



EL PASO MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY, Inc.

P.O. Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931

FOUNDED – 1947

Membership Dues are due and payable as of December of each year. Dues are \$12.00 for Adults (18 and Over) and \$4.00 for Juniors. Make check out to EPMGS and mail to PO Box 31516 El Paso TX 79931. Delinquency of over 90 days will result in being removed from the Membership Roster.

Meetings will be held on the 4th Thursday of every month at The Memorial Senior Center, 1800 Byron, El Paso TX at 6:30 PM. Board Meetings will usually be held a half hour prior to the general meeting. The meeting in July is our yearly picnic – the date to be announced.

2010 CLUB OFFICERS

President	Tom Smith	(915)356-8653	Programs	Lorraine Johnson	(915)751-4527
Vice President	Matt Durning	(575)382-4301	3 Year Trustee	Miguel Chrisman	(915)740-0301
Treasurer	Linda Durning	(575)382-4301	2 Year Trustee	Matt Durning	(575)382-4301
Secretary	Marie Murphy	(915)471-1071	1 Year Trustee	Randy Herd	(915)821-7818
Historian	Marty Gaugler	(915)859-6634	Show Chair	Harry Bruntz	(915)345-2415
Editor	Charlie Christensen	(575)640-1203	Assist. Show Chair	Jeanette Carrillo	(915)533-7153
Field Trips	Matt Durning	(575)382-4301	Webmaster	Matt Durning	(575)382-4301
Membership	Charlie Christensen	(575)640-1203	Hostess/Host	Judy/Randy Herd	(915)821-7818

THE VOICE

The Voice is the official bulletin of the Society and is published monthly. All articles must be in the editor's possession no later than the Monday following the monthly meeting. Any articles received after that will not be published until the following month. Please note Charlie Christensen's e-mail address: charlieenos@msn.com and mailing address: 4808 Campbell Road, Las Cruces NM 88007. Members are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Permission is granted to reprint material from other sources provided that credit is properly cited. Ads are accepted from members for publication at no charge for the sale or exchange of items pertaining to the hobby. **WEBSITE:** www.epmgs.com. Any information you would like to see on this website contact Matt Durning at madtex@q.com or call (575)382-4301.

The El Paso Mineral and Gem Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization. The purpose of this Society shall be to increase and disseminate knowledge about minerals and other geologic materials; to encourage mineral study, collecting and fashioning as a hobby; to conduct meeting, lectures, displays, field trips, and to sponsor shows for the general edification of the public.

GENERAL MEETING

NEXT MONTH IS OUR ANNUAL PICNIC ON SATURDAY 24 JULY. MORE INFORMATION UNDER HINTS, TIPS, & STUFF.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The School Board Meeting information is posted under School Information and Class Enrollment.

ADDRESS CHANGES

NOTE: Anyone who has a change in mailing address, phone number, etc please send e-mail to Charlie Christensen at charlieenos@msn.com, or mail to: EPMGS Membership, PO Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931. Thank you.

THE VOICE

VOLUME LXI NUMBER 10 JUL 2010



BIRTHDAYS &

ANNIVERSARIES

For those of you who are celebrating one or both of these occasions in the month of July Happy Birthday and/or Happy Anniversary.

BIRTHSTONE FOR JULY – RUBY

The ruby is the oldest or first known of all precious stones, dating far back in the early history of Chaldea and Babylonia. The finest specimens, as well as the largest quantities, are found in Upper Burma, and at the present time over one-half of the world's supply comes from this locality. The rubies found Ceylon, Siam and Australia have not the deep rich color of the Burmese ruby which is a shade of red slightly inclined to the purple and is often called "Pigeon Blood Ruby." The value of rubies depends upon their color and transparency.

The ruby is found in limestone deposits on side hills, but the largest quantity is found in alluvial deposits of gravel and clay in river beds. These deposits are about fifteen to twenty feet below the surface and from a few inches to five feet in thickness. This material called "byon" is mined or removed and put through a washing process by which the rubies are received.

The genuine ruby is gotten from the mineral known as corundum. Emery, so much used, is an impure form of corundum.

