

DESERT DIGGINGS

DECEMBER 2010

MOJAVE DESERT GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

The Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society (MDGMS) is a non-profit 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

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MDGMS OFFICERS 2010

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

Board members:

Dian Hare Wayne Mallon
Rob Stapp Vivian Watts
Danny Watts

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Happy Birthday to:

Chuck Craft, Jerry Depue, Kenny Holzer, Wrayanne Huddleston, Sally Rout, Avery Stevenson, Joe Summers, and Richard Wagner

I know I'm missing the birth date of several members. If I've missed yours,

please let me know so I can add it to the list.

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Meetings and Workshops

Meetings – 1st Friday at 7:00 p.m.
Workshops – 3rd Friday at 6:30 p.m.
Location – 25647 W. Main Street
Lenwood, CA

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Themes for the meetings during 2011
Have not been decided yet.

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UPCOMING SHOWS/EVENTS

OURS!!! December 4th and 5th. Keep reading for details.

Our club's Christmas party will be December 10th, a Friday, at 6 p.m. in the clubhouse. There will be a potluck dinner, a gift exchange (bring gift marked for man or woman, and one for your child). The sign up sheet will be at the show - by the geni demonstration.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Here is news I'd hoped never to have to write. Beth Pinnell passed away last

week at her home. From her obituary: Beth was born March 8, 1930 in Harper Lake, CA and lived in the Barstow area for 80 years. She graduated from Barstow Union High School in 1947 and was a life member of the Barstow Riffians. She graduated from UCLA with degrees in English and art.

Beth was co-owner of Diamond Pacific Tool Company in Barstow. She had a love of rock collecting and was a member of the Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society and the Mojave River Valley Museum. Other hobbies of Beth's were writing and photography. Beth wrote the book "The Primrose Cage", a meticulously researched book about life in Harper Lake in the 1930s and 1940s.

But of course this isn't the whole story. Beth was an active member of our club for many years. She had held most officer positions at one time or another, and was our CFMS representative for years. She participated in the meetings, workshops, and as long as she was able, in the field trips. We all have such special memories of our times with her.

To all of you who feel this loss deeply, you have my sympathy. To all of you who didn't know her as well, you have even more sympathy, because you missed knowing a truly great and courageous lady.

MINUTES OF MDGMS November 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Kent Berryman.

The flag salute was given.

Guests were introduced. There were no new members, but Donna Patterson was welcomed back.

Minutes were accepted as amended. Mr. Rice's first name in Henry, not Harry.

The program theme was gold. David Eyre, president of the Boron Gem & Mineral club, and Steven Breckenridge gave a fascinating presentation. It began with several theories about the origin of the precious metal. Then they gave some history of early miners' quest for gold and what they looked for in prospecting. Gold is found in North America in rhyolite – sometimes in granites, calcite, copper and limestone (contact metamorphosis). They discussed placer deposits and hard rock mining. Between the two, 6.7 million pounds of gold was mined in California between 1840-1968. Steve brought a dry washer and a gold wheel to demonstrate. They also brought tubs of water and dirt so we could all try panning during the break. He repeated several times the secret of efficient drywashing and panning is to concentrate – and he showed several screens of various sized mesh for that purpose. There were also several designs of pans to try. In short, the subject was thoroughly covered.

During the break we enjoyed refreshments from Katie Boyd.

Show and Tell – Leslie Walker brought her brother's gold nuggets to show. Danny Watts brought spheres and core drilled rock he's made for the silent auction next month.

Treasurer's report – we need 2 more T shirt orders for the minimum order.

Janet asked for people to sign up for various dishes for the vendors' pot luck dinner Friday night before the show.

There was no old business.

New business – Danny reminded us of all the field trips this weekend.

Gene Haines asked everyone's help with the show and the last workshop where we will fill the grab bags.

Norm Sheppard reminded us to check on skirting material.

Janet said there are a few exhibit cases still empty.

Door prizes – donated by Steve Breckenridge.

Cab of the month was won by Danny Watts, but with stiff competition from Scot Stevenson, Robb Stapp and Kayla Walker.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Boyd, Secretary

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Calico Early Man Site news:

The next 'dig weekend' at Calico is Dec. 4th and 5th. It starts at 8:30 with volunteer sign-in and orientation. Anyone is invited to help excavate the Rock Wren pit under supervision of the crew chief, Claude Short. After a lunch break, digging resumes until 4 p.m. On Saturday there is a potluck dinner – bring a dish or a \$5.00 donation. After

dinner there is usually a bonfire & some great conversation.

Interested? See the Calico Core newsletter on the bulletin board.

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Field trips:

Our club won't have a field trip in December.

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As of now, it looks like everyone has stepped right up and volunteered for all the tasks at the show. If not, this is an abbreviated list of things to do:

We need help setting up the Cora Harper Center on Friday morning, Dec. 3rd. That night we host a potluck dinner for the vendors and ourselves – need sign-ups for food. During the show we run the wheel of fortune, sell grab bags, and conduct the silent auctions. We provide security. We demo the lapidary arts. The final task to be done is breaking down the show – and returning the center to its original condition.

I think things are all in place to have a very successful show this year. Now if only the weather cooperates!

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Please be thinking of next year. We need new officers in the club, which includes a newsletter editor!

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HAVE A GREAT THANKSGIVING!

Desert Diggings



MOJAVE DESERT GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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