

# DESERT DIGGINS

Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



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## 2009 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS



**Front Row:** Kemp Root, Jeanne Laymance (VP), Dian Hare, Nicolette Grill (President 08-09)

**Back Row:** Danny Watts, Janet Wentz (Treasurer), Sandy Wagner (Secretary), Wayne Mallon, Rob Stapp



## MEMBERSHIP DUES



It's time to pay your annual membership dues. Fees are only \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for juniors (10-18 years). If you haven't already done so, please remit your payment to our treasurer, **Janet Wentz**. If paying by check, make checks payable to **MDGMS**.

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 2009

<i>President</i>	Nicolette Grill
<i>Vice-President</i>	Jeanne Laymance
<i>Secretary</i>	Sandy Wagner
<i>Treasurer</i>	Janet Wentz

### Board of Directors

Dian Hare, Wayne Mallon, Kemp Root, Rob Stapp, Danny Watts

## 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

### January 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

Program: Wonderful World of Agates  
 Hostess: No Volunteers  
 Door Prizes: Kemp Root

## Annual Membership Dues

Dues are PAYABLE IN JANUARY

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



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by Peggy Haines and Tricia Sheppard

The annual Gem and Mineral show is our biggest fund-raiser of the year. It helps keep the society going, supports local scholarships, and raises our visibility within the community. It takes months of planning, coordinating, and hard work leading to the event. This year's show was a huge success for our dealers, shoppers, exhibitors, and society once again.

**DEALERS:** Like the swallows returning to Capistrano, our 10 dedicated dealers return to Barstow each year offering a variety of rock-related wares. For most, this is their last show of the season. They supply our members and community with reasonably priced items just in time for the holiday season.

**DEMONSTRATORS:** New members **Gene Ordelman** and **Terry Berg** had a fun adventure demonstrating the Genie, giving **Janet Wentz** and **Katie Boyd** a break. **Leslie Walker** helped on the Genie as well. **Cheri George** shared her unique beaded jewelry designs that she also showcased in her display. **Don George** explained his hands-on faceting to curious on-lookers. **Cliff Swenson** once again showed his Knapping arts and instructed those who took the time to sit



the newest member in "Gem-Maker" line. son **Benjamin** was so **Bill's** equipment that showstopper.



with him to learn. **Bill Depue** unveiled his **Sir Cabs-a-Lot**, Diamond Pacific's **Cory Butler's** young fascinated with they were a



**EXHIBITORS:** Exhibitor cases were filled with a wonderful variety of rocks, minerals, fossils, and lapidary creations. **Walt Wright** provided a tactile display of magnificent polished Petrified Wood slabs. These displays provided an educational opportunity for all that viewed them. Each exhibitor received a ceramic mug depicting a "Turtle Glyph" from Inscription Canyon hand-painted by **Alice Sommerville**.

**CLUB BOOTH:** There were 700 grab bags, 15 "special number" prizes, and 840 wheel-of-fortune items for the club booth. We sold 615 (88%) of the grab bags and 389 (54%) of the wheel items. Overall, it was a very successful venture. **JoAnn Beall** showed new members **Sharon Berg**, **Matthew Earnest**, **Jeanne Laymance**, **Gloria Moore**, **Janell Ordelman**, and **Ceri Satur** the process of working the wheel. **JoAnn**, **Dolores Millard**, **Ruth Mallon**, and **John Bird** worked a number of shifts. **JoAnn**, **Dolores** and **Ruth Mallon** kept their eyes out for us and helped close at the end of the show. New to the wheel this year were



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Show Spotlight (2008 Highlights)

*continued from page 2*

**Gloria Moore's** rock turtle creations, **John Bird's** driftwood on rock animals, and **Ruth Mallon's** beaded spiders. They were the hit of the wheel and most sought after items. **Janet Wentz and Katie Boyd** donated 90 wire gem trees, which were also very popular.

**SILENT AUCTION:** The silent auction was a HUGE success, raising more money for our scholarships than ever before! We had six silent auctions, 337 individual items, and everything sold. What a variety, some older hard-to-acquire material, 14 spheres, a large dinosaur bone vertebrate, several blocks of jade, petrified woods, a slice of Youngite that measured 230 square inches, and much more. **Walt Wright** and **Bob Wheeler** helped sell the Youngite to a silent phone bidder from New York, a first for this club (watch out Butterfield).

