

# Little Gems

WINTER IS THE TIME TO EXPLORE THE DESERT FOR THE PERFECT STONE

Volume 3 Issue 1

January 2010

## Message from the President



Hi "Gemstoners"

In fear of repeating myself, I still want to say that this past year, to see the club grow the way it has and to have the support and enthusiasm from the membership has been very rewarding. If we take a closer look, I think ninety percent of the credit should be given to the newsletter, the web site, and cer-

tainly to the increase in field trips. The rest has been a lot of good interaction between the members at the monthly meetings. Thanks a lot to Donna, Leonard and Gary.

As you know, Jack Hommel is taking over Field Trip Chairman this year. There are additional chair committee spots to be filled. The position I would like help with is Program Director. At the January meeting there will be a list of jobs that need someone to volunteer for. I hope to fill them all.

If we want to keep things new and exciting and not repeat what has been done already, we need input and suggestions from you.

All ideas will be put to the Board of Directors or Committee Heads for consideration. We'll have a suggestion box at the meetings and any and all members are welcome to attend the Board Meeting. Let's make 2010 another great year.

Keep on Rockin  
C" Russell , President  
Mohave County Gemstoners



**Welcome new members**

Gary and Linda Super  
Brad and Linda Bradley of Flagstaff



Mohave County Gemstoners  
Second Tuesday of the month  
Katherine Heidenreich  
Senior Center  
1776 Airway Ave.,  
Kingman, AZ 86401

General Meeting  
January 12, 2010  
7:00 PM

Catch up & Chat  
6:30 PM

Important 2010 Show Meeting  
January 14th @12:30 to 4:00  
Mohave County Library Kingman



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## ♻ Club Information ♻

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 1st and are delinquent March 1st. 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](http://www.gemstoners.org) Submissions are requested to be to the editors by the 15th of each month, preferably by email : [gemstoners@live.com](mailto:gemstoners@live.com) or call 928-263-1480 or mail to 3202 E Leroy Avenue, Kingman, AZ 86409. *Little Gems* is also published via email - if you have internet, please share your address with the editors. This saves the club money (just under \$1.00 per issue per membership) and you will have the newsletter immediately to view in color. The Newsletter is in PDF format so it will be necessary to download AdobeReader (free program) to view the newsletter.

## ♻ 2010 Club Leadership ♻

Elected Officers:

President - "C" Russell (928) 846-0927

Vice President -John Smith

Secretary - Fred Bunge

Treasurer -Pete Hansen

Sergeant At Arms—Gary Gann

Board of Directors:

One-Year Position: Leonard Deutsch

Two-Year Position: Laraine Smith

Three-Year Position: Dave Sims

### Club Committees 2010

Academic Advisor - Rick Vromen

By-Laws – Nan Russell

Newsletter Editor - Donna Robinson

Education - Open

Field Trips - Jack Hommel

Greeters/Hostess—Trent Szabo & Cheri Hommel

Historian - Leonard Deutsch

Jr. Leader - Laurel Nelson

Membership - Dennis Robinson

Program Director - Open

Publicity – Open

Photographer - Melanie Hecht

Refreshments – Mary Gann

Show Chairman 2009 – Nan Russell

Scholarship / Donations - Open

Social Director/Special Events - Open

Sunshine – Open

50/50 – Cheri Hommel

Ways and Means- Open

Telephone - John and Laraine Smith

Webmaster - Leonard Deutsch

Stay up to date, check often

**[www.gemstoners.org](http://www.gemstoners.org)**

Mailing Address:

Mohave County Gemstoners

P.O. Box 3992

Kingman, AZ 86402

## Minutes of the December 2009 General Meeting

The evening started off with a great pot luck supper with turkey, stuffing and many other dishes. There was not much left at the end of the evening.

The potluck supper was followed by the Kingman Barbershop Harmony Group who entertained us with some standard songs as well as traditional Christmas Carols. We sincerely appreciate this group taking their evening to provide us with some fine entertainment.

