

# DESERT DIGGINS

Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



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## BARBECUE & AUCTION



It is time for our annual June Barbecue and "Club Members" Auction. It will be held on Friday, June 5, at **6:00 p.m.** (note the earlier time) at our regular meeting place at 25647 W. Main.

Bring a **potluck dish** and your **place setting** (plates, fork, spoon, and knife). Your choice Of Chicken or Tri-tip steaks will be provided by the club and cooked to order by our master chef **Rob Stapp**. Beverages will be supplied by this month's hostess **Janell Ordelman**.



This will be our **LAST REGULAR MEETING** until September 4, 2009. There will NOT be field trips in June, July, or August. We will continue to hold our regular **WORKSHOPS** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m. This will be the last newsletter until September.

**Celebrate  
Fathers Day  
June 21<sup>st</sup>**



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

## June 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Program: Barbecue/Silent Auction  
 Hostess: Janell Ordelman (drinks)  
 Potluck (bring a dish)  
 Door Prizes: None

## 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 Janet Wentz



### Christmas Tree Agate (May 16, 2009)

*Trip Leader: Danny Watts*

*Photos by: Lisa White*

We had a very good trip. As usual, **Danny** got the most and the heaviest. hehe

The people there were **Danny Watts** (Leader), **Janet Wentz**, **Scott Stevenson** and **Avery**, **Joe Summers**, **Dian Hare**, **Leslie Walker**, and **Lisa White** (new member). We left Diamond Pacific at 8:04 and met **Dian**, **Leslie** and **Lisa** at Ludlow. **Danny**, **Joe**, **Scott** and **Avery** rode together so we only had three vehicles. It took the better part of an hour to get up to the site and start picking our way up (and down) the mountain draw.

**Leslie** and **Janet** found a good spot not too far up with quite a few pieces of blue agate. **Leslie** found a few nice pieces of crystals/agate. Then the inevitable happened, **Janet** took a fall in some loose rock. Not serious. She bruised her left knee and scrapped her right arm. This ended the hike up for **Janet**. She made her way down (up) to her car and rested there until everyone else came down.



We all had our lunch and chatted about the items we all got. When **Danny** came down, he gave each of us some nice pieces of the Christmas Agate he had found. Thank you **Danny** for your shared pieces. It made all of us winners on this trip. After everyone was well fed and rested, we headed down to Ludlow. **Janet** headed home first, the guys stayed at the 76 station for some time, and the girls went to visit friends in



Ludlow. It was a great trip for all.

## POTLATCH

*Backyard Barbecue*

As we ready for our annual barbecue and auction it makes me think of our Pacific Northwest Indians whose gathering and celebration was known as a "**Potlatch**". Today it has been converted into our "**Potluck**" where like-minded people come to gather and share food, fun, and fellowship.



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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. There is no theme for June due to our annual barbeque.

- ✓ ~~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)



## TRIP TALK

June, July, August  
Field Trips

There are **NO** scheduled field trips for June, July, and August due to the extreme desert heat.

"True wisdom lies in **gathering** the precious things out of each day as it goes by."

Unknown



## Quotable Quotes



## WORKSHOP WRAP

by Peggy Haines



Workshop - May 15, 2009

There were 18 club members and 3 guests at the May workshop. **Leslie Walker** instructed her grandchildren along with **JoAnn Beall** on making wire gem trees. They each created a miniature masterpiece.

**Tricia Sheppard** assisted guest **Daniel Abma** on polishing a large piece of quartz. **Gene Haines** later helped **Daniel** slice the lovely crystal.

**Danny Watts** made a gorgeous freeform cabochon from Agate. **Vivian Watts** was not feeling well so **Peggy Haines** sent home a "feel better thump" for her via **Danny**. **Carl Atkinson** worked a beautiful Chrysocola. **Bill Depue** had some of the prettiest scenic Apache Rhyolite. Each one yielded a unique panoramic landscape picture. He generously gave out samples and I was in the right place at the right time. Thanks **Bill!** **Scott Stevenson** made large oversized cabs from Butler Onyx.

**Jim Hare** brought his laptop in an attempt to test **Bill Depues** microscope for a future showing at **Gary Grants**.

**Janet Wentz** talked with a scholarship hopeful. We may have a second student submitting an application.

Other present included **Dan, Gloria and Timothy Moore, Nick Beall, Dian Hare, Sherry Hare, and Henry and Erin Rice**.

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## BACKYARD BUZZ

by Tricia Sheppard



I forgot to mention last month that **Wayne Mallon** donated 7 gorgeous, (polished on both sides) slices of Butler Onyx to the club. We will put some on the Auction Block in June and save some for the December show. Wow!!! Thanks, **Wayne**.

