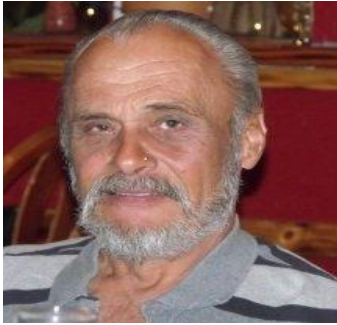


LITTLE GEMS

Volume 4 Issue 8

August 2011



General Meeting:
Second Tuesday of the month
Katherine Heidenreich Senior Center
1776 Airway Ave.,
Kingman, AZ 86401
General Meeting
7:00 PM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First of all, I would like to welcome our newest members to the Club. With summer now here, members are either on vacation or have headed north. As a result, activities have slowed down considerably.

For those of you who have participated in our Cabochon 101 class, Gary and I will be continuing this class in our shops so you can get more one on one as you finish your cabochon. You will also be able to see different pieces of equipment and advice on equipment purchases. Call Gary at 757-8121 or myself at 681-2371 for an appointment.

Our foray to the mines SW of Rosie's Den garnered some nice specimens and good trip close to home with the heat being a factor for the participants.

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).

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. Junior Membership cost is \$8.00.

Name badges are required, Either Pin or Magnetic style available at cost.

_ 2011 Club Leadership _

Elected Officers:

**President – Fred Bunge
Vice President – Gary Gann
Secretary – **open**
Treasurer – Mary Gann
Sergeant At Arms – **open****

Directors:

**Year ending 2011: Laraine Smith
Year ending 2012: Jack Hommel
Year ending 2013: **open****

Club Committees 2010

**By-Laws – Fred Bunge
Field Trips – Gary Gann
Greeters – **open**
Membership – Dorothy Bunge
Photographer – Jim Howell
Webmaster – Mary Gann**

**Newsletter Editor – Jack Hommel
Refreshments – John & Laraine Smith
Telephone - John and Laraine Smith
Show Chairman 2011 – Mary Gann
Sunshine – *open***

Shop Tour July 9, 2011

The Shop Tour was put on by Club Members who are active in all aspects of the Club. They have not necessarily been Rockhounding for years, but have done much in the way of research, talking to others, going out on field trips, or exploring on their own. Nothing of value comes quickly or easily, there is usually a lot of time and effort put forth to extract knowledge and experience.

On the Tour there were saws of all sizes and description: from 24" slab saws to the small 6" trim saws. Some were brand new, others, such as the one Stefan is refurbishing, is home made. The case frame is a wooden structure; the basin inside for the coolant is fabricated metal. It needs a lot of work, but when he is done, it will perform every bit as well as the metal framed saws. And, a good deal less expensively. Stefan and Trent also have a homemade 14" saw they are currently working on.

The most often asked question is "What should I get first?" A valid question, but, first: What do you want to do? Once you have been out on some field trips, and have dragged home some interesting rocks, what is it you want to do with them? If you don't know, you need to see what others are doing with their rocks. When you see something you would like to try, then talk to the people doing what it is you would like to try.

Some members like to decorate their yards, gardens, planters, walls, even shelves in their homes. They like the rough look, or specimens, and have no desire to cut or polish. Others like to tumble and then use the finished rocks in planters, for jewelry, display the polished pieces in jars or trays. And, still others like to slab, and cab, and carve, and have a more custom finished product. Wire wrapping or gold or silver smithing the piece they have created.

Ultimately, you are the one that knows what you want to do. Once you have decided, there are many members to glean information from.

Also on display were many types and sizes of tumblers, the rocks from start to finish, and some jewelry made from tumbled rocks. Tumbling is probably the most inexpensive way to get polished rocks. It is also the least complicated. However, as with anything else, homework will help you to decide what is best suited for your needs and desires.

Tumblers range in size from the small 3# to the industrial 40# and 45#. There are several manufacturers and prices usually run from about \$150 on up to \$1850. If you are picking up 3" agates, you do not want a 3# tumbler. You will need a 12# tumbler to handle that size of rock. If you are picking up very small rocks, you need to know that in the tumbling process you will lose from 20% to 40% of the rock before you are through.

When you are looking at saws you should be aware that your cutting depth will be about 38% to 41% of the size of the saw blade. With a 24" saw, your cutting depth will be about 9". A small Trim saw, 6", can be used to cut a rock about 2" in size.

