

LITTLE GEMS

Volume 4 Issue 2

February 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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

January has seen the Club doing very well. Over 40 members have renewed their memberships and we have a few new members that have joined us. For those who have not yet renewed, please do so at the February meeting.

The Tumbling 101 Class was well received and questions were fielded as well as some "tricks of the trade" being shared by members. Part 2 of this presentation will be given at the February meeting.

The 2011 Rock & Gem Show will be, which I believe is our 41st, held on 9/10 April at the Kingman Academy Of Learning High School Gymnasium. Several members have signed-up to help – a few more would definitely insure a successful show. Members to help with set-up, tear-down, security and helping with the different tables would be greatly appreciated. Much of our electrical equipment has been retrofitted to insure safety. We now have at least 15 vendors for the Show and more coming in all the time.

FRED BUNGE, President

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, Kingman AZ

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, Either Pin or Magnetic style available at 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: theview@goldenvalleycable.com or mail to:

Mohave County Gemstoners PO Box 3992, Kingman, AZ 86402.

_ 2011 Club Leadership _

Elected Officers:

President – Fred Bunge
Vice President – Gary Gann
Secretary – Clarkie Segreaves
Treasurer – Mary Gann
Sergeant At Arms – Cheri Hommel

Board of Directors:

Year ending 2011: Laraine Smith
Year ending 2012: Jack Hommel
Year ending 2013: Kenny Segreaves

Club Committees 2010

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

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

MINUTES OF THE JAN. 2011 GENERAL MEETING

The evening started off with a presentation on tumbling 101 by Mary Gann, of the Mohave County Gemstoners. Mary took us through steps 1 and 2 of four steps on how to tumble rocks. This presentation was of great interest to members wanting to know how to use their tumblers.

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM by our President, Fred Bunge. The flag salute was led by the Sergeant At Arms, Cheri Hommel.

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

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

Correspondence: (NONE) **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Membership – Membership stands at 113 as of this meeting. Those with anniversaries and birthdays this month were introduced.

Show – Dates of the show are Saturday, April 9th and Sunday, April 10th. We have 13 paid vendors

Field Trip – A group of us went to Ludlow, California Dec. 6th and found lots of nice rocks. We are going back to Ludlow in April. We had Thanksgiving down at burro creek had a great day of eating and rock hunting.

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

Refreshments – We need someone to take over kitchen Duties. Clarkie will bring goodies for Feb. meeting

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **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."

2. **Appendix "B" – Scholarships** – This will be voted on at the General Meeting in February. It is on the website for members to review policy.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **2011 Elections:** Were held at our Jan 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

2. **2011 Rock & Gem Show**, APR 9 & 10-Contact Mary

A. **Set-up** on Friday, APR. 8 at 8am

B. **Need people** to work booths and security on Sat/Sun APR. 9&10.

C. **Tear-Down** on Sunday starting at 4 PM

D. **Need items** for silent Auction-Contact Fred

1. Please clearly identify the item and any minimum or reserve bid you wish.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Basic Tumbling and Tumbling of Apache Tears.

50/50: Stefan Szabo-\$30.00

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Clarkie Segreaves, Secretary

Happy Birthday:

**Bill Darga, Fran Davenport, Leonard Deutsch, Jim Gish,
Aleta Huskinson, Loa Mooney,**



The gemstone Amethyst is the Birthstone for February. It is also the Zodiac stone for the constellation of Pisces. Amethyst is associated with spirituality, wisdom, sobriety, and security.

Amethyst is the purple variety of the mineral quartz and is a popular gemstone. Although it must always be purple to be amethyst, it can and does have a wide range of purple shades. Its color is unparalleled, and even other, more expensive

purple gemstones are often compared to its color and beauty. If it were not for its widespread availability, amethyst would be very expensive.

The name "amethyst" comes from the Greek and means "not drunken." This was perhaps due to a belief that amethyst would ward off the effects of alcohol, but most likely the Greeks were referring to the almost wine-like color of some stones that they may have encountered.

Amethyst can occur as long prismatic crystals that have a six sided pyramid at either end or can form as druzes that are crystalline crusts that only show the pointed terminations. As a mineral specimen, amethyst is popular for its color and nice crystal shapes that produce a handsome, purple, sparkling cluster.

However, amethyst is not the same everywhere. Different localities can produce a unique amethyst to that particular region or even to that particular mine. Experts can often identify the source mine that a particular amethyst came from. The key to this is the specimen's color, shape of crystal, inclusions, associations and character of formation.