**Joan Bird** made 50 beautiful grab bags for the club. **Katie Boyd** and **Gloria Moore** have given us some tumbled stones for the grab bags. Thank you very very much.

Earth Day, April 24, 2009 was the day of the winds! **Nicolette Grill**, her mom, **Millie Grill** and **Nicolette's** grandmother, **Loweida Bunnell**, **Gene Haines**, **Danny Watts**, **Joan Bird**, **Janet Wentz**, and **Tricia and Norm Sheppard** were there to set up our booth.



**Scott Stevenson**, **Avery** and **Morgan** stopped by our booth and loaned us some Christmas Tree Agate that **Scott** cut so we could share its beauty with the visitors. **Danny Watts** came to help us unload and set up and then he headed off to Lavic to see what the Federation Field Trip was up to. **Joan** was helping at the "**Help Hinkley.org**" table next to the club table. **Janet Wentz** stopped by often to see if there was anything we needed at the club booth as she was also occupied with the Compositors booth. She gave **Tricia** tips on composting verses worms.

**Gene** was at the front of the booth talking with the children and adults, describing our display materials and teaching the children about rocks and interesting characteristics of the various rocks. The **Sheppards** brought a box of tumbled stones so each of the children who stopped by the booth could select one of their choice and we would identify the kind of rock for them. **Dian Hare** gave us some gorgeous "tumbled desert glass" pendants to sell for a money make and we sold three. They were beautiful. We sold eight of **Gloria Moore's** turtles. **Tricia** is so sorry that we had not brought more as both the children and adults adored them. We borrowed **Peggy Haines** whimsical, painted "rock frog," which was also a topic of much conversation. People would tell us about the rocks they had painted or asked if it was for sale. We sold 20 grab bags and could have sold more if we had taken more. **Nicolette** brought a polished Septarian Nodule, a gorgeous cluster of quartz crystals which was our table show stopper. She also brought a large, thick slice of petrified wood for display. The **Sheppards** brought three riker mounts of jewelry and polished stones in all the bright colors and a selection of rough/polished materials so visitors could see what an unpolished rock looked like with a polish. **Peggy** had to work but helped with the tare down.



This year the Earth Day coordinators asked each booth to donate a gift item for a drawing. We donated a pair of Brazilian Agate bookends that **Kemp Root** had donated to our club. We do not know who won it, however. Thank you, **Kemp**!

Rock washing at the **Sheppards** for June club auction was a success. **Kent Berryman**, **Leslie Walker**, **Ruth** and **Wayne Mallon**, **Scott** and **Avery Stevenson**, and **Janet Wentz** helped us wash and capture rock for the auction. After they were dry, **Janet** put

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## Backyard Buzz

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names on them, made a list, checked it twice, and noted the donor's names so she could make the auction slips. **Scott and Avery** ground off the "ears" of rough rock slices so they would be smooth. **Jeanne Laymance and Carl Atkinson** arrived just as we finished cleaning up the shop and put it all away. P.S. - Bring your money to the June BBQ/auction. Our materials are beautiful - thanks to **Gary Grant**, the **Lauterbach** collection and various other donors.



WELCOME  
NEW MEMBERS:



**James Ellis** (Barstow, CA) - He is interested in gems, jewelry, lapidary arts, and wire wrap. **Jim** is also a member of the Pueblo Rockhounds in Colorado.

**Lisa White** (Yermo, CA) - She is interested in fossils, gems, jewelry, minerals, rocks, and wire wrap.

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

### June Birthdays

14 Jun - Chuck Eastman  
21 Jun - John Bird  
25 Jun - JoAnn Beall  
26 Jun - Rob Stapp III  
28 Jun - Tricia Sheppeard

**Birthstone:** Pearl  
**Flower:** Rose

### July Birthdays

02 Jul - Bill Tomlinson  
03 Jul - Erin Rice  
11 Jul - Lovanna Brown  
18 Jul - Lisa White

**Birthstone:** Ruby  
**Flower:** Larkspur

### August Birthdays

01 Aug - Jim Hare  
02 Aug - Timothy Moore  
03 Aug - Ruth Mallon  
12 Aug - Terry Berg  
14 Aug - Sandra Depue  
29 Aug - Barbara Minard

**Birthstone:** Peridot  
**Flower:** Gladiolus



IF WE MISSED YOUR BIRTHDAY  
LET THE EDITOR KNOW  
SO WE CAN UPDATE OUR RECORDS  
AND ADD IT TO THE LIST

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## SHOW SCOOP - SUMMER 2009



### JUNE 2009

**5-7 - WOODLAND HILLS, CALIFORNIA:** Show, "Rockatomics Rockhound Roundup"; The Foundation of Pierce College, Rockatomics Gem & Mineral Society; Pierce College, Victory Blvd. and Mason St.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; gems, jewelry, tailgate selling, dealers; contact Linda Ralph, (818) 887-9791; e-mail: [show@Rockatomics.org](mailto:show@Rockatomics.org); Web site: [www.Rockatomics.org](http://www.Rockatomics.org)

