

# DESERT DIGGINS

Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



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### IN MEMORY OF SHIRLEY GRANT

by Tricia Sheppard

I'm sad to report that **Shirley Grant** passed away on January 20, 2008, having made a valiant effort to battle cancer. **Shirley** had been a club member for 44 years and served as secretary for a number of years. She over saw the club booth at our shows for a very long time and along with her husband, **Gary Grant**, contributed enormously to our club and our show auctions.

**Shirley** was born in Iowa and her family moved to Alhambra when she was 2 years old. She graduated from UCLA and taught elementary school in all four of our local school districts -- Barstow, Hinkley, Yermo and Daggett. In addition, she also taught Special Education classes. **Shirley** was an MDGMS member who also worked behind the scenes to support our club. She was a marvelous carver and her carved animals and birds seemed to come to life. It was wonderful to see her display of carvings each year at the rock shows. In addition to carvings, she was a beautiful painter and loved to make quilts.

Our hearts go out to her husband, **Gary**, and her family.



The Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral Society (MDGMS) is a nonprofit organization. The objectives of this society are:

- To collect and study minerals and rocks.
- To disseminate a general knowledge of the science of mineralogy and allied subjects.
- To provide opportunity for the exhibition and exchange of specimens.

## MDGMS Officers 2008

President	Nicolette Grill
Vice-President	Gene Haines
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Janet Wentz

### Board of Directors

Gene Haines (Past President),  
John Bird, Wayne Mallon, Kemp Root,  
Rob Stapp

## Meetings/Workshops

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday (7:00 p.m.)  
Workshops: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday (6:30 p.m.)  
Dark Months: July, August  
Location: 25647 W. Main Street,  
Barstow, CA 92311

### February 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting

Program: Gemstones  
Hostess: Ruth Mallon and Janet Wentz  
Door Prizes: Dian Hare and  
Leslie Walker

## Annual Membership Dues

Dues are PAYABLE IN JANUARY

Adults: \$20.00  
Juniors: \$10.00 (10 to 18 years)



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## FIELD FEATURES

a poem by Gene Haines

### Quartzsite (Jan 2008)



Once again we went to Quartzsite and saw a lot of stuff,  
From spheres and slabs to carvings and tons of lovely rough.

There's something for everyone if you just take a look,  
From jewelry, arrowheads, turquoise and even how-to books.

Although it's a smaller version of the United Nations,  
in January you can return to your favorite hunting stations!

Amethyst Cathedrals, Queensland Agates, and African Malachite,  
There's more than enough to fascinate and plenty to excite!

Through miles of isles we wonder and visit tons of tents,  
Our adventure seems too short to see all of the events.

We love the fossils, cabs and slabs, the rough and polished too,  
With colors to excite the eyes with reds, greens and oh my - azurite blue!

Once again we come with pleasure, eyes and minds wide open,  
And for that special treasure, we know its there we're a hope'n!

And neither wind, nor rain, nor snow will dampen our spirits so high,  
We're once again at Quartzsite with the heavenly blue sky!

Are you looking for excitement, something different, then I cannot lie,  
Take some time to visit, stop-n-shop you'll be in awe when you sigh!

Meet new people, see wonders, find treasures, Quartzsite does bestow,  
Next year's just too long to wait, you know you've gotta go!



### MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

If you haven't paid your annual membership dues please see  
**Janet Wentz** to remit payment. Dues are \$20.00 for adults  
and \$10.00 for juniors (10-18 years). If paying by check,  
make payable to MDG&MS.



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## NOTEWORTHY NEWS

from email VVGMC 1/23/08

The **Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club** is hosting a field trip to **Kramer Junction** on Saturday **February 9, 2008**. This trip is open both to members of the VVGMC and non-members alike.



**Wagon Master:** **Janet Flecher** (760) 949-0796.

**Place:** Burger King Parking Lot in Kramer Junction off Rt 395 at 9:00 a.m.

**Material:** Agate, Jasper, Palm Root, and Wood.

**Tools:** This is a known site with high quantities of material available in surface, float and shallow pits. For the surface and float material, only a rock pick is required. If you desire to work the agate bearing seams, you will need shovel, pick, bars, sledges, etc. Although the best material is in the seams, buckets can easily be filled by roaming the surrounding countryside. We will be visiting three locations, only one of which is in Gem Trails.

**Conditions:** The access for this trip is on respectable dirt/sand roads. A high clearance vehicle is required and a 4x4 is recommended but not required. We will be about 6 miles from the pavement. This site is approximately 6 miles from the meeting place.

Site conditions are for short walks with easy to moderate walking. This entire area is within cell tower access.

The Kramer Junction is an active gold and uranium mining area. There are numerous open shafts (many unfenced!!!!) and at least one 150 foot plus deep open pit (4-6 acres in size) that we know of. Because of these potential hazards, no children under the age of 10 will be permitted on this trip.

