

# LITTLE GEMS

Volume 4 Issue7

July 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

First of all, I would like to welcome our newest members to the Club. In July we celebrate the birthday of our nation and a tour of member's studios. For the new members, you will get to see many different kinds of equipment, what they do and specimens of what we have found in our trips. There will be an opportunity to purchase rough rock, cabochons, slabs, wire-wrapped jewelry, beaded items and wire sculptures.

Bring your questions, we will try to answer them objectively and give you the best possible advice.

In an effort to accommodate both the Cabochon 101 classes and the membership, the classes will be held from 6:30-7:30 PM and the General meeting will be moved back to 7:30 PM. Those taking the class should be at the senior center by 6:15 PM and help us get the equipment set-up and then get to work. There will be no classes in SEP or DEC because of our potluck suppers. Remember, you can always make an appointment with either Gary or myself to finish your cabochon and get one on one instruction.

The Flagstaff trip was great and three new members got basically a one-on-one guided field experience. Agate, bone, jasper and petrified wood were collected as well as pictures of natural arches on the reservation as we passed through.

**FRED BUNGE, President**

## MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2011 GENERAL MEETING

The evening began with a pizza potluck; members provided salads and dessert with the Club providing the pizza. We were supposed to be honoring the Boy Scouts for their help with the Show, but a previous engagement prevented them from attending.

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by our President, Fred Bunge. The flag salute was led by the Sergeant At Arms.

Previous Meeting Minutes: The MAY minutes were approved as published in the Little Gems Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: The Club is in good financial shape. Our CD was reduced to \$3500 from \$5000 to accommodate the purchase of a cargo trailer to replace the old travel trailer we store our equipment in.

Correspondence: (NONE)

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Membership** – We welcomed our two newest members and celebrated those with anniversaries and birthdays this month. We now have 77 members.

**Show** –Nothing to report at this time.

**Field Trip** –Flagstaff Campout 16-19 JUN, meet @ Benito Campground, Sunset Crater N.P. Shop Tour 09 JUL, meet at Gary’s (922 Selma, off of Stockton Hill) @ 9 AM, tour will start there and progress from there. Mines – Rosie’s Den, meet at Rosie’s Den Café @ 7:30 AM (about MP 28 on HWY 93.) McCracken Mine, 25 JUL, meet @ Powerhouse at 7 AM. NOTE: Due to interference on Ch. 3, we have moved to Ch. 5.1 for all further trips.

**Web Master** – Many good comments being received on our web site.

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

**Refreshments** – Bring cookies.

**Ad Hoc-Salvation Army** – Carolyn Andrews was not present to give report. (TABLED) Jack stated that there was a possibility the Salvation Army was going out of business in Kingman.

**Ad Hoc – Toys For Tots** – Marine Corps League was contacted and we are on the list for supporting clubs for the campaign this year.

**Member Training** – Cabochon 101 will start at 6:30 PM and General Meeting will be moved to 7:30 PM.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Calendars – We still have calendars for sale. Price has been reduced to \$5 – the pictures are worth the price. See Mary or Gary.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Cargo Trailer Purchase – A deal too good to pass up was offered and we got a 8’x20’ cargo trailer for \$2000. Some racks will need to be made, and then we can transfer the tables, etc. into the new trailer.

2. Officer Vacancies – we have an immediate need for a Secretary and Board Member. Elections will soon be here and most of the current officers have kept the Club afloat for several years. It is time other members step-up and take responsibility to insure the Club continues. It is **YOUR** Club, take the initiative to become part of the solution. Sitting on the sidelines does not contribute to new ideas, maintain a direction in which to head or contribute to the continuity and growth of the Club.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

1. Pete Tackis has offered for auction some rock/gold tools and many reference books. The format has been decided – it will be a silent auction and there will be reserve prices on some items.

