turkey Park to look for more agates and crystals. Again the rocks were plentiful and easy to pick up. Yonis expected us to find snowflake agate, but only one or two people did. The rest of us found more of the blue and white agate and some jasper.

Thursday Yonis took us to a place he'd never been to before and that wasn't on the schedule. It was 150+ acres of private land owned by some residents of the area he had met. The first place we went to was a copper mine that required a steep hike down the side of a mountain. We were hoping to find blue and green crystals that were a by-product of the mine. We didn't find much there so we went to another area to look for geodes. When a volcano erupts, some of the lava forms bubbles. The bubbles harden and after a very long time dissolved minerals seep into the geode and form crystals. The geodes we found looked like either blobs of animal droppings or lima beans or something in between. Some were as small as my little fingernail. Fascinating!

In addition to the wonderful rock hounding opportunities, Yonis arranged for us to socialize on two evenings at local restaurants plus we had a pot luck dinner the first night. There was an RV park near the campground where we could take showers so we didn't mind sitting next to each other. I met many wonderful people and learned a lot about rock clubs and classes in various areas. I plan to visit some folks I met from Prescott, AZ where there is a very strong rock and jewelry community.

Before we left for home, Yonis made sure he gave everyone two certificates of participation and a car sticker so everyone would know we were now official Agate Argonauts.

I encourage as many people as possible to attend this event next year. It will get better every year and is well worth the trip. The entire area we were in was green and the weather was perfect for rock hounding—slightly cool with an occasional short drizzle of rain in the afternoon.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet people from many other states and become an Agate Argonaut.





KINGMAN LIBRARY
3RD WEDNESDAY

The 2010
Gem Show Meeting
on October 21st
Members are all invited
to attend 6 to 8 PM

- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- ★ A Belated Birthday Wish to ★
- ★ Trent Szabo ★
- ★ October Birthdays ★
- ★ Richard Porch 12th ★
- ★ Laraine Smith 15th ★
- ★ Fred Bunge 13th ★
- ★ Glenda Erwin 22nd ★
- ★ Herman Hanekamp ★
- ★ 85 years on the 28th ★
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

October
Anniversaries

Herman & Roentah Hanekamp
On the 5th
it will be 59 years

Donna & Dennis Robinson 7th
FW & Loa Mooney 8th
Bob & Laurel Nelson 20th

NEW

Wire Wrapping and Beading
with
Mary Gann
Mohave County Library Kingman
Nov 2nd 2:30 to 5 PM
Public invited, no fee

**FOR SALE
OR TRADE**

Free ad for rock related items

24" Self feeding rock saw
Call BJ @ 377-2746

Lots and Lots of Jasper:
Slabs and Rough Deschutes,
Mushroom & Monarch Jasper
Call Roger at: 503-351-0084



Rocks, minerals and equip-
ment of all kinds Selling many
years worth of collecting. Large
or small specimen & lapidary
pieces, ID, UT, NV, TX, OR. call
George Tirpak
928-753-1656

Wanted camp cot, large and
long 263-1480



News

Cheri Hommel has a new twinkle in her eye after going through successful eye surgery.
George Tirpak, one of our oldest members, is recovering from a fall at home. He is recuperating at The Gardens on Detroit Ave and would enjoy visitors.

George Matcham is recovering from an illness and would enjoy hearing from friends.

October Birthstone



October's, birthstone, the Opal derives its name from the Latin word "opalus," meaning precious jewel. It has a unique ability to refract and reflect specific wavelengths of light and dates back to prehistoric times. It is a non-crystallized silica, which is a mineral found near the earth's surface in areas where ancient geothermal hot springs once existed. As the hot springs dried up, layers of the silica, combined with water, were deposited into the cracks and cavities of the bedrock, forming Opal. This gemstone actually contains up to 30% water, so it must be protected from heat or harsh chemicals, both of which will cause drying and may lead to cracking and loss of iridescence. Opal must also be guarded from blows, since it is relatively soft and breaks easily.

Most of the world's Opal deposits are found in Southern Australia. Other sources of this gemstone are Brazil, Mexico, Czechoslovakia and Nevada. Quality Opal is very expensive, made more so by the caution that must be exercised in cut-

ting, polishing and setting it into jewelry.



Given as a gift Opal is symbolic of faithfulness and confidence and the powerful energy from this fiery gemstone will surely illuminate any occasion!

Alternate Birthstone

An alternate birthstone for October, Pink Tourmaline has the seemingly magical property of pyroelectricity. Scientifically speaking, this means that when heated, the gem takes on a static electric charge, making it capable of attracting lightweight objects. No wonder this gemstone was revered for its mystical properties centuries ago! Considered the "stone of the muse," it was believed to stimulate the creative process of its wearer. Pink varieties of Tourmaline range in color from pastel pink to ruby red and are mined in Brazil, Afghanistan, Burma, and India. A gift of this stone is symbolic of hope.

Source: www.aboutbirthstones.com



October 2009



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4 COOK MINE AREA cancelled	5	6 BOARD MTG 5 PM	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 REGULAR MEETING 7: PM	14	15	16	17 BURRO CREEK
18 BURRO CREEK	19 BURRO CREEK	20	21 LIBRARY 2010 Show Mtg	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 BAR IN THE DESERT



November 2009



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2 Wire Wrapping & Beading 2:30-5 pm Kingman Library	3 BOARD MTG 5 PM Kingman Library	4	5	6	7
8	9 Wire Wrapping & Beading 2:30-5 pm KOA Rec Room	10 REGULAR MEETING 7: PM	11	12	13	14
15	16 Wire Wrapping & Beading 2:30-5 pm KOA Rec Room	17	18 LIBRARY	19	20	21
22	23 Wire Wrapping & Beading 2:30-5 pm KOA Rec Room	24	25	26 Turkey in the Desert	27 Alamo Road	28 Alamo Road
29 Alamo Road	30 Wire Wrapping & Beading 2:30-5 pm KOA Rec Room					



Little Gems
Mohave County Gemstoners
Editor
P O Box 3992



An organization dedicated to the social activities, education, sharing of information about and just plain fun of looking for special “gifts” of beauty abounding on our planet.



May all Your Treats be Treasures