The superbly blood-red color of the perfect ruby is produced by the very tiny portions of impurity in the substance after they have been crystallized by Nature's wonderful processes.

All genuine – that is natural stones, contain certain tiny flaws and blemishes and characteristic peculiarities. The fewer these flaws the rarer the gem.

Imitation stones get their imperfections during manufacture, and as the chemists are more careful than Nature, these imperfections are less noticeable.

By the following differences between the real and the artificial, you can test your ruby.

A real ruby contains irregularly shaped bubbles; the imitation ruby contains bubbles that are perfectly round.

Natural rubies all have a silky sheen, due to a number of tiny parallel lines going in three definite directions; imitation stones never have this characteristic.

To examine a ruby, place it in a strong light and look at it through a microscope. If the stone is in a setting, then place a drop of oil on its face and hold it up with the back to the light. When it is held in this way the stone is illuminated and can be thoroughly examined through the lens. The drop of oil prevents reflection that would hinder the eye.

Rubies are over four times heavier than water. If you take the right quantity of water and dissolve in it thallium, silver nitrate, you get a liquid four times heavier than water. If a ruby sinks in this it is a normal stone; if not, it is imitation.

Source: Jewelry Making and Design by Augustus F. Rose & Antonio Cirino copyright 1917

(Jun 22 – Jul 22)

(23 Jul – 22 Aug)



Cancer
Moon



Leo
Sun



GENERAL MEETING

The June 24th, 2010 meeting of the Mineral and Gem Society was called to order by President Tom Smith at 6:32 pm.

There was not a quorum present, so Tom stated we could do no new business.

Last months minutes were read and approved.

The Treasury Report was given by Tom as the Treasurer was absent.

There were no visitors, but 2 new members attended.

Fernanda and Ariceli both are students in silversmithing. Terri Atkinson is also a student of silversmithing and lapidary.

Door prizes were awarded.

The show committee reports that half of our booths are already rented for the annual show in December. One of the booths will be rented by Johnson Brothers, an equipment dealer.

Field trip report states we didn't have one. Tom requested the number of people who wish to attend the trip to Luna. Head of the Ditch has a better campground. Reserve has the motels.

This would be on the 10th of July. Anyone wanting to attend would have to bring ALL of their own supplies. It (the camping) is very primitive.

Directions will be in the Newsletter. Motel goers and campers will meet at 8 AM at the campground.

The school report given by Redgie was that the school was "doing fine." There are 5 in faceting at half way through the course, 5 in silversmithing that was going well, 4 in lapidary and that was good too. Also they were buying equipment on their wish list.

The annual picnic will be at Tom Mays Park on the 24th of July. This is a Saturday. The area is covered and it is reserved for us. Information will be in the Voice. Call in and RSVP with Charlie if anyone wants to go. The club provides meat, bread, condiments and drinks, but all attendees are asked to bring a food item

We then adjourned to eat. When we reconvened we had a presentation (dvd) on stone crosses in the Virginia - North Carolina state line area. Eddie says there is an area west of Abq. that has similar stone crosses.

We adjourned for the night at 7:35 pm.

HINTS, TIPS, AND STUFF

EDITORS NOTES: The source of these tips, hints, and stuff are other club bulletins. Be careful

when trying out any new idea. They have not been tried by this editor.

PROGRAMS - Lorraine Johnson will be conducting programs for our club members. Due to the fact that Lorraine has to give RMFMS a list of 3 videos she would like per date listed below – we aren't always sure which video we will actually get. So, I am just listing the dates we will be having a program.

