

LITTLE GEMS

Volume 3 Issue 12

December 2010



Message from the President

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

Hi Gemstoners,

Another year has come to an end. Our second annual Thanksgiving Feast in the Desert at Burro Creek Campground was a big success. We had a lot of good food, and better yet, a lot of good camaraderie.

We will have our Christmas Dinner at Lombardo's this year in place of the regular meeting on Dec. 14th, at 7:00 Pm. I hope everyone has a super Christmas Holiday and are looking forward to the New Year in 2011.

I look back on the year and remember the fun rock hunting and the great Annual Show we had, and look forward to another year of the same fun and friendships with fellow rockhounds.

Remember, new officers will take their places at the January Meeting. Be there to welcome them and support them in their new endeavors. Let's make 2011 the best year yet for the Gemstoners!

John Smith, President

Mohave County Gemstoners

Mohave County Gemstoners' Annual Rock & Mineral Show

WHEN: April 9th and 10th, 2011

WHERE: Kingman Academy of Learning High School Gym at 3420 N Burbank

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.

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, Pin or Magnetic style for cost.

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 AdobeReader (free program) to view.
Submissions should be to the editor by the 20th of the month to : [M C GEMSTONERS@AOL.COM](mailto:MC GEMSTONERS@AOL.COM), or mail to:
Mohave County Gemstoners PO Box 3992 Kingman, Az 86402.

2010 Club Leadership

Elected Officers:

President – John Smith
Vice President – Al Zoellner
Secretary - Fred Bunge
Treasurer - Pete Hansen
Sergeant At Arms – Gary Gann

Board of Directors:

Year ending 2010: Kenny Segreaves
Year ending 2011: Laraine Smith
Year ending 2012: Jack Hommel

Club Committees 2010

By-Laws – Fred Bunge
Field Trips - Jack Hommel
Greeters – Cheri Hommel
Membership – Dorothy Bunge
Photographer - Melanie Hecht
Webmaster – Mary Gann

Newsletter Editor – Gary Gann
Refreshments – Mary Gann
Telephone - John and Laraine Smith
Show Chairman 2011 – Mary Gann
Sunshine – Lynn Roe

MINUTES OF THE NOV 2010 GENERAL MEETING

The evening started off with a presentation on metal detectors by Len Roggero of the Colorado River Treasure Hunters of Bullhead City. Depending what you are looking for, three things to look for in a detector: Discrimination, Auto Ground Balance and Target ID. Used detectors can be found at www.kellycodetectors.com. This presentation was of great interest to members wanting to look for meteorites.

The meeting was called to order at 7:59 PM by our President, John Smith. The flag salute was led by the Sergeant At Arms.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Approved as published in the Little Gems Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: The Club is in good financial shape. An accounting of receipt and expenditures was given.

Correspondence: (NONE)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership – We welcomed two guests this evening. Membership is 112 as of this meeting. Those with anniversaries and birthdays this month were introduced.

Show – Many vendors asking for applications in addition to those we have sent out. Press releases have gone to many clubs as well.

Field Trip – Gary succeeds Jack as Chair. A trip meeting is scheduled on 19 DEC at Jack’s house at 10 AM. The Bagdad Mine trip went well. On 24 OCT we will be at Castle Mountain, meet at the Nugget Casino at 8 AM.

Web Master/Editor – Need more articles for our newsletter. All submissions must be in “letter format.”

Refreshments – Next month will be a dinner at Lombardo’s in place of our normal meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. December 14th Meeting – A sit-down dinner will be at Lombardo’s on Eastern AV. The price of the meal is about \$15 per person, which will be turkey, ham, all trimmings, non-alcoholic beverage, desert and gratuity.

Sign-up with Pete. Make checks payable to the Gemstoners and get them to Pete no later than the NOV meeting.

2. Business Cards – We now have business cards to hand to perspective members. They will have our web site, meeting information, mailing address, etc. This has proven to be a very good recruitment tool. An error has been found, please correct the P.O. Box number to “3992.”

3. Toys For Tots – members brought in many fine toys for this campaign and the Marine Corps League will collect them.

4. Canned goods – many bags and boxes of canned goods were collected by members for the less fortunate.

5. Appendix “B” – Scholarships – This will be voted on at the General Meeting in JAN and be on the web site for all members to review this policy.

NEW BUSINESS:

2011 Elections: Since there were no nominations from the floor at the last meeting, those nominated were elected by acclamation.

