

LITTLE GEMS

Volume 4 Issue 1

January 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

As we start 2011, I would like to share some goals that we as a Club should be looking at:

1. Participation – We need more participation by the membership in our various activities if we are to grow and prosper. We have some committees that are presently vacant that we would like to fill. The Trip Chair and other members have been working on new areas to find different minerals and some overnights in areas having multiple exploration sites are planned. For those who are available, we have a terrific Thanksgiving campout at Burro Creek each year.
2. Programs – Starting in January, we will be having a four-part program on Tumbling 101. For those of you who have equipment, this is a time to share your experience with new members. For those who don't have equipment right now, this will be an opportunity to learn tumbling before you go out and buy the equipment. Tumbling is perhaps the easiest and cheapest in capital investment you can make as it pertains to the lapidary arts. Other presentations will follow throughout the year.
3. Show – 2011 looks to be an exceptional year for our annual Rock and Gem Show. So far we have 10 vendors that have fully paid their fees, 254 lineal feet of table space committed and 50 more vendor applications were sent out. Presently, our electrical cords and show case lights are being overhauled to insure they are safe. The Show Committee will need members to man the various tables and set-up/tear-down of the tables at the Show.
4. Education/Time-Share – As we proceed through this year, we plan to create some visual aids for new members and education at the Children's Table at the Show. We need to create a program of our own, which will benefit our members and the public in the future.

Purchasing of equipment, tools and materials can be expensive. To get rocks is the cheap part of the proposition. Tumblers are about the cheapest way into the lapidary arts. Saws, buffers and polishers can run into many thousands of dollars. We are fortunate to have some members who are willing to offer their equipment at a reasonable, fee based usage, to get you to a place where you do more than collect rocks. Supervised, hands-on experience will be offered to those who take the time and use this opportunity. Spring, will bring wire-wrapping classes – transform that cabochon into a piece of jewelry that you can either sell or wear.

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, Pin or Magnetic style 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 Seagraves
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*

***** Editor's note *****

There are no minutes to be reported from the Club's December meeting as this was strictly a social gathering and celebratory dinner at which the fellowship and fine food were the only subjects of importance.

Happy Birthday:

Carolyn Andrews Shirley Darga Bruce Drummond Le Everly Kerry Glancy

Sandra Hasting Cheri Hommel Chuck Meader Duane Pierce

Harry "Jim" Richhart Linda Super Donna Robinson Melanie Hecht



JANUARY BIRTHSTONE

GARNET

One glance at the deep red seeds nestled inside of a pomegranate fruit explains why the word "garnet" comes from the Latin word "granatus," meaning "grain" or "seed." This name was given to the garnet because of its close resemblance to the succulent pomegranate seed. But don't bite into a garnet, because at Moh's hardness 6.5 to 7.5, it will definitely damage the teeth!

There are many myths and legends surrounding the garnet. One Biblical legend is that Noah hung this gem on the ark to light his way through the dark and stormy nights of God's wrath. A Greek myth linked to the garnet is the story of the young goddess of sunshine, Persephone, who was abducted by Hades, god of the underworld. Hades eventually released Persephone, but not before he offered her some pomegranate seeds, which guaranteed her return to him.

First mined in Sri Lanka over 2,500 years ago, the garnet is also found in Africa, Australia, India, Russia, South America; and in the United States, in Alaska, Arizona and Idaho. Although most commonly known as a red gemstone, the garnet comes in a variety of other hues, including muted yellows, vibrant oranges, rosy pinks, lime greens, and violets—a virtual bouquet of colors. This diversity is due to unique combinations of elements within each particular gem, such as iron, calcium, and manganese.

Know Your Metals

When you first get into Metal Smithing, Wire Wrapping, or Beading, the type of metal you work with is important. The sheer abundance of what is out there can be daunting. In Wire Wrapping for example, you normally work with a square wire for holding the stone, and half round to bind the square wires together. That seems simple enough. Next you have to decide what gauge wire you will work with: commonly 20 to 22 gauge square for a larger stone, and 24 to 26 gauge square for a smaller stone. Note here that the item you are wrapping does not have to be a rock. You can wire wrap anything. But, as we are Rock Hounds, I will refer to a stone. Now you will need the half round to bind the square wires together. Usually, the gauge of the half round is the same as the square wire you use. But, for visual effect you can choose to go larger or smaller.

