

Little Gems

from
Mohave County Gemstoners

Volume 1, Issue 1

June 1, 2008

2008

Letter from the Editors...

Welcome to the first installment of our new publication! We are taking this new challenge very seriously and are all very excited to be FINALLY getting a newsletter out to all our members. This endeavor is a joint effort between you, the members and the team of three, (so far) who are working to get this first issue out to you.

As contributors, you are a very important aspect of our newsletter production and we really appreciate any and all suggestions for content; any news items or publications that you think might interest the club, any field trips you may have taken on your own, historical facts regarding mining operations in the area, etc.

We're looking forward to bringing you a monthly magazine that you can enjoy and learn from in the coming months.

Since this is our first, it will be a little "lean", but as time goes on, with experience and input from our readers, we hope to have a newsletter we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,

The Editors of the "*Little Gems*"

INSIDE OUR FIRST ISSUE...

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"Summer is a Comin'"

Be prepared for a warm one. ..
Take a lot of water with you...
and be sure to drink it, too!

NEXT MEETING: POTLUCK
TUESDAY JUNE 10TH



6:30 P. M. Potluck begins serving
7:00 P. M. Meeting
Senior Center
1776 Airway Kingman, AZ

❧ 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.

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 Grace Heidenrich 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 1st thru December 31st. 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.

Mailing Address:

Mohave County Gemstoners
P.O. Box 3992
Kingman, AZ 86402

❧ 2008 Club Leadership ❧

Elected Officers:

President - Peter Hansen (928) 565-4321
Vice President - "C" Russell (928) 854-2503
Secretary - Glenda Erwin (928) 715-7505
Treasurer - Dave Sims (928) 692-3707
Sergeant At Arms - "C" Russell

Committee Chairpersons

Academic Advisor - Rick Vromen
By-Laws - Open
Newsletter Editor - Glenda Erwin
Donna Robinson

Education - Open
Field Trips - "C" Russell and George Matcham
Greeters/Hostess - "CJ" Sausberg
Historian - Bruce "BJ" Johnson
Jr. Leader - Laurel Nelson
Membership - Nan Russell
Program Director - Open
Publicity - Open
Refreshments - Jo Agee
Show Chairman 2009 - Open
Scholarship / Donations - Open
Social Director/Special Events - Suzie Green
Sunshine - Open
Telephone - John and Laraine Smith

Life Members

Ben and Eiko Bosserman
Betty Bush
Mildred Page
Lucilla Thompson

Message from the President:

Unfortunately, the printing schedule prevented the president's message from being in this issue.

Minutes:

Mohave County Gemstoners' Meeting - May 13, 2008

Meeting was brought to order at 7:00 pm. President Pete Hansen asked that hearing impaired individuals sit up close to the front, if possible. We want to be sure nobody misses anything.

Pledge of Allegiance and welcome by the President and introduction of visitors and guests.

Minutes of the previous meeting read and approved.

Treasurer's report was given and approved.

Old Business: Gem Show was a success! Congratulations and kudos to everyone who worked so hard to make a fun experience for the attendees. Donations of some very nice specimens from many members, including life member and past president, Betty Bush.

Dave also gave a report on the Gem Show financial status with a final profit of \$1,354.07.

President Pete brought up the fact that we have a large balance in our bank account, and should be exploring possible things to do with the money, possibly something for the community. Also, next year's Gem Show may be changing to a larger location, which will cost more, so we'll have to keep that in mind, too.

Membership Report: Nan gave membership pins to new members and announced the names of several new members to the club. A welcome was extended to all new members and prospective members who were present.

Field Trip near Oatman for Squiggly Jasper: We had a wrong turn at one point, but managed to dig Glenda's Honda out (a couple of times), so we could turn around and head up the right road. We

found lots of the interesting rocks, and everyone found some good specimens, unfortunately a couple of Rattle Snake specimens were found, too. The Burro Creek trip was cancelled due to an even better chance of rattle snakes in that area. Oh well, next winter for sure!

New Business: This month's field trip will be to Truxton, east on Rte 66. We'll be looking for Jasper and Red Agate. Bring lunch, lawn chairs and plenty of water as the temperatures may be near 100 by then. Those interested in going, meet at Basha's parking lot at 8:00 AM to head out for an easy driving road; 4-wheel drive won't be necessary this time.

