

# LITTLE GEMS

Volume 3 Issue 7

July 2010



## Message from the President

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Hi Gemstoners,

Our potluck last meeting was a great success. Good food and good fun was enjoyed by everyone.

The month also saw two campout rock trips. The first to Sunset Crater Campground near Flagstaff where some members toured the ruins nearby one day and traveled to the Gray Mountain area the next day to collect petrified wood. Not much color but the area produces lots of wood and other varieties of rocks to collect. Hot and tired, we returned to the campground to clean up and relax before heading to the Lowell Observatory for some star gazing and a little education. This turned out to be the highlight of the trip and a great time was had by all as we toured the observatory, saw some meteorites, exhibits, and films about planets and stars. After dinner, we returned to look at Venus and Saturn through the telescopes. WOW! I, for one, plan to do this again.

The second campout was to Burro Creek. Club members never seem to tire of this area. There are many places to go around Burro Creek and a good variety of rocks to search for. I understand the trek to Mary's Wash got rained out -- a thunderstorm chased everyone all the way back to the campground! The outing Sunday fared better with fine weather and a trip to dig out some fluorite with galena steaks and find some geodes. Another great trip. It would be nice to see more people turn out for these fun trips and share the camaraderie around the campfire after a great day of rock hunting.

Jim Gish will be auctioning off a dry washer at the meeting. If anyone would like to donate rocks or rock related items to be auctioned for the benefit of the club please bring them along to the meeting. Bring your money too. You never know what might catch your eye!

Tim Watkins from BLM will also give a presentation.

Looks like a fun evening. Hope to see everyone at the meeting.

John Smith, President

Mohave County Gemstoners

## Christmas Dinner Announcement:

Christmas Dinner at Lombardo's will be on December 14th at 7:00 PM. This will take the place of our regular meeting. The cost is \$15.00 per person which includes non alcoholic drink, dinner, dessert, and gratuity. It will be a sit down dinner rather than a buffet and will be a traditional Christmas meal of turkey, dressing, ham, potatoes, corn, etc. A salad and a pasta dish will be served to start off the meal and Lemon cake and spumoni will end the meal. We need to have a definite count and the \$\$'s paid no later than the November meeting. So, let Jack know if you are planning to attend, and the payments go to Pete, Treasurer.

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## 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. \$8.00.

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

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 AdobeReader (free program) to view. Submissions should be to the editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Editor email address:

[M C GEMSTONERS@AOL.COM](mailto:MC.GEMSTONERS@AOL.COM)

Stay up to date, check often  
[www.gemstoners.org](http://www.gemstoners.org)

## **\_ 2010 Club Leadership \_**

### **Elected Officers:**

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

### **Board of Directors:**

One-Year Position: Kenny Segreaves  
Two-Year Position: Laraine Smith  
Three-Year Position: Jack Hommel

### **Club Committees 2010**

By-Laws – Fred Bunge  
Newsletter Editor – Gary Gann  
Field Trips - Jack Hommel  
Greeters—Cheri Hommel  
Membership – Dorothy Bunge  
Photographer - Melanie Hecht  
Refreshments – Trent Szabo & Clarkie Segreaves  
Show Chairman 2011 – Mary Gann  
Sunshine – Lynn Roe  
Telephone - John and Laraine Smith  
Webmaster – Mary Gann

Mohave County Gemstoners  
P.O. Box 3992  
Kingman, AZ 86401

### **MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2010 GENERAL MEETING**

The evening started with our potluck supper and many fine dishes. A special note – Susahn March provided members with a delicious fruit smoothie, which proceeds were donated to the Club.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by our President, John Smith. The flag salute was led by the Sergeant At Arms.

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

Treasurer's Report: The 2010 Budget has been approved by the Board. The Club is in good financial shape.

Correspondence: None.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Field Trip** – To be more responsive to our members, more 2-wheel/low impact trips are being put together. Trips for the remainder of the year will be published in the newsletter.

**Editor** – Contributions from membership for the Little Gems Newsletter are still needed.

**Web Master** – Need suggestions and articles for our web site.

**Refreshments** – Cookies will be needed for next month – volunteers signed up to bring them.

**Membership** – A total membership of 113 as of this meeting. New members were introduced and badges and packets were presented. We had one guest who introduced herself.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. December Meeting – While doing due diligence on another matter, it was discovered that our Articles of Incorporation prohibit us from using funds to help defray the cost of the December Dinner planned for December 14<sup>th</sup>.

The dinner will be held on our regular meeting night at Lombardo's on Eastern AV. The price of the meal is about \$14-\$16 per person. We have space for 65 people and payment for this dinner is due to the Treasurer at the September meeting. Please call Jack at 692-5156 to get on the list. A firm price for the meal will be announced at the next meeting.