DATE

26 Aug 2010

EMPGS SOCIETIES ANNUAL PICNIC

As stated in previous newsletters and covered in the General Meeting Minutes we will be having our **ANNUAL PICNIC** at the Tom Mays Park on TransMountain on 24 July 2010 starting around Noon til the park closes. A covered picnic area has been reserved and the cost will be \$1 per person. The Club will supply Hamburgers/Hot Dogs, Buns, Drinks, and condiments – the remainder is Potluck – so bring your favorite picnic dish. **ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING PLEASE CALL CHARLIE AT 575-640-1203 OR E-MAIL HER AT CHARLIEENOS@MSN.COM by 20 JULY. If not enough people indicate an interest the picnic will be cancelled.**

BLAKE BROTHERS – HOTEL SHOWS

The Blake Brothers are going to be in town again. They will be in Las Cruces on 13 July from 2PM to 8PM at the Ramada Las Cruces (La Mesa Room), 201 E University Ave (phone 575-526-4411). Coming from El Paso stay on Hwy10 and take the Valley turn off – the Ramada is right there on the corner of Valley and University.

- Did you know that the diamond is the hardest natural substance found on earth?
- Did you know that quartz is one of the most common minerals on Earth?
- Did you know that marble forms from metamorphosed carbonate rock, most usually limestone?
- Did you know that basalt is the most common rock on Earth?
- Did you know that breccia is a rock composed of generally large, sharp fragments cemented together?
- Did you know feldspars make up more than 50% of the Earth's crust?
- Did you know the first recorded use of turquoise dates back to 5000 BC in Mesopotamia, where

people used the gemstone to make beads?

● Did you know lapis lazuli is treasured for its rich blue color and is often used in jewelry? Did you also know that ancient Egyptians used powdered lapis lazuli as eye shadow?

● Did you know jade because of its toughness has been used for many cultural things like hammers, fish hooks, and stone axes.

● Did you know that rubies are one of the most popular gemstones today.

● Did you know that the first geologist on the moon was Harrison Schmitt who was part of the Apollo 17 mission? From the rock samples he collected, scientists have been able to learn many things about the moon.

● Did you know that the Earth is approximately 4.8 billion years old?

● Did you know that gold is so soft and easily worked that you could roll an ounce of it into a hair-thin wire 50 miles long?

● Did you know that the biggest pure-gold nugget was found in Australia in 1869 and weighed 156 pounds?

● Did you know that platinum is so rare that two million pounds of ore may contain only one pound of metal?

● Did you know that geodes are dull balls of igneous or sedimentary rock on the outside, but contain beautiful crystals on the inside?

● Did you know that meteorites, rocks from space, help scientists learn about the solar system and are very valuable, too?

● Did you know that the Taj Mahal built between 1632 and 1654 in India is made entirely out of marble? *Source:*

<http://library.thinkquest.org/J002289/fact.html>

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TURQUOISE

By Elizabeth Hixon

Through the ages turquoise has been an extremely popular mineral for use in jewelry as gemstones. Discovered thousands of years ago, turquoise is one of the few fashion items that has retained popularity even today. The stone has been a fascination to artisans and scientists alike. Turquoise is formed when lava from beneath earth's crust is forced upwards. The lava releases phosphoric acid into the earth, melting aluminum out of feldspar and apatite. Copper contained in the lava mixes with aluminum in small cavities, usually no larger than an inch. When combined with water, pressure will cause the minerals to slowly transform, making turquoise. Copper gives turquoise blue coloring but when iron is present during formation, it will appear greener. The

