



Water Carved Sandstone Burro Creek April 2009

Volume 2 Issue 5

MAY 2009

## Message from the President

### HI "GEMSTONERS"

The last few months, our field trips have proved to be very interesting. For those who have not been able to make the field trips, we have been interacting with the Lake Havasu and Flagstaff Gem & Mineral Clubs.

By sharing information between the clubs we are finding new places and materials to collect. Also, we are meeting new people and enjoying the social side of rock hounding.

The trip to Burro Creek was a real trip. The road from Nothing is now open and makes the drive down seven crossing much nicer. Gary and I did a little exploring just a few miles north of the camp and found some rhyolite and chalcedony that was quite nice.

With the weather heating up, the snakes are becoming very active. So, until the fall cool off we will slow down on the number of field trips. In the desert. However, this is the time for more social get togethers. We will be working on putting this idea into motion this month.

The Mohave County Gemstoners have been extended an invitation to the Flagstaff club meeting and field trip on the 15th and 16th of May. Should be a lot of fun!

See you at the May General Meeting.

"C"

May 2009

Regular Meeting

May 12, 2009

Katherine Heidenreich

Senior Center

1776 Airway Ave., Kingman, AZ

6:30 Catch up & Chat

7:00 PM Meeting

June 2009

Board Meeting - June 2, 2009

Kingman Library 5:00 PM



Potluck June 9th 6:30

Bring your Favorite

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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 1 and are delinquent after the February meeting. 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 :

[brisnoon@hotmail.com](mailto:brisnoon@hotmail.com) or @928-263-1480. *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 and be able to view it in color. The Newsletter is in PDF format so it will be necessary to download AdobeReader (free program) in order to view the newsletter.

## ♣ 2009 Club Leadership ♣

Elected Officers:

President - "C" Russell (928) 846-0927  
 Vice President - Pete Hansen (928) 565-4321  
 Secretary - Acting-Fred Bunge  
 Treasurer - Dave Sims (928) 692-3797  
 Sergeant At Arms - John Smith  
 Board of Directors:  
 One-Year Position: George Tirpak  
 Two-Year Position: Leonard Deutsch  
 Three-Year Position: Laraine Smith  
 Club Committee Chairpersons

Academic Advisor - Rick Vromen  
 By-Laws - Nan Russell  
 Newsletter Editor - Donna Robinson  
 Education - Open  
 Field Trips - Gary Gann  
 Greeters/Hostess - Cheri Hommel  
 Historian - Leonard Deutsch  
 Jr. Leader - Laurel Nelson  
 Membership - Nan Russell  
 Program Director - Open  
 Publicity - Open  
 Photographer - Open  
 Refreshments - Mary Gann  
 Show Chairman 2009 - Nan Russell  
 Scholarship / Donations - Open  
 Social Director/Special Events - Suzie Green  
 Sunshine - Open  
 50/50 - Open  
 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 Mohave County Gemstoners 'Meeting APR 2009



The Gemstoners were treated to an excellent presentation, entitled "General Geology and Mineral Occurrences In Mohave County" by Luis Vega. Mr. Vega is a Registered Professional Geologist and author. He and his wife Paula have written "4 Wheel Drive and Back Roads of Mohave County, AZ." They have also written one for Yavapai County and are working on another for La Paz County.

He also suggested checking out the web site for State of AZ Dept. of Mines and Mineral Resources. [www.admmr.state.az.us](http://www.admmr.state.az.us).

After the presentation, the General Business Meeting was called to order by president "C" Russell at 8:08 PM.

The Sergeant At Arms led the group in the Flag Salute.

An item from the Board Meeting concerned as to whether the minutes of the previous meeting should be read at the meeting or not. As most members receive the newsletter, which includes the minutes – it was decided by the group to suspend the reading of the minutes at the meeting. Any corrections or omissions to the minutes would be addressed at the meeting – otherwise, "the minutes will be approved as written."

Treasurer's Report – Dave gave the Treasurer's Report, stating the Gem Show had done very well. An accounting in proceeds, contracts, expenses and net result were explained.