Next "C" did a "Rockhound" parody to "T'was The Night Before Christmas."

\*\*\*\*\*

The meeting was called to order at 7:23 PM by our President, "C" Russell. The flag salute was led by the Sergeant At Arms.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Approved as printed in newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: There was no report due to Dave having a fall and being unable to attend the meeting.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Field Trip** – A listing of trips for JAN and FEB was presented to the Club. Many interesting trips are in the offering – come and join us. All trips will be published in the Little Gems Newsletter.

**Editor** – Need contributions from membership for the Little Gems Newsletter.

**Historian/Web Master** – Nothing to report.

**Refreshments** – Cookies are needed for the JAN meeting.

**Sunshine** – George Tirpak and George Matcham are doing much better - visitors welcome. Dave Sims is recovering from a fall. Bill Daugherty is recovering from bypass surgery.

**Show** – Contracts for six vendors has been received. Show cases are available for members, contact Bob or Laurel Nelson. Volunteers are needed in several areas. Our Show will be held 10/11 APR, with the theme "Wonderful World of Gems and Minerals." Next Show Meeting will be 14 JAN.

**Membership** – No new members. 2010 dues are due no later than 02 FEB.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. At the JAN meeting a vote as to a pot luck or go out to dinner for our DEC 2010 meeting. (OPEN)
2. More joint claim adventures with the Havasu Club. (OPEN)
3. GPS Class and outing using GPS. (OPEN)
4. Getting young people interested in Geology – to committee. (Board of Directors)

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. 501 (3) (c) Tax Exempt Status – a committee with Jack, Fred, Leonard and Donna will help Pete to get the necessary paperwork completed. (OPEN)

2. Installation of Officers for 2010: Installation was conducted by Laurel Nelson.

President – "C" Russell

Vice President – John Smith

Secretary – Fred Bunge

Treasurer – Peter Hansen

Sergeant At Arms – Gary Gann

Due to an injury, 3 Year Director – David Sims will be installed at the JAN meeting.

### FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

1. Wire Wrapping Class – The first Monday of the month will be at the Library 2:30-5 PM. The third Monday of the month it will be held at the KOA Recreation Room also at 2:30 – 5 PM. Shirley Darga will be teaching beading at the class.

Bob and Jo Agee have been collecting mineral specimens for 56 years. They are offering to each of our members 10 pounds of specimens free, after that the rate will be \$.50 per pound. Come individually or in groups to their home, just be sure to wear your membership badge. Members of other clubs may also purchase specimens at \$.50 per pound.

50/50: Clarkie Seagraves - \$40; Melanie Hecht - \$30.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Bunge, Secretary



**Show Schedule****January**

Cloud's Jamboree

At the Avi

January 1-31 2010

Outdoor 10AM to 6:00 PM

Indoor 14th -24

10:00 AM -6:00 PM

January 1 - February 28,  
2010 Quartzsite

**Desert Gardens Intl.  
Rock & Gem Show**

P. O. Box 2818, Quartz-  
site, AZ 85346

1155 Kuehn Street, ¼  
mile east of exit 17

Hours: 9-6

Free

Dealers Contact: Sandi  
McAllister, 928-927-6361

Website:

www.desertgardensrvpark.net

E-mail:

dggemshow@ureach.com

January 1-10, 2010

Quartzsite

**Tyson Wells, Rock &  
Gem Show,**

Tyson Wells Showgrounds

100 W. Kuehn St.

SW Corner I -10 Freeway  
& Hwy 95,

P. O. Box 60, Quartzsite,  
AZ 85346,

Quartzsite, AZ

928-927-6364,

Website:

www.tysonwells.com

tysonwells@tds.net

Free

January 8-10, 2010

January 15-24, 2010  
Quartzsite

**Tyson Wells Sell-A-  
Rama, Rocks, Gem-Arts-**

Crafts. Tyson Wells Show  
Grounds, SW Corner of I-  
10 Freeway and Highway

95, Quartzsite, AZ

www.tysonwells.com

Admission: Free

Show Chairperson: Kym  
Scott

Dealers Contact: Tyson

January 20-24, 2010  
Quartzsite

**Pow Wow Gem & Min-  
eral Show**

Located in the center of  
town on Mesquite &

Ironwood Drives, Quartz-  
site, AZ

Website: www.qiaaz.org

Sponsored by: Quartzsite  
Improvement Assoc.