most famous turquoise mines are located in the United States especially in Nevada, New Mexico, and Arizona. Other rich veins have been found in Iran and Kazakhstan. The earliest reports of turquoise are from Egypt and Persia. Ancient Egyptians inlaid turquoise in intricate gold settings. Elaborate gold and turquoise jewelry has been found in tombs of Egyptian pharaohs and Persian rulers. The stone was most likely introduced to Europeans during the Crusades. Turquoise was often used as currency and trade material in many countries. It was sometimes priced higher than even gold. Since turquoise deposits are usually found near or on top of the earth's surface, it was most likely discovered in America when Natives spotted it and began digging for more. Although turquoise inlaid in silver is often thought of as Indian jewelry, Native Americans used metals primarily for trade rather than jewelry. Wood, bone, shell, and other stones were used instead for jewelry making. To work the turquoise it is thought that Indians probably ground it against fine sandstone. Sand, clay, and finally leather were probably used for final polishing steps. Indians could have used sharp rocks or perhaps even a dried cactus spine to make holes for beads. The Spanish taught Native Americans more sophisticated methods of metalwork and silversmithing in the early 1800's. Silversmithing was put into use primarily by Navajos but was also used by Hopi and Pueblo tribes. Until the early 1900's silver jewelry was specifically for tribal usage. Early traders and fur trappers discovered the craft and encouraged the Navajos to circulate jewelry to excite tourism. Many nations over the centuries have thought turquoise to have supernatural powers. Ancient Persians believed that it granted long life. Because its worth as a holy stone was so great, turquoise was often set behind other ornamental stones to hide it from potential thieves. Native Americans warriors and hunters carried the stone to ensure they would not come to harm. They also mounted turquoise on arrowheads to guarantee accuracy. Navajo tribes thought that turquoise was a piece of the sky and would cause rainfall. Zuni Indians wore the stone to protect themselves from evil spirits. Ancients around the world used turquoise in treatments for various diseases and ailments. Astrologists today believe that it helps communication abilities. Although highest quality turquoise is considered to be hard with a sky blue color and no surrounding matrix, many people in the Southwestern United States prefer darker blues and greens with matrix included. Choosing turquoise is often based on personal preference. Older turquoise that has not been collected or mined will weather and dry out leaving the mineral chalky and soft with a whitish coloring. This turquoise

should be avoided as it is almost impossible to work with and close to worthless. The most important factor of good turquoise is hardness. Turquoise ranges from 5 to 6 on the Mohs hardness scale. The highest quality turquoise will be close to 6 in hardness. Rarity is another pricing factor. For example, high quality turquoise from low quality producing mines will be more collective than high quality turquoise from other mines known for high quality turquoise. Highest quality turquoise has been known to sell for over \$2,000 per kilogram.

It is important to note that recently, a hard form of white turquoise has been discovered. This is extremely rare. The only known vein in the world is located in Nevada. Although originally called “Dry Creek” turquoise after the mine it was collected at, the Indians nicknamed it “White Buffalo” or “Sacred Buffalo” turquoise since it is considered as rare as the white buffalo. It has become popular in jewelry and is very expensive. Although classified as turquoise, there has been much speculation as to whether it should be considered turquoise or not. Most geologists and mineralogists will agree that it is not really a form of turquoise.

Medium grade turquoise is often stabilized to increase durability. An early form of stabilization uses plastic resin to fill pores. Unfortunately this often gives the stone a shiny plastic look. Although this method is still employed today, new techniques using quartz dust and other polymers have been developed. These new methods have hardly any effect on the stone’s appearance. Stabilizing turquoise decreases the tendency to fracture making it easier for lapidary artists to work. Although stabilized turquoise is not as valuable as that of high quality turquoise, it is more available to buyers not willing to pay high prices for quality turquoise. Skilled artisans will use only non-stabilized turquoise as anything else will depreciate the value of their work. When purchasing turquoise, buyers should carefully watch for fakes. There are many types of fake turquoise. Plastic imitations are perhaps the easiest to spot. They are made simply of dyed plastic polymer often with interwoven black coloring to look like matrix. Other fakes are made by dyeing less valuable minerals such as howlite. Blue colored glass has also been seen. Sometimes extremely low grade turquoise is ground into powder, injected with color, and reconstructed using resin and polymer. Although these specimens are often marketed as real turquoise, this is mostly a ruse. Buying from a trustworthy dealer is the best way to avoid purchasing fake stones. Proper care should always be taken when cleaning jewelry of any type. Since turquoise is a

soft, brittle stone, extra special attention should be paid when cleaning turquoise jewelry. As it is a very porous material, care should be taken to avoid contact with liquids. Prolonged wear will allow skin oils to soak into the stone, eventually discoloring the mineral. Gem cleaner should never be used on turquoise. If the silver tarnishes, lightly rubbing the setting and stone with silver polish will not harm the turquoise.

Turquoise is said to be the most popular gemstone world wide today, due mainly to its attractive nature and distinctive coloring. For ages, jewelry makers have enjoyed the qualities and uniqueness of the stone.