President – Fred Bunge	Vice President – Gary Gann	Secretary – Clarkie Segreaves
Treasurer – Mary Gann	Sergeant At Arms – Cheri Hommel	Board Member (2013) – Kenny Segreaves

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

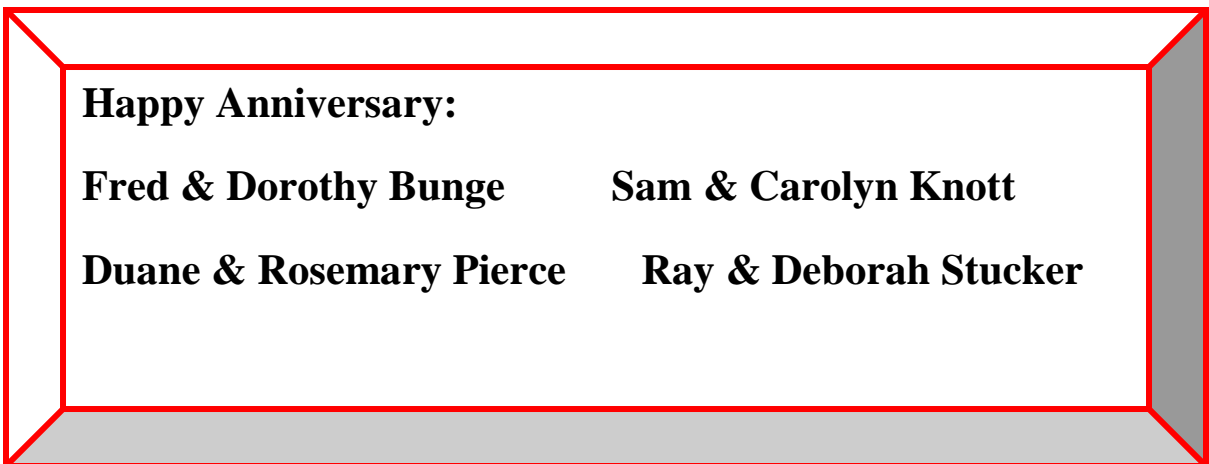
1. Among our guests of the evening were Paulino and Julia Allandie, from the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society, Tulsa, OK. They were gracious enough to donate specimens of Hourglass Calamite and Hargarite Desert Rose to the Club. Julia is the Past President of their Club.

2. Future presentations for next year will be on Diamonds, Basic Tumbling and Tumbling of Apache Tears.

50/50: Les Nelson - \$32.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Fred Bunge, Secretary



Happy Birthday:

Mary & Gary Gann Aurora Byrne Kevin Davis Lynn Roe Ray Stucker

Yvonne Decker Bill Peltier Susahn March Char Sangick

DECEMBER BIRTHSTONE

December's Birthstone, Blue Topaz, is derived from the Sanskrit word "tapas," meaning fire. This is because Blue Topaz was considered by ancient civilizations to have cooling properties. Not only was it believed to cool boiling water when thrown into the pot, but to calm hot tempers as well! This gemstone was credited with many other healing powers, among them the ability to cure insanity, asthma, weak vision and insomnia. The Blue Topaz was even thought to have magical properties in its ability to make its wearer invisible in a threatening situation.

Blue Topaz is the hardest of the silicate minerals. While pure Topaz is colorless, minor changes of elements within the stone result in a variety of other colors, such as blue, pale green, red, yellow and pink.

The blue hue is created when Topaz is heated, whether the heat source is natural or engineered by man. The three shades of Blue Topaz are Sky, Swiss and London Blue. The latter is the deepest blue and is often used as a less expensive substitute for Sapphire.

Topaz is found primarily in Brazil, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Pakistan, China, and the United States.

An alternate birthstone for December is the Turquoise. So named because it was initially brought to Europe by way of Turkey, this stone is one of the first gems to be used in jewelry. Turquoise was considered by ancients to be a sacred stone, protective against all manners of evil and ill health. This beautiful gemstone is mined in Iran and the southwestern United States. A gift of Turquoise represents friendship and luck.

Meteorites of Arizona, Argentina, North West Africa, and Russia

Leonard Deutsch

Arizona: Some meteorites come from the Diablo Canyon, Meteor Crater. The main crater is located about 35 miles from Flagstaff. The crater is about 4000 feet across and around 700 feet deep. The meteorites are oxide and composed of 92% Iron, 7% Nickel, and 1% other. The asteroid fell about 50,000 years ago. The meteorites have been collected since the mid-19th century and were known and used by pre-historic Native Americans. The Barringer Crater, from the late 19th to the mid-20th century, was the center of a long dispute about the origin of craters that showed little evidence of volcanism. That debate was settled in the 1950's, thanks to Eugene Shoemaker's study of the crater. The biggest fragment ever found is the Holsinger Meteorite, weighing 639 kg, now on display in the Meteor Crater Visitor Center on the rim of the crater.

Argentina: The Campo del Cielo refers to a group of iron meteorites or to the area where they were found situated on the border between the provinces of Chaco and Santiago del Estero, 620 miles northwest of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The crater field covers an area of 3X20 kilometers and contains at least 26 craters; the largest is 115x91 meters. The craters' ages are estimated at 4 to 5 thousand years. The craters, containing iron masses, were reported in 1576, but were already well known the aboriginal inhabitants of the area. The craters and surrounding area contain numerous fragments of an iron meteorite. The total weight of the pieces so far recovered exceeds 100 tons, the second heaviest single piece meteorite recovered on earth, after the Hoba Meteorite.