When we first joined the Gemstoners, I had a rock that was roughly 8" by 6". I was dying to get it cut. I gave it to one of the members who had a 24" saw. He cut two slabs for me, and it cost \$10. At first I was shocked, and then I did my due diligence, and understood.

His investment>Saw, blade, oil, electricity, and time came to about \$10,000. A new 24 inch saw can run between \$8000 and \$10,000>and that does not include the blade (\$350) or shipping and handling (\$500). An 18 inch saw is usually between \$3000 and \$4000, and a 14 inch between \$1500 and \$2000. The larger saws usually do not include the blade, which can be an expensive item by itself. Needless to say, it is wise to do as much research as possible before investing in such an item.

The trim saws on the other hand, are more affordable, and along with trimming the cabs you can also cut small rocks. The trim saws use the 6" to 8" blades, and the blades usually come with the saw. They are also cooled with water as opposed to oil, or water soluble oil. They are small enough the water is easily changed or discarded when you are through using them. Rust is NOT your friend.

For making cabs, or simple objects, the Geni is the most popular item. It is small enough to carry around and set up just about anywhere. Instead of moving from machine to machine, all the wheels are in one compact space. The biggest drawback is the lack of space between wheels, which makes it difficult, if not impossible, to work larger cabs or carvings. But, for most it does 90% of what you want.

A new Geni runs about \$1700 to \$2200. The wheels are part of the purchase, and you want to take care to use them properly, because they are expensive to replace. They usually run about \$300 each. The Geni runs six wheels. Replacement cost plus S&H is around \$2000.

Knowing how much money is tied up in rock equipment makes it easier to understand why there are fees associated with using someone else's equipment. The fees for slabbing a rock can be anywhere from \$5 a slab, to ½ the rock. Using the trim saws and cabbing machines run from \$5 to \$10 an hour. The knowledge and coaching are free for the taking.

The most important thing is for you to decide what it is you want to do with your rocks. From there you can better decide what equipment you need. Research is invaluable.



AUGUST'S BIRTHSTONE



If fire appears to leap from the vibrant green surface of the Peridot, this may be because this gem is formed as a result of volcanic activity. Many years ago, natives discovered Peridot crystals in the black sands of Hawaii, explaining their presence as tears shed by Pele, the volcano goddess. Throughout history, August's birthstone has been used as a means to connect with nature. Early Egyptian priests drank a stimulating beverage called Soma from cups made of Peridot, believing this practice to draw them closer to Isis, the goddess of nature.

The name Peridot comes from the Arabic word "faridat," meaning gem. Ancient Egyptians called them the "gem of the sun," because of their dazzling brilliance when seen in the desert sun. It was believed that the Peridot glowed with light even as darkness fell, which is why miners were said to have scouted for these gems during the night, marking their location, and returning in the light of day to retrieve them. Perhaps this legendary mining method is the reason that the Peridot is sometimes called "evening emerald."

Peridot is a mineral named Olivine, which is found in a variety of greens, ranging from light yellowish green to a dark olive. Early mining for this gem was done on Saint John's Island near Egypt around 1500 BC. The green crystal was considered protective against evil and when set in gold, especially helpful against night terrors. It was ground to powder and used as a remedy for asthma and as a cure for thirst brought on by fever. Today, Peridot is mined in Burma, Norway, Brazil, Australia, Hawaii, the Congo, and in Arizona.

The force of nature is alive within a Peridot, making a gift of this gemstone symbolic of vitality. It signifies strength, both individual and within a relationship, as well as the promise of new growth in years ahead.

Alternate August Birthstone

An alternate birthstone for August, Sardonyx is a type of translucent or opaque quartz with alternating parallel bands of brownish red and white. This stone was worn as a talisman by the Egyptians to protect against infections and evil. Today it is highly polished and carved into beautiful beads and cameos. Sardonyx is mined in India, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Brazil and Uruguay. A gift of this stone is considered symbolic of happiness within a relationship.

