

# LITTLE GEMS

Volume 3 Issue 5

May 2010



## Message from the President

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Hello Gemstoners,

At our last meeting our elected president resigned. According to the Club Constitution and By-Laws, the Vice-President assumes the office. So, here I am. This is all a new experience for me and I will need lots of help and support from all you Gemstoners. Please bear with me as I learn the ropes.

I want this club to be a success and everyone to enjoy the meetings and outings. If you have any suggestions or ideas that you feel will help this happen please let me, any officer, or board member know. You can also put your ideas, complaints, or compliments in the suggestion box (Made by Bill Pelter) that will be available at every meeting.

Our annual show was a big success! The BEST show ever! All those who worked so hard to make this happen deserve a big hand. The people, who worked to setup, tear down and man the booths and tables for both days are awesome! Thanks to our former President, C Russell and Show Chairman Nan Russell, for all your hard work in making the show such a success. I hope next year will be even bigger and better.

See you all at the meeting Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.

John Smith, President

Mohave County Gemstoners

General Meeting:  
Second Tuesday of the month  
Katherine Heidenreich Senior Center  
1776 Airway Ave.,  
Kingman, AZ 86401  
May 11, 2010  
7:00 PM

# WOW!

We rock! What a show. Over 30 vendors enjoyed the venue, with most wanting to sign on again for next year. Thank you to Nan, who chaired the Show Committee, and an army of worker bees. Many of them new members, who pitched in to setup, tear down, and clean up. Thank you! From Johnny and Char, who also pulled our poor trailer to and fro, to all of you who helped make this a fun enterprise.

Jim and Mollie, Jim, Danny, Chuck and his daughter Deb, Trent, Kenny and Clarkie, Liz, and everyone who carried tables, stapled skirting, swept floors and cleaned up messes. You are great.

And, thanks to the seasoned members, who are always there when the need arises: John (Vice-President) and Larine (Board member), Pete (past President, Vice-President, and current Treasurer. You rock, Pete). Bob and Laural, who, despite serious health issues, were on hand once again this year to manage the Children's Booth and lend support. They were there from Friday morning until close of day Sunday. You guys are awesome.

Leonard, who had one of the display cases for our enjoyment, manned the Silent Auction table, along with Carolyn. I think between the two of them they could probably identify every rock in the room.

Donna, who managed the advertising for the show single handed. Bill helped at the greeters table, along with Trent. Trent also helped out at the Children's Booth, sold jewelry at his own booth, swept floors, fetched and carried...oh, young blood! Mollie helped up front with Dorothy (membership) and Cheri (raffle tickets). Laraine helped Clarkie with the refreshments, and John brought us lunch each day. Gary, Bill, and Kenny gathered up the signs Sunday afternoon. Jack and Fred were our Security force from start of setup Friday morning to the end of tear down on Sunday night.

Even Paul, George's son, ran down and fastened a fistful of colorful balloons to one of our signs on Airway. Thanks, Paul.

C was busy stamping out fires, lending tools, glad-handing, and doing announcements.

I could go on and on. You, every one of you who helped out in any way, are greatly appreciated. When I think of the membership who participated I see smiling faces, helping hands, encouraging words, and, of course, laughing.

Dave, we miss you.

For those of you who have just joined up: Make the most of the opportunities. Volunteer, get involved. It is the best way to get to know your fellow members and become an integral part of your club. Many of our members are knowledgeable, fun-loving, caring people. The ones who volunteer the most have the most fun! Go figure...

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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.**

**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 are  
requested to be to the editor by the 15th of  
each month. Editor email address:**

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

Stay up to date, check often

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

Sadly, this month sees the resignation of our President, C Russell. C served for the year 2009, and the first few months of 2010. During 2009 our club's membership nearly tripled. We had a delightful and enlightening time.

We enjoyed a more aggressive Field Trip schedule, headed by Gary Gann. We had more campouts and many more field trips, joining up with members from different clubs around the area, and also, out of state. We had our first annual Thanksgiving Celebration in the Desert, which was absolutely heartwarming.

We had a good Annual Rock Show last year, and an even better one this year. We look forward to greater things next year.

When C and Nan joined the Gemstoners, the membership population was about 20, and we are now almost 95 members strong. Many of

the new members are plainly visible as they volunteer their time and talents toward Club goals. Jack Hommel is Field Trip coordinator this year, and his wife Cheri greets members at the door each Meeting. Dorothy Bunge is now Membership Chairman, and Fred Bunge is our Secretary. Many more helped with the show this year.

