

DESERT DIGGINS

Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



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DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



In the United States Daylight Saving Time (DST) begins at 2:00 a.m. on the second Sunday in March.

During DST, clocks are turned **forward one hour**. This effectively moves one hour of daylight from morning to evening. This year DST falls on **March 8th**.



LIBRARY NEWS

The **exchange bulletins** from other clubs are newly organized and filed by club and date. They are located in the clubhouse library in clearly labeled white binders. This new arrangement will free up space on the library shelves and allow members to readily access the information provided.

A new self-serve **checkout sheet** is posted in the library.

For you techie types, a **list** of books, DVD's, and videos available in our library is now posted on our club website at www.mdgms.org/library.html.



BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting is March 13, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the club house.

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

President	Nicolette Grill
Vice-President	Jeanne Laymance
Secretary	Sandy Wagner
Treasurer	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

March 6th Meeting

Program: Desert Pottery & Jewelry
 Hostess: Ruth Mallon
 Door Prizes: Nicolette Grill

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 Tricia Sheppard

Petrified Palm (February 21, 2009)

Trip Leader: *Walt Wright*



We met at Diamond Pacific and 21 were signed up. *Walt Wright* and *Bill Depue* led the field trip to four different locations as a follow-up to *Walt's* Petrified Palm presentation at the club meeting on Friday, February 20th. Not much sunshine but the weather was comfortable and no wind.

Our group's mouths were watering waiting for the promised biscuits and gravy that *Dian* and *Leslie* said they would have waiting when we picked them up for the first stop. No *Dian* and *Leslie* or *Therese* showed up! Thank goodness for cell phones. It seems that another group from the rifle club was on a field trip and *Dian, Leslie and Therese* had followed them only to discover they had followed the incorrect group of cars. We did get our biscuits and jam when they found us at our first site. You just never know what is going to happen when you are with *Dian* and *Leslie* but you can be sure you will be having a great time.

The first site has seen a lot of rockhounds over the years and I didn't hear that many people were able to find anything spectacular. *Ceri* and *Vivian* did find some nice specimens. Later in the morning we moved to the second site where *Walt* discussed the various grasses, sedges and petrified palm and where it might be located. Several of us found some interesting specimens. As the day went by new people arrived and others went home and we went to the third site. More specimens could be seen. A few more members left and the remainder went on to the last site. At each site *Walt* would tell us about the history and geology of the site and helped us identify the materials that we found. *Vivian* and *Danny* with their eagle eyes came up with some beautiful material.

By the end of the day, 29 members and guests had joined us on some part of our journey. Some heard about us from our website, others by word of mouth. We hope everyone had a good time. Thanks *Walt* for leading and sharing with us.



The 2009 sign-up sheet for *hostess* and *door prizes* is posted on the bulletin board.

Volunteers are needed for all months. Sign-up now!



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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 March is "Broken Dish China". Simply put, broken dish china is pieces of old chinaware with painted or glazed designs. Be sure and bring your "themed" specimens to share.

- ✓ ~~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)

March Birthdays

01 Mar - Dorothy Oberg
03 Mar - Morgan Stevenson
08 Mar - Beth Pinnell
12 Mar - Katie Boyd
13 Mar - Bob Wheeler
14 Mar - Johnny Rout
19 Mar - Peggy Haines
26 Mar - Diane Hale



Birthstone: Aquamarine
Flower: Daffodils

Happy Birthday to our club members who celebrating a Birthday this month!



TRIP TALK

March Field Trip

Place: Soap Bubble Agate
Date: March 21, 2009 (Saturday)
Time: 8:00 a.m. at Diamond Pacific
Leader: Nicolette Grill
Tools: Rock hammer, gloves, safety goggles, collecting bags

Several members indicated they would like to return to the Soap Bubble Agate site that we visited in February 2008. Four wheel drive is not required however, a high clearance vehicle is advised. Bring plenty of water to hydrate with as it may be mild, sunny and warm. Also, bring some healthy snacks, energy food, or lunch.