Sources:

The Complete Encyclopedia of Minerals by Petr Korbel and Milan Novák

<http://www.camerontradingpost.com/turquoisehx.html>

<http://www.native-languages.org/jewelry.htm>

http://www.jewelinfo4u.com/Turquoise_in_history.aspx

<http://southwestaffinity.com/whiteturquoise.htm>

Source: WGMS Quarry Quips Dec 2009

SEPTARIAN CONCRETIONS

Septarian concretions are a special type of concretion. Concretions are masses of mineral matter formed when minerals in water are deposited about a nucleus (such as a leaf or shell or other particle) forming a rounded mass whose composition or cement is usually different from the surrounding rock. This can occur at the time of deposition, shortly thereafter, or after the sediment has hardened. Generally, concretions are harder than the rocks around them; therefore, over time the concretions can weather out of the surrounding rocks. Concretions in Kansas are formed from any of a number of minerals, including calcite, limonite, barite, pyrite, or silica. They vary widely in shape and size.

The smallest are oolites, which can be smaller than the head of a pin. At the other end of the spectrum are the huge spherical concretions at Rock City in Ottawa County and Mushroom Rock State Park in Ellsworth County, the largest of which have diameters of 27 feet. The exteriors of septarian concretions are crisscrossed by a network of ridges, giving some of them the appearance of a turtle shell. Geologists think they were formed by the shrinkage of concretions, which caused cracks to form, followed by the deposition of such minerals as calcite. When the concretion is exposed to weathering, the softer parts between the calcite-filled cracks are eroded and the cracks extend above the surface of the concretion, like ridges or little walls.

http://www.kgs.ku.edu/Extension/KGSrocks/concretions_def.html

Source: WGMS Quarry Quips Oct 2009

The following are some fun recipes from a couple of our Members. Remember if you have a recipe you'd like to share send it to me and I'll put in the newsletter.

COPPER COIN CARROTS

5 cups sliced cooked carrots
1 med. onion, diced
1 green bell pepper, diced
1/2 cup salad oil
1 cup sugar
1 can tomato soup
3/4 cup vinegar (I used white)
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1 teaspoon prepared mustard

Cook carrots till tender, but not soft. Drain. (I used fresh carrots, they stay firm better).
Combine all ingredients. Marinate 12 hours or more. Drain, serve cold Serves 8 or more. (Keep leftovers in fridge). From Carol Bruntz

STRAWBERRY-PRETZEL SALAD

2 cups Pretzels, coarsely crushed
3/4 cup Margarine, Melted
1 cup plus 4 tblsp Sugar, Divided
8 oz pkg cream cheese, softened
8 oz carton whipped topping (cool whip)
6 oz pkg Strawberry Gelatin
2 cup Boiled Water
2 – 10 oz pkgs Frozen Strawberries

Mix Pretzels, margarine, and 4 tablespoons of sugar together. Spread into a 13" X 9" pan, and bake at 400 degrees for 6 minutes. Combine cream cheese and remaining sugar; fold in whipped topping and spread over cooled pretzel mixture. Dissolve gelatin in 2 cups of boiling water in a separate bowl; stir in strawberries until berries start to separate and gelatin starts to thicken. Pour over the cheese mixture; refrigerate until set. Serves 12. From Judy Herd



FIELD TRIPS

Note from Your Field Trip Coordinator: Any and all Clubs and their members are cordially invited to join us on any of our Field Trips. If you need more information call Matt at (575)382-4301 or (915)491-3244 or e-mail madtex@q.com.

This is our yearly weekend, 9 – 11 July 2010, trip to Head of the Ditch located outside of Luna NM. Several members will get there a day or two in advance to claim a site big enough for several groups and their camper's/trailers/tents, etc. Directions to this location are as follows: From El Paso take I10 to Deming, take the Silver City turn off and head up Hwy 180. You will go through the quaint little town of Silver City. Keep on heading North on Hwy 180 to the Little Town of Luna. You will go past Luna about 1 to 2 miles. Just before you get to an up hill climb there is a turn off on the left (also just before guard rail). This turn off will take you down into the camp grounds. A marker of some sort will be put up so that you can see the entrance. If you are wishing to stay in a hotel/motel take the Reserve turn off which you should see several miles before you get to Luna. This is a primitive camping area, ie dry camp. There are no hook ups but there is a restroom which is usually well kept.