Our largest percentage (77%) of contributions and highest grossing specimens once again came from the generosity of **Gary Grant**. **Gary's** donations came from years of collecting, working, buying rough and finished pieces, and through his travels. Other notable contributors were **Bill Depue, Keith Lindholm, Brandon O'Neill, Dave Oxley, Greg and Sandy Wagner, Dave and Leslie Walker, Danny and Vivian Watts, and Steve Wolfe**. Thank you all for the wonderful donations!



**Norm Sheppard** was our auctioneer and sample specimen polisher. **Kent Berryman, Gene Haines, and Danny and Vivian Watts** prepped each auction and **Peggy Haines and Vivian Watts** cashiered and bagged. All items were cleaned, identified, organized, bagged, segregated, and merged with auction slips. The auction slip provided the bidder and society with information about the item and sale price. Extra ordinary thanks to **Peggy and Gene** for such an organized and beautiful way to conduct our auctions. Our scholarship funds are benefiting tremendously from the **Haines'** artful presentations.

**SECURITY:** With no volunteers for night watch, brother and sister team, **Bill Depue** and **Beth Pinnell** stepped-up, signed-up, and took the challenge for Friday nights watch. **Dian and Colt Hare** went the extra mile and agreed to stay Saturday night. The **Sheppard's** came in early each morning to relieve both night crews and the **Watt's** helped keep them company. **Kemp Root** and **Wayne and Ruth Mallon** also walked the floors providing sharp-eyed security.

**SET-UP/PACK-DOWN:** **Diamond Pacific's** crew and family along with several society members did a great job with this year's set-up and pack-down. The **Search and Rescue** organization loaned us tables. Without those and the eight new ones the club just purchased we would not have been able to set up.

So many people have gone the extra mile for this year's show. **Jobs Daughters** operated the food concession providing lunches and snacks, **Norm and Tricia Sheppard** provided donuts, **Janet Wentz** made her "to die for Chili" for the set-up crew, and **Katie Boyd** complimented it with her wonderful cornbread. Once again, **Janet** loaned us her large coffee pot and cooked the turkey and ham for the club potluck for the dealers, exhibitors and club members. **Janet** also cooked the turkey and ham for our Christmas party the following week. A very hearty "WELL DONE" and THANK YOU to all.

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## SHOW AND TELL THEMES 2009

by Gene and Peggy Haines

- ✓ January- - Agates
- ✓ February - Petrified Palm Wood
- ✓ March- - - Broken Dish China
- ✓ April- - - Tumbled Gemstones
- ✓ May- - - - Quartz Varieties
- ✓ June - - - None (Barbecue)
- ✓ July - - - None (No Meeting)
- ✓ August - - None (No Meeting)
- ✓ September- Artifacts & Knapping
- ✓ October- - Fossils & Dinosaurs
- ✓ November - Amber
- ✓ December - Christmas Party

"And I will make thy windows of **agates**, and thy gates of **carbuncles**, and all thy borders of pleasant **stones**."

Unknown



## Quotable Quotes



## TRIP TALK

Year-at-a-Glance  
by Peggy Haines



January 17<sup>th</sup> field trip will be to the Cady Mountains to search for Christmas Tree Agate. Our leader, **Bill Depue** will leave Diamond Pacific at 8:00 a.m. Four-wheel drive is recommended as well as digging tools.

In **2008** our monthly field trips consisted of 11 sites and one show. We almost managed a trip a month, some trips to multiple sites, and some months had multiple days:

- Jan 05 - Quartzsite
- Feb 16 - Opal Mountain
- Mar 18 - Ludlow (Thulite)
- Mar 22 - Butler Onyx II (Onyx)
- Apr 06 - Lenwood Hill/Brown Butte
- Apr 19 - Mule Canyon (Sagenite)
- May 02 - Tonopah (Turquoise)
- May 17 - Walkers (Club sort)
- Jul/Aug- Dark due to heat
- Sep 20 - Lavic (Jasper)
- Oct 20 - Sperry Wash (Grass/Wood)
- Nov 22 - Calico Tailings (Onyx)

In addition there were co-op and scouting trips, other related events, and individual visits to club shows.

Thank you to our wonderful trip leaders this year; **Dian Hare, Wayne Mallon, Tricia Sheppard, Rob Stapp, Leslie Walker, Danny Watts, Bob Wheeler, and Walt Wright** for paving the way and providing safe passage. We collected "tons" of great specimens and had fun!

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

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## PREVIOUS PROGRAM - CHRISTMAS PARTY

by Gene Haines

Once again, the society put on our annual Christmas Party at the Clubhouse and it was a well-received one. There was a bounty of food, everyone had a ton-of-fun, and we all enjoyed the kindling of like-minded friendship. The great variety of food is always a favorite to enjoy and we want to personally thank everyone who brought food and drink for all to enjoy! We also appreciate the setting up of the tables and the party favors created by **Dian Hare, Kemp Root, and Leslie Walker** - way to go! I think it is only fair to mention here that they have done this in 2005, 2007 and 2008! It may be time for some others to think about stepping up and contributing as they have.

