

American Flag Flying Proudly Over Camp Hommel on Alamo Road Outing March 2009

Volume 2 Issue 4

#### Message from the President HI "GEMSTONERS":



With the 2009 show behind us, we are already planning for next years show. Club members participated in fantastic numbers from the

start. Beginning with moving the trailer that holds the tables and repairing it. Cleaning and painting the display cases, putting out the signs all over town, helping to setup at the school, working at the show, and finally the teardown, the Gemstoners came through in numbers I could of only have hoped for. Thank You.

To keep the club interesting and enjoyable for everyone, I am always open to new ideas and if you have a criticism please tell me along with a solution, otherwise it is still a problem. I want to know. If you don't want to speak to me in person, there will be at the next meeting and everyone thereafter a suggestion box.

We had our first camp out field trip of the year in March. It went well! Check the field trip report and the April trip schedule for the upcoming field trips.

The program for the April meeting will be, Luis Vega, co-author of "4 Wheel Drive Roads of Mohave County, Arizona" Should be a must attend.

See you there, "C" April 2009

April 2009

Board Meeting - April 7th Kingman Library 6:00 PM Regular Meeting April 14th Katherine Heidenreich Senior Center 1776 Airway Ave., Kingman, AZ 6:30 Catch up & Chat

7:00 PM Meeting Special Guest Speaker

Luis Vega Author "4 Wheel Drive Roads of Mohave County, Arizona"

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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 1<sup>st</sup> thru December 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 :

brisnoon@hotmail.com or @928-263-1480. *Little Gems* is also published via email - if you have internet, please shareyour 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) in order to view the newsletter.

#### 2009 Club Leadership

Elected Officers:

President - "C" Russell (928) 846-0927 Vice President - Pete Hansen (928) 565-4321 Secretary - Acting-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 - Open Refreshments - Mary Gann Show Chairman 2009 - Nan Russell Scholarship / Donations - Open Social Director/Special Events - Suzie 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 Mohave County Gemstoners' Meeting



March 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 by President "C" Russell. He then introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Ed Huskinson. Ed is a professional geologist and a fellow club member. His lecture covered rocks from different time periods. The members truly enjoyed listening to his speech as the details were in easily understood in layman 's terms.

At 8:15 , Sergeant of Arms, John Smith led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FW Mooney, "Mooney" gave a short speech about the laws working against our rights.

This was followed by the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting by acting Secretary Carolyn Andrews.

New member Al Schultz was introduced by membership chairperson, Nan Russell.

Gary Gann gave his trip report and followed up with information on the upcoming trips to Alamo Road and Yucca/Topock area.

Dave Sims mentioned that gem and mineral calendars are available for \$10.00 with a limited supply left.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted

Carolyn Andrews Acting Secretary

#### A Very Warm Welcome to all the new and past members who have chosen to join Mohave County Gemstoners

JC Amberlyn Bob & Jo Agee Max Gibbons Arlette Kohrdt Marjorie Perryman Bill & Christina Purkiss Lynn Roe Bruce Drummond Johnny & Charlotte Sangick Dorothy Dorga Judy Noland Alfred Schultz



# 

#### Life Members

Eiko Bosserman Betty Busch Mildred Page Lucille Thompson



#### from Show Chairman Nan Russell

### 2009 Rock, Gem and Craft Show

What a great show. I couldn't believe the wonderful support from the members. Friday we had a few problems as two vendor's contracts and money did not arrive until Saturday, but they arrived with all their wares on Friday so we had to fit them in.

Hopefully, by next years show we will have a show procedure in place. This will help everyone know their job and who is in charge of the different things that need to be done. This year was a learning curve as the membership has increased and for some it was their first show set-up and I was so happy they helped.

All the vendors as far as I know were very happy and plan on coming back in 2010 and we have a waiting list as additional space becomes available.

We will have a show meeting to go over plans for 2010's show and review what problems came up and what we can do better.



Dave Reimers is a winter member of Gemstoners who was a very valuable asset this year .



Pete Hansen & Gary Gann do some repair to case closures



Working conditions were pretty nice thanks to "C" & Nan Russell



Dave Sims worked on the sprucing up the lettering on the roadside signs.