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Shirley Darga, David & Robin Jenkins, John & Laraine Smith

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

**Jim Byrne, Roenta Hanekamp, Billy Hasting, Tom Hauser, Sharon Holmes,
Donna Meyer**

**FIELD TRIP
INFORMATION**



- Sign in 15 minutes before departure time.
- Leader will state relevant information after everyone has signed in.
- Each vehicle is to keep the one behind it in sight. Stop if vehicle is not visible and report situation on radio channel 5.1
- Always notify leader if you are hiking or driving to another site, give your approximate return time, and keep a radio with you and turned on.
- If leaving and not returning, notify leader, in person or by radio.
- Always take food, water, and first aid kit, full tank of gas.
- Name badges are required at all Club functions.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday 6th August. Grapevine Canyon (quite near Laughlin NV). Huge numbers of petroglyphs, also known as rock writings. Easy trip, 2Wd all the way, good parking, BLM maintained pit toilets. Meet @ Powerhouse 7 AM

Sunday 21st August. Big Wash Picnic. In the cool highlands of the Cerbat Mountains above the village of Chloride. Very well maintained, easily accessible BLM campground. 2WD dirt road. Fun for all. Meet 7AM Big Wash Cyn. Rd & Hwy 93.

Other trips and fun gatherings will be announced in the newsletter, in the web site & at general meetings.



MONSOON SEASON!!

It is time to be watchful out there! We've all been bombarded with television news footage of the rainstorms and lightning in the southern portions of our state. Those same thunderstorms can and do happen here in our own bit of paradise. They can come upon us with little or no warning, so it's up to us to look after each other and our own safety. We rock hounds commonly walk the crests of ridges and the peaks of hills when we're searching for our next treasure and we commonly walk and drive in bottoms of dry washes. These are two of the most dangerous places to be during thunderstorms. If a thunderstorm is active within five miles and if we choose to place our bodies on a peak or ridge, we've just made ourselves into pretty effective lightning rods. Yes, lightning *can* reach up to fifteen miles (per the National Weather Service) from a storm to ruin your day. In attempting to protect yourself from lightning, move down off the ridges or peaks to a relatively low spot but stay away from trees, large bushes or very large boulders as these can attract lightning. If you're caught out in the open, reduce your profile by squatting or even lying down flat on the ground. Lightning tends to strike taller objects. If you are out when thunderstorms are active, pay close attention to weather signs all around yourself for as far as you can see. A monsoon downpour several miles away can send a flash flood around the bend of a formerly dry ravine and ruin your day permanently. Flash floods are very dangerous because they are not only a wet, nasty surprise but they carry lots of hazardous junk, cactus, angry & frightened snakes, boulders & heavy mud. You cannot swim in them and you can seldom outrun them. If you are in doubt or if you are threatened by lightning...get down. If you are in doubt or threatened by flash flood... head for high ground – right now!

STAY ALERT – STAY ALIVE

*****ROCKIN' COOKERY*****

Campfire "Tummy Stuffer"

Ingredients

One half pound bow tie pasta
One fourth pound bacon fried and crumbled
One quarter onion diced
One medium chicken breast cooked and diced bite size
One can Italian or Mexican style tomatoes undrained
One can Cream of Mushroom soup
Seasonings to taste

Directions

Combine all ingredients in a good sized pot, cover, cook covered over medium heat, stir and add water as needed until pasta reaches desired doneness.

August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	Board Meet at Library 5:00 PM 2	3	4	5	6
Grapevine Canyon Power House at 7:00AM 7	8	Gen. Meeting at Senior Ctr. 7:00 PM 9	10	11	12	13
Trip Planning @ Gary's-10AM 992 Selma Dr 14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Windy Pt. Picnic- meet @ Big Wash Rd & Hwy 93 7AM 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September '11

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	Board Meet at library 5:00 PM 6	7	8	9	10
11	12	Gen. Meeting at Senior Ctr. Pot Luck @ 6:30 13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

SELL, BUY Or TRADE

“Graves” faceting machine. Worth \$3,000.00, Asking \$1,200.00.

CONTACT: Wayne Nicholson 928-263-6337

Get your lapidary related machinery, art, rocks, equipment, or jewelry in the Little Gems newsletter whether you're buying, trading or selling. Your fellow club member may have exactly what you need! Just contact the editor.

Little Gems is published monthly. It is available online at www.gemstoners.org
The Newsletter is in PDF format so it will be necessary to download Adobe Reader (free program) to view.
Submissions should be to the editor by the 20th of the month to: theview@goldenvalleycable.com or mail to:
Mohave County Gemstoners PO Box 3992, Kingman, AZ 86402.



Some unknown soul made this fire ring of petrified wood. Have you ever seen a petrified fire?