

# LITTLE GEMS

Volume 4 Issue 9

September 2011



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

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

First of all, I would like to welcome our newest members to the Club. We are 79 strong.

September brings us to our quarterly potluck dinner. Remember we start at 6:30 PM and we should have a good crowd.

**"SURVEY SAID"** – At our last meeting we had you fill out a survey on what you wanted to see at our Club. You have responded with: Guest speakers; Show & tell; Lapidary techniques (new members primarily); Less formal meetings and Slide shows. We will be working on that in the immediate future.

For lapidary techniques, we do not have sufficient time at meetings to do this. You can call Gary at 757-8121; Roger at 757-1052; Stefan at 715-4173 or myself at 681-2371 to schedule time to cut rocks, trim slabs or do lapidary on a cost basis with our equipment. You get individual instruction and supplies if you need them as well as see different equipment before you buy.

Once finished with your cabochon, we may be scheduling a class with some beading as well. We are looking into getting some speakers lined-up and would appreciate your input as to what subjects you'd like covered.

**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).**

**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, Pin or Magnetic style 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 AdobeReader (free program) to view. Submissions should be to the editor by the 20th 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 – \*\*open\*\*

**Directors:**

Year ending 2011: Laraine Smith  
Year ending 2012: Jack Hommel  
Year ending 2013: \*\*open\*\*

**Club Committees 2010**

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

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

**MINUTES OF THE JULY 2011 GENERAL MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by our President, Fred Bunge. The flag salute was led by the Vice President.

Previous Meeting Minutes: The JUN 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 78 members.

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

**Field Trip** – Shop Tour 09 JUL, meet at Gary's (992 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 radio interference on Ch. 3, we have moved to Ch. 5.1 for all further trips.

**Web Master** – Visit the site as information may have changed since the newsletter was published.

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

**Refreshments** – Bring cookies, John & Lorraine have volunteered to man the kitchen.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. Vacancies, elections & committee – We have vacancies for a Board member, Secretary and Sgt. At arms. A nomination committee will be selected soon. President, Vice President and Treasurer

will not be running for re-election. Remember – this is your Club, without your participation – there is no Club.

NEW BUSINESS: (NONE)

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

1. Door prizes.
2. 50/50: - \$20

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41PM.

Respectfully submitted, Fred Bunge, President

### **MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2011 GENERAL MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by our President, Fred Bunge. The flag salute was led by the Vice President.

Previous Meeting Minutes: The JUL minutes did not get into the newsletter in time. It and the AUG will be approved at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The Club is in good financial shape.

Correspondence: (NONE)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Membership** – We welcomed our newest members and celebrated those with anniversaries and birthdays this month. We now have 79 members.

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

**Field Trip** – Sun 14 AUG, Trip meeting at Gary's 992 Selma @ 10 AM. Sun 21 AUG, picnic Big Wash Rd, meet at BW RD & HWY 93 @ 7 AM

**Web Master** –Visit the site several times each month as information may have changed since the newsletter was published.

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

**Refreshments** – Next month will be our quarterly potluck dinner.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Vacancies, elections & committee – We have vacancies for most positions for next year. A nomination committee will be selected next month. This is your Club, without your participation – there is no Club.

NEW BUSINESS: (NONE)

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

1. Door prizes.

2. 50/50: - \$35 – Roenta Hanekamp.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Fred Bunge, President

### **SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

**Billy & Sandra Hasting, Jack & Cheri Hommel, Ed & Aleta Huskinson,**

### **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

**Tom Bielman, Sam Knott, Connie Sundling**

***This is a desert, drink lots & lots of water.***

**It can save your life.**



## SEPTEMBER'S BIRTHSTONE

### *Blue Sapphire*



The striking deep blue of a quality sapphire is reminiscent of a cloudless night sky. Ancient civilizations believed that the world was set upon an enormous sapphire, which painted the sky blue with its reflection. This legend, as well as the belief that the ten commandments were inscribed upon tablets made of sapphire, gives September's birthstone a royal place among gemstones.

Named after the Greek word "sapphirus", meaning blue, Sapphires have long been a favorite among priests and kings, who considered them symbolic of wisdom and purity. These gemstones are prominent among the British Crown Jewels, and Prince Charles chose this as the engagement stone for his fiancée, Princess Diana.