Next meeting on June 10th is a Potluck. Bring your favorite dish and we'll start lining up to eat at 6:30 PM.

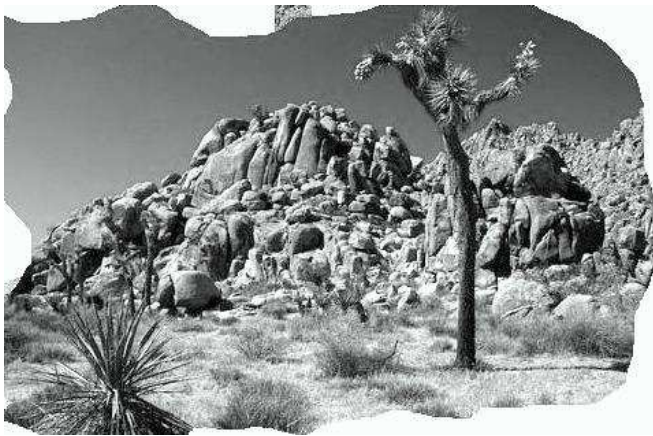
Tom French is still selling his rock collection. Call him ahead of time to go out to his home in Golden Valley at 565-4827.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM for show and tell, and the next installment of our Geology Video series for those interesting in staying.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Erwin
Secretary

Newsletter update: There's a new newsletter committee including Nan Russell, Donna Robinson and Glenda Erwin who will have a newsletter by the first of June. For now the name of the newsletter will be "*Little Gems from Mohave County Gemstoners*". We look forward to sharing news, information and maybe a smile or two in the coming issues.



Field Trip Report

On Saturday, May 17th, thirteen members gathered at Bashas' parking lot to follow Pete to Truxton to look for Jasper. We turned off Highway 66 on a very good dirt road just before 8:45 AM. Pete was enjoying the drive and drove past the power line road turn. After getting all six cars turned around we found the area and everyone headed out to find that perfect rock. Donna and Nan found some interesting tracks in the wash, a cat tracking a deer. Mary Gann found several rocks with fossils. After lunch and comparing what we found, four members had to leave, as they had to go to work. The rest of us drove up the road to another location but did not find much. It was a beautiful day. We all enjoyed ourselves and returned home in the early afternoon.

June Birthstones

∞ Pearl ∞

Color: Pink, silver, cream, golden, green, blue and black.

Color of Streak: White

Mohs Hardness: 3-4

Specific gravity: 2.60 - 2.78

Pearls are produced by shelled sea mollusks. They form inside clams, mussels, and particularly oysters around a small foreign object that gets into the lining of the mollusk. Pearls are composed of calcium carbonate like the inside of the mollusk's shell.

Unlike gemstones, pearls are attacked by acids, cosmetics, hair spray and other pollutants in the atmosphere. There is no assurance how long a pearl will last. The average life estimate 100 to 150 years with proper care. The pearl is a precious gem.

∞ Moonstone ∞

Color: white, colorless, gray, green, bluish, reddish, sometimes play of colors, blue, green, yellow red; vitreous: frequently pearly on cleavage.

Color of Streak: White

Mohs Hardness: 6 - 7

Specific gravity: 2.62 - 2.76

Moonstone with its mysterious white or blue sheen is one of the most popular and familiar gem varieties of minerals called feldspars, it is a semi-precious stone. Its blue or white sheen is called Adularescent and is caused by the presence of tiny crystals of albite arranged in layers within the host microcline. It maybe completely transparent and the sheen can either be silvery white or a soft blue. The adularescent sheen resembles a cloud of light that appears within the gem when it is turned at the right angle to the eye. In India it is still considered sacred.

What's the Difference?

What's the difference between rocks, minerals and gems?

Minerals are made up of inorganic materials (substances that were never alive) whose atoms are arranged in a regular pattern or crystal.

Rocks are made up of one or more minerals. Most people include clay and limestone in the rock category.

Gems are a special subgroup of highly prized minerals. Gems are usually clearer, more rare and beautiful than other minerals. Color luster and hardness are also important characteristics that can set gems apart from other minerals.

There is no hard rule as to which minerals cut it as gems and which ones do not. It's mostly a matter of custom.