Left upper: Gary & Mary Gann Display Case Upper right:Pete Hansen Turquoise Case Lower left: Ed Huskinson Case of collector specimens

LITTLE GEMS



Set up moved at record pace thanks to all the great help!



The dealers of the 2009 Show were a warm and friendly group and had some very nice items for sale. Below in order is :George Tirpak, 87 years young ,specialty is rough rock and slabs. Shirley Darga who had extraordinary bead work. Gem Art with their beautiful jewelry and rough rock and Alton Frye is a silversmith master.



High Five to All that Helped....You Made it Happen !









"C" & Nan Russell Rick Vromen BJ Johnson David & Kathy Reimers Laraine & John Smith, Glenda Erwin Charlie Robinson Al Zoellner Jack & Cheri Hommel Pete Hansen Don Schwartzlose Bob & Lois Ediger Fred Bunge Gary & Mary Gann

Ed Huskinson Leonard & Mary Lou Deutsch Dennis & Donna Robinson John & Connie Ainley Les & Colleen Nelson Al Schultz Bob & Laurel Nelson Bill Pelter I apologize if I missed your name, but you know you made a difference. Whether you helped drag tables, put

legs on, walked security, served coffee, sold tickets or just encouraged a stranger to join the club...you helped make this show was a success. April 21 Alamo Road Campout

Yippee! Our first campout of the year was out along Alamo Road. Three trailers and two tents, and Old Glory waving in the wind! Home Sweet Home.

There were some rocky points: Donna and Dennis joined the group later in the day after their tem-



Road building attempted



Maggie Mine has remained inaccessible to us, as nature has wiped out and rearranged roads. But, Kennan Camp is still a Geode thrill.

Above the wash and ash flow, we hooked up with the Havasu Club and they gra-

ciously showed us where to dig for green fluorite. The color was spectacular, some banded with purple, some with Galena.

"C" and I had been up there but did

not realize that we were looking at it, as what is on the ground is bleached out, showing no indication of the spectacular colors hiding within. A little easy digging is all that is needed to get to the colorful stuff.

We gathered crystals at Red Hill, some small, and some larger yard rocks that were wrestled from the pit and carried up the steep side by Jack and Todd.



peramental van had its little joke, we had a flat on the second day, and the wind tried mightily to blow us away.

Then it was on to the Rawhide Mine, where the ground was littered with small rocks ranging from bright green to blues. We explored a few of the mines going back into the hillside, and then gathered at the mine sign for a group shot.

It had been a warm sunny day, so we were surprised to get back to camp and find that the temperature had dropped, and the wind was whipping through our little camp with a vengeance. Our thanks to Dennis and Dorothy, who were kept busy chasing down chairs and anything else that was not weighted or tethered.

John and Loraine could not stay the nights, but were there bright and early to spend the days. Glenda and her husband came for a day. And, Fred and Dorothy pulled up stakes Sunday afternoon as Dorothy had to work the next day.

Monday, before leaving, we converged on Jack and Todd's camp to gather an unusual little black rock that had a frosted look, with some blue and



green sheen showing through in some. We have yet to have it identified.

There is so much in this area to see, gather, and explore. What a wonder. And, next: Burro Creek Campout!! Oh, boy.

Geodes! Geodes! Get your fresh geodes!



## 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** 

April 18th Saturday

Where: Near Topock

Looking for: Jasper, petrified wood, chalcedony

Vehicle:4 miles of wash that 4 wheel drive is necessary. There is an area to park and then double up with other drivers.

Distance:50 miles one way

Relatively flat walking some hillside collecting it will be shady in the morn-ing

Meet: Powerhouse at 8 am

Mostly ground collecting

Bring Lunch and Plenty of Drink warm weather is starting.

Return: early afternoon



Camping Trip, Burro Creek Campground off Hwy 93 south of Wikieup

# Come for the day or stay awhile

Bring:For the day or a few days. Pack what you need. Pick, Sledge, Pry bar, Collection Bag, Sun Screen, Lunch and Beverages it will be getting warm

Return: Sunday or

Distance: about 70 miles

Meet: in campground, just drive thru and the members will be easy to spot every morning by 8:30 Am

Has running water and restroom facilities Looking for:Exploring the area beyond the usual. It is a very picturesque land.

The is much to collect. Agate, pastelite, apache tears, chalcedony.