We sincerely hope that C and Nan will remain active in the club. C's energetic presence would be sorely missed.

## **2010 Club Leadership**

### **Elected Officers:**

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

### **Board of Directors:**

**One-Year Position: *Open***  
**Two-Year Position: Laraine Smith**  
**Three-Year Position: Jack Hommel**

### **Club Committees 2010**

**By-Laws – Fred Bunge**  
**Newsletter Editor – Gary Gann**  
**Webmaster-Mary Gann**  
**Education-Mary Gann**  
**Field Trips - Jack Hommel**  
**Greeters—Trent Szabo & Cheri Hommel**  
**Historian - Open**  
**Membership – Dorothy Bunge**  
**Program Director-Jack Hommel**  
**Publicity-Fred Bunge**  
**Photographer - Melanie Hecht**  
**Refreshments – Mary Gann**  
**Show Chairman 2011-Open**  
**Sunshine – Open**  
**Ways & Means-open**  
**Telephone - John and Laraine Smith**

Mohave County Gemstoners

P.O. Box 3992

Kingman, AZ 86401



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

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by our President, "C" Russell. The flag salute was led by the Sergeant At Arms.

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

Treasurer's Report: An accounting of receipt and expenditures was presented. Based on the Audit report, a budget committee was formed and is actively preparing the 2010 budget. Last meeting the silent auction brought in \$119.50.

Correspondence: Fliers for the Prescott and Flagstaff Gems Shows were received.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Field Trip** – To be more responsive to our members, Jack is trying get more 2-wheel/low impact trips and tours put together. Next trips are:

17 Apr – Music Mountains, meet @ Bashas 8:30 AM.

18 Apr – McCracken Mine, meet @ Powerhouse 7AM

02 May – Cook Mine, meet @ Powerhouse 7 AM.

16 May – Black Mountains, meet @ Marty's 7 AM.

30 May – Big Wash RD, meet @ Marty's 8 AM.

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

**Web Master** – Mary Gann has replaced Leonard as the web master.

**Refreshments** – Volunteers will bring cookies to the next meeting.

**Sunshine** – George Tirpak is having good and bad days. George Matcham is doing much better - visitors welcome.

**Show** – Our Show was a huge success. The Show had 31 vendors. Show review meeting is 22 APR at the Library.

**Membership** – A total of 17 new members were introduced at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: (NONE)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Budget Committee – Pete reported on progress and preliminary budget will be submitted to the Board for approval.
2. Filling of vacant positions on committees – By-Laws – Fred Bunge; Education – Mary Gann; Field Trips – Jack Hommel; Historian – Mary Gann; Jr. Leader – OPEN; Membership – Dorothy Bunge; Newsletter – Gary Gann; Program Director – Jack Hommel; Publicity – OPEN; Greeters & 50/50 – Cheri Hommel & Trent Szabo; Photographer – Melanie Hecht; Refreshments – Mary Gann; Show – OPEN; Scholarship/Donations – OPEN; Social Director – OPEN; Sunshine – OPEN; Ways & Means – OPEN; Phone – John & Laraine Smith and Web Master – Mary Gann.
3. Birthdays and Anniversaries – those that have either during the month were recognized.
4. President “C” Russell and Director Leonard Deutsch tendered their resignations.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

1. Wire Wrapping Class – Classes are on the first Monday of the month at the Library and third Monday at the KOA Recreation Room, both at 2:30 – 5 PM.
2. KABAM – 15 MAY at Metcalf Park from 10 AM to 4PM. Club will have free tables; tables for sales are available for \$25 each.