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS:



Henry Rice (Hinkley, CA) - He is interested in carving, fossils, gems, gem trees, jewelry, lapidary arts, minerals, and rocks.

Avery Stevenson (Barstow, CA) - He is our newest junior member and joins his father and sister who are already members.

Dan Moore (Boron, CA) - Joins his wife and son in exploring the lapidary arts.

"It's a wise husband who will buy his wife such fine **china** that she won't trust him to wash the **dishes**."

Unknown



Quotable Quotes

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NOTEBOOK NOOK

by Peggy Haines



Broken Dish China Mosaic

In keeping with this month's show and tell theme I have included instructions on how to create a mosaic using broken dish china. You can create anything from a tabletop to a birdbath. Use your old china, purchased at flea markets or yard sales, or do what we rockhounds do best, find an old dumpsite and dig in.

Supplies:

- China dish pieces
- Contact paper
- Grout
- Grocery bag
- Household cement



- Rubber mallet
- Spatula
- Sponge
- Tile nippers
- Backing material

Directions:

- 1 - Prepare your surface, can be plywood, thin backer board, etc. on which you will create the mosaic. Ensure it is clean, smooth, and dry.
- 2 - Cut, peel, and stick a piece of contact paper to the back of a cracked or broken china plate. Place the plate upside down in a grocery bag and lightly tap the back using a rubber mallet.
- 3 - Carefully pull the broken plate out of the bag.
- 4 - One at a time, pick the pieces off the contact paper and glue to your surface using household cement. Leave a small space between pieces. Repeat until all pieces have been glued. You can recreate the plate pattern or make a random design.
- 5 - Place another plate in the bag and lightly tap with a rubber mallet.
- 6 - Pour the pieces out and glue them in the void areas until the whole surface is covered. Use tile nippers to trim pieces to size. Allow glue to dry.
- 7 - Mix grout according to directions and apply to the mosaic using a spatula. Press grout between the pieces and smooth over the mosaic.
- 8 - Remove excess grout using a damp sponge. Continue rinsing the sponge and cleaning until the mosaic feels smooth. Allow to dry, about 20 minutes.
- 9 - Wipe and polish the mosaic to remove the film using a dry polishing rag.

SAVE this page, PUNCH and FILE in your 3-ring binder

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BACKYARD BUZZ

by Tricia Sheppeard



LaVon Rippetoe has had a horrific fall about three weeks ago. She was taken to Loma Linda Hospital and now has been released. She is home with her family in San Diego while she continues to recover. Please keep **LaVon** in your thoughts and prayers and hope that she has a speedy recovery.

Therese Carlson has made some more beautiful grab bags for us. Thank you **Therese!**



WORKSHOP WRAP

by Tricia Sheppeard

Workshop - February 20, 2009

My goodness what a workshop. There were 33 of us, five were guests. **Avery Stevenson** is a new junior member.

Quite a few were interested in cutting their Christmas Tree Agate they had found the month before when **Bill Depue** led the field trip. A line of rocks was waiting for their turn at our one and only saw. **Norm Sheppeard** was helping **Scott Stevenson** use the saw and then **Scott** was kept busy cutting the rest of the rocks for the other members. Thank you, **Scott**. Rocks take 10 to 20 minutes to cut on our 14" saw, depending on the rocks size. For each rock to provide just one slice, takes two cuts. It is difficult to do a lot of cuts in the 3 hour workshop, but everyone was patient. We still have another cut remaining for **Tim Moore's** rock because he wants to make an egg.