In ancient times, Sapphires were thought to be protective against envy, and even against poisoning. A common belief was that a venomous snake placed in a Sapphire vessel would rapidly die! Ground to a powder, the blue stone was believed to cure colic, rheumatism and mental illness, and to strengthen eyesight.

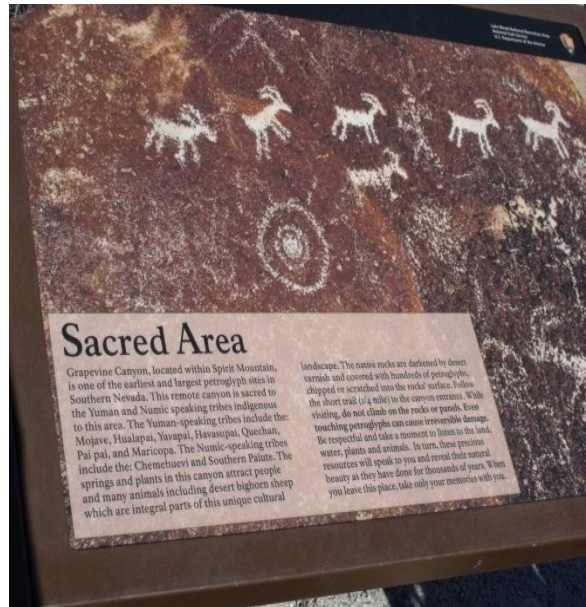
Sapphire is a variety of the mineral corundum. Corundum is found in every color of the rainbow, with red being designated as ruby and all other hues Sapphire. But the most prized color of Sapphire is a rich, deep blue. These gemstones were mined as early as the 7th Century BC from India and what is now Sri Lanka. They are found today in Sri Lanka, Kashmir, Myanmar, Thailand, Australia, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, China, Madagascar, and the United States. Large specimens of Corundum crystals are rare, although the 563-carat Star of India can be seen in the American Museum of Natural History. This is the largest and most famous of star Sapphires, which are cut to reflect light from inclusions within the stone, revealing a bright six-legged star pattern.

The Sapphire is second only to the Diamond in hardness, making it a durable gemstone for setting into jewelry. A gift of Sapphire represents sincerity and faithfulness. As nourishing to the soul as gazing up at the sky on a summer day, this brilliant blue gemstone is truly a heavenly choice!

## Grapevine Canyon Petroglyphs Aug 7, 2011

As we started for the Petroglyphs, the sun promised us a very hot day that was also, crystal clear for excellent picture taking. Armed with water and cameras we made the short trek from the parking lot to the base of Spirit Mountain. Those of us who went last year were rather surprised to find a dramatic change in the appearance of the cliffs. Man and Nature>probably not working together, but independently had altered some of the locations of the glyphs. Small chips had obliterated some of the ancient drawings, some were just half gone. On the other hand, Nature had caused the fall of several large sheets of rocks that brought some of the petroglyphs closer to the ground, but they were facing down or straight up. Due to these changes, the bulk of the glyphs you can see are across the wash now. And even these show signs of man and Nature at work. Nature seems to be the winner in this as she has caused huge boulders to topple and leave very large voids.

The history of this place is not as clear as some of its ancient drawings. Some date the drawings as between 1100 and 1900 AD. Others claim that they go back much further. One article I read said “the Yuman petroglyphs were studied and examined by initiates, and sometimes repected by them. Considerable variation in the degree of revarnishing is evident at the site, indicating that Yuman Shamans used this locale probably for many thousands of years. Recent accounts, on the other end of the time scale, tell us that it continued to be used into this century.”



“Grapevine Canyon is Atastamho's House, where the Mojave shaman went to witness, in his dreams, the creation of the world. “ While the Mojaves have not been able to provide a glyph by glyph interpretation of the designs at the site-most likely because of the immense age of the petroglyphs stretching back into prehistory, they have offered a general setting from which to interpret the drawings. The drawings depict Creation Mythology.

Some accounts on the site say that not only did the Mojave shamans write at this place, but rather several Indian nations contributed to these glyphs as Spirit Mountain was a sacred place to all shamans.

Myself, I don't know. It is probably not as important to me what the drawings depict, but what shakes my socks is that someone way back when was passionate enough to carve his thoughts-or dreams-into the rocks, and I am standing here looking at his work, hundreds, maybe thousands of years later. I am walking where he walked, looking at the same sun, sky, rocks that he looked at.



If you have not been, anyone who has can tell you that it is an experience well worth the trip. There are more pix on our web site.