50/50: Vicki Gibbons - \$50; Gary Gann - \$25.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Bunge, Secretary

**Have you seen which businesses have donated prizes to our show? Check out the web site! It would be great if you let them know we appreciate their generosity.**



#### **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.
- Name badges required at all Club functions.

#### **Field Trip Schedule:**

**Bring Hand held radios, Ch 3. Could save your life if you get into trouble.**

- *May 2nd, Cook Mine outside of Oatman. Meet 7: AM @ Powerhouse. 4WD, RT-90 miles. Reg. tools. Numerous minerals, agate, chalcedony, jasper, slight possibility of Gold.*

- *May 16<sup>th</sup>, Black Mtns. Meet 7: AM @ Marty's Turquoise shop on Hwy 93. Mostly 2WD, except minor sand wash travel. RT-160 miles. Reg. tools. Geodes, chalcedony, agate, obsidian, jasper.*
- *May 30<sup>th</sup>, Packsaddle Pass. Meet 8: AM @ Marty's on Hwy 93-MP 65. 2WD, RT-100. This is a sightseeing and picnic trip only. Few rocks worthy of picking up. Lunch & sunscreen. No fee BLM maintained picnic area.*

**Note: Snakes enjoy this weather, too.**

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

### **Wire Wrapping and Beading**

Every 1st and 3rd Monday 2:30 to 5 PM  
1st Monday & 3rd Monday –through June and July-at the  
KOA Rec Room on  
Roosevelt  
Come see what we are doing!  
Wire wrapping-Mary  
Beading-Trent  
Public invited, no fee  
Call Mary Gann @928-757-8121



### **May Birthstone-Emerald-mg.**

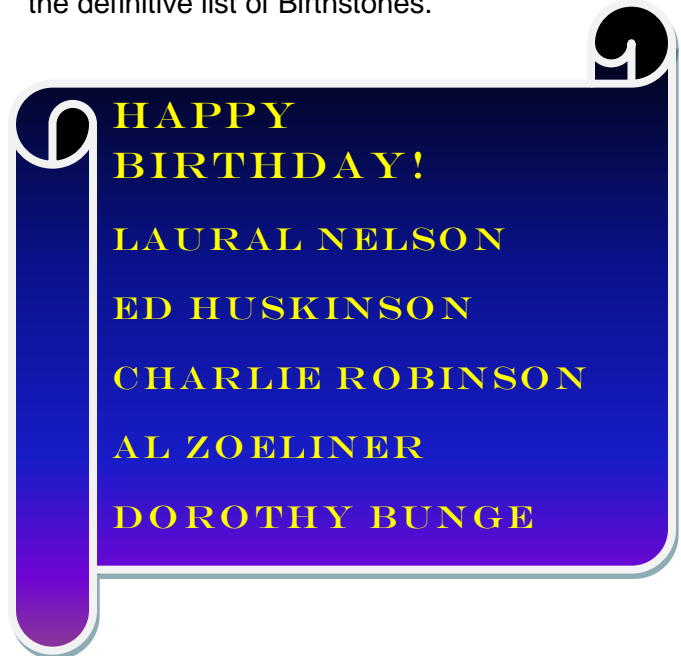
The emerald is a beautiful green precious gem that has been on man's top ten list of "gotta have that!" since before Cleopatra developed her passion for them.

The emerald is a member of the Beryle family. The green crystals grow slowly and are

restricted in size by the metamorphic rock. Large emeralds are rare and costly. The green color is caused by small amounts of chromium and enhanced by traces of iron. Emeralds contain inclusions that are not looked on as negative aspects, but rather, are considered part of the character of the stone.

Quality emeralds come from Columbia, India, South Africa, Russia, Pakistan, and Zimbabwe. Recent finds in North Carolina may provide us with quality emeralds if the mine continues to produce.

In 1912, in Kansas City, Missouri, the American National Association of Jewelers created a Birthstone list. It is accepted worldwide today as the definitive list of Birthstones.



This from our members Todd and Ronda in California:

April 17, 2010 dawned with the knowledge that my wife had to see patients that morning, meaning I had nothing to do. As usual, that pressing point of nothing caused my mind to kick into 'what if' mode.

"Hey, Babe, how about when you get back we go for a drive?" Which she knows is code for 'let's go

cruise the desert somewhere.’ (She knows better than to ask where, it’s all desert!)

We headed out to Afton Canyon northeast of Barstow, Ca. (<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow/afton.html>) an area well known to rock hounds and desert rats far and wide. During our travel through Afton Canyon and exiting at the eastern end we found several campers and tents. Now, the secret part of the trip was following a road not shown on maps, south toward the Cady Mtns and back west to deposits of Chalcedony (please feel free to pronounce it your way) and Agate a friend told me about a couple weeks before. The secret road was well marked with trail markers and tire tracks (some secret).

