

DESERT DIGGINS

Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



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ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW LAST SHOPPING DAYS

The Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral Society annual show will be **December 5th and 6th 2009**. Mark your calendar and tell all your friends! Show Schedule is on page 3 of this newsletter and **sign-up sheets** are posted at the club. This year the show will be as spectacular as ever. We will have exhibits, demonstrations, and a variety of dealers. Our clubs quality auction, famous grab bags, and wheel-of-fortune choices are sure to delight all ages.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

The club Christmas Party will be held on the second Friday, **December 11th, 2009**. The potluck will begin at **6:00 p.m.** at the MDGMS clubhouse, at 25647 W. Main Street.

Food - Bring your favorite main dish, vegetable, dessert, etc. The turkey will be provided by the club. **Don't forget to bring your utensils and plates.**

Entertainment - Decorations, games, and beverages will be provided by Dian Hare, Kemp Root, and Leslie Walker.

Gift Exchange - There will be a holiday gift exchange. Please bring an appropriate **"rock related"** gift.

- ❖ Gentlemen bring a gift for a man
- ❖ Ladies bring a gift for a woman
- ❖ If you bring a child provide their gift

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

November 6th Meeting

Program: To be announced
 Hostess: Charlotte Robinson and
 Beth Pinnell
 Door Prizes: Bill Depue

Annual Membership Dues

Dues are **PAYABLE IN JANUARY**

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



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FIELD FEATURES

by Gene Haines



Opal Mountain - Soap Bubble Rhyolite
(October 17, 2009)
Trip Leader: Nicolette Grill

The plucky crew of rock hounds left Diamond Pacific at 0805 and headed to Hinkley Road where the rest of the Denizens of Dirt were waiting. **Nicolette Grill** and family led the convoy (with a new Toyota Highlander Hybrid!) through the back roads to Opal Mountain in record time. Attendees were: **Nick, Millie, and Nicolette Grill; Gene and Peggy Haines; Wayne Mallon; Henry and Erin Rice; Joe Summers; Leslie Walker her daughter Charlotte and several grandchildren; and Janet Wentz.**



This was an excellent field trip with the weather cooperating with a balmy 80 degrees and tons of sun! At our one and only stop we exited our vehicles, discussed samples of what to look for and headed out in all compass directions. We were on the North side of Opal Mountain and we were wondering why we were seeing other vehicles with people in neon hats and vests (non rock hound type vests) OH, it was the opening weekend for Chucker in the High Desert! No worries though as we were safe where we were.

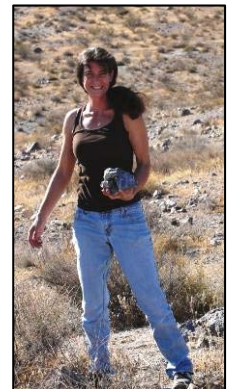
There was plenty of the lovely purple Soap Bubble Rhyolite to be found. We asked members to remember we were to gather at least 300 pieces for our December shows grab-bags.



Among the Rhyolite were small chips, here and there, of the pearliest white, creamy tans and a few jelly red pieces of OPAL! Lovely specimens to make jewelry out of or just to have as nice natural specimens.



Joe found a real beauty of a specimen that had a lovely orange colored botryoidal agate coating on it. I think he now has a lovely piece for his mantle. It was definitely the FIND OF THE DAY!



Rhyolite

A fine-grained igneous rock consisting of quartz, feldspars, and mica or amphibole. It is the volcanic equivalent of granite.

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Opal Mountain - Soap Bubble Rhyolite

continued from page 2

Leslie and crew were wandering near and far with glee and excitement from **Charlottes'** kids and a squeal from **Leslie** with her "petrified tree stump look" find!

Wayne was scouting the area and being very selective with the specimens he found and chose to take home.

Gene managed to find a tidy contribution to the grab bags and some small Opal pieces worth taking away for later projects!

Henry and Erin were asking more experienced members if they should keep certain finds and leave the lovely leaverites! **Erin** found a lovely 3-Fer; a nice Rhyolite with an agate coating and Druze to boot - we told her "that one's a real keeper"!

Janet was scouring the area around her camp site and enjoyed her finds too.