The trip leader recommends that you bring gloves, spray bottle (water), rock pick, lunch, safety glasses, and adequate drinking water.

**Note:** The conditions for this trip are weather dependent. We will collect SOMEWHERE if weather permits. Access to this site can be compromised if there have been recent rains. If you have any questions, call no later than 10 pm on Friday night. On Saturday morning, you can reach me at 760-985-5432 (cell). No alcoholic beverages will be permitted on this trip.

The 2008 sign-up sheet for **hostess** and **door prizes** is posted on the bulletin board.

We need volunteers for all months. Sign-up now!



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## CALIFORNIA CORNER



### STATE FOLK DANCE

by Peggy Haines

**A**dopted by Legislature in 1988, Square Dance is the official **State Folk Dance** of California. This popular dance is the official state dance of nineteen U.S. states and has been danced in California since the "Gold Rush Days".

Square dance involves four couples (eight dancers) arranged in a square, with one couple on each side. Couples 1 and 3 are known as the head couples and Couples 2 and 4 are the side couples. Each dance begins and ends each sequence with "sets-in-order" in the square formation. The dance is called, cued, or prompted to the dancers, and includes squares, rounds, clogging, contra, line and heritage dances.

California leads the nation with more than 200,000 residents square dancing weekly.



### TRIP TALK

February Field Trip

To be announced. If anyone would like a field trip to a specific site let the **Haines** or the **Shepeards** know. We are open to any and all ideas.

Photos at [www.mdgms.org/trips.html](http://www.mdgms.org/trips.html). Field trips are scheduled for the third Saturday of the month.



### SHOW AND TELL THEMES

by Gene and Peggy Haines

Our January theme of "**Petrified Wood**" brought in a great variety of woods to view, touch, and discuss.

Since our show and tell portion of our general meetings has been such a huge success, we would like to continue the process. Members bring their favorite specimens that they have acquired through trade, purchase, or personal finds.

The show and tell theme for February is "**Gemstones**". Be sure and bring your favorite "themed" specimens to share.

Themes for 2008 by month will be:

- ✓ ~~January~~ - - - - Petrified Wood
- ✓ February - - - - Gemstones
- ✓ March - - - - Rock Crafts
- ✓ April - - - - Local Rocks
- ✓ May - - - - Carvings
- ✓ September - - - - Jewelry Art
- ✓ October - - - - Spheres
- ✓ November - - - - \*Mojave Desert

No show and tell for:

- ✓ June - - - - Barbecue/Auction
- ✓ July - - - - Dark No Meeting
- ✓ August - - - - Dark No Meeting
- ✓ December - - - - Christmas Party

**\*Mojave Desert** can be that knurly piece of driftwood you picked up, a favorite desert photo, an outing story, a special event, desert flora, a book, etc. It can be anything that caused you to ponder or put you in awe of our beautiful desert.

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## NOTEBOOK NOOK

### GENIE INSTRUCTIONS

by Gene Haines



Please read these instructions **BEFORE** you begin using the equipment

1. Always wear eye and ear protection (your choice).
2. Ensure trays and water emitters are in place. Add water almost to top of emitters.
3. Press in and down on wheels to spin them manually to see if they spin smoothly and don't drag on anything, then turn **power ON**.
4. Listen for any noise. If noisy, **power OFF** immediately and ask for assistance.
5. Shaping should be done on the 80 grit grinding wheel (first wheel on left).
6. Ensure the wheel you are working on is always kept wet! Move and position the water emitters under each wheel you are grinding or polishing on as you progress through them. If the wheels look white, they need to have the emitter directly under them or you need more water.
7. Use light pressure on the metal bond 80 & 220 grit grinding wheels (first two wheels on left). **CAUTION:** be careful of the wheels' edges - they can cut.
8. Remove any scratches with the 280-grit wheel (third wheel on left) before moving to the polishing wheels.
9. Use slight firmer pressure on the polishing wheels (last three on right), since they have the ability to flex and conform to the shape of your stone.
10. Use a 1. continuous small circle movement with your stone as 2. you move it across the entire face of the wheel. You will also be 3. moving it up and down slightly as you 4. rotate your piece.
11. Visually check the shape and surface of your stone in 'bright light' often.
12. When finished with the last wheel - remove emitters and let the wheels 'spin dry'.

When finished with your work,  
leave your work area and Genie cleaner than you found it

1. Turn **OFF** the Genie and Work Light, and unplug the two power cords.
2. Lift wheel covers up and remove the water trays - set aside.
3. Wipe excess water and residue from Genie baseboard, and off the motor.
4. Wash residue from trays, rinse, dry and replace. **DO NOT** use Kitchen sink.
5. Unplug Genie and light from outlets. Place stool under workbench or desk.