Traveling stealthily through the desert we came upon several vehicles headed back the way we had come. Stopping to inquire, the group we found were members of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (<http://www.cfmsinc.org>). We exchanged pleasantries and found they were the campers we had passed. I told them I was a member of the Mohave County Gemstoners out of Kingman, Az. They stated, “Then you are members of CFMS, too.” We were promptly invited to join them at 6:PM for their potluck dinner. After exploring several sites including Fluorite, Chalcedony (refer to note above), Jasper and Agate displays in their natural settings, and being startled by a mysterious growl and hiss combination which turned out to be a vicious and deadly attack tortoise. Ask Jack about the Clipper Mtn tortoise story. We returned to visit with the group at their campsite. We enjoyed meeting this great group, and were invited to browse their website and join any of their outings.

Once again, a great surprise of running into ‘like minded’ people in the middle of nowhere made a good trip even better.

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## March Field Trip Report - Jack Hommel

**CERBAT** We are going to have to adopt the philosophy of the “The Little Engine That Could”

when it comes to our hoped-for trip to the old town site of Cerbat. *I hope we can, I hope we can, I hope we can!* Twice now (February 7<sup>th</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup>) we’ve had to cancel our trip to Cerbat due to nasty weather. O.K., so we’ll assume the patron saint of rock hounds took those two dates off.

On both occasions however, we did manage to have a “get-together” for the purpose of socializing and discussing all manner of things having to do with rocks, future trips and weather as well as an exchange of good natured insults and entertaining lies. It should also be mentioned that all seemed to enjoy the good food to be had at the eateries of choice. It’s never a total waste of time and effort when we get together.

### **BURRO CREEK CROSSING ROAD**

This locale is also referred to as “Six Mile Crossing” and “Signal Road”, so you can take your pick and be right.

On this trip, we were blessed with beautiful weather, good road conditions and a good turnout. Most of us met at the appointed time and place, but some folks had family visiting and had to join us a bit later at the site. Counting all souls, including guests and little ones, we had twenty three enjoying the outdoors that day. We first stopped just a short distance from the highway for a session of looking for Geodes and finding mostly Chalcedony. This place was fun, but not the best picking. We then moved on to the agate fields, where you literally cannot walk without stepping on it. This stop was heavily laced with exclamations of “Oooh Mommy, lookit!” and “Wow, can you believe this?” Both the children and the guests were fascinated by the bounty. After a suitable time spent at the agate beds, we ventured on over the hill to the Pastellite beds. We all enjoyed our visit to this familiar site and most folks found plenty of rocks to meet their needs. The gang began to break up and people started heading home in the early afternoon, but some of us die-hards stayed until the sun began its decent into the western sky. The bluffs around this site are a fascinating illustration of geologic processes. As always, we hated to leave. Each time we go out, we hear the same plaintive statement.... “I’m coming back here soon!”

# Welcome New Members:

Allen Bercowitz                      Le Everly  
Susahn March                        Bob Singer  
Kevin Davis                         Kerry Glancy  
Paul & Beverly Schwab  
Samuel & Carolyn Knott  
Duane & Rosie Pierce  
Lonny & Genny Sumner  
Scott & Linda Stuart  
Lloyd Killian & Yvonne Decker

Remember: Get involved, volunteer. Let your talents shine!

## APRIL FIELD TRIP REPORT -J. Hommel

**HART MINE, San Bernardino County, California. 04-04-2010** We began our day by convoying from Kingman, AZ to Searchlight, NV where we met fellow rock hounds and Gemstoners and their guests from Las Vegas, NV. We sixteen mineral fanciers had a very convivial breakfast at the Nugget Casino, and then departed for points west. We journeyed west and south from Searchlight to the northern end of the Castle Mountains in California. The road was not quite typical of the unmaintained tracks we usually travel. This road had been a working haul road for the mines and as such had a wide and relatively smooth surface, except for some tooth rattling washboard sections. Sorry to relate, we didn't make it to the massive Hart Mine site as it was very thoroughly fenced, double fenced, barricaded, and signed against entry. It appears that the owners are planning to re-open at some near future date. We did, however, enjoy a visit to a unique abandoned mine site which offers a huge wealth of Geodes, Apache Tears, Glassine Perlite, and Chalcedony. The site was rewarding enough that some of our members made a return visit in late April also.