4 wheel drive is recommended for the exploration drives. Sharing a ride with others just about always works out. Come for the day or bring the camper or tent and stay a while.

#### Saturday May 2nd

Kingman

Honey Onyx Claim Off Stockton Hill Road

At least once a year we need to do maintenance on the claim to satisfy mining regulations and keep our yearly fee low.





# Mom... Look What Followed Me Home

By

Donna Robinson

It was a great day in the rocks off Alamo Road. Flowers were blooming, the air warm but not too warm, and the critters were lively.

Initially, I was collecting crystals in the dry creek bed, working only with the rock hammer and a small chisel. I chose a spot where the rock seemed to have a hairline crack. Tapping with the hammer and chisel, it finally opened up and lo and behold it was alive with a red ant colony. They got busy with protecting the eggs; I got away without a bite. Whew!

Later the group had moved on to another spot. I was walking around, checking out the landscape and found an interesting football sized rock. I bent down to turn it over (I do not put my fingers where my eyes can't see) and guess what there was whole nest of baby scorpions. I just let the rock roll back and walked away.

I spotted Mary Gann banging way on a crystal outcrop and joined her. She rolled out

a chunk and there was a good sized scorpion under the rock. Not to be chased away she more or less shooed him out of her way and continued working. Finally she asks Gary to get the crowbar and lift out the chunk rather than risk getting stung. He lifted out the piece and there was a big fat chuckwalla under the rock. No-



body could understand how she got in there. It didn't look like there was a way in. But there she was standing her ground.

Ok, day is done. We left the chuckwalla alone and the scorpion too and went on down the highway to home.

My collection for the day was in my zipped backpack. I emptied it out on the kitchen table, showed and talked about them with Dennis. Put them in the sink, ran the spray nozzle over them, poured Dawn dish soap over the tops, scrubbed the crystals with the soft toothbrush, the others with a regular scrub brush, sprayed the whole collection with Greased Lightning and put them in a bucket to soak over night.

The next morning I emptied out the water in the sink and in the midst of the rocks



was a dead scorpion. Was he dead to start with or did the cleaning do him in, I don't know. Just be careful out there. Don't let the peace and quiet fool you; the desert is alive. LITTLE GEMS





## IN THE SPOTLIGHT Founder John Wright

By Leonard Deutsch

On Wednesday, March 11, 2009, I met with Mike Wright and his wife Judy Wright to talk about the founder of the Mohave County Gemstoners' Club. John Wright was born in 1915 and passed away on November 13th, 1999 at age 84. John's mother, Josephine Carrow was 16 years old when she arrived here in a covered wagon in 1870. John and Josephine were married and he was a surveyor. Mike remembers going out with his dad to collect minerals as a young boy. Mike is now retired and is 64 years old. That means the club was founded in the mid 50's.



unique find - Native copper in a wooden knot



John, teaching a lapidary class in 1997 at the Mohave Co. Community College. Age 82

John's Badge

#### **Cleaning Geodes**

There are many different ideas and tricks when it comes to cleaning geodes.

CAUTION: First before doing anything, visually inspect the inside of the geode and check for microscopic minerals e.g. calcite, geothite, millerite, kaolinite. Some small crystal inclusions will be damaged by scrubbing and or chemicals.



We simply wash them in plain water with a bit of laundry detergent, then let them set in a tub of water with 1/4 cup of ordinary household bleach for two days. This cleans most of the heavy grit off the geodes. Finally we clean each geode with and electric toothbrush and ordinary denture cleaner, carefully covering all the crevices with the denture cleaner and brushing till all the grit is removed and the crystals are clean and bright.. This is at times a long and tedious project but it has worked for us thousands of times.

wash), soaking the geode in wood bleach. We found the wood bleach to work well on quartz, but only soak them for a few hours to avoid any damage to the geode.

CAUTION: Wood bleach can harm calcite crystals. (Oxalic Acid)

Wash geode thoroughly with warm water after cleaning. Add baking soda to the wood bleach before disposing to neutralize the solution.

WARNING - Wood bleach is toxic, wear eye protection and gloves to avoid injury. Do not use wood bleach in metal containers, it can eat through them.

Source: alicatsrocks.com

#### 'Tis the season (to be careful!)

By Jack Hommel



Aahhh, just stop and smell the beautiful springtime air and look at all the colorful blossoms on all the desert plants. It's Mother Nature's wonderful bounty there for us to enjoy.