Account balance was given and the report was accepted by a vote of the membership.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Accepted as printed.

Membership Committee – 13 new members were gained from the Gem & Mineral Show.

Show Committee – Nan thanked the members for their support in making the show a huge success. She also reported that the vendors commented on excellent security by our members. There will be a show review meeting on 29 APR at the library at 5:00 PM.

Field Trip Committee – Gary reviewed the forthcoming field trips to Oatman/Topock area on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>; Burro Creek Campout on the 22<sup>nd</sup> thru the 26<sup>th</sup> and the annual work party at the Honey Onyx Claim on Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>. An exploratory foray to Golden Valley (Air Ranch) resulted in geodes and chalcedony. There will be a field Trip Meeting at "C's" house on 29 APR at 1:30 PM.

Newsletter and Refreshments – all is well.

Web Master – Leonard has several pictures that need identification by members, so they can be scanned and archived. He also expressed a desire to talk with older members of the Club to gain insight to the history of the Club. Leonard also asked the membership to vote on which of the two exhibits will be our "Official" Logo.

Old Business: Have two 6' tables for sale @ \$10 each.

### New Business:

1. Confirm Fred Bunge as Secretary – Passed.
2. Join the Mohave County Chamber of Commerce – Passed.
3. Invite four Life Members to the Potluck in June – several members have volunteered to transport these Distinguished Visitors to the Potluck.
4. Invitation/Recognition of Boy Scouts at the Potluck meeting who helped with the Rock & Gem Show – Passed.

### Good of the Order:

1. Question posed by the President – Continue with the December Potluck or have a Christmas Party instead. Members are requested to think about this and it will be on the agenda next month.
2. Guest Speaker next month will be Charlie O'Connell from the State Mining and Mineral Museum.

### 50/50:

\$99 collected - \$49 to the Club; \$30 winner – John Smith and \$20 winner – Roenta Hanekamp.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Bunge, Secretary

## Save \$300.00 or More



A simple \$3.00 pair of safety glasses can save you \$300.00 or more.

When you are out in the field whacking on a rock with a sledge or a hammer and chisel little



pieces of rock go flying. Your eyes might be protected because you are wearing your prescription glasses.



Okay, so a lens gets a chip, you try and replace it and the optical department says "sorry that frame is no longer available" now you are faced with buying a new pair of glasses. \$300.00 or more.

## In Days Gone By, Thank Goodness!

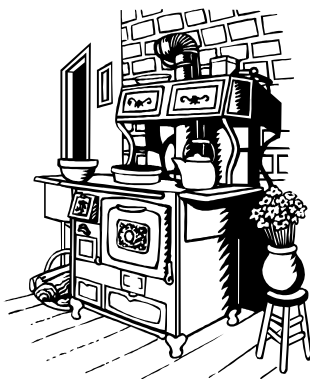
In the days when the stove was kept burning, on the back burner you might find this kettle of soup.

### Skillgalee

A large covered pot or enameled pail is reserved for this and this alone. Into it go all the clean fag-ends of game...heads, tails, wings, feet, giblets, large bones...also the left over fish, flesh, and fowl of any and all sorts of vegetables, rice, or other cereals, macaroni, stale bread, everything edible except fat or grease.

This pot is always kept hot. Its flavors are forever changing, but ever welcome. It is always ready day or night for the hungry varlet (rascal) who missed connections or who wants a bite between meals. No cook who values his peace of mind will fail to have Skilly simmering at all hours.

*Reprinted from Camp Cookery, Horace Kephart 1910*



## Beading Tips

Pearl, glass or semi-precious beads must either have a knot between them or have a spacer/disk. Spacers or disks should be metallic (gold, silver or brass) - plastic is OK for practice. Do not use a knot between a spacer/disk and a bead.

Lay out your beads on a design or layout board. Look for symmetry of design and how the final product will lie.

Estimate string length: for standard stringing use length times 2 plus 10 inches, for knotting use length times 4 plus 10 inches.

Dye string if necessary. Using permanent ink chisel tip markers works well.