Dealers Contact: Donna  
Hiller, P.O. Box 881,

Quartzsite, AZ 85346-  
0881, 928-927-6325,

Fax, 928-927-4503

Free

**January/February**

For a listing of the satel-  
lite Tucson shows that

run from January through  
February, 2010:

www.tucsonshowguide.com or

www.VisitTucson.org

**January/February**

January 29 - February 7,  
2010 Quartzsite

**Tyson Wells Arts and  
Crafts Fair**

P. O. Box 60, Quartzsite,  
AZ 85346,

928-927-6364, W. Corner  
I -10 Freeway &

Hwy 95, Quartzsite, AZ

www.tysonwells.com

Admission and parking:

Free

**Watch your Step**

This year quite a few of our mem-  
bers had had the misfortune of the "Scary Fall"  
This can happen at home or out on a Field Trip,  
no one is immune to this.

Walking back to camp in the dark and not  
seeing that rock in front of your foot caused one  
member to land on their face. Fortunately this  
only resulted in a black eye, it could have been  
much worse. Always carry a flashlight, even if  
you have made the walk a dozen times.

Loose rock sent another member down a  
hill. While other members watched as she slid  
away and rolled down the hill (a better way to go  
instead of head over heels.) She got a good case  
of road rash and a possible fracture of the wrist  
but nothing too serious. A walking stick may have  
helped.

The home has sent a couple of more  
members to the emergency room. Surprise ob-  
stacles are a super danger. The dog, the carpet  
edge, liquid on the floor, dizziness.

I recently tripped going down the stairs  
and scared myself half to death.

Balance, awareness, flexibility and visibil-  
ity, these four things will help to keep us safe.

Walking sticks with a pick on the tip (this helps  
to dig in), ski poles. Good, flexible, high top, lug  
soled shoes.

Walking sticks are different from canes.  
You can use fancy carved wooden sticks or ski  
poles, or purchase collapsible hiking poles. The  
handle height should be the height of your hand  
when your arm is at your side with your elbow  
bent to 90 degrees. They improve balance and  
conserve energy when walking on all outdoor sur-  
faces. If using them on a hard surface use rubber  
tips on the ends.

**"Scary Fall" Part II**

Eight hours after writing this I fell in a circular  
drive in the black of night. My toe caught a rock  
lining the drive. Down I went, sliding like I was  
headed for 3rd base. I had gravel in my teeth,  
hair, eyebrows, bent my arm in some kind of  
contortion. After I composed myself, all I ended  
up with is a few light abrasions, a bruise in the  
middle of my nose, and a sore arm. A flashlight  
would have prevented this.

## January Birthstone

By Julia Weaver



The traditional birthstone for January is Garnet. Garnets are a group of hard glassy minerals used as gemstones in jewelry and as an abrasive. The name "garnet" is derived from the Latin word "granatum" meaning "pomegranate" because the crystals resemble the red color and seed-like form of this fruit. Most people think of garnet as a red gemstone, but in fact, it exists in every color except blue, and even colorless. Garnet's variety of colors comes from metals such as manganese, iron, calcium, and aluminum. Some varieties even contain mineral fibers that produce the illusion of a four- or six-rayed star within the stone. A few garnets exhibit a color-change phenomenon. They are one color when viewed in natural light and another color when viewed in incandescent light. Emerald green and colorless stones are highly valued because they are extremely rare, followed by pure red garnets.