ANNIVERSARIES

*It seems that none of our members chose the month of February in which to pledge their vows of love and loyalty. If we've missed you and your precious day, please forgive the error and please accept our most sincere wishes for a grand celebration. **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!***

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.
- 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.
- When hiking from group always take a radio. RADIOS: Channel 3
- Name badges required at all Club functions.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

February 6th – Cook Mine. Meet @ Powerhouse 7:30 A.M. Leader Gary Gann. 4WD as we'll be going through sandy washes. Mohave Jasper, agate, and cute lil geodes.

February 20th – Franconia Wash. Meet @ Powerhouse 7:30 A.M. Leader Gary Gann. 2WD / 4WD. Bring your metal detectors and a magnet as we'll be hunting for meteorites.

March 6th – Gold Basin. Meet @ Safeway North 7:30 A.M. Leader Gary Gann. 2WD / 4WD. Bring your metal detector and a magnet as we'll be hunting for both meteorites and gold.

Your field trip committee is working diligently to prepare an exciting slate of exploration trips, mineral specimen gathering expeditions and other rewarding club activities for all members in the 2011 year. Results will be announced in the Little Gems newsletter and at general membership meetings.

.....

GUEST ARTICLES

Each and every person in our Club has a unique set of experiences and adventures. Each of us has a lifetime of memories and accomplishments. Your fellow Club members would like to enjoy **YOUR** stories and delights. Your tales don't have to be long, they don't have to be fancy. They only have to be experiences that you or your family or friends have had. Now, bearing in mind that we're a rock club, it would be nice if your story has to do with some outdoor or rock related experience. If you're saying to yourself "I can't write", just jot down your thoughts in any form you can and submit them to the editor. With your permission, your article will be re-written or edited to bring out the story you want it to be. Please help this newsletter become **YOURS** in fact as well as in name. You'll be given credit – or not – as you please. Articles will be edited for length and content. All submissions become the property of the Mohave County Gemstoners and the Little Gems.

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

This is going to be a new feature in the Little Gems; it is going to be YOUR own article. Here will be a place for you to share your Great Grandmother's never fail family pleaser recipe' or for you to share your own creation with your fellow club members. You can submit your articles via e-mail or directly to the editor at the general meetings. You will be credited for the recipe' unless you state your desire to remain anonymous.

Major Symington's Slumgullion

After a full day of scrambling around the hills and working up a hunger, this tummy pleaser will fill the bill for even the heartiest of appetites.

Ingredients:

One half pound bacon, cut -up

One large onion, coarsely diced

Two small cans mushrooms, drained

One medium carrot, finely diced

Four large potatoes, cubed to 1/2 inch

One can cream of mushroom soup

Salt, Pepper & Garlic to taste

Preparation

In a large skillet or Dutch oven, fry bacon until crisp, set bacon aside, reserve most of the drippings. Fry onions, mushrooms and carrots until they begin to brown, then set aside with bacon. Return some bacon drippings to the skillet, add potatoes and fry until they are brown to taste then return the bacon, onions, mushrooms, carrots to the pan and add the condensed soup (undiluted) to the mix. Add garlic, pepper and salt to taste. Stir and heat until the desired consistency is reached, adding water as needed. Cover and simmer until the potatoes are done to your liking. Serve with side vegetables and hard rolls of choice.

Preparation time varies, serves 4 – 6 people.

Editor wishes to thank Desert USA for the following article

Chalcedony, also spelled Calcedony, is a very fine-grained (cryptocrystalline) variety of the silica mineral quartz. It has a waxy luster and appears in a great variety of colors-- usually blue-white, buff, light tan, gray, yellow or brown.

A form of chert, it forms rounded crusts, rinds or stalactites (mineral deposits suspended from the roofs of caverns) in volcanic and sedimentary. It has a compact fibrous structure and fine splintery fracture. Other physical properties are those of quartz variously colored quartz with

In the petrified forests of the Desert Southwest, many of the original tree tissues have been replaced by chalcedony in the formation of petrified wood. What remains is a mineral replica of the original tree in various fantastic colors. The brilliant reds and greens are caused primarily by traces of iron oxides. Some of the best displays of petrified wood can be seen in eastern Arizona's Petrified Forest National Park.

In all ages many varieties of chalcedony have been used as gems, and many colored varieties are still cut and polished as ornamental stones. Unless it is intricately carved or featured, Chalcedony is valued much less than it once was. Commercial production is primarily in Uruguay, Brazil and southwestern Africa.