Stringing material must be stretched overnight prior to final stringing - string all your beads and add any terminal clasps or bead tips you will need for your finished design. Hang the beads overnight. You can finish the piece or do your knotting the next day.

Source: [www.allcrafts.net/f.php?url=www.geocities.com/SoHo/9555/beading.htm](http://www.allcrafts.net/f.php?url=www.geocities.com/SoHo/9555/beading.htm)

### Local Beads

[Bonnies Beads & Jewelry](#) 4508 Highway 95 # E, Fort Mohave - (928) 704-2720  
[Bead Lounge](#) 1678 E Lakeside Dr, Bullhead City - (928) 758-4588



## Desert Varnish...Caltech News Release via California Geology (3/78)

Lithosphere (April 1993); Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.; Fallbrook, CA



Desert varnish, a smooth black coating that accumulates slowly on rock formations ranging from small boulders to cliffs hundreds of feet high, has puzzled naturalists for many years. On the underside, where it is not exposed to the air, a varnished rock often acquires a glossy red-orange finish through interaction with water and minerals in the soil. Because



of its striking appearance and widespread occurrence, the varnish frequently attracts attention, especially in national parks such as Grand Canyon and Zion where visitors query rangers about its cause.

For years scientists have assumed that desert varnish was composed primarily of manganese and iron oxides, precipitated out of the rock through weathering processes. However, the varnish structure eluded precise analysis because it is composed of particles too fine to be characterized by X-rays, the main diagnostic tool of mineralogical investigation.

Infrared spectroscopy, a technique which illuminates mineral samples with infrared light and records the pattern of absorbed wavelengths, was applied to the study of desert varnish by two Caltech scientists. George R. Rossman, associate professor of mineralogy, and Russel M. Potter, Caltech graduate student, used rock samples from 20 locations in California, New Mexico, and Arizona in the analysis of desert varnish. The samples included quartz, granite, basalt, rhyolite, quartzite, feldspar, and sandstone.



The results of the analysis revealed that the main constituent in desert varnish, totaling about 70%, is clay, not manganese and iron oxides. The oxides form the remaining 30%. The red coating on the underside of the varnished rocks, previously believed to be iron oxide, turned out to be 90% clay incorporating an iron oxide stain, similar to the iron in the black finish on the rocks' exposed portions. In addition it was found that all desert varnish, whether it formed on the side of a cliff or on a 10-inch boulder, shares a similar composition.

It was concluded that most of the coating collects from sources outside the rock rather than from material leached out of it, as many geologists had believed. One reason for this conclusion is that varnish is found covering non-manganese or iron bearing quartz crystals. Although some rocks may contribute oxides through weathering, the primary source seems to be wind deposited particles.

Fine, windblown clay particles are a critical ingredient in forming the varnish which first forms on rough, porous surfaces. These surfaces allow dew and other moisture to collect, depositing a thin film of clay when the water evaporates. This film of sediment on the rock's surface encourages water to migrate through tiny pores inside the film, depositing traces of manganese and iron as the water evaporates.



The formation of desert varnish is interdependent upon the clay and oxides. The dry, fluffy clay particles depend on the oxides to form a resistant cementing agent. The oxides, in turn, require clay particles for transportation and deposition. This is the underlying reason why all desert varnish that was examined contained both clay and manganese and iron oxides -- never one without the other.

*The preceding article was published in the April 1993 issue of Lithosphere, the official bulletin of the Fallbrook [California] Gem and Mineral Society, Inc; Richard Busch (Editor).*

## Field Trip Reports for April 09

### West of Oatman in the Wash



Several club members new and old and a few from Flag-staff joined us for a jasper hunt.

Several nice pieces were found. It didn't

matter if you hiked the hills or stayed in the wash. There was something for everyone.