Do not forget – the end of Aug thru the Labor Day Weekend is the Agate Rendezvous 2010 which is the clubs Field Trip for the month of Aug. Flyer is attached.

Charlie
Matt's Helper



SHOW DATES

JULY 2010:

2-4--FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO: Show; San Juan County Gem & Mineral Club; Farmington Civic Center, 200 W. Arlington St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; door prizes, rocks, gems, minerals, Farmington Freedom Days; contact Mickie Calvert, P.O. Box 1482, Farmington, NM 87499, (505) 632-8288; e-mail: mickie2@earthlink.net

9-11--DURANGO, COLORADO: Show; Four Corners Gem & Mineral Club; La Plata County Fair Grounds, 2500 Main Ave.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; jewelry, kids' activities, gold panning, jewelry making tools, gems, minerals, fossils, beading supplies, door prizes, mineral displays, raffle, silent auction; contact Bill Birza, P.O. Box 955, Durango, CO 81302, (970) 385-6850; e-mail: wcbirzzz@durangolive.net; Web site: www.durangorocks.org

9-11--SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA: Show, "Gem Faire"; Gem Faire Inc.; Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H St.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; weekend pass \$5; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

9-11--SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA: 2nd annual show, "San Francisco Fine Mineral Show"; FineMineralShow; Embassy Suites Hotel, San Rafael-Marin County, 101 McInnis Pkwy.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Dave Waisman, P.O. Box 8543, Spokane, WA 99203; Web site: www.finemineralshow.com

16-18--SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA: Show, "Gem Faire"; Gem Faire Inc.; Marin Center/Exhibit Hall, 10 Avenue of the Flags; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; weekend pass \$5; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com.

17-18--TULSA, OKLAHOMA: Show, "Treasures of the Earth"; Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society; Central Park Hall, Expo Square, Tulsa County Fairgrounds, 21st and Yale; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, children under 12 and Scouts in uniform free; special Scout and children's areas, club displays, special displays, silent auction, door prizes, classes, lectures, lapidary demonstrations; Wayne Mouser, 1514 S. Carson Ave., Tulsa, OK 74119, (918) 582-8700; e-mail: okyrocks@peoplepc.com; or Finis Riggs, (918) 587-4400; e-mail: Lriggs@cox.net; Web site: www.ttownrockhound.org

24-25--FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA: Show, "Flagstaff Jewelry, Gem, and Mineral Show"; Val Latham, Sharon Szymanski; Radisson Woodlands Hotel Flagstaff; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; contacts Sharon Szymanski, (480) 671-6191, or Val Latham, (602) 466-3060

JULY-AUGUST 2010:

30-1--PRESCOTT, ARIZONA: Show and sale; Prescott Gem & Mineral Club; Prescott Gem & Mineral Club; Embry Riddle Aeronautical University Activity Center, 3700 Willow Creek Rd., Bldg 84; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; adults \$2, children under 12 free; hand-crafted jewelry, rough rock, slabs, cabochons, beads, fossils, crystals, equipment, raffle; contact Maggi Lieber, 4855 E. Diamond Dr., Prescott, AZ 86301, (520) 831-0017; e-mail: maggiscratch@msn.com; Web site: www.prescottgemmineral.org

AUGUST 2010:

7-8--AUSTIN, TEXAS: Show; Austin Bead Society; Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; admission \$5, \$1 off with food donation; handcrafted jewelry, supplies, raffles; contact Austin Bead Society, P.O. Box 656, Austin, TX 78767-0656, or Michele Chesak; e-mail: mchesak@gmail.com; Web site: www.austinbeadsociety.org