There are a number of trade names for garnet, most of these names are for particular colors. For example, grossularite can be colorless, white, gray, yellow, yellowish green, various shades of green, brown, pink, reddish, or black. Andradite garnet can be yellow-green, green, greenish brown, orangey yellow, brown, grayish black or black. Pyrope is commonly purplish red, orangey red, crimson, or dark red; and almandite is deep red, brownish red, brownish black or violet-red. Spessartite garnet can be red, reddish orange, orange, yellow-brown, reddish brown, or blackish brown. Almandite and almandite-pyrope are the best abrasive types, but andradite, grossularite, and pyrope also are used. Like diamonds, Garnets are graded by color, cut, clarity and carat weight.

The Garnet was considered to be a gem of faith & truth. Evidence of garnet jewelry dating to the Bronze age was found -- garnet necklaces were discovered in the graves of ancient lake dwellers. Garnet jewelry has also been discovered dating back to 3100 B.C. in Egypt, 2300 B.C. in Sumeria, and 2000-1000 B.C. in Sweden. Garnets were treasured in 3rd and 4th century Greece, and continued in popularity during Roman times. Across the Atlantic, Pre-Columbian Aztec and Native Americans also used garnets in their ornaments. In 1892, during hostilities on the Kashmir frontier, the Hanza tribesmen fired on British soldiers with garnet bullets, believing them to be more effective than lead bullets. Garnets were once believed to hold medicinal powers. In Medieval times, it protected its wearer against poisons, wounds and bad dreams, and cured depression as well as relieved fever, hemorrhages and inflammatory diseases. To modern users, the garnet symbolizes a light heart, loyalty, truth, and friendship. Gar-

nets are commonly found as small pebbles in streams, where the igneous and metamorphic rocks that contain them have weathered away. They are also found in a solid matrix where they need to be carefully chipped out.

The first industrial use of garnet was as coated sandpaper manufactured in the United States by Henry Hudson Barton (founder of Barton Mines Corp.) in 1878. It started as a single sample of garnet coated sandpaper, and now more than 110,000 tons per year are used world-wide. In 1994, The United States produced about \$14 million of industrial garnet, while gem garnet production was valued at only about \$233,000.

Many deposits within the United States produce fine gem-quality garnets. Arizona's gem garnet is red pyrope from two locations in the northern part of Apache County on the Navajo Indian Reservation. One location is at Garnet Ridge which is about 6 miles west of the town of Mexican Water, and the other location is in Buell Park on the Arizona and New Mexico border, about 9 miles north of Fort Defiance. Faceted stones cut from materials found at these locations average 1/2 to 1-1/2 carats in size, but stones as large as 5 carats have also been found. Some fine-quality andradite specimens, some suitable for cutting, are mined in an area near Stanley in Graham Co. Some of the other Garnet producing states are California, Colorado, Nevada and Idaho.

The alternate birthstone for January is Rose Quartz. The name Quartz comes from the German word "Quarz", the meaning is unknown. The quartz family includes chalcedony, flint, agate, jasper, etc. Quartz can be found just about anywhere and have been known to form in just about every type of rock that has cavities. It is the most common mineral in the Earth's crust. Pegmatites are famous for their spectacular specimens, as are fissures in schists, sandstone and limestone. Soft ash may have trapped gas bubbles which were subsequently filled with chalcedony or quartz, including rose quartz. Rose Quartz is usually massive, semi-transparent to translucent type of quartz which occurs in different shades of pink. Crystals of Rose quartz are very rare. Quartz in general has a hardness of 7 and a Specific gravity of 2.65. Specific gravity is a way of describing a mineral's weight by comparing it to the exact volume of water. We have found some decent samples, although they are not very large, in some tailing on the East side of Big Wash Road off of route 93 in Arizona. These samples range from a very light pink to a vibrant almost purple color.

*sources: U.S. Department of the Interior U.S. Geological Survey, Minerals Information The Rock Hound's Handbook by James R. Mitchell, Handbook of Rocks, Minerals & Gemstones by Walter Schumann*

## Are you a Leader or a Helper



We need both to become a happy, healthy, energetic club.