Johnny,  
Charlotte,  
Dorothy,  
Charlie, AL  
and Gary



Melanie Hect  
Photo

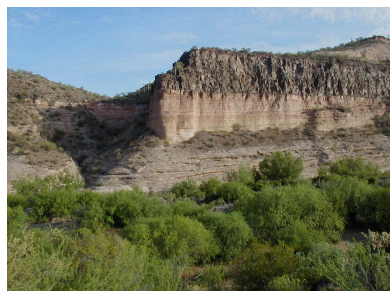


Nan, Gary  
& Fran  
search "kitty litter"  
mine. Blue  
agate is  
here

Mary & Aleutia  
enjoy the  
refreshing  
creek



Fran & Roger  
discuss a find.



### Burro Creek Camp Out

The 1st day started out a little warm, but by Thursday the weather was perfect. Each day we had new people come by.

Some stayed the night some for the day only. We probably won't be going back until fall. It is a good campground to use for a base for the many day trips from there. We traveled the back road

of Nothing, AZ to Burro Creek where water has carved the walls of the creek. It was beautiful. Everyone got their fill of pastelite, rhyolite, jasper, lizard stone and more. Nice fires at night or for some



morning fireside breakfast.

"C" accidentally ran over a 5 foot rattler. This didn't kill the snake but sure made him mad. Individually we did not encounter any snakes but there were many reports of activity.

Smile!

Mary, Nan,  
Prissy,  
Uma,  
Donna,  
Gary,  
Trent,  
Stephan,  
Roger,



Roger  
Taking  
advantage  
of an  
enormous  
sycamore  
tree



## 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

### Field Trip Schedule

#### Saturday May 15-16

Flagstaff

Host: Coconino Lapidary Club

Find: Moqui marbles, Moqui Bowls, Petrified wood

Where: Grey Mountain, North of Flagstaff

Coconino Lapidary Club has invited us to attend their Friday evening meeting and they will escort us to one of their collecting areas on Saturday.



June 7th

Black Mountains

Details at meeting



### Dynamite

By Fred Bunge

At some point, while out Rockhounding you will come across this.

Explosives of any kind – Curiosity killed the cat – it will kill you too! Explosives are not toys, will not increase your manhood and if you have no formal training in Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) – the best thing you can do is to stay far, far away from it.

Dynamite was invented in 1866 by a Swedish chemist/engineer named Alfred Nobel – the same gent, whose foundation funds what we know as the Nobel Prize. *Continued next column*

## What can you do With a Meteorite?



In May of 2006, Dave Deyarmin, discovered that you could buy meteorites. It has now become a passion. After searching for just the right one he found a Gibeon egg and liked it but what he really wanted was a sphere. A friend recommended that he contact Ron at [www.universecollection.com](http://www.universecollection.com). He had an assortment of Gibeon and NWA 869 spheres. He purchased 1 of each in the tiny 50mm range (1.9685 inches) and when he received them he was hooked. This was the deciding moment when he decided that he was going to collect spheres exclusively and if possible they would be in the 50mm range. To date he has 19 spheres.

Be sure to visit his website and see this very unique collection and the stories that accompany each.

[www.home.roadrunner/~bobadebt](http://www.home.roadrunner/~bobadebt)

Dynamite is classified as a "High Explosive", that should give you a clue as to its danger. The first form was a mixture of nitroglycerine in either diatomaceous earth or sawdust and it was a little "unstable." The new mixture uses nitrocellulose with a small amount of ketone. Both mixtures were packed into a tube and sealed.



Some people think TNT (Trinitrotoluene) is the same thing – wrong! Other than both are classified as a "High Explosive" there's no similarity. TNT is a specific chemical formula, does not degrade and is not affected by water.

Dynamite is a "contact explosive" which means a physical shock will cause it to explode. As dynamite will degrade over a period of time – it becomes more unstable. When used, a blasting cap (electrical or fused) is used to produce the shock necessary to cause it to explode. As dynamite degrades, less shock is needed to cause it to explode.

An interesting fact is that the nitroglycerine freezes between 40°F and 50°F. Rapid thawing makes it very unstable. When stored for long periods of time, the nitroglycerine will "sweat" out of the tubes and settle on the individual sticks or on the bottom of the box. This is a recipe for disaster – besides being very unstable at this point, it could explode while handling it **without** a blasting cap.