### GENIE DON'TS

1. Don't plow the sharp edge of your stone into the wheels. This can cause excessive wear and cut a groove in the wheel - ruining it.
2. Don't spend over a few minutes on each polishing wheel before moving on the next. If you see scratches, return to the 280 wheel, remove them, and then continue on to polishing.
3. Don't leave the machine running unnecessarily or unattended. **Power OFF** the Genie if you are leaving the work area.

**SAVE this page and FILE in your 3-ring binder**

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## BACKYARD BUZZ

by Peggy Haines



Long time club member and avid rockhound, **Donna Patterson** is moving to Del Rey near Fresno this March. She is looking forward to living near her son and daughter but will miss the rock club and her many friends here. She is planning on moving ALL of her rocks with her as her son said he would move them "one more time". **Donna**, we wish you well and please keep in touch.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- **Bill Earnest** (Barstow, CA) - He is interested in gems, minerals, rocks, and lapidary arts.
- **Timothy Moore** (Boron, CA) - He is interested in carving, fossils, gems, jewelry, minerals, rocks, and lapidary arts.



### JUNIORS:

- **Matthew Earnest** (Barstow, CA) - He is interested in fossils, gems, minerals, and rocks.
- **Sean Hall** (Los Alamitos, CA) - He is interested in carving, fossils, gems, gem trees, jewelry, minerals, rocks, lapidary arts, and wire wrap.



We have two special educational program treats in store for us. They are:

March 7<sup>th</sup> - **Tricia Sheppard** will present her tips and techniques for making beautiful and functional trivets.

April 4<sup>th</sup> - **Walt Wright** will give a presentation on the Miocene Wetlands of the Southwest. He will discuss palms, reeds, and petrified woods from the Brown Buttes through the Calicos. Bring your wood samples, as he will be on-hand for identification. **Walt** is particularly interested in fossils, reeds, cattails, other marsh vegetation, palm, and other woods from the Miocene Wetlands.

As an added bonus, on Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup>, **Walt** will lead a field trip to the Green Ash Hills West of the Early Man site and the surrounding area.

### February Birthdays

06 Feb - Cristina Chico-Ramos  
07 Feb - Norm Sheppard  
11 Feb - Ronald Millard  
16 Feb - Kent Berryman  
16 Feb - LaVella Tomlinson  
17 Feb - Gene Haines  
20 Feb - Joan Bird  
20 Feb - Donna Patterson  
26 Feb - Vivian Watts

**Birthstone:** Amethyst  
**Flowers:** Violet & Primrose

Happy Birthday to our Club Members who are celebrating a birthday!

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## WORKSHOP WRAP

by Peggy Haines

### Workshop - January 18, 2008

The first workshop of 2008 had a full house with 27 members, 5 visitors, and 5 guests. There was a variety of activities. **Tricia Sheppard** had numerous on-lookers during her overview of the basics involved in designing and developing trivets, an art form she has mastered. She plans to elaborate even more during our March meeting.



Our newest junior member, **Matthew Earnest**, created a beautiful Honey Onyx cross and a Silver Lace Onyx cabochon. He plans to put his cabochon in for cab-of-the-month.



**Donna Patterson** was the first to use our new "Donor Card" with her donation of a piece of Petrified Wood to our club showcase. Thanks **Donna**!



**Janet Wentz** was inspired to try her hand and file at carving. She used a piece of soapstone from **Gary and Shirley Grant** and techniques learned during January's educational video.

**Dian Hare and Leslie Walker** shared some of their beautifully done wire wrap and silversmith jewelry.



**Norm Sheppard** assisted **Timothy Moore** and **Matthew Earnest** with cutting on the oil saw.

**Gene Haines** gave our visitors a tour and explained what our rock club does.



Others worked on the genies and trim saws. We even had our own chat session (you know who you are) going-on with several members relaxing and visiting in the meeting room.

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## SHOW SCOOP - FEBRUARY 2008



**1-3 - SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA:** Show; Gem Faire; Marin Center/Exhibit Hall, 10 Avenue of the Flags; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: [info@gemfaire.com](mailto:info@gemfaire.com); Web site: [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com)

**8-10 - SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA:** Show; Gem Faire; Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main St.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: [info@gemfaire.com](mailto:info@gemfaire.com); Web site: [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com)

**15-17 - MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA:** Show; Gem Faire; Monterey County Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairground Rd.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: [info@gemfaire.com](mailto:info@gemfaire.com); Web site: [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com)

**15-24 - INDIO, CALIFORNIA:** Show; San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society; Riverside County Fairgrounds, Gem & Mineral Bldg. #1, 46-350 Arabia St.; all days 10-10; Riverside County Fair and Date Festival; contact Bert Grisham, (951) 849-1674