What's the difference between precious and semi-precious gems? Most gems can be divided into precious and semi-precious. Diamonds, emerald, rubies and sapphires are all considered precious. Most remaining gems, such as varieties of quartz, including amethyst, opal, and bloodstone are semi-precious.

Source: Gem Cutters 11/1999 via The Calgary Lapidary Journal 1/2005 via Rocky Tales 11/2005



Desert Glass

In the old days, glassmakers used quantities of beach sand in making their glass, and many impurities such as manganese were included in the final product. The reaction of this metal to the ultraviolet rays of the sun over many years turns the glass purple. This is the same process that puts the "desert varnish" on any manganese-rich rock of the desert. The lack of humidity in the desert atmosphere allows 90% of the solar heat to reach the ground during the day. (For the same reason, the desert returns 100% of its heat to the atmosphere at night.) Man has learned that by placing old clear glass in an aluminum-lined box and exposing it to an ultraviolet light on a 24-hour basis, he can color glass much faster. Some of the lovely lavender desert glass sold today may have been produced in such a fashion. However, today's modern glass, when exposed to the sun or the UV lamp, turns amber.

Ref. Grace and Ernest Chambers, Glacial Drifter via Treasure Trove 11/03, Golden Spike News 11/07 and Rocky Trails 01/2008.

Helpful Tips...

These hints are gathered from the bulletins and web sites of other clubs. You should use them with caution, as some may not be tried and true.

Tarnish is caused by sulfur gases in the air. Chalk is a natural absorber of sulfur, so place sticks of chalk (blackboard chalk) in your cases, jewelry boxes, jewelry drawer or just around your jewelry.

From Rockpile Legend Co.

www.rocks4u.com/lapidaryhint.htm

Via Blue Agate News 01/08

Another use for chalk... Wipe over your jewelers file with a piece of chalk. The chalk will keep the file from clogging and you can blow it off. If you toss a piece of chalk or charcoal in your tool box it will keep your tools rust free.

Source: Rock city Rocks and Gems 8/04 and Rocky tales 10/2005

Toothpaste??... Toothpaste with fluoride formula has the unique characteristic of penetrating stone, ceramics, brick or terra cotta and flushing dirt to the surface and then it can be washed away with water. It was used to restore Etruscan vases by New York's most famous art and antique restorer.

Source: Rocky Mountain Federation News 9/2005 and Quarry Tips 7/2005

Montana agate: The plumes and patterns form along seams, so cut perpendicular or parallel to lines to get the best picture.

Source: Pegmatite 04/2004

Tarnish remover: A pinch of baking soda rubbed on silver takes off tarnish.

Source: Pegmatite 04/2004

When saving recently cut rocks or other greasy jobs, instead of using soap try Jergen's Extra Dry lotion and then rinsed in plain water, the oil will wash off in one application and your hands will smell like lotion instead of smelling like strong soap.

Source: Rocky Tales 09/2004

Cutting geodes in the right place can be tricky. Try rolling the geode on a flat floor several times and mark the “up” side each time. Then cut on a plane parallel with the floor. Crystal growth inside the geode is probably most developed at the top and bottom of its resting position.

Source: Toledo Gems 01/03 via Rocky Writing 09/04

When gluing a gemstone to a brooch bar, glue the bar above center. That way the stone will lie flat when worn.

Source: Rocky Tales 09/2004

Using a standard measuring teaspoon, fill it with grit of any size (coarse, medium or fine) level off with a flat surface such as a ruler. The spoon will be filled flat rim to rim. Voila! You have ¼ oz grit in the spoon. To polish it would take 8 teaspoons or 2 tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons to make 2 oz.

Source: Pegmatite 1/2004 & San Diego Mineral and Gem Society

The use of denture tablets work well for cleaning geodes. It will get inside all of the cracks and crevices.

Wash Crystals in soapy water and clean with a toothbrush, and/or place in a glass container with enough water to cover the crystals. Place a tablet of effervescent denture cleaner in the container and soak over night. Rinse crystal well.

Source: Wickenberg Gem and Mineral Society 1/2004

Transparent stone should be polished on both front and back. Otherwise, saw marks can show through and appear to be cracks.

Source: Pegmatite 10/0

Soak any turquoise or onyx in water for a few days before cutting. This helps the oil from soaking into the stone.

