

# DESERT DIGGINS

Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



## IN THIS ISSUE

Backyard Buzz . . . . .	4
Field Features (Lancaster Show) . . . . .	2
Monthly Minutes . . . . .	7
Notable Notes . . . . .	6
Show and Tell (Quartz Varieties). . . . .	3
Show Scoop. . . . .	6
Trip Talk (To Be Announced) . . . . .	3
Workshop Wrap . . . . .	5

## MEMORIAL DAY - MAY 25, 2009

by Peggy Haines

Observed on the last Monday in May, Memorial Day commemorates U.S. men and women who have died in military service to their country. It began in 1868 when Union General John A. Logan designated a day to decorate the graves of Civil War soldiers. Originally called Decoration Day, the name was later changed to Memorial Day and became a day dedicated to the memory of all war dead. In 1971, Memorial Day became a Federal holiday and is now observed on the last Monday in May. To all of our members who are Veterans, **THANK YOU!**



*"To the world you might just be one person, but to one person you might just be the world." - Author Unknown*

Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in May, this year it falls on May 10<sup>th</sup>.



*"The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness."*

Honore de Balzac

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: 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

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

Program: Mineral Fakes, Fraud and Fantasies (DVD) 2<sup>nd</sup> half  
 Hostess: Katie Boyd & Leslie Walker  
 Door Prizes: Dian Hare

## 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



### Lancaster Show (April 18, 2009)

The **Sheppard's** were sent on a "rock quest" for **Katie Boyd**, who was on vacation and could not attend the estate sale in Hesperia on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April. The **Haines** joined us on our journey to locate pretty slices of Petrified Wood and other colorful slices so **Katie** would have material for her exquisite wire wrapping. When we arrived at the estate sale in Hesperia we noticed a number of us older rockhounds. The kind with the time and weather worn "older bodies." However, just entering ahead of us was a beautiful, tall and slender woman with long blond hair. Several women were gathering around her to admire her beautiful necklace. Later we found out that she is **Tandy Hare**, the daughter of **Dian Hare**. She has been working in Washington D.C./Virginia area with **Leslie Walker's** son **Jonathan** and they both have just returned to Barstow and they both love rocks. We look forward to meeting them and welcoming them into the rockhounding fold. The **Sheppard's** and **Haines** found several treasures at the rock sale. **Gene Haines** was adopted by one of the owner's small children. He followed **Gene** around telling him how he helped dig and clean up the rocks for the sale and he would give **Gene** rocks that he thought he should buy. Also spotted at the sale were **Barbara Minard**, **Bob Menelly**, and **Clifton Lesley**.

After a midmorning breakfast in Victorville, the **Haines** and **Sheppards** traveled to the Lancaster Rock Show to see if **Vivian** (Vice President and Show Chairman of the Lancaster Club) and **Danny Watts** were surviving. The **Sheppards** were still on the quest for slices for **Katie**. We found some beautiful material for **Katie**—blue lace agate, crazy lace, petrified wood, stone canyon jasper, etc. **Tricia** picked up a piece of Whipple Mountain petrified palm and some Bertrandite for herself. At the Lancaster show we sited, **Anastasio and Adelina Elizalde**, **Two Sisters' Rock Shop with Leslie Walker and Dian Hare**, **Barbara Minard**, **Bob Menelly**, **Clifton Lesley**, **Bob Wheeler**, **Dalia and Manuel Hernandez**, **Paul and Ingrid Loustau**, **Sonja and Andy DeLong**, **Gene and Janell Ordelman**, and **Cliff Swensen**, the Flint Knapper. **Ismael Sanchez** and his Kern Co. Mineral Mites from the Bakersfield club had a booth and **Dolores and Ron Millard** were also assisting **Ismael** and the Mineral Mites. **Dolores** had a young Mineral Mite following several steps behind her and each time she stopped, the young Mineral Mite would stop just a few steps behind her. It was reported that **Sherri and Jim Hare** were also at the Lancaster show earlier in the morning.



**Leslie Walker and Dian Hare** of "Two Sisters' Rock Shop" assist shoppers **Gene and Janell Ordelman** (all MDGMS members).



Left: **Danny Watts** visits with **Bob Wheeler**. Top: **Danny's** custom-made sphere machine.

Continued on page 4

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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 May is "Quartz Varieties". 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)

## QUARTZ - The most remarkable of lapidary materials

Quartz is very abundant on planet Earth. It has very good hardness, comes in a vast variety of primary and secondary colors and includes hundreds of varying shades, tints and assortments in between. Quartz can be opaque, translucent or transparent as well as optical quality. Some qualities of Quartz may include asterism, aventurescence, chatoyancy, iridescence, or iris structure. Quartz varieties may contain visually stunning and dramatic

inclusions or wonderfully realistic scenes in its varied patterns. Quartz has replaced Animal, Mineral and Plant (vegetable) matter as well as pseudomorphs of other mineral or organic matter.