**Old dynamite is just plain dangerous – leave it alone and report it to the authorities.**

## **An Invitation to All of Us From Flagstaff**

Just letting you, and your club, that we, from Flagstaff, enjoyed Saturday's trip immensely.

A couple/few of your members mentioned coming up to one of our meetings, and I got the impression that they were referring to this Thursday. #1, this Thurs meeting, 23 April is a make up meeting for the 17 of Apr. We normally meet on the 3rd Fri of each month.

Since it is a long drive, about 4 1/2 hrs, round trip, It might be a better idea, to wait until our May meeting, on 15 May, come up, make the meeting, spend the night, and Sat, we can take whoever is here from Kingman, to Grey Mountain, for petrified wood, agate, jasper, moqui bowls and moqui marbles and what ever.

I am hoping, that you can email your members with this suggestion, before anyone makes the drive up for the Thursday meeting this week.

My wife said that you had changed your web site address. If true, I would appreciate the new address.

Again, we had a great time, and we thank you very much. Please relay our appreciation to Gary. He did an excellent job.

Has there been any feed back, from those that went on up the mountain ridge looking for the mine? Would love to hear how they did, and what the road condition was, all the way up.

Thanks again,

Brad Bradley Pres. Coconino Lapidary Club Flagstaff, AZ.

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### Directions for motels and campgrounds

Woody Mountain RV Park. Exit I40 at Flagstaff Ranch Rd [the second exit to Flag, I think.]. Proceed under I40, to Rte 66, stop sign, turn right, and watch for the camp ground on the right hand side.

Motels near, the Walmart shopping center. Exit I40 at exit 191, Flagstaff/Phoenix, follow along to left on exit road. This will put you on Milton Rd, at first stoplight turn left. At next stoplight turn left, at 2d stop light turn right. Motels are all along the left side. About three motels, all better grades. You also passed two making left turns.

To get to the club meeting from;

1. Woody mountain camp area. Exit camp ground, turn right. This is Rte 66, stay on this road till you come to a stop light and the road is a T, Turn left, follow road thru old Flag [still rte 66] continue past the Flagstaff mall [you are now on rte 89]. After passing the Mall you will encounter 4 stop lights, the 2d is at a Circle K, and a Maverick gas station. The third is Townsend/Winona Rd, and the 4th is Silver Saddle road. Turn right onto Silver Saddle road, continue to stop sign. This is Koch Field Rd, Turn right on Koch Field, and proceed approximately 100-200 yards, there is a fire station on the left, cross the front of fire station and turn into parking lot of said station.

2. From Motels at Walmart, work your way back out to Milton rd, turn left. Continue on Milton till it becomes rte 66, when you go under the RR under pass you are on rte 66. Then continue as in 1 above.

If there are difficulties, my cell phone is 928 221 4893.

The meeting starts at 7pm on Friday May 15.





## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

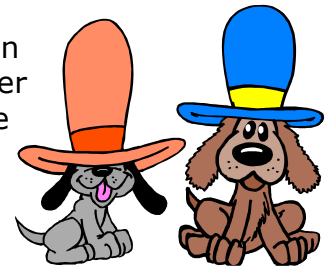
### Ruth Tacquard

By Leonard Deutsch



Ruth Tacquard was born in 1925 in El Centro, California. She is now 84 years, still living here in Kingman. In the early 1980's, her husband Roy retired and joined the Gemstoners' club. She joined with him. They have been living here in Kingman since 1936 and married Roy in 1943. He worked at the Army Air Corps Base, which is now the Kingman Airport complex. Roy learned how to do lapidary from John Wright at the Mohave County Junior College. He later learned silversmithing and faceting. They had 3 children, Louise, Jeanette and Richard. Ruth's husband passed away in 1994. He was president of the club two times.

Ruth was the clubs secretary for two years, 1989-90. During their time in the club, the meetings moved from the Butler Social Club in "Birdland" to the Mohave County Community College, then to the Chamber of Commerce Building in old downtown, and finally to the current location, the Senior Citizen Center on Airway. It is interesting to note that the regular (older) members were called "Rock Hounds" and the younger members were called "Pebble Pups".