2. 2010 Budget – Has been ratified by the Board and it may be inspected by the membership by contacting Pete.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Life Membership – The Board unanimously ratified the Life Membership of George Tirpak. We now have six Life Members in the Club.

### FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

1. Wire Wrapping Class – Classes for June/July will be at the KOA Recreation Room, first and third Monday, both at 2:30 – 5 PM.

2. Susahn March presented the Club with copies of an Accident Prevention Guide for the Club. Susahn is to be congratulated for the many hours of hard work in the preparation of these guides.

3. Birthdays and Anniversaries – those that have either during the month were recognized.

4. Brochures are being made by Laraine Smith and Sharon Holmes to be placed at both the Powerhouse and Museum of Art and History to get the Club more exposure to visitors.

5. Clarkie will bring in Riker Mounts at the next meeting and take orders from the membership.

50/50: Susi Green - \$30 and Al Zoellner - \$15.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Bunge, Secretary



#### FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES:

- Sign in 15 minutes before departure time.
- Leader will state relevant information after everyone has signed in.
- Leader will announce and set speed on highway.
- 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.
- Always have a full fuel tank.
- RADIOS: Channel 3
- Name badges required at all Club functions.

#### Field Trip Schedule:

July 4<sup>th</sup>: Progressive Shop Tour: This trip has been canceled. Have a Happy 4<sup>th</sup>!

July 18<sup>th</sup>: Nucor Steel Plant, meet at Power House 7: AM. This place has some nice dendrites.

**Questions? Call Jack @  
928-565-5156 or 928-897-3488**



#### Wire Wrapping and Beading

Every 1st and 3rd Monday 2:30 to 5 PM

Through June and July the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday will be at the KOA recreation room (instead of the Library) on Roosevelt & Kino.

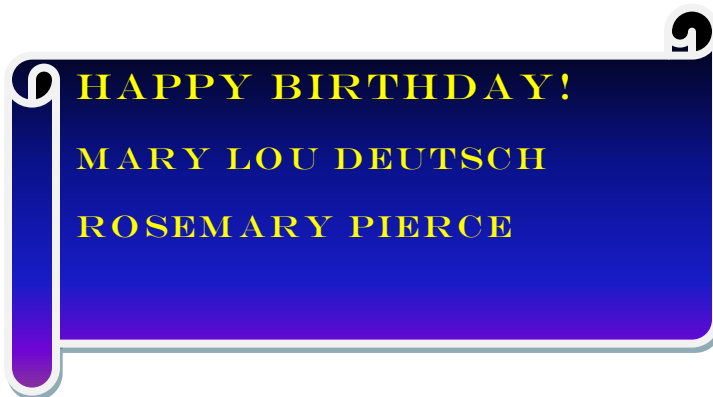
*Come see what we are doing!*

Wire wrapping-Mary

Beading-Trent

Public invited, no fee

**Call Mary @928-757-8121**



## BIRTHSTONE FOR JULY

The beautiful red Ruby is the birthstone for July and, also, the Capricorn Zodiac stone.

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 orangey 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.

The prized deep red and hardness of the stone seemed to naturally equate it with true and undying love. It is sometimes used as an engagement stone instead of the traditional diamond.



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### **ATTENTION:**

**At the July General Meeting, July 13, we will be auctioning off a drywasher. It is a 12V Bellows Type w/ classifier with feed trough. Works good, 1 drive shaft needs to be shortened.**

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## Windy Point Picnic

The Windy Pt. picnic on May 30<sup>th</sup> couldn't have been more enjoyable. The wind was mild (Oh, Surprise!!) and the sky was the deep blue of summer.

We started by touring Kenny & Clarkie's Renovation Project in Chloride, which is looking fantastic. Then proceeded to have a leisurely scenic drive to the Point.



We swapped and shared food, stories, plans for future trips, and thoroughly enjoyed the flora and fauna surrounding us.



At one point, Jack noticed what we believe was a Red tailed Hawk hovering, seemingly motionless, stark against the blue sky, framed perfectly by the brown and lush green of the high desert pines.



Here we are with the famous 'fire ring'.

However there are pieces of clear, red, orange, and brown agatized wood. As noon approached we took a break and then headed for the Pueblo Ruins inside Sunset Crater Monument. It is a self-guided tour so you can go at whatever pace is agreeable to everyone.

The Wupatki ruins are the largest. People came here 10,000 years ago. About 800 years ago they left-for good. Since then, these ruins have stood, marking time and bearing testament of a people that farmed and traded here.