After all that, now you must decide on what metal you will use. Silver or Gold? This also seems pretty straight forward, until they start throwing in all the different names and composition formulas. Jeweler's Gold, Merlin's Gold, Nordic Gold, Prince Rupert's Metal, and Red Brass are just that: Brass. Most commonly the formula is 75% to 85% copper, with 15% to 25% zinc, and sometimes a trace amount of tin. The result is a beautiful yellow color that imitates gold. However, there is no gold to be found. The different formulas contribute to the workability, the color, the melting point, tarnish resistance, and other attributes that are attractive to people.

(FFTK&T: the copper in brass makes brass germicidal, via the oligodynamic effect, for example, brass doorknobs disinfect themselves of many bacteria within eight hours. This effect is important in hospitals, and useful in many contexts.)

The price of brass is considerably less than gold which makes it attractive to those practicing their metal art. But, care should be taken that the finished item is not sold to the consumer under the misnomer that it is actually gold. The same holds true for silver. There is a variety of metal that bears the name silver: German Silver, Nickel Silver, and Alpaca Silver are some. Nickel silver has recently been used to produce counterfeit coins and medallions. More outright attempts at nickel silver fraud include the production of replica bullion bars marked "Nickel Silver" or "German Silver", in weights of one troy ounce, that are sold without explanation that there is no elemental Silver present.

Nickel Silver is an alloy of copper, zinc, and nickel, often in the proportions 5:2:2. It closely resembles silver and is used in cutlery, as a base for silver-plated wire, and as a practice wire for wire wrapping. Recently, prompted by the economy, the lower price of these pseudo-silver products, their workability or antitarnish attributes, many have begun to incorporate not only Nickel, but Aluminum and Stainless Steel into their crafts. This is all fine, and I have seen some beautiful things using these different metals, as long as there is no attempt to trick the consumer.

When you are looking for metals, whether in a catalog or online, reputable wholesale companies will have the formulas stated so that you know what you are getting. If you should run across a low price for silver or gold, and no formula is given, there is a good chance that it is not what you expect.

If you are making jewelry to sell to the public, you have a responsibility to know what you are using and present it accordingly.

**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, take your radio with you and keep it on.
- If leaving and not returning, notify leader-turn in radio, if applicable.
- Always come with food, water, first aid kit, and full tank of gas.
- Name badges required at all Club functions.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

January 8th – Avi / Cloud’s Jamboree. Meet @ Powerhouse 8:00 A.M. Rocks-rough and finished. Jewelry, supplies. Leader: Gary Gann

January 23rd – Quartzite. Meet @ Powerhouse 7:00 A.M. This is a huge affair, spread out over half the city. Many booths and much to tempt your wallet! Leader: John Smith

February 6th – Cook Mine. Meet @ Powerhouse 7:30 A.M. 4WD. Jasper, Chalcedony, Geodes. Leader: Gary Gann

February 20th – Franconia Wash. Meet @ Powerhouse 7:30 A.M. 2WD/4WD. Bring your Metal detectors and Magnets to collect the meteorites. Leader: Gary Gann

March 6th – Gold Basin. Meet @ Safeway North 7:30 A.M. 2WD/4WD. Bring your Metal detectors and Magnets to collect meteorites, possibly Gold. Leader: Gary Gann

Any Questions? Contact Gary @ 757-8121.

PAST OUTINGS

Ludlow, California Field Trip

Sunday, Dec 5 we rose very early, 3 AM, to prepare for our Field Trip to Ludlow. We met our group at 5 AM at the Power House. Remarkably, we were all awake and excited to be on our way. In the pitch black morning, our little caravan made its way to I-40, and our merry headlights were soon cruising down the highway to California.

At our first pit stop we congratulated ourselves on the fact that we were keeping to our schedule. We were to meet our guides, and California members of our club, Todd and Ronda, at 7:30 AM at the Dairy Queen in Ludlow. Then, someone had to point out that we have crossed into California and we are suddenly an hour early. This always comes as such a rude surprise to me. I am not sure how other people seem to cope so effortlessly with time changes. I live in Arizona; therefore I function on Arizona time.

After a few miles Gary called Todd to discover that their younger minds had already taken the 'time puzzle' into account, and we were all going to be on time, Arizona time that is. Thank God.