7-8--SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA: Show, "Golden Gateway to Gems "In the Pink"; San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society; County Fair Bldg. (Hall Of Flowers), Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7, seniors \$6, child under 12 free with adult; demonstrations, jade carving, chain maille weaving, wire wrapping, bead stringing, silver metal clay modeling, cabochon cutting, California Academy of Sciences displays; contact Carleen Mont-Eton, 4134 Judah St., San Francisco, CA 94122, (415) 564-4230; e-mail: publicity@show.sfgms.org; Web site: www.sfgms.org



GOD BLESS AMERICA

We're head'en to "AGATE RENDEZVOUS 2010"

The "**Chaparral Rockhounds**" of Roswell, NM, would like to cordially invite all Rockhounds of all ages to "**AGATE RENDEZVOUS 2009**", our annual ten-day, nine-night fieldtrip campout through the Labor Day weekend held at Apache Creek, New Mexico, from August 28th to September 6th, 2009. This is an "Inter-Federation Campout & Fieldtrip Event" for the whole family with the Rocky Mountain, California and the South Central Federations (and all other Federation who wish to attend).

We have very adventurous and interesting fieldtrips every day from 50 to 200 miles roundtrip from our base camp. Each day we leave at 8:30 AM with a picnic lunch to different areas in the region to collect a very wide variety of rocks, minerals and/or crystals that can include: Agate, Banded Agate, Blood Stone, Chalcedony, Crystalline, Flat Band Agate, Geodes, Golden Luna Agate, Hematite, Jasper, Lava's, Luna Blue Agate, Obsidian, Plume Agate, Quartz Crystals, Red Luna Agate, Snowflake Agate and Thunder Eggs just to name only a few. A couple of our fieldtrips might be into the eastern portion Arizona along the state line. Several of the areas that we travel into, one will need a high-clearance or 4WD type vehicle. If you do not have this type of vehicle, don't worry, someone would be happy to carpool with a little "\$\$\$\$" help for gas.

The very small town of Apache Creek is located in the central-western part of the state about 117 miles west of Socorro, NM, on NM-12 southwest of the small town of Datil, NM. Apache Creek campground, used as our base camp, was once a CCC Camp back in the 1930's. It is a beautiful and tranquil camping area with tall majestic Ponderosa pine trees towering over the entire camp area for plenty of cool shade during the warm days of August. The area is large and spacious enough for the largest of RV's to the smallest of pup tents and everything in between. Being a rustic camp area, there are no facilities, water or electricity, just one coed chemical toilet, so you must come prepared. There is no cost or camping fees at Apache Creek campground. The town of Apache Creek has one main structure in town, a small country store where one can buy the "very basics" and is where we get our spring water for washing out rocks. The small town of Reserve is twelve miles to the southwest and has a grocery store, bank/ATM, garage/gas station and a small motel for anyone who does not want to campout. The majority of the time, Mother Nature cooperates. The weather in August has warm days in the upper 70's to 80's and cool nights in the 50's with some possible 40's and even 30's. Occasionally, late summer thundershowers may wonder through the area to put a damper on things, so come prepared for the unexpected. The elevation of our base camp is about 6400 feet with day outings that can be up to 8500 to 9000 feet.

Every afternoon about 4:30 or 5:00 PM after a day of collecting, most of the rockhounds get together and have a happy hour to socialize and talk about the day's findings. Then everyone has supper on their own around 6:00 PM. Afterwards, we sit around the campfire and tell TALL stories of old mining, prospecting and Rockhounding glory days. The nighttime skies at Apache Creek are breathtaking. With no light pollution, one can see millions of stars. So, if you have a good pair of binoculars or a telescope, be sure to bring them too for some spectacular stargazing. On both Saturday afternoons after returning from our outing, we all get together for our traditional "Apache Creek Group Photo" about 5:45 PM. Afterwards, we all get ready for our traditional potluck supper at 6:00 PM. Everyone makes their favorite camp dish and we share them while telling more stories around the campfire. On each Sunday morning at 8:00 AM, we will have a Rollin' Rock Club meeting if we have enough folks interested.