Northwest Africa: The countries included in the Northwest Africa area are: Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia, and Western Sahara. In 1986-87, a German team installing a network of seismic stations while prospecting for oil discovered about 65 meteorites on a flat, desert plain about 100 km southeast of Daraj, Libya. A few years later, a desert enthusiast saw photographs of meteorites being recovered by scientists in Antarctica, and thought that he had seen similar occurrences in northern Africa. In 1989, he recovered about 100 meteorites from several distinct locations in Libya and Algeria. Over the next several years, he and others who followed found at least 400 more meteorites. The sudden availability of large numbers of meteorites led to a rapid rise in commercial collection. This process was accelerated when in 1997, meteorites from both the Moon and Mars were found in Libya. By the late 1990's, private meteorite collecting expeditions had been launched throughout the Sahara. Specimens of the meteorites recovered in this way are still deposited in research collections, but most of the material is sold to private collectors. These expeditions have now brought the total number of well-described meteorites found in Libya and Algeria to over 2000.

As word spread in Saharan countries about the growing profitability of the meteorite trade, meteorite markets came into existence, especially in Morocco, fed by nomads and locals, who combed the deserts looking for specimens to sell. Thousands of meteorites have been distributed in this way, most of which lack any information about how, when, or where they were discovered. These are the so-called "Northwest Africa" meteorites.

The desert in southern and central Oman had yielded about 5,000 meteorites as of 2009. Included among these are a large number of lunar and Martian meteorites.

Russia: On the morning of Feb. 12, 1947, at 10:38 local time, a huge fire ball as bright as the sun appeared in the sky near the Sikhote-Alin mountain range in the Maritime Province of Russia. The cause of this phenomenon was an iron meteoroid weighing almost three hundred tons traveling through the atmosphere at an estimated 45,000 mph. The resulting atmospheric pressures on the mass caused it to essentially explode at an altitude of about 18,000 feet and pieces from small particles up to several tons struck the frozen tundra in a 'strewn field' covering some 1.2 sq. miles in a

heavily forested area. Named for the mountains nearby, this became known as the “Sikhote-Alin fall” and was one of the most witnessed and well-documented such event in modern history.

<p>FIELD TRIP INFORMATION</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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. ➤ Always notify leader if you are hiking or driving to another site and your approximate return time. ➤ If leaving and not returning, notify leader and turn in radio. ➤ Always take food, water, and first aid kit, full tank of gas. ➤ RADIOS: Channel 3 ➤ Name badges required at all Club functions. 	

Dec 5th Ludlow, Ca. 4WD recommended. Meet at Power House at 5 AM. 2.5 hr drive each way. Red, yellow, brown jasper. Agate. Large Calcite crystals, some fluorite. Todd will meet us across street from Dairy Queen in Ludlow.

Dec. 14>Christmas Dinner. Lombardo’s at 7 PM.

FRIENDS

As we approach the close of another year it’s time to reflect on the gifts the year 2010 has brought us.

First, we have to put aside material things. Everyone has some, and some folks have more than others and some have less (and couldn’t care!).

Then we need to examine our physical well being. Are we healthy to enjoy being alive, even a little bit? If so that’s a blessing.

Now, do we have a warm, dry place to sleep and do we have food enough to fend off starvation? Lots of folks have neither.

O.K. now let’s see; We have some belongings and we don’t worry about them being taken away from us, we have our health (mostly), we have shelter and we have food. What more can we ask?

Friends is what's missing from the foregoing. Friends can make life wonderful and can make the unbearable easier to tolerate. Friends can brighten dark days and sweeten sour dispositions. Life without friends can be pretty miserable, but when we have the strengths of our friends to draw on everything seems smoother and easier.

Friends are the ones who stick with us even when we are guilty of being anything but friendly. Friends are the folks who encourage us when we are lost in depression, or angry at the entire world, or when we are whining and pouting like small children. Friends never give up on us even when we've given up on ourselves.

Our true friends never discourage us, they never belittle us, they never gossip about us to others, they never abandon us when we're in need, they always have time to listen to our pains and sorrows, they are always happy for us when our world seems to be at its brightest.

So... when you come right down to the bare bones of it all, what can be more important than our good and true friends? We all have many acquaintances, but do we really have many true friends? It's an unfortunate fact of life that there are many of the former and few of the latter. Enjoy and cherish your friends, hold them close and dear to your heart and never let them go. We have nothing more valuable than our friends.

We, in this club have been well and truly blessed with friends. It is a fact to be thankful for and to rejoice about. Look in the mirror. Are you a good friend? You can be the highlight of someone's life.

December 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
Ludlow, Ca 5:AM at Power House 5	6	Board Meeting at Library 6:30 PM 7	8	9	10	11
12	13	Dinner at Lombardo's at 7:00PM 14	15	16	17	18
Trip Meeting at Jack's. 10 AM 19	20	21	22	23	24	CHRISTMAS 25
26	27	28	29	30	31	