After hooking up with Todd and Ronda we were on our way into the wilds of California. We spent the day making several stops around the south end of the Cady Mountains. At each stop Todd explained and showed us what was there. The first stop had some very pretty jasper and agate, with lots of different patterns and colors, and all sizes. Some perfect for tumbling, others to be slabbed and cabbed, and still others to be admired in our yards or home shelves for years to come. No one was disappointed.

The second place yielded some very dark black jasper. The pieces I picked up were tumble sized, and I am anxious to see how these turn out. There were also green rocks-any kind of green rock you could imagine. There were patterns, swirls, and spots embedded in material that went from soft and fall apart to quartz and jasper. It was amazing.

Next we stopped at a very colorful location. The hills were green, all colors of brown, to red and light grey. As everyone fanned out and scoured the hills for calcite crystals, I meandered from one texture and color to another. What I had thought was rock turned out to be a very crumbly volcanic material that actually had a 'soft' feel to it as you walked on it. Fred and Dorothy commented on the strange sensation. What I had surmised to be dirt turned out to be rock. Interesting! We broke out the chairs and plopped down to take a break and enjoy lunch. Clarkie brought some delicious Peanutbutter and chocolate brownies, John got out the strawberries, Laraine passed around baby carrots. Todd had some excellent jerky and different kinds of Trail Mixes, and Dorothy passed out fruit gummies. What a well fed lot we are!

After lunch, Todd took us around to the other side of these hills. It was totally different here. There were the same deep gullies and washes, but the volcanic rock was covered with slippery sliding gravel. Climbing up and down the sides of the rock was slow, but the calcite waiting for us was worth it. Chunks of clear, frosted white, frosted black, and crystals were covering the ground. Everyone got their exercise on this trip, covering the hills, climbing in and out of washes. This was a definite '4WD' for the feet. Oh, except when Todd jumped in his truck and drove me into one of the washes to retrieve a rock too big for me to lug back.

Finally, Fred announced it was time to go and get our Blizzards from the Dairy Queen. What a great day! Todd and Ronda readily agreed to take us out again, as we are eager to return and explore more locations in the vicinity. Thank you so much, Todd and Ronda. It was great seeing you again, and everyone had an excellent time.

2nd Annual Thanksgiving Feast in the Desert

Thanksgiving Day dawned cold and crisp. Make that 'freezing'. We started a fire to warm us up, and then, proceeded on to other preparations for our Feast. A tarp was erected around the picnic table that would be our buffet table when the food began to arrive, and also to serve as a wind shield for the cooking of the turkey. This year I was particularly excited, as we were going to deep fry the tasty bird.

First we put the bird in the pot, then added water to cover the little guy, and after removing the bird, mark how full we would need to pour the oil. Then, the bird was bathed, trimmed, and carefully dried. The pot was also carefully dried. Water is a bad combination with hot oil.

The first to arrive was Fred, Dorothy, and Sonny. Next a carful of Jack, Cheri, Ronda, and Todd pulled up. Another tarp was put up, and tables and chairs were added. Before long John & Laraine, Kenny & Clarkie, and more food arrived. A cooking fire in the fire ring was warming everyone, and the turkey's deep fryer was readied.

Finally the peanut oil was hot enough, and, with Gary controlling the flames, Fred slowly lowered the turkey into the cooking pot. With the temperature gauge secured to the lid, the count down was on. There were several theories on how long it should cook, but we were all off. The turkey was done in about 40 minutes. The stuffing, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, and gravy were hot and ready by the time Fred was done carving up the turkey.

God, was that bird good! Even the campground host came back for seconds. We ate, told stories, razzed each other, laughed at jokes, went for walks and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. It was a beautiful cloudless day, although a bit chillier than last year. Thank goodness most brought firewood, the heat was welcome. Lord, what a great time we had. There is just something about being out in the desert, in all its peace and beauty that warms the heart and settles the mind.

All too soon it was end of day, and we packed up everyone but John & Laraine, Gary and I, and Fred and Dorothy. After waving the troops off, we went to Fred's trailer for some yummy hot chocolate. With warm full tummies we bid John and Laraine a safe trip back to Kingman, and headed for bed. I am glad we have decided to make this an annual event. Next year we are planning on cooking two birds.

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



Important Board Actions & Activities

Your Club's Board has struggled long and hard to create a program which will inspire worthy students of Mohave County to work toward a future as scholars, scientists, educators and leaders in the field of earth sciences. It is the earnest desire of the Board that the program for the award of these scholarship funds will garner approval from our membership and find favor with the community as a whole.