It is said that chalcedony was used as a sacred stone by the Native Americas, promoting stability within the ceremonial activities of the tribe. Chalcedony is said to augment emotional balance, vitality, stamina, endurance, kindness, charity and friendliness. It supposedly alleviates hostilities, irritability and melancholy.

Chalcedony occurs in many varieties and colors. If chalcedony is conspicuously color-banded, it may be called agate and with other minerals it has various other names including:

Agate: This common semiprecious variety of chalcedony is conspicuously color-banded with other minerals in successive layers. It occurs in bands of varying color and transparency in cavities of eruptive rocks or ancient lava. Agates come in many varieties themselves, including the following:

Moss Agate: Also called **Mocha Stone**, this grayish to milky-white chalcedony contains dark-colored, dendritic branching forms that resemble ferns, moss, or other vegetation. These formations are caused by the inclusion of mainly manganese and iron oxides of inorganic origin. Most moss agates are found as fragments weathered from volcanic rocks and long used for ornamental purposes.

Onyx: This striped, semiprecious variety of agate has black and white alternating bands. Onyx is used in carved cameos and intaglios because its layers can be cut to show a color contrast between the design and the background. Onyx is one of the 12 stones mentioned in the Bible as adorning the breastplate of the high priests.

Bloodstone: Also called **Heliotrope**, this dark-green variety of chalcedony has nodules of bright-red jasper distributed throughout. Bloodstone was greatly prized in the Middle Ages and was used in sculptures representing flagellation and martyrdom.

Carnelian: Translucent red chalcedony is called Carnelian, which owes its red to color to hematite (iron oxide). It is a close relative of **Sard**, which is brown in color. The Greeks and Romans used carnelian in rings and signets.

Chrysoprase: This brittle, translucent form of chalcedony owes its bright, apple-green color to the inclusion of nickel silicates, but heating or prolonged exposure to sunlight causes the color to fade.

Plasma: This semi-translucent, microgranular variety of chalcedony occurs in various shades of green, caused by amphibole or chlorite inclusions. Plasma often has nodules of gray quartz or Bloodstone throughout its mass. It has long been used for carvings and mosaics.

CHALCEDONY		
Chemistry	Crystal System	Hardness
SiO ₂	Tetrahedral	7.0 (Mohs' scale)
Cleavage	Fracture	Specific Gravity
Rhombohedral	Conchoidal	2.65
Color, Transparency, Luster & Streak	VARIETIES	
Color: Various shades of purple Transparency: Transparent to sub-translucent Luster: Glassy	Agate Bloodstone Carnelian Chrysoprase Heliotrope Mocha Stone Moss Agate Onyx Plasma Prase	

Important Board Actions & Activities

Your Board continues to work on ways to create a greater positive awareness in the mind of the public about the Gemstoners and the good work of all of **YOU** members. At February's general membership meeting, you will be asked to vote your approval of the new Scholarship program (in your name) that the Board has worked on for more than a year. This is but one of many community outreach items your Board is addressing in an effort to make our Club a better, more interesting, dynamic and fun group. This year the Board will be bringing us educational presentations and seminars, exciting and informative speakers, fun field trips and activities for everyone. Each member of the Board is ever conscious of the fact that the Board works for YOU, each and every one of you. This is a responsibility that is taken very, very seriously. Board members draw no salary and the only noticeable reward is the "Thank You" voiced by you, the members at large, when you comment that you have enjoyed or appreciated something the Board has accomplished on your behalf. As always, you are invited to attend Board meetings and share your thoughts with the Board. Kingman Library, first Tuesday of the month, at 5:00 PM.

Do you have rocks in your head?

We rockhounds are frequently questioned about our sanity when others find out the lengths to which we go just to get "*those dumb old rocks*". Are they right in their assessments of us? What is it that makes us do the things we do?

We invest many thousands of dollars in vehicles capable of getting us to the usually remote places we want to reach. We then torture those vehicles by subjecting them to conditions not really intended by the manufacturers and we expect them to get us safely, comfortably out and back. They usually do a good job for us, but when we break 'em the expenses are always a jolt.

Now, what (other than our hard earned money) supports those wonderfully dependable vehicles? *Tires!* Expensive tires that we casually drive off-road on jeep trails, on ancient abandoned mine roads and cow paths littered with all manner of tire killing hazards, and we expect and demand that the tires hold up to all this and we further expect them to meet the advertised mileage claims! They miraculously meet and exceed our demands quite well. How many of us even know where our spare tire and jack are?