Ruth Mallon and **Dian Hare** helped junior members **Morgan Stevenson** and others make beaded necklaces. **Wayne Mallon** and **Tricia Sheppeard** discussed new item ideas for the Wheel of Fortune. **Wayne** shared his idea of making small mice out of glass marbles that could be glued on a slice of rock for the Wheel of Fortune. We also discussed how to make Penguins for the Wheel of Fortune. **Walt Wright, Ren Lallatin,** and **Bill Depue** discussed area geology, rock formations, etc. **Janet Wentz** was busy collecting dues and doing her treasury responsibilities but did find some time to work on her soapstone carving for a few minutes. **Katie Boyd** brought in two new samples of her beautiful wire wrapping.

Jeanne Laymance and **Carl Atkinson** kept busy with an ambitious project. They had used a template and scientifically traced as many heart shapes on their slice as they could. One would be trimming the hearts out on the Trim Saw and the other was shaping and polishing the trimmed hearts on a Genie. We should have taken a picture of this slice of heart shapes as they were marked before they trimmed them out. It was beautiful. Where was **Gene Haines** and his camera?

Gloria Moore was trimming out another carving on the trim saw. Every Genie was humming with two people at several of the Genie's working on their projects. **Leslie Walker** was assisting the two guests on dopping their stones and how to use the Genie. Others working on the Genies were **Ceri Satur** and her guest, **Sandy Wagner, Brenda Santiago, Danny Watts,** two guests from Joshua Tree, as well as **Anastasio and Adelena Elizalde,** and **Scott Stevenson.**

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SHOW SCOOP - MARCH 2009



7-8 - ARCADIA, CALIFORNIA: Monrovia Rockhounds; 49th Annual Gem & Mineral Show; Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanical Garden, 301 North Baldwin Ave., 1 block South of I-210, Foothill Freeway Arcadia, NW of Santa Anita Race Track; 13 dealers, display cases, geode cracking, dino dig, treasure wheel, raffle prizes and our famous \$1.00 grab bags; Hours: 9-4:30 Daily; Moroks show is free, Arboretum admission adults \$7.00, students & seniors \$5.00, children 5-12 \$2.50, children under 5 Free; contact JoAnna Ritchey, (626) 359-1624; Website: www.moroks.com

7-8 - VENTURA, CALIFORNIA: The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society is holding its 47th annual show March 7-8, 2009 (Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4) at the Ventura County Fairgrounds in Ventura California (10 W. Harbor Blvd). The show is free. Kids will enjoy "paint-a-fossil," grab bags, and a variety of kids' activities. There also will be demonstrations of lapidary arts and exhibits from wonderful private collections of rocks, minerals, fossils, and lapidary work. Raffle prizes will be drawn at the end of the show, and a silent rock auction will be held continuously throughout the show. More than 15 dealers in fossils, minerals, lapidary equipment, slabs, etc., will be on hand, along with a country store featuring flea market items, used books and magazines, and plants. For further information, contact Jim Brace-Thompson, (805) 659-3577, jbraceth@roadrunner.com. See our web site at www.vgms.org

13-15 - VICTORVILLE, CALIFORNIA: Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club; 33rd Annual "Rock Hound Tailgate" Held off Stoddard Wells Road in Apple Valley; Hours: 9-5 Daily; Free event, all vendor spaces are free; contact (760) 243-2330 Website: www.vvngms.org

19-22 - SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA: Annual tailgate and show; Orange Belt Mineralogical Society; Western Regional Little League Ball Park, 6707 Little League Dr.; contact Adam Dean, (909) 489-4899; e-mail: theagatehunter@verizon.net

28-29 - ANGELS CAMP, CALIFORNIA: Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society; Calaveras Frog Town USA Fairgrounds Highway 49 in Angels Camp; Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; contact Tak Iwata (209) 928-5579 Website: Calaverasgemandmineral.org

28-29 - TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA: South Bay Lapidary and Mineral Society; Torrance Recreational Center 3341 Torrance Blvd. Torrance, CA; Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; contact Roger Mills (310) 377-6226 Email: roger_mills@acm.org <http://www.palosverdes.com/sblap/>

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.



**NO
MINUTES
SUBMITTED**