APPENDIX "B" – SCHOLARSHIPS

Established February 2011

ARTICLE I: SCHOLARSHIPS

Section 1: NAME.

A. The name of the Scholarship Award shall be named the Mohave County Gemstoners Scholarship Award.

Section II: FUNDING.

A. Funding for the Scholarship Program will be funded from the proceeds of:

(1) Donations to the Club, (2) Proceeds from 50/50 ticket sales or (3) Proceeds from auctions at Club meetings.

B. Proceeds from Section II, Para. A, will be held separate in a sub-account, which shall be free and separate from the Club General Fund. An accounting of the balance of this sub-account will be announced by the Treasurer at each Board Meeting.

C. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, a sum not to exceed \$500.00 (Five Hundred Dollars) may be transferred from the General Account to the Scholarship Account. At no time shall the Scholarship Account exceed the amount of \$1,000.00 (One Thousand Dollars) for any one calendar year unless changed in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws.

Section III: QUALIFICATIONS.

A. The Scholarship(s) shall be awarded to a high school senior or college undergraduate who is a resident of Mohave County.

B. The high school senior must be enrolled in college preparatory courses, which include at least one (1) earth science class.

1. Earth science classes are defined as: Geology, Mineralogy or Vulcanology.

C. The college student must have a college degree goal in one (1) of the earth sciences.

1. Earth sciences are defines as: Geology, Mineralogy or Vulcanology.

D. The student must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.4 (unweighted) on a 4.0 scale.

E. The student must complete the application packet by the last Monday in February.

F. For high school seniors, performance on the ACT, SAT or AIMS will be taken into consideration.

Section IV: AWARDS.

A. Each scholarship awarded will not exceed \$500.00 (Five Hundred Dollars.) The number of scholarships that are to be awarded will be determined by the full amount in the Scholarship Account as of the last Monday in February.

B. In the event there are no qualified applicant(s), the funds of the Scholarship Account may be held over to the next calendar year. (There is a maximum of five (5) years that funds can be held over,) or the scholarship monies can be awarded to either a two (2) year or four (4) year college or university for students who are majoring in one of the Earth Sciences.

1. Earth Sciences are defined as: Geology, Mineralogy or Vulcanology.

C. The scholarship award will be issued to the educational institution upon acceptance and registration by the successful scholarship recipient; no funds will be issued directly to the student.

Section V: APPLICATION PROCESS.

A. Current high school seniors will complete the packet created by the high school. College students will complete a similar packet created by the Club.

B. Completed applications by high school seniors should be forwarded to the Career Center at their respective high school. College students should mail their applications to the Club at our P.O. Box. All applicants who wish to be considered shall have their applications turned in and received by the last Monday in February.

Section VI: SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.

- A. The Scholarship Committee shall be composed of a minimum of three (3) members in good standing, who are selected by the Club President prior to the February General Meeting. One of those three shall serve as Chairperson.
- B. The Scholarship Committee Chairperson will introduce him/herself to the various High School Career Centers within Mohave County and will be the primary contact for the Club.
- C. The Chairperson shall advise the Board and general membership in March as to whether there are any qualified applicants who will be awarded scholarships or whether the funds will or will not be used during the current year.
- D. The Chairperson shall notify the scholarship applicant(s) at the appropriate venue, whether it is at an assembly at their high school(s) or via mail to the successful applicant.

Happy Anniversary to:

Roger Price & Fran Davenport

Leonard & Marylou Deusch

NOTE: At the January General Meeting we will be going over the fine art of tumbling. Bring something to take notes as there will be a lot of information. There will also be a Q & A period following the presentation. Tumbling is the easiest and most affordable way to bring the glossy beauty of the stone to life. Some of the differences in the stone, from rough to polished, are remarkable. This is a meeting you don't want to miss.

January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Happy New Year!!! 1
2	3	Board Meeting at Library 5 PM 4	5	6	7	AVI/Cloud Jamboree 8AM Power House 8
9	10	General Meeting at Senior Ctr 7 PM 11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Quartzsite 7AM Power House 23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Board Meeting at Library 5 PM 1	2	3	4	5
Cook Mine 7:30 AM Power House 6	7	General Meeting at Senior Ctr 7 PM 8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Franconia Wash 7:30 AM Power House 20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29				