Pure and true quartz is silicon dioxide, hardness of 7, a density rated at 2.65 and occurs naturally in coarse grains, masses or in distinct micro and macro crystals in all rock types. It belongs in the hexagonal crystal system - regardless of size when found. Colored varieties of Quartz are found with minute traces of iron, manganese, nickel, copper, and chromium. Inclusions of the following can alter its appearance; actinolite, chlorite, chrysocolla, crocidolite, dumortierite, fuchsite, gases, goethite, hematite, hornblende, limonite, marcsite, muscovite, pyrite, rutile, tourmaline, water, and others.

Quartz is used in a variety of ways. Sand size quartz granules are used in mortar, concrete, as an abrasive or flux, and in manufacturing of silica brick and glass. In powder form, it is used in paints, porcelain, sandpaper, wood filler, and scouring soaps. Cut into prisms and lenses Quartz is used for scientific equipment. Quartz plates are used in watches while quartz oscillators are used to control radio frequencies. Quartz is also used in the production of electrical components and in all silicon semiconductors in the computer industry.



## TRIP TALK

May Field Trip  
to be announced

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## BACKYARD BUZZ

by Tricia Sheppard



**Glen and Barbara Lawrence** visited the **Sheppards** in March and fortunately, the **Haines** and another friend **Fran** were here as well. We had a lovely visit. The **Lawrences** are planning a trip to Alaska. They have a new powerful Dodge Diesel truck to pull their trailer.



Speaking of trucks, we happen to know that **Jim and Sherri Hare** have a new Ford extended cab truck with some very special perks.

**Leslie Walker** gave a wonderful gift of Butler Onyx to **Cory Butler** for him and his Dad, **Bill Butler**. Bill is given credit for locating "Butler Onyx," as our club calls it, but after thieves broke into **Bill's** garage he lost a lot of his antiques and a lot of his rock collection." He no longer has any Butler Onyx. When **Leslie** heard about this, she cut then polished both sides and the edges of two 4" square slices of Butler Onyx. Just beautiful and so thoughtful! She presented the two slices all wrapped up with a ribbon and a bow to **Cory** at the meeting. **Cory's** work keeps him too busy to go on our field trips. Hope he will have some down time so we can take him to collect some Butler Onyx soon.

**Therese Carlson** has quietly slipped **Tricia** 55+ beautifully sewn grab bags for the December show. Thank you **Teresa!**

Easter Sunday was a marvelous day for the **Sheppards**. Daughter, **Ronda** and **Gonzalo** visited for breakfast. The **Haines** came over after lunch and **Peggy** shared tips on how to use the computer program of "Excel" to **Ronda** and **Gonzalo**. Friends came over because their four nieces wanted to learn how to polish rocks and had made arrangements in advance. We were happily surprised that we not only had the four nieces but that there were 11 family members in all (3 generations). **Gene and Tricia** helped the four nieces polish their stones and **Norm** took care of "show and tell" and entertaining the adults while the polishing was going on. What a group of wonderful people all in one day.

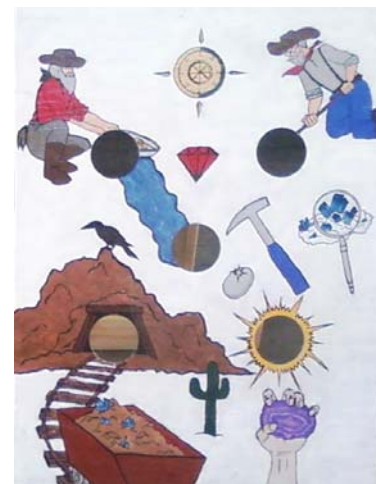
### Lancaster Show (April 18, 2009)

Along with the traditional wheel-of-fortune, the Lancaster club had two additional children's games this year; beanbag and ring toss. For a small price, the player would receive three rings to toss at blue bowling pins, if the ring landed around the pin, a prize was won. Similar, the colorful beanbag game consisted of a board with five holes in it. The player would throw a small beanbag at the board and if it entered one of the holes, a prize was won.



**Danny Watts** made the colorful board and cut out the holes. **Robert Drake**, one of **Danny's** co-workers, was the artist. **Brandi Pease** (**Danny and Vivian's** middle daughter) was the painter.

Continued from page 2



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Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



## WORKSHOP WRAP

by Peggy Haines



### Workshop (Wheel Items) - April 17, 2009



The club seemed a little bare with only 15 members at our April workshop. Everyone was working on different projects. **Ruth Mallon** continued creating her colorful and unique beaded spiders. **Ruth** was thoughtful enough to bring spice cake for all to enjoy. **Tricia Sheppard** attempted to make stone flowers but was pulled away to assist in other areas. **Joan Bird, Nicolette**



**Grill**, and **Peggy Haines** trimmed images for resin pictures. **Janet Wentz** and **Jeanne Laymance** were also in attendance.



Back in the machine side, **Norm Sheppard** sliced a couple of rocks on the oil saw. **John Bird** and **Wayne Mallon** kept **Norm** company. **Greg and Sandy Wagner**, as well as **Carl Atkinson**, were seated at the Genies shaping and polishing. **Tricia Sheppard** instructed **Barbara Minard** on the Genie. **Barbara** created two beautiful Mexican Crazy Lace cabochons. **Gene Haines** managed to take a few photos.