But wait just a minute! Wasn't all that same bounty made for the benefit of all God's smaller critters too? You bet it was, and they are out there enjoying it also.

Yes indeed, it's getting right into snake season. Ooohhh!! Shudder and squirm. Oh yes, snakes, lots and lots of 'em. The vast majorities are com*pletely harmless* to humans and are far more afraid of us than we are of them. Most are very beneficial, eating rodents and insects, helping to protect us from really nasty, ugly things like Hanta Virus and Bubonic Plague and Rabies. What about the *rattlesnakes*, in all their dazzling variety? If we just take the time to examine them from a safe distance, perhaps we can begin to appreciate their beauty. Yes, they are dangerous if startled or provoked but if given the opportunity, they'll just fade away to safety. After all, we are about one hundred times larger than they are and they are more afraid of us than we are of them. Believe it!



In order to enjoy the desert and rock hounding in the warmer weather without being too paranoid about rattlesnakes, there are a few very simple rules to remember and practice.

Mohave Green , upper photo. Diamond back lower photo Photos courtesy NASA



1. Pay attention. Be aware of your surroundings. Remember.... You are on *their* turf.

2. Never step over or around an obstruction such as a bush or rock unless you can see that there are no rude surprises awaiting you.

3. Snakes like shade and shelter and to be left alone, so don't reach into a spot where you can't clearly see if there might be surprises.

4. Make noise when you walk around. Scuff your feet, rattle the rocks and kick things. Snakes are very sensitive to ground vibration and will generally just scoot away if you have the courtesy to let them know you're around.

5. **NEVER, EVER FOOL WITH A SNAKE!!** They frighten easily and their venomous strike and bite are their only defense. Leave them alone.

6. It's a good idea to carry a walking stick, both for added walking stability and for the purpose of rattling the bushes and probing cavities for critters and warning the snakes that you're in the area.

7. If you do run across a snake, just back off and give it room to get away, most of the time that'll take care of the issue.

8. If you do find yourself in an unavoidable confrontation and you have not yet been bitten, just remember that the desert is chock full of big rocks. Pick up a big one and drop it on the poor critter. Then get the heck out of the way.

9. If you are ever unfortunate enough to be bitten, <u>try</u> not to panic. Do not cut the bite open. Do not try to suck out the poison. Do not apply a tourniquet. Do not apply ice. Keep bite lower than heart. Do get to the nearest professional medical aid as quickly and as safely as possible.

10. Don't begin to think you can be an amateur herpetologist and begin to get too brave. If you really want to study snakes, get a book. Don't try to educate yourself in the field.

If you've paid attention and put the foregoing into practice, you stand a good chance of being able to enjoy the desert even in the warm and hot weather.



## LESSONS LEARNED & OBSERVATIONS BY A ROOKIE By Fred Bunge

1. Falling: Fall and cut your hand – next time bring gloves. Fall again and you were provided knee pads by Todd – next trip bring your own knee pads. :o)

2. Homer Bucket: (Positive??) Convenient, carries a lot of rocks. (Negative) The more rocks you put in the bucket, the heavier it gets. :o( (Lesson Learned #1) Near the Paint Dept. at Home Depot, invest 99¢ and purchase a large clamp-on handle that goes over that tiny handle – makes it more comfortable when "forced" to carry a lot of rocks. (Lesson Learned #2) Be SELECTIVE on your specimens – you'll have fewer rocks in your bucket & be "much happier" when carry-ing that bucket long distances. :o)

3. Pretty Banded Rock: (Rookie to an Old-Timer) "What is this cool banded rock?" (Old-Timer to the Rookie) "It's a cool banded Rock." (Translation) It's a nice looking rock, but its composition will not make a good cab. :o)

4. It takes a village to raise a mountain tent or a "two holer" in the wind: Short stakes, no guy lines, too many poles – it's all in a days work to set up camp – "the more people the merrier" ------ and the job at hand gets done faster and eliminates "frustration." 5. Making a list and checking it twice: A "List" – what a novel concept!!?? No matter how good it is – you'll "forget" something (REF: Murphy's Law.)

6. Corps of Engineers: While they would sit around in a "committee" to plan a job – the Gemstoner Crew moves rocks "the old fashion way" and rebuilds "washed out" roads in very little time so we can "move forward."