Someone needs to volunteer to become a Committee Head and with this in place the Head may need to enlist individuals to help carry through the mission. A successful club only happens with teamwork, striving toward a common goal.

There are many posts open this year. The jobs are not difficult and not demanding. Almost all only require an hour or two per month.

Academic Advisor - Rick Vromen

By-Laws - Nan Russell

Newsletter Editor - Donna Robinson

**I look forward to the day there are 5 contributing editors and proof readers. Just think you would get the newsletter early!**

Education - Open

**An individual would promote Educational Programs for schools, library, and groups.**

Field Trips - Jack Hommel

**This is a group, it's fun making plans and suggestions.**

Greeters/Hostess—Cheri Hommel

Historian - Leonard Deutsch

Jr. Leader - Laurel Nelson

**Laurel needs help with this. Do you enjoy young people? Do you want a part in the making of future rockhounds?**

Membership - Dennis Robinson

Program Director - Open

**This position is very important. Program Director would find the individuals to speak at the meetings. This in turn creates more interest for Gemstoners and Guests to attend the monthly meetings.**

Publicity - Open

**Advertisements, notifying the newspaper of Special Events and Meetings.**

Photographer - Melanie Hecht

**Additional Photos are always welcomed.**

Refreshments - Mary Gann

**Mary is doing a fantastic job, but on occasion I am sure she welcomes extra help.**

Show Chairman 2009 - Nan Russell

**This position needs lots of Helpers. Now that we have a newsletter and website, we are scrutinized more than ever before, not only in Kingman or Mohave County but throughout the United States and even the world. We just received an email from a person in Australia who belongs to a Rock & Mineral Club there. He contacted us after doing an internet search. The 2010 Show is a reflection of what we are made of. Step up and help and show them how great we are. There is a lot of Gemstoners that help make this a success, but we need more.**

Scholarship / Donations - Open

**Someone to work on finding an organization or individual that deserves special recognition and monetary reward.**

Social Director/Special Events - Open

**This position would find different things for the Club to do together not including Field Trips. As in the 4th of July Party, the Progressive Trip to members homes, etc.**

Sunshine - Open

**It is very important that people be wished the best during difficult times. It brightens the day if someone ill has received a card or phone call or just emotional support during the grief over the loss of a loved one.**

50/50 - Open

**Sell tickets and collect money at the meeting. A great job, you're giving away \$\$\$\$\$.**

Telephone - John and Laraine Smith

**This is definitely a place where a couple of extra people would be beneficial. Split the alphabet and remind members of meetings and special events.**

Webmaster - Leonard Deutsch

## Really Bad Examples

By  
Jack Hommel

We've all seen or heard of people either doing foolish or dangerous things, or failing to do truly important things. I'll share with you a few of the more memorable I've run across. Maybe you'll recognize some of them.

### *Stupid is as Stupid Does*

On a blistering hot California Mojave Desert day in July, about twenty miles from the nearest paved road, there came a brand new SUV with the paper dealer plates still firmly attached. The driver obviously had zero knowledge of how to drive rough roads and even less knowledge of desert driving and safety. We watched and listened incredulously as the driver scraped over high centers and ran his street tires over the sharp rocks. As the vehicle came closer, we saw and heard that the windows were rolled up tight and the air conditioner was running full tilt.

Being friendly types, we flagged the driver to a stop and chatted a bit, the driver asking about road conditions ahead. We asked him if he had any idea what to expect out in the desert and what he'd done to prepare for the journey. His somewhat testy reply was that he'd just purchased the vehicle that day and decided to take his wife and two children "for a ride". He had *no* tools, didn't know where his jack was or how to access his spare tire (the typical mini-donut), had no hats for any of them, had no water at all, and didn't know that his cell phone wouldn't get any signal at that location, he had no maps and had no idea where the roads went. He felt that they were well suited for the trip as they each had a super giant slurpee to drink.