### May Birthdays

02 May - Earl Rippetoe  
09 May - Gary Grant  
23 May - Wayne Mallon  
28 May - Sam Mades  
28 May - LaVon Rippetoe  
28 May - Leslie Walker  
31 May - Julia Begley



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

If we missed your birthday let the Editor know so we can you to the list!

**Birthstone:** Emerald  
**Flower:** Lily-of-the-Valley

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## SHOW SCOOP - MAY 2009



**2-3 - ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA:** 50th anniversary show; The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society; Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W. Crescent Ave.; Sat. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-4:30; free admission; lapidary and jewelry-making demonstrations, dealers, club member displays, door prizes, gold panning with Route 66 Gold Miners, silent auctions; contact Clarke Benich, 18661 Silver Maple Way, N. Tustin, CA 92705, (714) 639-9927; e-mail: [clarkebenich@yahoo.com](mailto:clarkebenich@yahoo.com); Web site: [www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

**15-17 - COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA:** Show, "West Coast Gem & Mineral Show - Spring"; Martin Zinn Expositions; Holiday Inn - Bristol Plaza, 3131 S. Bristol; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; 120 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](mailto:mz0955@aol.com); Web site: [www.mzexpos.com](http://www.mzexpos.com)

**16-17 - NEWBURY PARK, CALIFORNIA:** 35th annual show, "Pageant of a Thousand Gems"; Conejo Gem & Mineral Club; Borchard Park, 190 Reino Rd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4:30; free admission; minerals, rocks, fossils, exhibits, demonstrations, dealers, youth activities, door prizes, silent auctions, plant sales; contact Robert Sankovich, (805) 494-7734; e-mail: [rmsorca@adelphia.net](mailto:rmsorca@adelphia.net); Web site: [www.cgamc.org](http://www.cgamc.org)

**16-17 - YUCAIPA, CALIFORNIA:** Show; Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society; Yucaipa Community Center, 34900 Oak Glen Rd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; 16 dealers, gems, rocks, children's rock Bingo, Spin the Wheel, demonstrations, wire wrapping, beading, sphere making, rock polishing, silent auction; contact William P. Jochimsen, 35525 Ivy Ave., Yucaipa, CA 92399, (909) 790-1475; e-mail: [bjm2285@aol.com](mailto:bjm2285@aol.com); Web site: <http://mysite.verizon.net/yucaipagem>

## Quotable Quotes

"When you are thirsty, it's too late to think about digging a well".

*Japanese Proverb*



## Notable Notes



The Oceanside Museum of Art has an Intarsia display March 2<sup>nd</sup> thru May 1<sup>st</sup>.  
For more information:

[www.oma-online.org/exhibits.html](http://www.oma-online.org/exhibits.html)

The CFMS invites you to join them at the Earth Science Seminar held at Soda Springs (ZZyzx). Lapidary classes run November 15-22, 2009. Registration cut-off is October 15, 2009. Only 25 spaces left! For more information:

[www.cfmsinc.org/forms09/zzyzx/zzyzx.htm](http://www.cfmsinc.org/forms09/zzyzx/zzyzx.htm)

## MINUTES - APRIL 4, 2009

President Nicolette Grill called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm, the club saluted the flag, and welcomed new members; Barbara Minard and Joe Summers. Club members having birthdays in April are: Nick Beall, Carolyn Fender, Sam Mallon, Charlotte Robinson, Ceri Satur, Steve Talewich and Sandy Wagner.

Cellso Edquilang moved, and Leslie Walker seconded to approve the minutes, minutes were approved. Treasury report was given by Treasurer Janet Wentz.

A DVD was presented on Mineral Fakes, Fraud and Fantasies by Anthony Kampf. Samples featuring gluing, artificial coloring, luster enhancement, and sand blasting were enlightening. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the movie will be viewed next month. The meeting then broke for refreshments provided by hostesses Beth Pinnell & Janet Wentz.

Door Prizes and winners were: Agate-Dan Moore, Apache Ryolite-Gene Haines, Blood Jasper-Beth Pennell, Pet Palm-Carolyn Fender, Apache Ryolite- Celso Edquilang, Pet Palm-Peggy Haines.

Vonja White's Saginite cab tied with Leslie Walker's Needles blue and Fire agate for cab of the month.

Show & Tell included Gene Haines Carnelians & Wonderstone, Trish Sheppard's Agate, Danny Watts Gemstone collection and tumbled Glass, and Jeanne Laymanace's minerals & Salt.

Nicolette announced Earth Day on April 25, at the Desert Discovery Center, and asked for volunteers.

Norm Sheppard moved and Janet Wentz seconded that the club would continue the scholarship for Nicolette Grill another year.

The Club voted to have another auction at its annual BBQ potluck on June 5, 2009 at 6:00 pm. Kent Berryman, Erin Rice, Scott Stevenson and Janet Wentz volunteered to help set up the auction.

The next meeting is May 1, 2009 at 7:00pm

Saturday May 2, a Rock Wash will be held at the Sheppards at 8:00am.

Cliff Leslie informed the group about the opportunity to visit the Bagdad Chase mine.

Attendance was 41 people and the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Wagner, Secretary MDGMS