Rhyolite eruptions tend to be large, explosive and catastrophic. The magma is commonly ponded in a near-surface **magma chamber** which may be up to tens of kilometers in diameter. The magma may contain 1 to 2% water by weight which causes the magma to foam when pressure is released. The rhyolite glass foam produced early in the eruption is called **pumice**. As eruption proceeds, the bubbles burst leaving tiny glass **shards** in an explosive cloud of gas. As the hot gas cloud collapses the hot, dense cloud descends the mountain flanks in a glowing cloud or **nuee ardente**. The deposit produced is called an **ash flow**, and the rock made up of consolidated ash is called **tuff**. If a flow is emplaced at a temperature above the softening point of the glass (500-600 ° C) the tuff will **weld** to form a hard, dense rock. If the rhyolite is low in water and other volatiles a lava flow may be produced. Commonly such flows cool too rapidly to crystallize and an **obsidian** (dense glass) is formed.

Source: <http://ruby.colorado.edu/~smyth/G1010-05.html>



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
NOVEMBER 1st
SET CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR



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SHOW SCHEDULE

by Peggy Haines

The 34th annual Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral show dates are December 5th and 6th 2009 this year. We still need volunteers in ALL areas for the following:

Friday, December 4th

- **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon** - Volunteer club members will meet at the Cora Harper/Barstow Community Center, 841 S. Barstow Road, for set-up (assemble cases, affix lighting, set-up and skirt tables, electrical, clean up, etc.). Bring an electric drill to assemble cases.
- **12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.** - Club members can arrange their display cases.
- **6:00 p.m.** - Potluck for show dealers, exhibitors, club members and guests (about 75). Bring your favorite dish and place settings.
- **End of potluck to 7:00 a.m.** - Two overnight volunteers will stay for show security. You need to bring your own cots and sleeping bags.

Saturday, December 5th

- **10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** - Club members are needed to work the silent auction, wheel of fortune, demonstrate the Genie, serve as security, and assist as needed.
- **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.** - Two overnight volunteers will stay for show security. You need to bring your own cots and sleeping bags.

Sunday, December 6th

- **10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** - Club members are needed to work the silent auction, wheel of fortune, demonstrate the Genie, serve as security, and assist as needed.
- **5:00 p.m. to done** - Dismantle your exhibits, assist with clean-up and show tear down (unskirt, flatten, stack, and store tables, disassemble cases, re-load club trailer). Bring an electric drill to disassemble cases.



Nominations were held at our October meeting with the results listed below. There is still time to add your name to the ballot if you would like to get involved and be considered for an office. Elections will be held November 6th. Nominees are:

Officers

President - **Kent Berryman**
Vice-President - **Jeanne Laymance**
Secretary - **Katy Boyd**
Treasurer - **Janet Wentz**



Board Members

Dian Hare
Wayne Mallon
Rob Stapp
Sandy Wagner
Danny Watts

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BACKYARD BUZZ

by Tricia Sheppard



The **Haines** and **Sheppard's** have really been hustling to gather enough rock for the club's 600 grab bags. We took in the remaining rock to the October Workshop to finish labeling. For 600 grab bags it means:

1. Polished Amethyst or Fluorite - (600) donated by **Haines** and **Sheppards**
2. Tigereye or Quartz Chrystals - (600) donated by **Haines** and **Sheppards**
3. Multi packets of about 20 polished stones in each packet - (600) donated by **Janet Wentz** and **Sheppards**. **Erin Rice** donated some polished stones while we were at the Joshua Tree show and we added those to some of the packets.
4. Polished slices - (600) donated by the **Sheppards**
5. Polished larger single stones - (600) donated by **Janet Wentz, Wayne Mallon,** And **Sheppards**. (**Janet** has donated outstanding tumble polished chalcedony for the grab bags and the Wheel of Fortune. We talked with **Janet** and have reserved some for the Wheel of Fortune. **Wayne Mallon** has polished some fantastic jaspers as well.) Thank you for the help!
6. Unpolished slices - (600) half donated by **Kemp Root**. **Leslie Walker, Dian Hare, Janet Wentz** and **Sheppards** provided the remainder.
7. Unpolished rough rock - (600) were collected from the **Sheppard, Haines** and **Lauterbach** collection. **Janet Wentz** brought the donated Soap Bubble materials the field trip people donated to her bucket on Saturday so we will wash them and get them ready for the grab bags. Thank you everyone who contributed.