The giving of gifts reflects back to our Country's heritage in continuing the tradition of bringing gifts for others, from the heart. We could tell from the variety and quality of the gifts that each person seemed to bring their best for the joy of others. We enjoyed seeing each person unwrap their gifts then showed and shared their excitement with all of us. Scripture tells us in Acts 20:35 "**It is more blessed to give than to receive**". When you look into the face of one receiving something from another, out of love, you know this is true.



Some members enjoying their Christmas gifts

With this year bringing many new members into our fold we are delighted to make their friendships, share moments, listen to tales, and see the excitement in their eyes during a field trip or a program. May they continue to be fascinated by the natural bounty of gifts they can see, discover, and collect from the fieldtrips, tailgates, trading and or buying. Take time to get to know everyone as it may well be, by passing on your experiences to them, you help them grow in their future knowledge and skills.



With so many new members, **Beth Pinnell** decided to recite her wonderful rockhound version of "**'Twas the Night Before Christmas**". This original poem is always fun and well received. Everyone enjoyed listening to her. A full version of it appears on pages 6 and 7.



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Previous Program - Christmas Party

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## TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

*written by Beth Pinnell*

Twas the night before Christmas when all round the hill  
Not a rockhound was stirring. The wind was even still.  
The stockings were hung round the campfire with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas would find them out there.  
The kids were nestled all snug in their beds  
While visions of gemstones danced in their heads.  
I in my long johns and Ma in her gown,  
Had climbed in our bedrolls and were settled all down,  
When outside the camper there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the door I flew like a flash,  
Tripped on a rock but pushed down the latch.  
The moon on the crest of the hillsides around  
Gave the luster of midday to the dark desert ground.  
And there in the moonlight where the rocks gleamed like jewels,  
Came a tiny ore wagon and twenty small mules.

Bells jingled and jangled from each mule's hame,  
While red and green ribbons streamed from its mane.  
Down the canyon they came with such a clatter and bang  
I was certain they'd awaken the whole rock club gang.  
Canteens and buckets and shovels and hammers  
Tied to the wagon caused all the clammer.  
Then I saw the old driver so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his mule train came  
While he whistled and shouted and called them by name.  
Whoa, Nellie! Whoa, Pete! Ho, Prince and Beauty.  
Easy there, Bell, you long eared cutie!"  
And around the campfire those tiny hooves thundered  
While I gasped and stared and truly wondered.  
Till they came to a halt not a stone's throw away,  
Snorting and stomping, reluctant to stay.

Down from the wagon jumped the old mule skinner.  
St. Nick, all right, but a whole lot thinner.  
He was short and wiry, and gone was the belly  
That was said to have shaken like a bowl full of jelly.  
He was wearing a Stetson and scuffed cowboy boots,  
Along with his fur-trimmed, baggy red suit.  
His cheeks were like roses, the chalcedony kind,  
Wrinkled and hard, with a pink luster shine.  
And in his eyes was a gleam that you'll only see  
When a rockhounds found gold where none ought to be.  
So he wasn't the round jolly elf that's usually described,  
But an old desert rat as tough as mule hide.

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Previous Program - Christmas Party

*continued from page 6*

With a nod of his head and wink of his eye,  
He turned to the wagon that was loaded sky high.  
Sack after sack he threw to the ground  
While whistling and chuckling, a right merry sound.  
Soon the wagon was empty, the load on the ground,  
And he started his stuffing of the stockings around.  
From greasewoods and Joshua's and sagebrush they hung,  
Long socks and short socks, we'd all put out one.

Twas then that I saw what his gifts were to be-  
Rubies and opals, a jade Ming tree  
Some turquoise and topaz, a blue garnet sphere.  
Handfuls of emeralds and all crystal clear.  
My eyes were bedazzled, my heart beat wild.  
Was I only dreaming like some sleeping child?

He turned to me then, his work done at last,  
And answered the question I'd silently asked.  
"All rockhounds are dreamers, they gotta be,  
Or they wouldn't call diggin' rock no bloomin' hobby."

Then with a grin and a leap he was up on the seat,  
Picked up the reins and braced both his feet.  
The mules gave a snort and with a bound took right off,  
Straight through the air like a whirlwind aloft.  
But I heard Old Nick call ere he drove out of sight,  
"Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night."