2. Door prizes.

3. 50/50: - \$34 – Gary Bolles.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Fred Bunge, President

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

The Newsletter is in PDF format so it will be necessary to download Adobe Reader (free program) to view. Submissions should be to the editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to: [theview@goldenvalleycable.com](mailto: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 – Open  
Treasurer – Mary Gann  
Sergeant At Arms – Cheri Hommel

**Board of Directors:**

Year ending 2011: Laraine Smith  
Year ending 2012: Jack Hommel  
Year ending 2013: Open

**Club Committees**

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

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

**JULY'S BIRTHSTONE**



**Ruby**

Like a perfect red rose, the Ruby's rich color speaks of love and passion. Called the "Rajnapura" or King of Gems by ancient Hindus, July's birthstone is among the most highly prized of gems throughout history. The Ruby was considered to have magical powers, and was worn by royalty as a talisman against evil. It was thought to grow darker when peril was imminent, and to return to its original color once danger was past—provided it was in the hands of its rightful owner!

Rubies were thought to represent heat and power. Ancient tribes used the gem as bullets for blowguns, and it was said that a pot of water would boil instantly if a Ruby was tossed into it. Ground to powder and placed on the tongue, this crystal was used as a cure for indigestion.

The word Ruby comes from the Latin "ruber," meaning red. It is a variety of the mineral Corundum, and is found as crystals within metamorphic rock. Corundum is the second hardest mineral, after Diamond. It comes in a variety of colors, and is considered a Sapphire in any color except red, which is designated as a Ruby. Rubies range in hue from an orangy red to a purplish red, but the most prized gems are a true red in color. Large sized Rubies are very rare and valuable.

The history of Ruby mining dates back more than 2,500 years ago. The most beautiful crystals are thought to be from Burma, but quality Rubies are also found in India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Kenya, Tanzania, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the United States. It has been said that the Ruby's red glow comes from an internal flame that cannot be extinguished, making a gift of this stone symbolic of everlasting love. With its hardness and durability, it is a perfect engagement gem. And if worn on the left hand, ancient lore has it that the Ruby will bring good fortune to its wearer, too!

## JULY'S ANNIVERSARIES

Gary & Lois Bolles, Wayne & Ginny Good, Jim & Judy Howell, Kenneth & Clarkie Segreaves,

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

*I can't believe it!! Not one of our members celebrates a birthday in the month of July!!*

### FIELD TRIP INFORMATION



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

### UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

- Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> July Member's shop tour. Strictly 2WD. *This will be very educational to those wanting to know more about the rocks we get on the Field Trips, what we do with them, the equipment we use, from saws to tumblers, grinders and polishers, and where it can be purchased. Excellent Q & A venue.* Meet 9:00 A.M. @ Gary's 992 Selma Drive, Kingman.
  - Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July. Rosie's Den area. Meet @ Rosie's 7:30 A.M. Milepost 28.5 on Hwy 93, about 31 miles north of Kingman. Look for nice small pieces of Turquoise and other nice surprises.
  - Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> July. McCracken Mine. This outing is being postponed to a future date.
  - Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> August. Meet 7:00 A.M. @ powerhouse. Grapevine Canyon, near Laughlin NV. 2WD Lots of very interesting petroglyphs. Bring your camera.
  - Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August. Meet at intersection of Hwy 93 and Big Wash Road about 1 mile north of Chloride Road. Picnic @ Windy Point campground (also known as Packsaddle Pass) high atop the Cerbat Mountains. 2WD. Good graded dirt road. Nice temperatures, beautiful scenery, nice prepared campground. Good pit toilets, no water provided.
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**TRIP REPORT – KENNICOTT UTAH COPPER MINE** by Fred Bunge

On the way back from our grandson's HS graduation, we toured the Kennicott Utah Copper Mine. This is the largest "man made" excavation in the world. It is so large, it's easily seen from the International Space Station.