After being told that he desperately needed a brain, he was told to turn his suicidal, foolish, child endangering self around and carefully get his soft city self back to blacktop and civilization where he belonged. His thanks for our well meant advice was an energetic single digit salute as he scurried away to safety.

### A Little More Salt?

On another of the Mojave Desert's notoriously hot days, we were driving from Amboy, California to Twenty Nine Palms. At the southern edge of Amboy lies Bristol (Dry) Lake, a quite sizeable saline playa. Now, this is a serious salt sump be-

ing mined on a large scale for various evaporites.

The surface looks deceptively firm and dry, but is really a crust of varying thickness underlain by some of the nastiest, most corrosive mud and brine imaginable. We spotted, about a quarter of a mile out on the lakebed, a compact pickup truck heavily mired in the muck. Thinking that some poor soul had gone astray and had gotten badly off course, we stopped and carried bottles of water out to the "victim's" rig.

Upon arrival at the site, we were met by a fellow who proclaimed himself the leader of a group of graduate students who were there with a full sized, "borrowed without approval" dolly mounted studio television camera for the purpose of filming an "environmentally friendly rock video". We offered to help them unload the truck and partially deflate the tires, then help clear some of the muck and wrestle the truck back to a firm surface. Our offer was turned down as unnecessary, as he had "sent two of his party (afoot) into Twenty Nine Palms for a tow truck". Plus, they "had several Pepsi Colas in their cooler".

Just imagine, one hundred twenty degree temperatures, corrosive muck on everything, a quarter mile from firm ground and "Leader" assures us and his companions that all's well. After our repeated offers and well meant advice were turned down, we returned to our car and called the California Highway Patrol to notify them of "persons-in-danger" with the location. After being guaranteed that professional assistance was being dispatched, we went on to enjoy the rest of *our* hot day in the desert.

### Dumb and Dumber

While on one of our rare *not hot* trips, my son and I were exploring an area heavily honey-combed with interconnecting shafts and drifts. As we approached one shaft, I heard faint voices that sounded alarmed. Not knowing where they were, we listened carefully at each opening until we found what we believed to be the right one and began rescue preparations. Just before we started inside, we heard the voices coming nearer and sure enough four people exited the adit. One of the group was filthy dirty. We found out that the dirt covered one had jumped into a *fifteen foot deep shaft*, before planning a way out. His buddies luckily found an old piece of rotted air hose and used it to pull him out. This bunch had a collective I.Q. of four.

Continued bottom of page 9

**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
- A Citizen Band Radio would be best, but not required

**FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE JANUARY 2010**

<b>WHEN /MEET</b>	<b>WHERE</b>	<b>VEHICLE</b>	<b>MINERAL</b>
JAN 17 MARTY'S HWY 93@	PRODUCER OR AKA AL SMITH MINE	2 WHEEL	AGATE, CHALCEDONY
JAN 24 POWERHOUSE 8 AM	KATHERINE MINE AREA	2 WHEEL	A JUST LOOKING EXPEDITION ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE
FEB 07 MARTY'S 8 AM	CERBAT TOWN SITE	4 WHEEL	GALENA AND SILVER
FEB 13 BASHA'S 7 AM	BAGDAD MINE TOUR LONG PANTS, LONG-SLEEVE SHIRT AND CLOSED SHOES ARE REQUIRED, <b>LIMIT 25 PEOPLE</b>	2 WHEEL	ONLY WHAT FITS IN YOUR POCKET
FEB 21 MARTY'S 8 AM	PORTLAND TO KATHERINE MINE TRIP (ALL DAY, BRING LUNCH AND WATER, NO FACILI- TIES)	4 WHEEL	A JUST LOOKING EXPEDITION ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE
FEB 28 MARTY'S 8 AM	EL DORADO JEEP TRAIL ( ALL DAY BRING LUNCH AND WATER , NO FACILITIES )	2 OR 4 WHEEL	A JUST LOOKING EXPEDITION ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

**Field Trip Leader for 2010 is Jack Hommel.**  
**For more information on trips call 565-5156.**





## In the Spotlight

### Mike Palmquist

By Nan Russell

Mike Palmquist, a member of both Mohave County Gemstoners and the Lake Havasu City Gem and Mineral Society passed away Tuesday night January 5<sup>th</sup>. Even though Mike was a resident of Alaska where he mined all summer, he joined both clubs at a times when their membership was less than thirty-five people.