**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**

Sept 10<sup>th</sup>: **Boriana Mine.** Meet @ Power House 6:30 AM. 4WD recommended.

Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>: **Burro Creek Campout.** Meet at Campground Thursday, will map out trips. 4WD. We will leave each morning about 8 AM. We will be exploring new places.

**Wire Wrapping and Beading** classes will begin Sept 16<sup>th</sup> at the Kingman Library, from 2 to 4 PM. Thereafter we will be meeting the first and third Friday of October, November, and December; all classes will be from 2 to 4 PM.

## **Are you ready for the Sun?**

**\*\*\*\*Editor's note: The following article credit goes to the Canadian province of Alberta's Department of Agriculture.** My apologies to the author for converting some of the language into American English.

Ah, the sun. Rock hounding often means being outside for long periods in the heat of summer days. This creates two kinds of health risks – those associated with intense radiation from the sun's rays, and those associated with prolonged heat exposure.

### **Suit Up**

To be safe out there on hot sunny days, learn how to protect yourself before you head out. Educate yourself about the hazards of sun exposure and then stay alert to mitigate damage. Know the hazards. Know the drill. Before you start your fun day, check the forecast and make sure you dress for the anticipated conditions. Fabric provides excellent protection between you and the sun. Darker colors block more sun, and a tighter weave of fabric gives more protection. Denim jeans, for example, have an SPF of 1,700. Lightweight clothing that fully covers the body is ideal – the more coverage, the better. Loose clothing allows air movement in hot weather, which can help prevent heat stress. Wear a hat with a wide brim that will protect your face, neck and ears. Bring extra layers along to use in windy or rainy conditions.

### **Catch a Ray, Not a Disease**

What are the real hazards of sun exposure? Let's take a good look at the sun to find out. The sun's rays contain powerful ultraviolet radiation. Much of it is diverted by the ozone layer in earth's atmosphere – but not all. Radiation is strongest between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Sun damage doesn't occur with one exposure. It starts at a young age and accumulates over time. It can occur on sunny or cloudy days.

When large amounts of sunlight are absorbed by the skin, the immediate result is a nasty sunburn – ouch! However, the long-term effects of ultraviolet radiation from sun exposure may be more serious: drying, wrinkling skin, permanent eye damage, and skin or lip cancer.

Skin cancer is now one of the most common forms of cancer in North America. Everyone is at risk, but some are more so than others. People with fair complexions, freckles, blonde or red hair and blue or grey eyes are at higher risk.

### **Prevent Heat Stress**

The sun's rays aren't the only hazard of working in hot weather. Heat stress is another. Hot weather stresses the body's cooling system. When combined with other stresses, like hard physical labor, loss of fluids, or fatigue, it can lead to heat-related illness, disability or even death. Heat-related illnesses include:

Heat cramps – Sweating drains the body of salt, resulting in painful cramps in the arms, legs or stomach.

Heat exhaustion – Inadequate water and salt intake causes the body's cooling system to break down, producing heavy sweating, cool moist skin, high body temperature (over 38 degrees C), weak pulse and low blood pressure.



Heat stroke – When the body has used up all its water and salt, sweating stops. Temperature rises quickly (to above 41 degrees C), and symptoms include weakness, confusion, distress, hot, dry, red skin, rapid pulse, headache or dizziness and, in later stages, convulsions or unconsciousness.

Heat stroke – When the body has used up all its water and salt, sweating stops. Temperature rises quickly (to above 41 degrees C), and symptoms include weakness, confusion, distress, hot, dry, red skin, rapid pulse, headache or dizziness and, in later stages, convulsions or unconsciousness.

### **Don't Get Burned**

Once you know what the hazards of sun and heat exposure are, you can plan to avoid or manage them safely. Know the drill. Here are some tips to keep you safe while you work in hot, sunny weather.

- Use sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher. Put it on before you go outside and reapply regularly – especially around water.
- Wear sunglasses that filter out ultraviolet rays. Insist on glasses that block 99% or 100% of UV light.
- Drink plenty of water. Your rate of intake must equal the increased rate of water loss through perspiration to keep body temperature normal.
- Take frequent breaks in a cool, shady area.
- Watch for early warning signs of heat stress in yourself and your fellow rockhounds.
- Don't try to keep up with others if you feel ill.
- Save sun-tanning for the beach – don't try to get a tan while working.
- Avoid working in hot and humid conditions for long periods. The combination makes the body work even harder to handle excess heat, and perspiration doesn't evaporate as well in muggy conditions.
- Sickness and injury rates increase when heavy work is done at higher temperatures. Don't push yourself beyond your limits.
- If you suspect a heat-related illness is developing, drink lightly salted water or a fluid replacement drink. Loosen clothing and move to a cool, shaded area. Fan the skin or spray it with cool water. In cases of heat exhaustion or heat stroke, seek medical help immediately.