Taking the long way around to the gate, we observed the power plant, rail sidings with tank cars of sulphuric acid and the smelting facility. After checking-in with the security gate and paying \$5, it was on to the exhibition center on the edge of the open pit. You are prohibited from stopping anywhere until you arrive at the center. Once parked it was to the rail to observe the operation. The actual pit is 2.5 mi. wide and ¾ mi. deep. 80 hauling trucks work 24/7 in the pit, carrying at least 40 tons. Each are loaded by one of seven huge hydraulic or electric shovels. An initial crushing plant is located within the pit and then the ore is transferred to the ball mills and other processes above the pit. Whether by acid leaching, smelting or electric winnowing – the result is 99.9% pure copper. This mine produces a quarter of the world's copper needs each year.

The picture of Dorothy, who is 5-9 standing next to one of the haul truck tires (16 feet +), you get an appreciation of how massive the equipment is that work at this mine. Rio Tinto now operates this mine as well as many mining operations around the world. If you are near Salt Lake, you should visit this mammoth operation.

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**Gemstoners' Outing to Bonito Campground, June 16-20** By Sue Beilman

My husband and I are new to Kingman and the hobby of rockhounding. I always just thought a rock was a rock. I, at least had no idea there were so many kinds...of course other than the "real" gems likes diamonds etc. I didn't think I'd ever be interested in gathering a bunch of rocks...but here we are...and having lots of fun.

Those in attendance were Fred and Dorothy Bunge, Gary and Mary Gann, and ourselves, Tom and Sue Beilman. Gary Bolles made a day trip Saturday for the rock collecting.

We all arrived at the Bonito campground at Sunset Crater/Wupatki National Park on Thursday, got our camps set up, settled in and chilled out that afternoon. When evening rolled around we caravanned into Flagstaff to a restaurant Gary found on Food Network, called Brandy's. Tom and I weren't sure what the evening attire should be since we knew nothing about the place, but the others had been there on a previous outing. We were all dressed in shorts...you know hot weather attire. Mary said she was putting shoes on, so I thought well ok...that's good, I'll just put longer shorts on and headed out.

We found out Mary and Fred don't like jalapenos and what else I don't remember. The food was quite tasty and we had lots of fun. The menu changes so if you had something once, they may not have it again. I recommend Brandy's.

Friday morning we went to the Lowell Observatory and took the guided tour. Percival Lowell established the observatory around 1854/55. There is a museum which houses the telescope he received as a teen and original equipment used at the observatory. Also in the museum is information about Clyde Tombaugh, who discovered Pluto. That was of interest to us because he was from a wheat farming family from Kansas which is where Tom and I are from. The equipment he used to discover Pluto is still on the grounds. Back in the 60's before the Apollo astronauts went into space, they wanted to see where they'd be going and landing so they made a trip to Lowell and viewed their destination.

We'd planned to go back to the observatory that evening to view the stars, but it clouded over so we didn't go. There was a presentation given by one of the park rangers in the campground that evening so we attended that. The presentation was on the Mexican Spotted Owl. It was very informative.

Saturday morning Gary Bolles joined us for our rockhounding excursion.

The scenery, after we turned off the main road was filled with unusual geologic formations. Once we arrived at our destination we looked for agate, jasper and petrified wood. I know what petrified wood looks like but not agate or jasper. Every time I'd pick up a rock I'd have to ask what it was and of course our leaders were extremely helpful. I guess it really doesn't matter what kind of rock you pick up. If it's something you think is unique, colorful etc., and you like it...pick it up. Figure out what to do with it later...unless you are a seasoned veteran, then you probably already know.

Tom picked up one specimen that was 3 small rocks fused together. I can't remember what Fred said it was...but it looked like Mickey Mouse.

We moved to another area that had a lot of petrified wood. There were some huge pieces but you'd have to have a winch or something...so we opted for smaller pieces...however I liked the rocks better...they were more colorful.

Once finished there we headed on up to Cameron to the Gift Shop/Hotel. The hotel is an old building with a beautiful courtyard. The gift shop was huge, with a lot of beautiful Native American crafts...and of course some "authentic" Native American crafts...made in China. I've never figured that out!! A few of us had ice cream, but Mary said she wasn't about to pay \$5.00 for 3 scoops of ice cream unless it was freshly scooped into a cone by a person. We enjoyed our prepackaged, prescooped ice cream anyway!