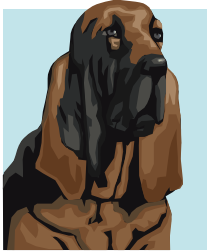
The Havasu group grew as Mike established weekly field trips, and brought in new members from every place he went. Many times we did more exploring than rock hunting but everyone had fun and learned the beauty of the desert and Mohave County.

In 2004 he came to the Gemstoners meeting to see if they would be interested in putting in a joint claim on the Kingman honey onyx. After months of work by Mike and a committee the claim papers were filed and the claim was the Pick N Shovel mine owned by both clubs. When any group goes on field trips to Acoma Wash in Lake Havasu, it is Mike and Ella's back porch and patio that everyone ends up for cold drinks and conversation. The Rock and Mineral groups as well as the Gold Seekers will miss him.

Good by old friend,  
thanks for all your support



## A TRUE ROCKHOUND



*Hound is the name for a large variety of dogs. These dogs are noted for their ability to hunt. It is recognized that there are two classes of hounds-one that hunts by his sense of smell-the other by his sense of sound. Few people realize that there is a third class-one that uses no sense at all while hunting.*

*This class is known as the ROCKHOUND!*

## It is Time to Re-new for 2010

Membership is a bargain.

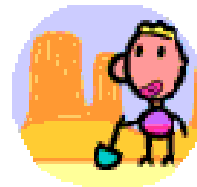
\$15.00 Single

\$20.00 per Couple

\$25.00 for a Family in the same household.

2009 gave the membership great dollar value. Outstanding camaraderie, a monthly newsletter, excellent speakers on a variety of topics, and many field trips and camping opportunities.

The membership renewal is due by March 1, 2010.



Continued from page 7

## Burning Desire

In one stable hardrock mine complex, several hundred feet back inside the mine, we found the remains of a campfire, scattered beer cans and graffiti scrawled on the walls. By some miracle, the fools who'd enjoyed the fire had survived long enough to leave the mine. Burning up all the oxygen in a very small enclosed space, while generat-

ing lots of smoke and carbon monoxide is not my idea of a party.

All of which just goes to show that when we think we've seen and heard it all, one of the folks like the ones above volunteer to prove how really stupid a human being can be.

## January Anniversaries

Fran Davenport  
Roger Price January 1st

## January Birthdays

Frank & Doris Marz 2nd  
Donna Robinson 7th  
Cheri Hommel 10th  
Nia McNish 11th  
George Swarts 14th  
Carolyn Andrews 19th

## Show Meeting



The next meeting will be  
January 14th @12:30—4:00 PM  
Mohave County Library Kingman  
Members are all invited to attend

## Wire Wrapping and Beading

Every 1st and 3rd Monday  
2:30 to 5 PM  
1st Monday will be at the  
Kingman Library  
3rd Monday at the KOA in the  
Recreation Room  
on Roosevelt  
Public invited, no fee  
Call Mary Gann @ 757-8127



## FOR SALE OR TRADE

Free ad for rock related items

**"C" has miscellaneous items**  
for sale. Check with him for  
details 928-846-0927

**Still available Rocks**, minerals and equipment of all kinds  
Selling many years worth of  
Large or small specimen & lapidary pieces, ID, UT, NV, TX, OR. **Garrett GTAX 550** new in box, never used \$400.00  
**Garrett Deepseeker** \$200.00, choice of many **premium minerals** for lapidary. call George Tirpak 928-753-1656

## In the News



**Gemstoners** would like to see **Dave Sims**,

**Mark Weaver, George Tirpak, George Matcham, Bill Daughtrey** get back on their feet soon. 2009 was hard on our fellow members and **Cheri Hommel** has a bug that just will not let go. Feel better soon.