### Life Members as of May 2009

Eiko Bosserman  
Betty Busch  
Mildred Page  
Lucille Thompson  
Ruth Tacquard



### Gemstoner Wishes for a quick recovery

to  
Bob Nelson



### A Very Warm Welcome to the new members who have chosen to join Mohave County Gemstoners

Harry "Jim" Richhart  
Joined at the April Meeting

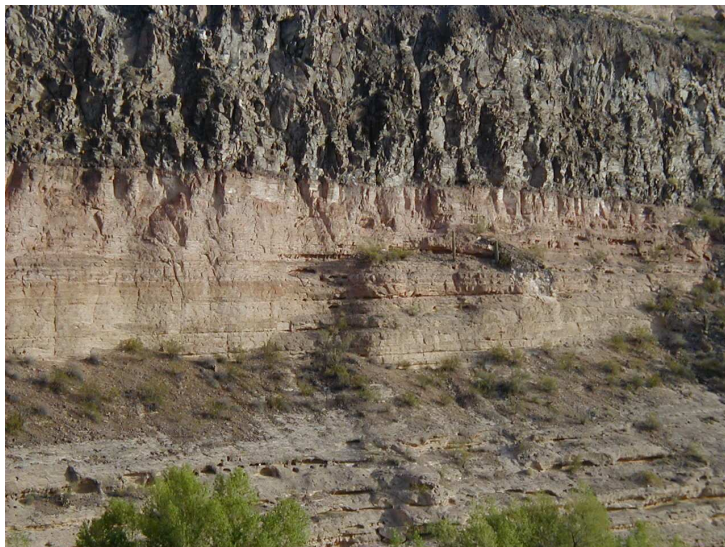


Stephen Sabo  
and his son  
Trent

They joined at the Burro Creek  
camp over in April.

## Rocks Pure and Simple Rocks

Layers of Basalt and Ash on  
Burro Creek  
Or the irregular stacked rocks  
around  
Nothing, AZ



If the Rock isn't of gem quality maybe it can be a mural...Chloride Murals



Or a wall as seen on Greg's Hideout Road or a house in Chloride, AZ



**On every field trip you will find or see something special!**



## MOHAVE COUNTY GEMSTONERS' LOGO VOTE 2009

Compiled by Leonard Deutsch

Here is the verdict of your logo voting. At the meeting on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> you voted for the logos as follows: The old log received 10 votes. The new logo received 30 votes

There were a total of 40 votes cast at the meeting. This meant that the new logo received a 75% of the vote and the old 25%.

As for the logo vote on our website, the results were as follows:

Therefore, a total of 57 votes were cast for the logos. Of the 57 votes, 41 votes were for the new logo, and 16 for the old. Thank you for your participation. Your vote counts.

Editor:

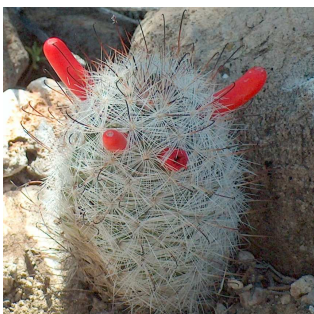
With a logo chosen, we are looking into pricing for caps, patches, shirts and so on. Leonard worked very hard on putting the new logo together. A big thank you to him.



OLD LOGO 25%



NEW LOGO 75 %



ET?