Then there's all the equipment we all seem to find necessary. We buy costly rock hammers, handheld radios, C.B. radios, G.P.S. units, metal detectors, pry bars, picks, shovels, kneepads, safety goggles, hiking boots, maps, guide books, snakebite kits, etc., etc., etc.

How about destination or location? It seems that the vast majority of places we want to go are many miles away from any help we might need if we suffer calamity. Almost all the sites we cherish are tough to find, hard to get to, difficult walking when we get there, populated by critters we'd rather not meet, and there are no restrooms, no coffee shops, no medical facilities, never any drinking water, and the list goes on and on.....

Wanna talk about *conditions*? How about blistering heat in the summertime and bone chilling temps in the winter and always, always the wind. There is seldom shade or shelter, so we resort to broad brimmed hats for shade, sunglasses for eye relief, sunscreen or long sleeves for sunburn protection, and multiple layers of clothing so we can function despite the weather's offerings. We all pack what we consider to be basic necessity food and drink. Someone amongst us usually brings and shares some delicious treat and some make up truly astounding taste treats for our stunned enjoyment.

But..... Then there are the times when we huddle miserably inside our vehicles wolfing down sand filled lunchmeat sandwiches and crackers and soda pop, and we can hardly wait to get back out there and enjoy some more cactus thorns and bruised feet and windblown grit in our eyes.

Fuel, fuel, fuel! We all drive vehicles that are generally not considered gas mileage champs, but we doggedly fill 'em up and grind away at the long trips and the sand washes and the boulder fields and the steep climbs. None of these are conducive to great fuel savings, but we continue to get up and go and go again and again. Many of our trips are relatively short range (under 150 miles round trip), but some are three or four hundred miles out and back. With gasoline prices hovering around three bucks a gallon, none of these outings are exercises in thrift.

The burning question now is, just what benefit do we derive from all this activity?

Some of us are just goony about "yard rocks" while others want only "cool specimens", and yet others want only those pieces which will make saleable jewelry. We all have a tremendous chance to educate ourselves just by paying close attention to the knowledge that others are willing to share. Beyond those reasons however, are several less tangible benefits. We get to see a whole lot of unique sights that even the truly high-roller tourists never get to enjoy. We have the opportunity to engage in a very healthy exercise regimen for which we would otherwise have to pay a goodly sum to a health club or commercial gymnasium. We have fun with all the banter and joking while we're out and about. We usually have the privilege of overindulging in a big breakfast beforehand or a rowdy get-together meal afterward on those trip days. We get to meet a whole lot of fun and interesting people from other rock clubs and folks from (literally) all over the world. We share experiences with others and enjoy hearing the stories of those folks' histories and their successes and disappointments and there is a never ending supply of jokes and funny tales. We also have a wealth of experiences to share with our stay-at-home friends who can join us in spirit only. Finally, we have an endless fund of bragging rights about the places, things and sights we've enjoyed.

So, are we fully sane and what are the things that enrich us and should we feel any sense of guilt for having taken pleasure from all of it?

YOU BETCHA we rockhounds are sane *and* physically strong *and* emotionally healthy because of all the foregoing!! None of us needs to take a fistful of pills in order to face the day. None of us needs three or four cocktails before dinner just to unwind. When we're asked by strangers what we do for relaxation, we can laugh and tell them that where we go and what we do and that we work our butts off and we come home tired, dirty and proud of the treasures we hope to bring forth from the bounty God has granted us. Should we feel guilty about anything? Not unless it has become sinful to breathe fresh air and to soak up the beauty of the desert and mountains, and to be astonished by the elegance and majesty we find in the stones. We can revel in being different from those who would question our sanity. We can glory in having chosen a pursuit that lets us fully enjoy some of the best our good Lord has created for us.

February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Board Meet at Library 5:PM 1	2	3	4	5
Oatman-Cook Mine Meet at Power House 7:30AM 6	7	Gen. Meeting at Senior Ctr 7:PM 8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Franconia Wash Meet at 7:30 Power House 20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Board Meet at Library 5:PM 1	2	3	4	5
Gold Basin Meet at Safeway North 7:30AM 6	7	Gen. Meeting at Senior Center 7:00PM 8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	Trip Meeting at Gary's 10:00A 21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		