This means that 12,000 rocks have been prepared and put in the small packets and an additional 3,600 rocks were prepared for the single items. This totals 15,600 rocks for 600 grab bags. Remember the **Sheppards** and the **Haines** aren't going to be doing this anymore. Someone else needs to pick this up. It takes 3 months to polish a tumbler of rock - you aren't going to have tumbled rock unless someone starts pitching in.

Sherri Hare has donated 8 very large and 15 small gem trees for our show. **Cliff Leslie** donated 160 slices for the grab bags, auction and/or Wheel of Fortune. Many thank to **Sherri** and **Cliff**!



October Birthdays

04 Nov - Nicolette Grill
06 Nov - Danny Watts
18 Nov - Clifton Lesley
18 Nov - Carrie Gillmore



Birthstone: Citrine
Flower: Chrysanthemum

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SHOW AND TELL THEMES 2009

by Gene and Peggy Haines

How it works: Members bring their favorite "themed" specimens that they have acquired through trade, purchase, or personal finds to the general meeting. Everyone has a turn to **show** what he or she brought and **tell** about it. The theme for November is Amber.

- ✓ ~~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~~ - None (Party)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



GRAB BAG STUFFING
WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 20th



TRIP TALK

November Field Trip

To be announced. Want to go to a specific site? Let us know!

Amber Alert



Amber - A hard, translucent, brownish-yellow substance that is the **fossilized resin** of ancient trees. It often contains fossil insects.

Certain trees, especially conifers, produce a sticky substance called **resin** to protect themselves against insects. Normally, it decays in oxygen through the action of bacteria. However, if the **resin** happens to fall into wet mud or sand containing little oxygen, it can harden and eventually **fossilize**, becoming the yellowish, translucent substance known as **amber**. If any insects or other organisms are trapped in the **resin** before it hardens, they can be preserved, often in exquisite detail.

COORDINATORS NEEDED

We need members to step up and assume positions as posted below:

Activities (workshops, parties)
Auction
Director (annual meeting)
Editor
Field Trips (rotate per trip)
Historian/Librarian
Janitorial (rotate monthly)
Jr. Program
Membership
Photographer
Publicity/Public Affairs
Scholarship
Shop Steward
Show/Displays
Webmaster (www.mdgms.org)

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EXHIBITOR APPLICATION

MOJAVE DESERT GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY P.O.BOX 138, BARSTOW, CA 92312-0138

Dear Fellow Rockhound:

We invite you to enter a display at our Annual Gem and Mineral show this **December 5 and 6, 2009**. Our show will be held in the Community Center, 841 S. Barstow Road, Barstow, CA. If you can join us, please complete this application by **November 2, 2009** and return it to P.O. Box 138, Barstow, CA 92312-0138.

Display(s) may be set up from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, **December 4, 2009**. Tear down will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, **December 6, 2009**.

Our club will host a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, **December 4, 2009** for all guest exhibitors, dealers, and our club members. We hope you will plan to attend.

I will **need** _____ display case(s), size 2' x 2' x 4' wide

I will **bring** _____ display case(s) of my own, size _____

Below is a brief description of my entry/entries:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME TAB INSIDE YOUR CASES

NAME	First	Last	M.I.	
	ADDRESS			
	Street			
	City		State	Zip
PHONE	Home	Work	Cell	
	()	()	()	

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAMES BELOW FOR EXHIBITOR BADGES:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

For more information, call Beth Pinnell at (760) 267-7331

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SHOW SCOOP - NOVEMBER 2009



7-8 LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA: Show, "Rock 'N' Gem Roundup"; Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club; Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 W. Ave. H; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; dinosaur programs, field trip Sun., silent auction, lapidary displays, Country Store, raffle, more than 25 dealers; contact Susan Chaisson-Walblom, 42122 52nd St. W; Quartz Hill, CA 93536, (661) 943-1861; e-mail: slchaisson@yahoo.com; Web site: <http://palmdalegemandmineral.com>

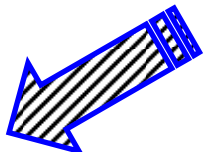
7-8 RIDGECREST, CALIFORNIA: 54th annual show; Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society; Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 s. Richmond Rd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; contact John DeRosa, (760) 375-7905; e-mail: schiller@ridgecrest.ca.us