**MUSIC MOUNTAINS, Mohave County, AZ. 04-17-2010** On this beautiful day, our twenty Gemstoners met and convoyed with about a dozen of the club members from Lake Havasu City to the site of an abandoned Gold mine in the west face of the Music Mountains north of Antares Point. There were two unfortunate mishaps on this trip. One of the LHC members fell into a Cholla cactus and was in dire straits even with the willing and capable help of his friends and their many tricks and techniques for thorn removal. We all wish him a speedy recovery and return to comfort. One of our own Kingman members had a somewhat less traumatic but nonetheless painful encounter with another of the desert's spiny denizens. The Chollas are nothing to take for granted.

After searching for crystals most of the morning, we ate lunch and conferred. Jim and Trent had made a discovery on the other side of the mountain. We bid Lake Havasu good-by, and were led to another site where there were an abundance of core samples. And, although this side trip was cut short by Trent becoming sick, he recovered enough that he joined us the next day for our outing to McCracken Mine.

**McCRACKEN MINE, Mohave county, AZ. 04-18-2010** This trip to the ever popular McCracken Mine began as an ordinary day but entertained us with a frustrating mystery for about the first hour. We were puzzled then upset by what seemed to be some annoying person trying to block our radio communication by open keying their transmitter more than half the time. After about forty miles of the bother, we stopped the convoy for a radio discipline conference and thinking we had addressed the issue we continued onward. Much to our annoyance, the problem continued with us for another few miles until we stopped for another talk and very much to our surprise, we discovered the culprit to be not just one but three separate handheld radios with voice actuation capability. Almost any sound was triggering the spurious signals. Their owners were kind enough to turn off their units until the settings were adjusted. Verry interesting! The remainder of the outing was the usual excitement and reward to be enjoyed at McCracken. This mine always delights with surprising amounts of beautiful crystal form and

Amethyst color. Our twenty two members and guests all enjoyed the bounty until mid-afternoon when we went to a nearby and much smaller mine where the pickings were less exciting but still rewarding. We found some rocks with various amounts of copper staining, a few artifacts (read rusty leftovers from the mine's trash heap), and a surprising and odd little scattering of light green Calcite crystals which at first appeared to be Fluorite. Leave it to us amateurs to be unsure! That's one of the reasons we have our heads together so often. We really want to know what treasure we might have just discovered. No one suffered any mis-haps on this outing and the weather was just plain wonderful. The group began to break up and straggle homeward in plenty of time for that welcome hot shower and the pleasure of kicking back with a big sigh of comfort and satisfaction with another fun trip behind us.

See ya on future excursions!



Letter from the Editor:

Once again, thanks to the kind folks that proof this thing. Your patience is a virtue.

Remember: there are several ways to contact us about the Newsletter and the Web Site. Anything submitted must be in by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Let us know what you are thinking.



Any one wishing to attend the **Christmas Dinner** at Lombardo's, Please contact Jack

@ 928-565-5156. We have been told by Lombardo's that "the sooner the better".

This dinner will take the place of our December Meeting and Potluck. Let Jack know ASAP, so he can make the reservation.

Also on our Schedule of Events:

# KABAM!

Kingman Area Books Are Magic.

This gala event will be held May 13<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>. Although this is held every year this is the first time that the Gemstoners will be a part of it.

On May 15<sup>th</sup> we will be set up in Metcalfe Park, from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. We will have five booths of fun and information. Some of our members will be selling their wares: from rock slabs to jewelry to baked goods and ice cold drinks. We will have everything we can haul in that has to do with our club and what we do. Three of our display cases will have specimens, books, and tools that we use to collect said specimens. Slab saw, trim saw, and grinders and polishers. We are looking forward to a terrific day! If you would like to help out, call Mary @ 928-757-8121.



# May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
Cook Mine Powerhouse 7:00 AM 2	Wire wrapping & Beading at Library 2:30 PM 3	Board Meeting Library 5:PM 4	5	6	7	8
9	10	General Meeting 7:00 PM 11	12	13	14	KABAM Sat:10-4 Metcalf Park 15
Black Mtns Marty's 7:AM 16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Packsaddle Pass/Windy Pt. Marty's 8:AM 30	31					

# June 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Board Meeting Library 5:PM 1	2	3	4	5
6	Wire wrapping & Beading at Library 2:30 PM 7	General meeting / Pot Luck 6:PM 8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	Wire Wrapping & Beading KOA rec room 2:30PM 21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			