Rockhounds that show up can camp-out anywhere from a couple of nights to the entire campout. Some just come for the last weekend to visit and see old friends. Some Rockhounds camp out for over two weeks. Everyone that comes always has a great time with all the camaraderie and collecting, and everyone **ALWAYS** goes home several pounds heavier. Each year, it only gets better. We really hope that your club members can join us this year to make some new friends and really have some good old "**Rockhounding Fun and Adventure.**" For the last 11 years, we have averaged 40+ Rockhounds that have attended the campout from at least half a dozen states. Just the right size for a Rockhound get together. And folks, if you have any good unique swapping/trading material from your area, be sure to bring it. And in addition, if you have a CB Radio, be sure to bring it along. We use CB Channel 7 on all our fieldtrips. When you arrive at the campground, just look for the "White Framed Canopy", that's our HQ. Please stop by and sign in.

Saturday and Sunday on the last weekend are open days. For those not interested in going out rock collecting, there are several other things to see and do in the area:

New Mexico Bureau of Mines Mineral Museum is located in Socorro, NM on the campus of the New Mexico Bureau of Mines. The museum is one of the “Top Five Mineral Museums” in all of North America and well worth the trip.

Very Large Array (VLA) Radio Astronomy Telescope is where the movie “Contact” with Jodie Foster was filmed. If you are interested in Astronomy, you defiantly want to check this place out. They have a very interesting, informative and education Visitors Center.

Apache Creek South Mesa has some unique 600-year-old Petroglyphs located on the south side of the mesa. The site is only a two-mile roundtrip hike from the campground.

Catron County Fair in Reserve, NM is the place to be on the first weekend of the campout. On August 27th & 28th, the town will be having their annual County Fair with a Livestock Show, Arts & Crafts and a Rodeo.

Catron County Rock Show during the Labor Day weekend will be at the Reserve Fair Grounds. The Catron County Rockhounds will be having their 4th Annual Rock Show with an Open-Tailgate Rock Swap on Saturday. Bring your Rocks to buy, sale or trade.

Mogollon, NM is an old historic and famous ghost town in the Mogollon Mountains, Gila National Forest. There are Antique Shops, a very interesting Mining Museum, the “Mogollon Rock Shop”, the Old Theater and have lunch in the Old Town Café with homemade pies.

The Catwalk is a very beautiful, tranquil and scenic canyon for hiking. Therefore, if you love hiking, the Catwalk is for you. In addition, there are numerous places to go hiking throughout the Gila and Apache National Forests.

Silver City Gem and Mineral Show in Silver City, NM. The local club will be having their 27th annual 3-day show during the Labor Day weekend. It is only a two-hour drive south and the very beautiful and scenic landscape will make the trip a memorable one.

Lodging: For those folks who do not wish to camp out, or need electricity and water for their RV, there are the following alternatives. Be sure to make any reservations as early as possible due to Bow Hunting season for Elk, which starts on Monday the 1st. The rooms and RV spaces fill up fast.

Apache Creek Deaf & Youth Ranch located just north of Apache Creek has both rooms and cabins for rent. They run about \$35.00 a night. They also have a few RV sites with full hookups. 505-533-6823 or 505-533-6820

Apache Creek RV is located in nearby Cruzville. They have a Dump Station, Ice, Laundry, Propane & Showers. 505-533-6166

Rode Inn Motel is located on Main Street in Reserve. They have Cable TV, Direct Dial Phones, Queen Beds and a Laundromat. Rooms run around \$55.00 a night. 505-533-6661.

Dining: For those folks who wish to have a change of diet from camp food, there are the following alternatives.

Carmen’s in Reserve has authentic American & Mexican food.

Ella’s Café in Reserve has home cooking.

The Adobe Café & Bakery in Rancho Grande.

The host for AGATE RENDEZVOUS is the Chaparral Rockhounds of Roswell, NM. If you are planning on coming to AGATE RENDEZVOUS, please try to RSVP NLT the 23rd of August. For any additional information about the Rendezvous, please contact Yonis Lone Eagle, RMFMS New Mexico State Director at 505-860-2455 or via e-mail at: [rockymountainrockhounds at yahoo dot com](mailto:rockymountainrockhounds@yahoo.com). All rockhounds that attend will abide by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies “Code of Conduct”.