Source Bernie Sporre Rocky Tales 09/2004



Heads up Everyone! The National Forest Service is at it Again

Though this newsletter is not reaching you in time to protest the most recent effort by the National Forest Service to stop you from mineral collecting on NFS land be aware they are trying their best. To sum it up what follows is an excerpt from an extensive letter written by Walter Eason of Equal Access to Justice, Inc.

FOREST SERVICE proposes MASSIVE amendments to the MINING REGULATIONS THIS WILL AFFECT MINING IN ALL THE NATIONAL FORESTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES

In March, 2008, the United States Department of Agriculture - **Forest Service** published a **Proposed Rule: AMENDMENT** to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 223, 228, 261, 292, and 293 and the **OMB No. 0596-NEW**. The Proposed Rules constitute a massive change to Forest Service’s Mining Regulations. We are convinced that, if enacted, as is, they would, effectively, curtail both, small-scale commercial mining and **recreational mineral collecting**, altogether, in the National Forests. If this is the intent and effect of the Proposed Rules then, only your participation can prevent it from happening. Please participate and comment.

Public comments and information collection requirements comments are, both, due by May 27, 2008. (Federal Register Notice: Tuesday, March 25, 2008, (73 FR 15694).)

We, Equal Access to Justice, Inc., are submitting a substantive set of comments opposing both, the Proposed Rules and OMB No. 0596-NEW. We have provided a form, whereby, you can incorporate them, making our comments fully a part of your own, should you so choose.

Significant Proposed Changes to the Forest Service Mining Regulations are:

Forest Service has proclaimed that, in almost every single case, with very few exceptions, a plan of operations will be required where a notice of intent or bonded notice is required.

A notice of intent, or bonded notice, is required for any mining, **recreational mineral collecting**, or reclamation, activity exceeding the few limitations allowed.

The Proposed Rules do not allow anyone to be in any National Forest for longer than 14 days in a year, without an approved plan of operations. The Proposed Rules do not allow anyone to use any kind of mechanized equipment, for any, mining, recreational mineral collecting, or reclamation, activity, other than very simple battery operated equipment, without an approved plan of operations.

The Proposed Rules do not allow anyone to use a suction dredge, without an approved plan of operations.

The Proposed Rules do not allow anyone to perform any mining, recreational mineral collecting, or reclamation, activities, whatsoever, in the designated habitat of a threatened or endangered specie, without an approved plan of operations.

Almost without exception, every part of every National Forest is in the designated habitat of a threatened or endangered specie.

To obtain an approved plan of operations, one must provide a bond or the cash equivalent, beforehand.

No surety, government or private, will provide a bond to small miners.

Forest Service will hold the bond for 20 years.

The bond must provide for restoring the land to its pre-civilization condition which is very costly to do.

One cannot perform their own reclamation work.

Reclamation must restore the land to its pre-civilization condition.

Forest Service will not approve a plan of operations without preparing an environmental impact statement and it must be done by (USDA-FS).

Forest Service does not have the staff or budget to perform environmental impact statements.

Forest Service will not approve a plan of operations without performing a validity examination, and it must be done by them (USDA-FS).

Forest Service does not have the staff or budget to perform validity examinations.

No one has passed a validity examination performed by the Forest Service.

No one has passed a validity examination without an approved plan of operations in hand, beforehand.

Failure to pass a validity examination nullifies the un-patented mining claim(s) for which validity was sought.

Calendar for June 2008

Board Meeting June 3rd 2400 Broudy @ 6:00 PM
Newsletter available at that time

Field Trip June 21st

Leader: "C" Russell
To: Mineral Park and Chloride
Looking for: Turquoise
Meet at: Power House
Departure: @ 8:00 AM
Tools needed: hammer, pick bag
Food: lunch and **lots of water**
Return: early afternoon

↻ 2008 Meeting Schedule ↻

June 10	<u>Potluck</u>	6:30 PM
July 8		7:00 PM
August 12		7:00 PM
September 9	<u>Potluck</u>	6:30 PM
October 14		7:00 PM
November 11		7:00 PM
December 9	<u>Potluck</u>	6:30 PM

And Christmas Party

Little Gems

MOHAVE COUNTY GEMSTONERS
EDITOR
PO BOX 3992
KINGMAN, AZ 86402

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Mohave County Gemstoners' Club

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.

Give me a sense of humor, Lord,

Give me the grace to see a joke,

To get some humor out of life,

and pass it on to other folks.