After a day gathering rocks in the hot desert we were ready to head back to camp....to our campsites, shaded by tall pine trees, the cool breeze whispering through the trees, the sound of hummingbirds fluttering to the feeder we'd put out, saying hello to the passing strangers walking by as we sit in the shade, and our dog Frisco barking for their attention or coming unglued every time he saw another dog or watching Gary laying on the ground wondering what the heck he's doing?

In my opinion an outing is not only for rockhounding, but getting to know one another, building a great club, helping one another, making friends, but most of all fun! We really enjoyed getting to know our fearless leader Fred and his wife Dorothy, and Gary and his wife Mary! All great people more than willing to help out and answer any questions.

Outings aren't always only about rocks. You missed out on a great time....next time.....ya'll come...ya hear!!!

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**Castle Mountain, California -June 6, 2011** By Mary Gann

The usual mode of operation had us meeting at the Nugget in Searchlight, Nv for breakfast before heading out to Castle Mountain. Although it started chilly, it soon warmed up, despite the brisk wind that died down as the day progressed.

New members Tom and Sue, who also participated in KABAM, joined us for this outing. Castle Mountain is not far from Searchlight, and has a variety of volcanic rocks to offer. Most of the geodes are filled with chalcedony crystals or solid agate. Some are solid Rhyolite and it comes in varying colors from red and brown to gray and black, which can be very dramatic.

There are also outcroppings of Glassine Perlite. Perlite is the result of Obsidian that has deteriorated from its recognizable form of black glass to a very crumbly gray rock. Inside chunks of this unusually marked matrix you can find the last of the Obsidian in the form of a small ball known as an Apache Tear. The Apache Tears here are good quality, most being translucent. Most everyone spends some time in the Perlite Pit going through the gray matter looking for the Apache Tears. Some of the Tears have worked their way free of the Perlite and can be found lying about on the ground.

Perlite is a strange and extremely useful rock. The distinguishing feature which sets perlite apart from other volcanic glasses is that when heated to a suitable point in its softening range, it expands from four to twenty times its original volume. When quickly heated to above 1600°F (871°C), the crude rock pops in a manner similar to popcorn as the combined water vaporizes and creates countless tiny bubbles which account for the amazing light weight and other exceptional physical properties of expanded perlite. There are many uses for perlite, which include three general categories: construction applications, horticultural applications, and industrial applications.

Also housed within this amazing matter are geodes which resemble puff pastry, complete with pinched edges and rounded sides. Inside of the geode is a covering of Chalcedony in geometric shapes. Cleaned up, these geodes make interesting specimens.

The regular geodes in the area range in size from over stuffed armchair to as small as a pea. And all are potential candidates for the desirable crystal lined interior. It is no wonder so many like to come to this place for a better than average day of rock hunting.

### ***What if?***

What if you're out on a fun little drive, by yourself, away from anyone, looking for rocks and you suddenly hear that dreaded sound of air escaping from one of your tires? What should you do? Do you know how? Do you have the physical strength to do what's necessary?

You should know where your self- rescue equipment is located and how to access it and how to use it. You need to know where your spare tire is situated and that it actually has air in it and how to get it out so you can use it. You need to know where your jack is and how to use it. You need to know where your lug wrench is and how to use it. You need to actually get dirty and tired at least once a year and organize yourself and go through all the effort and strain and really change a tire. Yes, actually take one off the car and dig out the spare and mount it, then reverse the process and put it all back the way it was, and do it all safely.