NOTE – When throwing rocks – make sure they are NOT in the direction of Jack – somehow, he IS NOT amused. However if you need a good crew leader – He's your guy.

7. "Believe the annunciator panel: When it says you have a low tire – you really have a low tire. The bad part of this experience was empting out the Liberty to get to the "crank hole" and everyone watching Mary cranking the tire down and up. Good job Mary. ;o)

NOTE – Many observed that "their" tire pump was back at camp – not in their vehicles – a mental note to make sure the tire pump was put into their vehicles when they got back to camp. The "happy part" of this experience – this time they didn't need it, but "What if I did need it?????? (REF: Murphy's Law – revisited.)

NOTE – Gary's tire pump was given a hasty funeral – the "patient" smoked too much, had a very high fever and gave it's "all" for the cause. (R.I.P.)

8. Rope lights are really a nifty idea : Passing Mary and Gary's camp site, I was impressed on how much light their rope lights gave off. A serious consideration on getting some is in the works.



OLD LOGO

Which Logo do you want to have represent Mohave County Gemstoners



NEW LOGO



# Color: White, Clear, Yellow

**April Birthstone : Diamond** 

April's birthstone is remarkably simple in composition, yet stunning in its unique ability to reflect and refract light into vivid flashes of brilliant color. The ancient Hindus called the Diamond "Vajra," meaning lightening, both because of the sparks of light thrown off by this gem as well as its invincible strength. The Diamond is harder than any other substance on earth. The hardness of diamond is 10 on the Mohs Scale---there is nothing harder. The figure 10 could be said represent the "average" hardness of a diamond. Dia-

mond is not equally hard on all of the theoretical crystal faces that exist in the unit cube above. The dodecahedral faces are just slightly softer than the cube faces or the octahedral faces. If the cube or octahedral faces are 10 hard, then we may think of the dodecahedral faces as being 9.999... hard. It is this fact that makes it possible to shape and polish diamonds.

Formed deep within the earth where there is intense heat and pressure, Diamonds are simply crystallized carbon. Volcanic activity of centuries ago brought these gemstones to the earth's surface, where they are found either within volcanic rock formations or washed out into rivers. India is thought to be the first river-bed source of Diamond mining, but today these gemstones are found primarily in Australia, the Soviet Union, and Africa. Historic sources of diamond have also been in Brazil. There have been important diamond finds in California, Colorado, and Canada.

No more notable in its uncut state than a plain pebble upon the beach, the true beauty of the Diamond was not revealed until the 16th century, when gemstone cutting and polishing techniques were perfected. Prior to this time, it was considered taboo to modify the original state of a Diamond. Today, the value and appeal of this stone depends largely upon how skillfully it is cut and faceted.

On rare occasions, a piece of suitable rough diamond might reach the hobbyist. The typical faceting unit that is used by the hobbyist or even a commercial colored stone lapidary won't begin to handle a diamond. A small hobby unit will have a 1/30 horsepower to 1/15 Horse Power motor for power. The units used for diamonds have at least a one horsepower motor. The typical hobby unit will have a 6 inch or 8 inch lap whereas the units for diamond will have an 18 inch lap. The shaping and polishing of a diamond generates enough friction that a mechanical dop must be used as dop waxes will melt when diamonds are being fashioned. Neutral oil such as olive oil is usually used to reduce friction in diamond finishing.

Source : aboutbirthstones.com University Nebraska

LITTLE GEMS

April 2009										
SUN	Mon	TUE	WED	THU	Fri	SAT				
			1	2	3 SHOW	4 GEM				
5 GEM SHOW	6	7Board Meeting Library 5PM	8	9	10	11				
12 💦 e I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	13	14 Regular meeting 7:00 PM	15Library DVD Series 6:15 PM	16	17	18 Field trip Topock				
19	20	21	22 Field Trip Burro Creek Campout 22-26	23	24	25				
26	27	28	29	30						

# May 2009

Sun	Mon	TUE	WED	THU	Fri	SAT
					1	2 Honey Onyx claim
3	4	5 Board Meeting Library 5 PM	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Regular meeting 7:00 PM		14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Library DVD Series 6:15 PM	21	22	23
24 31	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30

Little Gems Mohave County Gemstoners P O Box



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.

