

DESERT DIGGINGS

MARCH 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are well into a new year and already beginning to plan for activities throughout the coming year. As your new president, I encourage you, the club members, to take a hand in helping your club to operate. Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes many people to operate a rock club.

After many years of teaching classes, prepping club auctions, leading field trips, and just plain doing everything, Norm and Tricia Sheppard deserve some quiet time. On the same hand, I want to thank the Haines, Janet Wentz, Wayne Mallon, Kemp Root, Dian Hare, the Watts and those people who constantly step up to help with these activities. Please excuse me if I have left



your name off this list, as we all appreciate your help.

To that end, we need your help to keep these activities going. Please consider taking on a club function. Most activities take little time, and the more who help, the easier it becomes.

Do you have a skill you would like to share with the members at a workshop? We need several people to lead classes. How about volunteering to lead a field trip to an area we haven't been to in a while.

To keep the quality of our show at its peak, we need to start planning now. It takes thousands of polished and unpolished rocks to fill grab bags and stock the wheel of fortune. Our famous auctions take hundreds of quality slabs and rough material, both in donations and help with cutting, polishing and tumbling. So please step up and help. If you have any ideas, talk to me at the meeting or workshop.

See you at the clubhouse.
Kent Berryman

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Refreshments for March will be provided by Katie Boyd & Janet Wentz
Nobody signed up for door prizes

MDGMS OFFICERS 2010

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

Board members

Dian Hare
Wayne Mallon
Rob Stapp
Danny Watts
Vivian Watts

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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 2010:

March Petrified Palm
April Turquoise
May Cady’s stuff
July Fossils
August Spheres
September Petrified wood
October Opal
November Gold

UPCOMING SHOWS

March 6 & 7
Ventura, CA
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Seaside Park, Ventura Co. Fairgrounds
10W. Harbor Blvd
Hours Sat 10a.m. – 5p.m.
Sun 10a.m. – 4p.m.
Contact Andy Anderson (805)987-0043
Vgms_editor@roadrunner.com
www.vgms.org

March 12, 13 & 14
Victorville, CA
Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club
Stoddard Wells Tailgate
Stoddard Wells Rd – 7 mi east of Dale
Evans Parkway. Hours 8-5p.m. daily
Contact Brett Ward (760) 954-4323
www.vvgmc.org

Starting next month I’m only going to include high desert shows. There are just too many – 15 in March alone. I’ll post a complete list from CFMS on the club bulletin board. You can also view the list at cfmsinc.org

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Schedule of field trips for 2010

March. The Butler onyx site. Meet at 8a.m. at Diamond Pacific in Barstow. You will need a high clearance vehicle, and 4WD is recommended.

April. North of Red Rock. This will include Burl Smith’s tunnel

May. Calico Mountains

June. N. Edwards sites.

I will put more details of the destinations as we get closer to going

BACKYARD BUZZ

What a wonderful gift Danny & Vivian Watts brought to the Feb. workshop. Danny cut & preshaped approximately 20 mushrooms out of various material & put a stem and matching top in each packet. They brought pictures of various types of mushrooms so people could decide what shape they wanted. The genies were humming. Someone would pick up a packet and go to a genie. When that person finished on the left side & moved to the right, the next person would start on the left. We had 2 workers on 4 of 6 genies and they were humming. Each person then donated their finished mushroom to the club's wheel of fortune. We'll bring in the finished mushrooms for show and tell at the March meeting. Each mushroom is unique & beautiful. Thank you Danny and Vivian.

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On Collecting Rocks

I think that there shall never be
An ignoramus such as me,
Who roams the hills throughout the day,
To pick up rocks that do not pay.
For there is one thing that I've been told
I took the rock and left the gold...
Over deserts wild or mountains blue
I search for rock of varied hue.
A hundred pounds or more I pack,
With blistered feet and aching back,
And after this is said and done
I cannot name a single one.
I pick up rock where ever I go
The reason why I do not know.
For rocks are found by fools like me
Where God intended them to be...

Anonymous

I hope everybody reads the CFMS newsletter each month. Their web site is cfmsinc.org and has news of all us gem & mineralogical societies in California, as well as CFMS field trips, activities, and shows.

This month there was a write up of the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2010. What affects us particularly is Section 14 of the proposed legislation. Sounds like we may eventually be severely limited in rock hounding anywhere!

Please go to the web site
Washingtonwatch.com/bills/show/111_S_N_2921
And read the article for yourselves.

Monitor this situation! Write to your representatives!

The newsletter did have an intriguing suggestion, though. Read the article by Richard Pankey on a land claims seminar. It encouraged CFMS societies to establish and share claims to preserve our right for access and use. Very interesting. I didn't know you could file a claim for rockhounding, and I'm not sure if it would be possible on a national monument. As all government business, it is very complex!

At any rate, let's take a more active role in planning the future of our desert!

MINUTES OF MDGMS Februry 2010

Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

After the flag salute, we introduced and welcomed guests Ed Deren and Anne Sexton. New members were introduced. Birthdays were recognized.

New members: Debra Simon, Arthur Printz, Charles Toles and Judy Livingston.

The program consisted of a video on Russian Gem Treasures.

Minutes were read. Corrections were made to several names. Also, the April field trip does not include N. Edwards or Sheep Springs as reported. Minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's report was read

Refreshments were provided by Charlotte Robinson and Scot Stevenson. Bob Minelly and Charlotte Robinson provided the door prizes.

There was no old business.

New business:

The sound equipment is all borrowed. After discussion it was decided Gene Haines will look into prices on what all we need.

Janet Wentz said we need to buy chairs for the clubhouse and put our symbol on them so they won't be loaned. She will get a price on 24 chairs. Beth Pinnell said to remember we have a storage problem. Someone knew that Costco has folding chairs on sale for \$12.95. The motion to buy 24 (if this is correct) passed.

Door prizes were won by:

Kemp Root – rhodonite
Charles Toles – porphery
Gene Haines – petrified wood
Orin Rice – dendrites
Wrayanne Huddleston – marble
Morgan Stevenson – necklae
Anastasio Elizalde – soapstone
Adelina Elizalde – hematite
Ruth Mallon – marble

The field trip this month will be led by Danny Watts. We will meet at Diamond Pacific at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Feb 20th, or at 8:45 at Burger King in Kramer.

Cab of the month winner was Rob Stapp with his Paul Bunyon agate. Henry Weick did a beautiful can of chrysacolla.

Show and Tell:

Gene Haines brought in Searles Lake halite and hanksite, calcite from Trona and stalagmites from a cave that miners destroyed in their excavation years ago.

Beth Pinnell showed tufa precipitated out of Lahonton Lake, which looked like bagels due to spring water jetting up from below the tufa.

Danny Watts had mineral specimens, a lizard carved from mookite, a kangaroo carved from hanksite

Robb Stapp showed more Paul Bunyon agate he and Henry collected which Norm Sheppard cut

Jeanne Laymance had salt crystal, rutilated quartz, chalcedony rose and lepidolite.

Katie Boyd, secretary