Admittedly, this is all going to be a pain in the neck, but if you practice this process at home on your nice clean driveway with the spouse or kids handing you things and having a nice cool beverage close at hand it'll be in a controlled environment and you'll be fairly comfortable and the practice and the knowledge gained can make it relatively easy to do it out in the boondocks and it ***JUST MIGHT SAVE YOUR LIFE SOMEDAY!***

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### **Convenience tips**

When you get those ultra fine cactus thorns in your flesh and cannot see to pluck them out, firmly press some duct tape over the spot and lift off. It may take several attempts, but it works.

Either household ammonia or baking soda can help to relieve the discomfort of insect stings and thorn irritants.

It's now summertime and we're in the desert.... DRINK LOTS OF WATER.

If you get hurt, get immediate help. Don't wait or try to tough it out.

### **Say what ??**

You may be a rock hound if you scan field trip photos and recognize your friends by their rumps sticking up in the air.

You think that highway roadcut is there for your rock hunting convenience?

You may be a rock hound if your field trip attire cost more than your wedding outfit.

You are DEFINITELY a rock hound if you can properly pronounce Chalcedony and Molybdenum!

You MUST be a rock hound if you flunked high school geology but you now lecture at the local Junior College on rock hounding and lapidary arts.

You may be a rock hound if your primary interior décor consists of stones.

You may be a rock hound if someone says Tucson and you automatically think February.

You may be a rock hound if your most cherished jewelry consists of cut and polished rocks.

Or if you can give a stranger good directions on finding their way around Quartzsite?

You may be a rockhound if you can name every good rock picking site in eleven western states, but you can't name their capital cities.

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

*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.*

#### **Lazy man's Field Trip Tacos**

These are a great ultra simple meal when you return to camp tired and hungry.

- \* personal sized bags of tortilla chips
- \* 1 pound prepared taco meat (or more to suit the crowd size)
- \* shredded lettuce
- \* shredded cheddar cheese
- \* sour cream
- \* salsa

Heat up meat in a pan over the campfire, grill or camp stove. Crunch up the tortilla chips in each bag, then cut the bags open along the side. Fill each bag with meat and toppings of choice. Use a fork to eat right out of the bag. Just throw the bags in the fire or your carry home trash bag when done.

#### **SELL, BUY Or TRADE**

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

**CONTACT:** Wayne Nicholson 928-263-6337

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

Our very own **Shirley Darga** asked to have a comprehensive birthstone chart published. Shirley, this is the best I could manage. I hope it'll do.

Editor



Month	Modern Birthstones	Traditional Birthstones	Mystical Birthstones	Ayurvedic Birthstones
January	Garnet	Garnet	Emerald	Garnet
February	Amethyst	Amethyst	Bloodstone	Amethyst
March	Aquamarine	Bloodstone, Jasper	Jade	Bloodstone
April	Diamond	Diamond, Sapphire	Opal	Diamond
May	Emerald	Emerald, Agate	Sapphire	Agate
June	Pearl, Moonstone	Alexandrite, Emerald	Moonstone	Pearl
July	Ruby	Ruby, Onyx	Ruby	Ruby
August	Peridot	Sardonyx, Carnelian	Diamond	Sapphire
September	Sapphire	Sapphire, Peridot	Agate	Moonstone
October	Opal, Tourmaline	Tourmaline, Aquamarine	Jasper	Opal
November	Topaz, Citrine	Citrine, Topaz	Pearl	Topaz
December	Turquoise, Blue Topaz	Zircon, Ruby	Onyx	Ruby



# July 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	Independence Day 4	Board Meeting Library at 6:30 PM 5	6	7	8	Shop Tour meet @Gary's 9:00 AM 9
10	11	Gen'l Meeting Senior center 7:00 PM 12	13	14	15	16
17	Rosies Den Meet there at 7:30 AM 18	19	20	21	22	23
24	McCracken mine is postponed. 25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

# August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Grapevine Cyn meet 7:00 Pwrhse 7	8	Board Meet at library 6:30 PM 9	10	11	12	13
14	15	Gen. Meeting at Senior Ctr. 7:00 PM 16	17	18	19	20
Picnic, meet @ Big Wash Rd. 7:00 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			