**6-7 - LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA:** Show, "Jubilee of Gems"; North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society, City of La Habra; La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; dealers, demonstrators, exhibits, youth activities, gold panning, geode cutting; contact Richard Schirer, 14602 Calpella St., La Mirada, CA 90638, (562) 944-9445; e-mail: [rich477@ca.rr.com](mailto:rich477@ca.rr.com)

**13-14 - CAYUCOS, CALIFORNIA:** Show; San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club; Cayucos Veterans Memorial Hall, 10 Cayucos Dr.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; gems, minerals, fossils, lapidary rough, jade, meteorites, moldavite, beads, cabochons, jewelry, carvings, crystals, micro-mounts; contact Michael Lyons, 1200 Camino Del Roble, Atascadero, CA 93422, (805) 610-0757; e-mail: [jadestar@charter.net](mailto:jadestar@charter.net)

### JULY 2009



**11-12 - CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA:** 48th annual Fiesta of Gems, "The Wonderful World of Amber"; Culver City Rock & Mineral Club; Veterans Memorial Auditorium and Rotunda, 4117 Overland Blvd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; hourly prizes, grand prize, exhibits, dealers, demonstrations, jewelry, stones, books, tools, minerals, fossils; contact Robert Thirlaway, 28602 Mt. Whitney Way, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275, (310) 213-7677; e-mail: [thirlawr@gmail.com](mailto:thirlawr@gmail.com); Web site: [www.CulverCityRocks.org/fiesta.htm](http://www.CulverCityRocks.org/fiesta.htm)



### AUGUST 2009

**1-2 - SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA:** 55th annual show, "Jade"; San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society; County Fair Building/Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, seniors and students \$5, children under 12 free; demonstrations, jade carving, precious metal clay modeling, bead stringing, chain maille weaving, faceting; contact Carleen Mont-Eton, 4134 Judah St., San Francisco, CA 94122, (415) 564-4230; e-mail: [publicity@show.sfgms.org](mailto:publicity@show.sfgms.org); Web site: [www.sfgms.org](http://www.sfgms.org)

## MINUTES - MAY 1, 2009

President Nicolette Grill called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, the club saluted the flag, and welcomed new member; Jim Ellis.

May birthdays include: Julia Begley, Gary Grant, Jeanne Laymance, Sam Mades, Wayne Mallon, Earl and LaVon Rippetoe, and Leslie Walker.

Nicolette asked if there were any corrections to the April Minutes; Secretary Sandy Wagner stated that she omitted the two \$1,000. scholarships that the Board of Directors approved on March 13, 2009. John Bird moved, and Ruth Mallon seconded that minutes be approved as amended. Motion carried.

Members enjoyed a DVD provided by Danny Watts on Exotic and Phenomenal Gemstones that featured soft gems such as Amber (Mohs 2.5) Petalite, Ammolite, Black Opal from Australia, Laboradorite from Russia (Mohs 6.) Catseye Chrysoberyl, Star Sapphire, and many others. The meeting then broke for refreshments provided by hostesses Katie Boyd & Leslie Walker.

Barbara Minard won Cab of the Month with her Mexican Lace Agate.

Door Prizes were provided by Dian Hare in 'rock like' tote bags, winners of quartz included Micalah, Nick and Joan Beale, Avery Stevenson, Jeanne and Karl Laymance. Bob Minelly donated mounted quartz crystals for everyone.

Show & Tell consisted of a variety by Gene Haines (Quartz, Moss agate) Nicolette (Arkansas Quartz) Scott (Cady's Agate, Rose Quartz), Jim Ellis (Carnelian) Cliff Leslie (Rutile Crystals), Bill DePue (Blue Chalcedony from Ken River, India), Trish Sheppard (Rutile & Smoky Quartz), Danny Watts (Riolite with Crystal Vug)

Nicolette announced that the club made \$58 on Earth Day, April 25, 2009.

Gem Club BBQ Potluck and Silent Auction will be June 5, 2009 at 6:00 pm. Everyone should sign up for a dish to bring, and everyone should bring their own table service.

Peggy Haines was awarded a certificate of appreciation for her work on the club's web site.

Nicolette said we needed a motion to have the show this year, Jeanne moved that we have a show, and Nick Beale seconded. Motion carried. Our next workshop is Friday, May 15, at 6:30 pm.

The Board will meet on May 29, at 6:30 pm.

The next meeting is cancelled due to the BBQ Potluck. This meeting was attended by 37 people, and was adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Wagner, Secretary MDGMS