## SCOOP - JANUARY 2009



**2-11 - QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA:** Show, "Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show"; Tyson Wells Enterprises Inc.; Tyson Wells Show Grounds, 100 W. Kuehn St.; 9-5 daily; free admission; contact Kym Scott, P.O. Box 60, Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6364; e-mail: tysonwells@tds.net; Web site: [www.tysonwells.com](http://www.tysonwells.com)

**16-25 - QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA:** Show, "Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama"; Tyson Wells Enterprises Inc.; Tyson Wells Show Grounds, 100 W. Kuehn St.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5, Mon. 9-5, Tue. 9-5; free admission; contact, Kym Scott, P.O. Box 60, Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6364; e-mail: tysonwells@tds.net; Web site: [www.tysonwells.com](http://www.tysonwells.com)

**17-18 - EXETER, CALIFORNIA:** Tule Gem and Mineral Society, Exeter Memorial Bldg., 420 N. Kaweah, Exeter. Hours: Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4. Margaret Buchmann (599) 739-0401 Email: mab@mindinfo.com, Webpage: [tulegem.org](http://tulegem.org)

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## BACKYARD BUZZ

by Tricia Sheppard



**Bill Depue** once again brought in persimmons to share with anyone that wanted some. They were delicious last year!

**Mary Davis** of Hesperia has cabs in bolos and belt buckles, a small box of slices, and hunks of tigereye for sale. If interested, you can call her at (760) 956-6298 after 11:00 a.m.



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

**Rory Strahm** (San Diego, CA)  
- He is interested in fossils, minerals, and rocks.

**Shaun Strahm** (Fullerton, CA)  
- He is interested in fossils, minerals, and rocks.

### January Birthdays

01 Jan - Donald Goldsmith  
01 Jan - Kemp Root  
09 Jan - Dian Hare  
12 Jan - Brenda Santiago  
14 Jan - Bill Depue  
21 Jan - Bill Earnest  
24 Jan - Ronda Crocker

**Birthstone:** Garnet  
**Flower:** Carnation



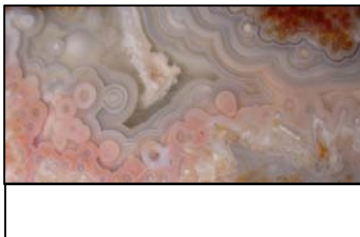
## WORKSHOP WRAP

by Peggy Haines



### Workshop - December 19, 2008

The last workshop of 2008 was attended by 20 members and two guests. This was a last-chance workshop for those that wanted to finish making Christmas gifts. All of the Genies were being used as were the oil and trim saws. Most worked on cabs and slabs. **Danny Watts** cut the double nodule, shown at right, which **Morgan Stevenson** received at the Christmas party the week prior. **Danny** also cut a piece of Mexican Crazy Lace for **Nicolette Grill**.



**Norm Sheppard** visited with **Bill Depue**. **Ruth Mallon** beaded some spiders while visiting with **Tricia Sheppard**. Home for the holidays, **Sam Mallon** quickly built a wire web for one of **Ruth's** spiders.

Newsflash, **Vivian Watts** was not attacked above-mentioned spiders but **Danny Watts** had the as a precaution.



by any of the hospital on speed-dial

## MINUTES - DECEMBER 12, 2008

Meeting called to order by **Nicolette Grill** at 6:50 p.m. Welcome two new members Celso Edquilang and Ceri Satur.

**PROGRAM:** **Dian Hare**, **Kemp Root**, and **Leslie Walker** provided table decorations for our annual Christmas potluck.

**MINUTES:** November 2008 minutes approved as written.

**TREASURY REPORT:** **Janet Wentz** reported on the annual show income and expenses.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Received the Agate DVD that was ordered.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The board approved the purchase of a black light for \$220.00. **Gene Haines** swore in the new officers and board members for 2009. Officers are **Nicolette Grill** (President), **Jeanne Laymance** (Vice-President), **Sandy Wagner** (Secretary), and **Janet Wentz** (Treasurer). Board members are **Dian Hare**, **Wayne Mallon**, **Kemp Root**, **Rob Stapp**, and **Danny Watts**. There will be a workshop December 19<sup>th</sup> for anyone wanting to work on Christmas gifts. The next regular meeting will be on January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**FIELD TRIP:** The field trip is December 20<sup>th</sup> to an undecided location.

**ATTENDANCE:** There were 45 members in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m. with Christmas potluck and gift exchange to follow.

Respectively submitted,

Ruth Mallon  
Acting Secretary