**22-23 - NORTHRIDGE, CALIFORNIA:** Show, "San Fernando Valley Gemboree"; Del Air Rockhounds; United Methodist Church, 9650 Reseda Blvd.; Fri. 3-9:30, Sat. 10-5; free admission, children under 16 must be accompanied by adult; dealers, demonstrations, exhibits, silent auction, plant sale/boutique, games, geode cutting, stone sculpture, youth/Scout activities; contact Julia Marin, 18220 Marilla St., Northridge, CA 91325, (818) 886-7190; e-mail: [ohmarin@earthlink.net](mailto:ohmarin@earthlink.net)

**22-24 - SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA:** Show; Gem Faire; Earl Warren Showgrounds/Exhibit Hall, 3400 Calle Real; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: [info@gemfaire.com](mailto:info@gemfaire.com); Web site: [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com)

**29-2 - COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA:** Show; Gem Faire; Orange County Fairgrounds/Bldg. 10, 88 Fair Dr.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: [info@gemfaire.com](mailto:info@gemfaire.com); Web site: [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com)



"Jumping to conclusions is not half as good an exercise as **digging** for facts."  
*Anthony J. D'Angelo*

## MINUTES - JANUARY 4, 2008

Meeting called to order by **Gene Haines** at 7:10 p.m. Salute to the flag. Happy Birthday to our January members.

**GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:** **Gary Grant** reported that he and **Shirley** had 44 years with the club. **Janet Wentz** had information on the CFMS rules for competition. **Gene Haines** reminded everyone that annual dues are due. We have 10 new members; **Kent Berryman, Don and Linda Goldsmith, Ron and Delores Millard, Jeff Yamauchi, Bill and Matthew Earnest, Sean Hall, and Timothy Moore.**

**PROGRAM:** Soapstone Carving (V-1 Video). **Gary** brought in two of **Shirley's** beautiful carvings and donated some rough for members to use. The donated pieces went to **Matthew Earnest, Gloria Moore, and Janet Wentz.**

**MINUTES:** December 2007 minutes approved as written.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The sign-up sheets for hostess and door prizes is posted on the bulletin board. **Gene** said installation of officers would be in February and we still need nominations for President and Secretary.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **Gene** had letters for the show auction donors showing material donated and monies received for tax purposes. **Gene** said the Rock & Gem magazine had several good articles; Oct 2004 - Arizona's Petrified Forest, Stinkingwater Petrified Golden Oak, Nov 2007 - Mineral Match, Carving, Cordiforms, and Jan 2008 - Link and Leather Bracelet. **Gary** auctioned off a lovely soapstone bear carved by **Shirley**. **Tricia Sheppard** was the lucky winner for \$40.00 with proceeds going to the club. **Kemp Root** donated items to the Gold Pan. There is a new guest information center near the Gold Pan with club information, newsletters, business cards, donor cards, etc. **Gene** posted a tentative class schedule for future workshops and asked members to initial if they could hold a class. **Matthew** brought in his rock collection. **Janet** said March 14-19 **Walt Wright** will be at the Sierra College in Rocklin, CA. **Leslie Walker** asked if the club wanted to put in a case for the Venture show for display or competition.

**FIELD TRIP:** The **Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club** is hosting a field trip to **Castle Butte and North Edwards Onyx mine on Sunday January 6, 2008.** **Wagon Master: Janet Flecher, (760) 949-0796.** **Place:** Burger King Parking Lot in Kramer Junction off Rt 395 at 8:30 a.m. **Material:** Agate, Jasper, Palm Root, Chalcedony, and Travertine Onyx.

**DOOR PIRZES:** Door prizes were provided by **Gene Haines and Gary Grant.** Winners were **Kemp Root** (Nodule), **Bill Tomlinson** (Nodule), **John Bird** (Elderberry Limb), **Dian Hare** (Petrified Palm), **Sandy Wagner** (Texas Palm), **Norm Sheppard** (Petrified Wood).

**HOSTESS:** Provided by **Donna Patterson and Tricia Sheppard** were delicious refreshments of cake, chips, cookies, fruit, nuts, pie, coffee and punch.

**CAB OF THE MONTH:** There was a tie between the sisters. **Leslie Walker** with Calico Lace and **Dian Hare** with Petrified Wood.

**SHOW AND TELL:** **Dian Hare** shared Petrified Log from Newberry. **Gloria Moore** showed Petrified Palm from North Edwards. **Danny and Vivian Watts** brought in Petrified Wood, Trivets, and Beaded necklaces. **Kemp Root** had Petrified Pine Wood from Nevada. **Bill Depue** had a specimen from Eagle Crags. **Gene Haines** shared a piece of soapstone and Petrified Wood from Nevada. **Matthew Earnest** brought in Petrified Wood and Palm that he acquired from the show auction.

**ATTENDANCE:** There were 24 members and 2 guests in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectively submitted,



Peggy Haines  
Acting Secretary