**Carolyn Andrews** has donated 7 Stamps to help with postage costs.

## AZFG to Step up Enforcement

The OHV Decal costs \$25 and is good for one year from the date of purchase. The Motor Vehicle Department will not be sending renewal notices, so it is your responsibility to make sure your vehicle is in compliance. Officers

will be citing vehicle owners who fail to display the OHV Decals soon, so avoid a costly citation as these field renewal notices are sure to cost considerably more than \$25. The OHV Decal can be obtained at any MVD office, MVD third-party service provider, or online at [www.servicearizona.com](http://www.servicearizona.com).



**A rabid Javelina** bit a bike rider in Tucson January 8th. The Javelina was killed and

the rider is undergoing rabies treatment

Do not approach any animal that is behaving strangely. There have been well over 200 cases in 2009. Javelina are dangerous in their own right, but to be involved with a rabid Javelina is life threatening.

**AZFG** There will be a lecture Wednesday, January 13th @6:30 The Arizona Game and Fish Department invites the public to a free educational presentation to learn about wild burros in Arizona.



The approximate 45-minute presentation will cover the life history and ecology, legal history, resource and management issues, proposed legislation, and how burros on public lands relate to native wildlife and habitats in Arizona. The seminar will be web-cast simultaneously on the Internet at [www.azgfd.gov/webcast](http://www.azgfd.gov/webcast).

The **Gemstoners** collected 100 pounds of food for the Kingman Food Bank and 2 large boxes of toys for the "Toys for Tots" program. Thank you!



I would like to say thank you to all that helped with the 2009 newsletter. Several wrote articles, suggested ideas, did proof reading and submitted reports.

Mary and Gary did all of the

above. Jack wrote several stories from personal experience. BJ suggested ideas as well as Shirley. Fred wrote a couple of short stories related to recent observations and Dorothy helped proof read. Melanie wrote articles and submitted websites of interest and now Julia has taken on Birthstones and Mark has

written for *Little Gems* also. Leonard has been a very reliable source when I have been in a pinch.

I look forward to 2010. Keep the articles, handy tips, ideas and photographs coming. It would be fantastic to have extra items going into the next month.



# January 2010



<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
					1 Happy New Year	2
3 Oatman Fire Agate \$8.00 fee	4 Wire Wrapping & Beading 2:30-5 pm Library	5 BOARD MTG 5 PM Kingman Library	6	7	8	9 Petroglyphs
10	11	12 General meeting 7 PM	13	14 Show Mtg 12:30 PM Library	15	16
17 Al Smith Mine	18 Wire Wrap- ping & Beading KOA 2:30-5 pm	19	20	21	22	23
24 Katherine Mine Area	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



# February 2010



<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
	1 Wire Wrapping & Beading 2:30-5 pm Library	2 BOARD MTG 5 PM Kingman Library	3	4 Show Mtg 12:30 PM Library	5	6
7 Cerbat Town Site	8	9 General meet- ing 7 PM	10	11	12	13 Bagdad Mine
14	15 Wire Wrap- ping & Beading KOA 2:30-5 pm	16	17	18 Show Mtg 12:30 PM Library	19	20
21 Portlan to Katherine Mi	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Eldorado Jeep Trail						



Little Gems

Mohave County Gemstoners

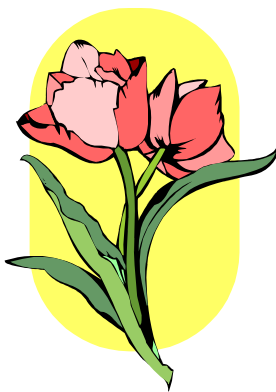
Editor

P O Box 3992

Kingman, AZ 86402



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.



Spring is Around the Corner