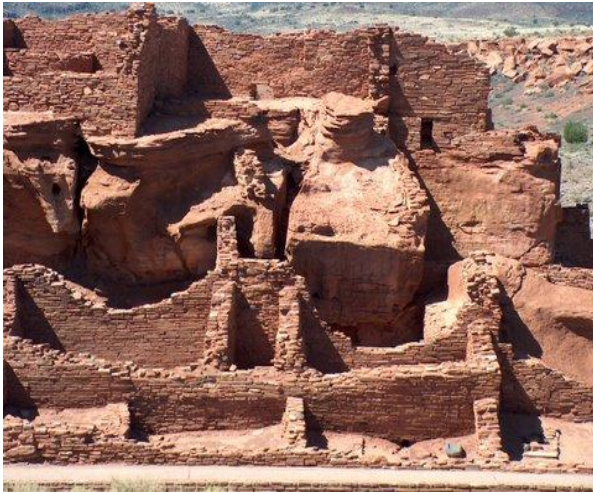


Of course, by the time we came to our senses and jumped for the cameras, he had glided away on the thermals.

### **Flagstaff Campout**

While Kingman sweltered in the heat, we were kicked back in the cooler climate of Flagstaff. Fred & Dorothy arrived at Bonito Campground first, followed by Kenny & Clarkie, and then Gary & Mary. After setting up camp, we went in and ate at a 5 star restaurant and planned out the next couple of days.

Friday we drove to Grey Mountain and got our fill of petrified wood. Most of the wood is shades of gray, black, and browns.



Saturday we were joined by John and Laraine. We went again to the Petrified Wood, and then back to camp. We cleaned up and proceeded into town to visit the Lowell Observatory. This was a fascinating trip. The Observatory was founded in 1894 in Flagstaff for the crisp clear and dry atmosphere that allows for less distortion when viewing the stars and planets.

We walked the tour of the grounds, sat through some very interesting short movies, and played with the interactive displays. After going out to get a bite to eat, we returned to the observatory to look at the stars through two of the telescopes. Some of us were fortunate enough to actually look through the Clark Telescope, a 24" telescope, made by Alvin Clarke and Sons in 1896 for the Lowell Observatory. We were treated to the sight of Saturn with its moons.

By Sunday we were packing up rocks and tents-time to go home. It was a very satisfying and educational trip; we all had a good time. Campouts are always a lot of fun.

For more information on this series you can contact our local Game and Fish office, or the Kingman Library.

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### **June 20<sup>th</sup> Field Trip-III**

Once again we met at the appointed departure point and after a bit of chit-chat we convoyed northward to the Al Smith, also known by some as the Producer, mine site which sits westward across the valley from Chloride. The weather was wonderful and the road conditions were non-hostile even for 2WD rigs.

We anticipated run-ins with buzztails as the recent news and lore said that they are out in force. We saw no snakes but were briefly concerned about a huge swarm of very noisy bees, all going somewhere with a purpose. We REALLY do not want to become intimate with Africanized bees. We were fortunate that they were intent upon something other than us stone seekers.

Spectacular treasures were not found but many interesting stones were spread about the mountain. There are tremendous amounts of Chalcedony, a sparse smattering of nodules and many interesting vuggs in a flinty hard matrix of what seems to be semi vitrified sandstone. There were a number of pieces of what I can only call "faux petrified wood" in the area. This material looks quite like a slab of petrified wood, with some of the calico coloration and the deceptive appearance of wood graining. Closer examination reveals the reality to be mineral stained sandstone of a pronounced hardness.

This area is another of many which keep drawing us back. Each visit reveals something new and interesting.

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### **Arizona Game & Fish**

The AZGFD is presenting a Wildlife Series at the Library this summer. Each presentation is only an hour long, and some sound very interesting.

For instance: July 15<sup>th</sup>, the subject is GPS 101. Whatdaya think? Might learn something? We are going to find out. It is a short drive for most of us, and an hour can't hurt.

# July 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
Progressive Field Trip <b>Canceled</b> 4	Wire Wrapping & Beading at KOA 2:30 5	Board Meeting at Library 6:30 PM 6	7	8	9	10
11	12	General Meeting at Senior Ctr 7 PM 13	14	15	16	17
NUCOR Steel Plant Power House 7 AM 18	Wire Wrapping & Beading at KOA 2:30 19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# August 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Grapevine Canyon meet corner of NW Aztec/Hwy 68 7:AM 1	Wire Wrapping & Beadng, KOA 2:30-5:PM 2	Board Meeting 6:30 PM 3	4	5	6	7
8	9	General Meeting 7:PM 10	11	12	13	14
Portland Mine meet at Marty's 7:AM 15	Wire Wrapping & Beadng, KOA 2:30-5:PM 16	13	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Mohave & Power House Museums Meet Power House 9AM 29	30	31				