### **SPF Primer**

Sunscreen will protect exposed skin, as long as you select the right SPF. To determine what SPF you need, divide the number of minutes you will spend in the sun by the number of minutes your unprotected skin can be exposed to noonday sun before it reddens. (SPF = Minutes spent in the sun / Minutes before skin reddens) Doubling applications doesn't double the protection. If you apply two layers of SPF 15 sunscreen, you still have an SPF of 15.

- To ensure your sunscreen blocks UV rays, confirm that the ingredient list includes at least one of the following: benzophenone, oxybenzone, methoxybenzone or sulfisobenzene, or Parsol 1789.
- Sunscreen should be applied 20 to 30 minutes before you go outside to give it time to penetrate your skin.
- Use extra protection for your lips, which are extra susceptible to the sun's burning rays.
- If you are outside for long periods, reapply sunscreen regularly.
- If you sweat heavily or expect to get wet, use a waterproof or sports sunscreen.

### **Red Flags**

Early detection of skin cancer is the first step to successful treatment. The following early warning signs have often been linked with skin cancer. If you find any of these, see your doctor.

- A new growth, mole or discoloration.

- Asymmetrical moles, especially with irregular colors, or ones larger than ¼ inch.
- Elevated crusty sores that bleed and won't heal.
- A sudden change in an existing mole – itchiness or pain developing.
- Red, scaly patches or lumps on the skin.
- Small, shiny, pearly bumps on the skin.

## The Final Word

To prevent damage from sun exposure on the farm, take time to think about the potential hazards of each new task you perform. You may have prepared to take on the sun for a few hours, but if you find you've been working in it for much longer without stopping, it's time for a break. Drink plenty of fluids, splash some cold water on your skin, reapply sunscreen and revisit your safety strategies to ensure they are still effective.



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

## Sand Lobster Supreme

**For those occasions when ordinary is just not good enough**

Have you ever had one of those opportunities to really impress some very special person in your life with your culinary skills and you didn't quite know what to serve? Well your worries are over! Because we are lucky enough to live here in the sunny Arizona desert, we have a unique untapped food source that almost no other area

can boast. We are fortunate enough to have the native Giant Sand Lobster. They are not on anyone's endangered species list and can be captured live with very little training and minimal equipment. With just a smidgen of imagination and effort you can make a presentation dish to rival New England's lobster feasts and the Chesapeake Bay's wonderful soft shell crab banquets. This recipe serves four.

### Ingredients

- Four 1 ½ pound Sand Lobsters thoroughly washed to remove grit and stingers removed.
- Six prickly pear fruit (in Spanish: *tuna*) peeled & diced.
- Four Jalapeno chilies, seeds and veins removed & diced.
- Two small sprigs fresh green sage brush. (Remove before serving).
- Two shots Tequila (taken orally at table).
- One slice spicy goat jerky shredded.
- ¼ pound Limburger cheese.
- One tablespoon heavy cream to smooth the mixture.

### Preparation

Combine all ingredients in boiling salted water and simmer covered until Sand Lobster shells begin to split down the back. Serve on soup plate accompanied by garlic croutons and your best bottle of Thunderbird white wine. Your guests will never forget this unique occasion, guaranteed!



### **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.**

A few dedicated rock hounds enjoying the annual *Thanksgiving Feast in the Desert* at Burro Creek campground





## September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	Boriana Mine meet @ Power House 6:30 AM 10
11	12	Board Mtg @ 5PM before General Mtg-Pot Luck at 6:30 13	14	15	Wire Wrapping & Beading classes library 2-4 PM 16	17
18	19	20	21	22	Burro Crk Campout 23	Burro Crk Campout 24
Burro Crk Campout 25	Burro Crk Campout 26	27	28	29	30	

## October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	Wire Wrapping & Beading classes library 2-4 PM 7	8
9	10	Board Mtg @ 5PM before General Mtg 7PM 13	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	Wire Wrapping & Beading at Library 2-4 PM 21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					