7-8 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA: Show, "GemDiego"; San Diego Mineral & Gem Society; Al Bahr Shrine, 5440 Kearny Mesa Rd.; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; dealers, gems, minerals, equipment, fossils, crystals, jewelry, carving, beads, tools, slabs, rough cutting material, books, free exhibits, door prizes, free demonstrations, gemstone faceting, chains, chain making, free gem identification, field trip information; contact Bob Hancock, 1815 Sweetwater Rd. NR 83, Spring Valley, CA 91977, (619) 889-6886; e-mail: rhhobhancock@cs.com; Web site: www.sdmg.org

13-15 COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA: Show, "West Coast Gem & Mineral Show - Fall"; Martin Zinn Expositions; Holiday Inn - Bristol Plaza, 3131 S. Bristol; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; 80 wholesale and retail dealers, open to the public; contact Martin Zinn Expositions, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665, fax (505) 867-0073; e-mail: mz0955@aol.com; Web site: www.mzexpos.com

14-15 VICTORVILLE, CALIFORNIA: Annual fall show; Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club; San Bernardino County Fairgrounds, 14800 7th St.; Fri. 9-5, 9-5; free admission; open to the public, more than 20 vendors, gemstones, finished jewelry, wire wraps, findings, fossils, minerals, rough, cab and slab materials, displays, exhibits, live demonstrations, hourly door prizes, end-of-show raffle, silent auction, kids' grab bags, Scout geology seminars; contact Virgil Melton, (760) 900-0507; Web site: www.VVGMC.org

DECEMBER 2009



5-6 BARSTOW, CALIFORNIA: 34th annual show; Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society; Cora Harper Community Center, 841 S. Barstow Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; classes, dealers, demonstrations, displays, grab bags, silent auction, wheel-of-fortune; contact Gene Haines, (760) 256-0595; e-mail: email@mdgms.org; Web site: www.mdgms.org



MINUTES - OCTOBER 2, 2009

President Nicolette Grill called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, the club saluted the flag. The club had one small visitor; Tommy was a guest of Cassidy's.

Happy Birthday wishes went to: Don Depue, Matthew Earnest, Celso Edquiland, Dan Holub, Linda Goldsmith, Bob Menelly, Gloria Moore, and Scott Stevenson.

Nicolette asked if there were any comments on the minutes, Janet moved that the minutes be approved, Carrie 2nd, M.C.

Treasury report was given by Janet Wentz, approved as read.

Hostesses were Ruth Mallon and Joan Bird.

The theme of the month was **Agates**; the group watched a video by **Brad Cross, on Agates in Mexico**. Featured were tube agates, Los Alamos pink agates, Apache agates, and crazy lace agates. As many 18 different minerals appear in agate.

The club enjoyed a break with snacks, and voted on **Cab of the Month**, which was a **Condor Agate owned by Carrie Schwartz**.

New Business: Trish requested people bring in more items for the **grab bags, which take 7 items each**.

It is time to sign up for **Club T-Shirts from Janet, for \$10.00**

The following people have been **nominated for 2010 offices**:

President: Kent Berryman
Vice President: Jeanne Laymance
Secretary: Katy Boyd
Treasurer: Janet Wentz
Editor: Janet Wentz

Board Members: Dian Hare
Wayne Mallon
Rob Stapp
Sandy Wagner
Danny Watts

Next **workshop is October 16** at 6:30 pm. Next Meeting is **November 6, 2009** at 7:00 pm.

Board meeting is on Friday, November 13th at 6:30.

A **Field Trip will be held Oct 17**, meet at Diamond Pacific at 8:00 am. **Nicolette Grill will lead us on a search for Soap Bubble Jasper.**

Thanks go to Kemp Root for providing door prizes of petrified dinosaur bones, which were won by: Adelina, Sandy, Julia & Kayla, and Joe Summers.

Show and Tell consisted of Beth's fossilized algae, bird tracks from Utah, and a cast of a dinosaur track. Trish brought a dinosaur egg, a bone, and dinosaur vertebrae. Danny brought tiny vertebrae, a porpoise tooth, and 'other teeth.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Wagner, Secretary MDGMS