Gann  
Photo

### Shots from Burro Creek



Gila Monster and Horny Toad visited camp



Gann Photo

Cactus Flowers and Adobe remnant



Prehistoric Cow Patty





**KINGMAN LIBRARY**  
**DVD SERIES 6:15**  
**3RD WEDNESDAY**

**Wednesday, May 20th at 6:30pm**

Karst Topography  
 Groundwater Contamination  
 Rock Deformation

**Wednesday, June 17th at 6:30pm**

The Geologic Structures  
 Faults and Joints  
 Earthquakes

**Wednesday, July 15th@ 6:30 pm**

Damage from Earthquakes  
 Seismology

**Happy Birthday**

Laurel Nelson 3rd  
 Charlie Robinson 10th  
 John Ainley 11th

**Happy  
 Anniversary**

*Glenda & Wayne Erwin*  
*May 10th*

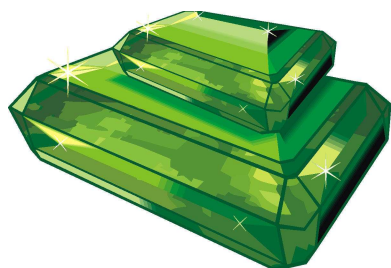
**FOR SALE**  
**SOLD**

**FOR SALE  
 OR TRADE**

**Camping Cots  
 Wide and Long  
 Donna 263-1480**

**Gary Gann needs a 1/2  
 HP  
 Motor, 1/2" Shaft, 1725  
 RPM.  
 Home: 757-8121 or Cell:  
 971-563-3468**

**May Birthstone Emerald**



Color: From light yellowish green to dark bluish green and everything in between.

Hardness 7.5 - 8

Density 2.68 - 2.78

Refractive Index 1.577 - 1.593

Planet Mercury  
 Cosmic Color Green  
 Day Wednesday  
 Time Sunrise  
 Number 5

The Emerald is a member of the beryl family of minerals. The green crystals grow slowly within metamorphic rocks and are restricted in size by the rock, making large Emeralds rare and costly. Although this gemstone is relatively hard and durable, it must be protected from blows because the inclusions found within make it susceptible to breaking.

Spring is a time of new growth and rebirth and the intense brilliant green of the Emerald, May's birthstone, is as refreshing to the eyes as a spring garden after a rain. Within its depths are often tiny fractures or inclusions, which the French call "jardin," or garden, because of their resemblance to foliage. The Egyptians were known to engrave Emeralds with the symbol for foliage to represent eternal youth, and to bury these jewels with their dead. The ancient Romans associated this gemstone with fertility and rebirth, and dedicated it to Venus, the goddess of love and beauty.

The Ancient Egyptians mined Emeralds in the eastern desert region 2,000 years before Cleopatra's birth, braving extreme heat, scorpions and snakes to search for the beautiful crystals. During Cleopatra's reign, she claimed the Emerald mines as her own, as this was her favorite gem. She often wore lavish Emerald jewelry, and it is said that she bestowed visiting dignitaries with large Emeralds carved with her likeness when they departed Egypt.

In the sixteenth century, the Spanish Conquistadors discovered and conquered most of the mines in Colombia. It took twenty years before they found the abundant mining operation held by the Muzo Indians, and another thirty years to overtake this aggressive tribe. The Muzo mine remains the source of the most prized Emerald specimens. Other sources of Emeralds are Brazil, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Madagascar, Nigeria, and Russia. The Emerald Hollow Mine is the only emerald mine in the United States open to the public for prospecting.

Some people believe that wearing an Emerald brings wisdom, growth, and patience. This may explain why a gift of Emerald for an anniversary -- or anytime -- is considered symbolic of love and fidelity.

Source: [www.aboutbirthstones.com](http://www.aboutbirthstones.com)

# May 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Honey Onyx claim
3	4	5 Board Meeting Library 5 PM	6	7	8	9
10 	11	12 Regular meeting 7:00 PM		14	15 Flagstaff Meeting With Coconino Lap	16 Flagstaff Field Trip
17	18	19	20 Library DVD Series 6:15 PM	21	22	23
24 31	25  Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30

# June 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Board Meeting Library 5 PM	3	4	5	6
7 Black Mts Field Trip	8	9 Pot Luck 6:30 PM	10	11	12	13
14 Flag Day 	15	16	17 Library DVD Series 6:15 PM	18	19	20
21 Father's Day 	22	23	24	25	26	27 Chloride Days
28	29	30				



Little Gems  
Mohave County Gemstoners  
Editor  
P O Box 3992  
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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.



HONOR THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES