

# 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 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month** at 2216 East Yandell (The Bridge Club), 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.

## 2009 CLUB OFFICERS

President	Miguel Chrisman	(915)740-0301	Programs	Lorraine Johnson	(915)751-4527
Vice President	Judy Herd	(915)821-7818	3 Year Trustee	Matt Durning	(575)382-4301
Treasurer	Linda Durning	(575)382-4301	2 Year Trustee	Tom Smith	(915)356-8653
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)539-2022
Editor	Charlie Christensen	(575)640-1203	Assist. Show Chair	Jeanette Carrillo	(915)533-7153
Field Trips	Matt Durning	(575)382-4301	Webmaster	Laura Spencer	(575)635-7719
Membership	Charlie Christensen	(575)640-1203	Assist. Webmaster	Charlie Christensen	(575)640-1203

## 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 Any articles received after that will not be published until the following month.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](mailto:charlieenos@msn.com). Please e-mail articles to be published. 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:** Our club now has a website, [www.epmgs.org](http://www.epmgs.org). Any information you would like to see on this website contact Laura Spencer at [trukestrel@hotmail.com](mailto:trukestrel@hotmail.com) and/or Charlie at [charlieenos@msn.com](mailto:charlieenos@msn.com).

*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

The next General Meeting will be 25 June 2009 at 6:30 PM. This is a **Regular Meeting Night with a Program – Agates: Close Up. This is a 40 minutes program.** Please come join us. Members with the last name starting L thru Z are asked to bring the goodies.

## 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 or phone number please send e-mail to Charlie Christensen at [charlieenos@msn.com](mailto:charlieenos@msn.com). If, you do not have e-mail capabilities please send notification addressed to EPMGS Membership, PO Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931. Thank you.

# THE VOICE

VOLUME LVX NUMBER 9 JUN 2009



## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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



## GET WELL WISHES

Marty Gaugler just underwent knee replacement surgery. She is recovering well and is looking forward to becoming active in the club again.

Henry Mueller has been feeling under the weather for quite a while and has been unable to attend meetings or field trips. He wants everyone to know he thinks of us and wishes us all well and misses the field trips.

Take care both of you. Our Best Wishes to you.

## BIRTHSTONE FOR JUNE – PEARL

Pearl is formed in shellfish as a reactant to an irritant such as a piece of sand. Cultured pearls are created by adding a piece of mussel or shell inside of an oyster or mussel. This then creates a pearl as layers of the inside of the shell grow over the added substance. Pearls are generally white, brown, silver, cream, black or pink depending on the type of shellfish and water. Natural pearls are the most expensive, followed by cultured pearls. Fresh water pearls tend to be relatively inexpensive. While pearls generally are thought of as white in color, they also can be found in colors ranging from pink to black. The famed South Seas and Tahitian black pearls are rare

(and very expensive), with some of them among the largest pearls available, up to 18 and 20 millimeters. The most common size is about seven millimeters.

Source: *Rock Chips June 08*

(May 22-June 21)



Mercury

(June 22-July 22)



Moon

## 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

Loraine Johnson will be conducting programs for our club members as follows:

**25 Jun 2009** – Agates: Close Up – 40 minutes  
Examinations include pointing out differences between agates formed in sedimentary and igneous environments.

### *Rocks That Ring*

*Notes from an article by Paul Martin,  
Gems&Minerals, Nov. 1956*

Xylophone bars have been cut from agatized palm wood (in Colorado) and from trap rock (Talcott Mountain, CN). In California, chimes have been cut by J. Cooper, a member of the Calaveras Gem & Min. Soc., from limestones found near Lovelock, Nevada, and the Mojave Desert, California. The slate-like materials give only the note struck and must be played rapidly; the limestones, on the other hand, have a surprising amount of resonance or hum. There is a blackened outcrop of *clinkstone* in Bronco Canyon, south of Wikieup in the Hualpai Mountains of Arizona. Just follow Hwy 93 for a couple of miles and travel up the canyon a little way to collect the augite-phonolite. Phonolite, of course, is the musical rock from the petrologist's point of view. Phonolite is not a specific mineral, or even rock, but a group of rocks of volcanic origin. They are usually a greenish gray color and consist of orthoclase, nepheline, pyroxene, and occasionally leucite. The phonolites may have been shattered internally into many parallel plates, which may be the reason for their resonance. Phonolite occurs fairly commonly in Great Britain, New Zealand, parts of Europe, South America, and British East Africa. In the United States, it is found at Cripple Creek, CO, Wikieup, AZ, and the Black Hills

of South Dakota. The awe-inspiring Devils Tower of Wyoming consists almost entirely of columns of phonolite. As one "expert" put it, "The Devil's Tower is just one - big - gong".

*Source: Golden spike News – January 2008  
Rock Chips Sep 2008*

### ***Carving Is Not Just For Gems***

Since prehistoric times, man, Paleo and Neolithic, has hammered out tools of stone to cut wood, to kill animals and to work skins. The idea probably came from desperate throwing of stones to down something good to eat. But early man was observant, of necessity, and recognized that stones were broken naturally into sizes and shapes that answered his needs. The first lapidary, breaking stones himself, to the sizes and shapes he wanted, set the stage for everyone who works stone. He made sharper ax heads, lighter arrowheads and sturdier scrapers, but he recognized the beauty of the stone as well as its utility. If a tribe's medicine man wanted fetishes, the lapidary became a stone carver. Then his wife, tired of braiding or tying pretty stones into necklace forms, probably asked for a hole drilled into a pretty rock or two she had picked up while digging shellfish, he became a bead maker. Some of the pretty river stones, already naturally sculpted and polished, were easily carved into amulets and seals. The Stone Age people learned to differentiate stones and developed techniques for working them. Stone adornments excavated at Shar-i-Sokhta in eastern Iran are dated back to 2,800 BC. Soft stones included alabaster, limestone, and lapis lazuli, while hard stones were carnelian and rock crystal. That stones tumbled in a gravelly stream were prettier, and thus the value of polishing with a harder stone may have been noted. The cabochon was probably the first formally recognized man made shape, a simple cabochon being a rounded convex top with a flattened back. The shape is suitable for agate, jade, cat's eye stone and moonstones, harder to work but beautiful when finished. A double cabochon has a rounded back, lower in height than the front; it is commonly used for star stones because it may increase the distinctness of the star and the extra carat weight is a definite plus to the Ceylon native cutters who cut most of the world's star stones since a pale stone may have its color deepened by doubling. A hollow cabochon is where the back of the stone is concave, it is used where the color is too dark as with many garnets. The hollow allows more light to show through. The lentil cut is a rather shallow double cabochon with the top and back of even height, used for many years for small moonstones. The lapidary has moved from just stone carving into carving gems.

*Source: Strata Gem 4/08 via Rock Chips Jun 2008*



### **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](mailto:madtex@q.com).

### **The Pick and Shovel Field Trip Report**

By Matthew Durning – Field Trip Chair  
[madtex@q.com](mailto:madtex@q.com)

We picked one very hot Saturday in May to look for Fire Agates at Round Mountain on the Arizona/New Mexico border outside of Lordsburg. Our group of six and two dogs didn't cover a lot of ground that day but we did go through it with a fine tooth comb as the saying goes. Most of us found plenty of chalcedony and a few potential Fire Agate pieces but I think for the most part it is still out there. Speaking with the lady who runs the Border Rock Shop in Lordsburg her advice is to wait until after the rains. You never know until you try. The specimens I picked up will look real good in a planter of Cactus.

I recently made a road trip with my family to Steamboat Springs, CO. We took the back roads out of Santa Fe north. It must be spring time in the Rockies because the snow melt has made it the greenest place I've ever seen. The grasslands, valleys and mountainsides were emerald green. The rivers were running and there was water every where. We drove through snow, sleet and rain. We went from 70 degrees down to 34. Wow!

One hour south, is Kremmling, Co. Using the "Gem Trails of Colorado", by James Mitchell as a reference, I was easily able to find a agate field. I found a nice piece of brown and black jasper and some small agate pieces. Having some of the members of a wedding party with me I could not spend the time there I would have liked. They wanted to get to the wedding; I mean which is more important?

### **Due to the heat there will not be any rock hunts for June or July.**

That does not mean that I won't send out an email if I find a place cool enough to go. The summer time is also for museums, galleries and movies. The Zuhl Museum [www.nmsu.edu/zuhl](http://www.nmsu.edu/zuhl) has one of the best if not The Best petrified wood collection located on the I-10 side off University on

the NMSU campus. NM Tech in Socorro has a great collection so does Glendale AZ Community College. I just saw Star Trek twice it was so good. So until I see you again keep your head in the clouds and your feet on the ground.

Matthew Durning  
Field Trip Chairman

**AGATE RENDEVOUS 2009** – Again there will be a 10 day/9 night fieldtrip campout at Apache Creek.

It's happening from 29 Aug thru 7 Sep 2009. If you're wanting to attend you may want to make arrangements now with your bosses for time off. See info at the end of this newsletter.



### SCHOOL INFORMATION AND CLASS ENROLLMENT

Call 915-562-4268 for information and to enroll in Lapidary and Jewelry-craft classes. The Instructors are volunteers from the school committee of the Society and are not paid in any way by the Society or the students. If you want to enroll in one of the classes, all you have to do is sign up at the Memorial Park Senior Center which is located at 1800 Byron Street, El Paso TX. It is important that you register early because a minimum of three students is needed for a "Go" with a maximum of six students per class. Sign up well in advance as there are usually waiting lists. Each Class has a \$20 fee plus a Lab Fee and any other material costs. The \$20 fee payment is to be made on the first day of the class to the Senior Center, and the Lab Fee will be paid to your instructor. All other material purchases should be paid for at the time of purchase or delivery.

#### Active Member Instructors:

Tony De La Cruz	Dorris Brown	Pete Beltran	Francisco Cuevas	Robert Bates
Redgie Medlock	Art Moreno	Ken Raab	Greg Berglund	Freddy Gutierrez
Peggy Fontaine	Liz Kosturakis	Norm Ballou	Ron Anderson	

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The meetings are all held at noon in the conference room at the Memorial Park Senior Citizens Center. Anybody who wishes to sit in on any of the meetings is welcome. We recommend that you call Rose Strong at the Center first to make sure that the meeting date has not changed. Her number is 915-562-4268.

Wed 27 May 2009	Tues 23 Jun 2009	Mon 20 Jul 2009	Tues 25 Aug 2009
Mon 21 Sep 2009	Tues 20 Oct 2009	Mon 16 Nov 2009	Tues 15 Dec 2009

#### Class Schedule: (Classes run from 9 AM to 12 Noon unless otherwise noted)

Monday & Wednesday	Lapidary		04-13-2009 thru 05-20-2009 06-01-2009 thru 07-08-2009 07-20-2009 thru 08-26-2009
Monday & Wednesday	Silversmith	Advanced Beginning Advanced	04-13-2009 thru 05-20-2009 06-01-2009 thru 07-08-2009 07-20-2009 thru 08-26-2009
Tuesday & Thursday	Casting, Faceting, & Wirewrap Classes		04-14-2009 thru 05-21-2009 06-02-2009 thru 07-09-2009 07-21-2009 thru 08-27-2009
Monday thru Friday (see note below)	<b>(NEW) ADVANCED WORKSHOP</b> <b>12:30 – 3:00 PM</b>		All the time
Friday	Beading		Held from 9 AM to 12 Noon. Fee \$3.00. Bring your own materials.

**NOTE: ADVANCED WORKSHOP IS FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS. THERE WILL BE NO MATERIAL SALES DURING THIS WORKSHOP. YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN MATERIALS.**

The shop at the Memorial Senior Center is open for anyone's use on Friday's from 9 AM to 12 Noon. The shop fee for every session is \$3.00 to be paid to the instructor in charge of the Workshop.

**SHOW DATES**

**JUNE 2009:**

5-6--PRICE, UTAH: Show; Castle Country Rock, Fossil & Mineral Club; J. Leavitt Student Center - C.E.U, 526 North 300 East; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7; free admission; rocks, fossils, minerals, jewelry, metal detectors, equipment, displays, demonstrations, door prizes; contact Patrick Braun, P.O. Box 236, Ferron, UT 84523, (435) 384-2211; e-mail: pbraun@etv.net

5-7--RENO, NEVADA: Retail and wholesale show; Bead Renaissance Shows; Holiday Inn, 1000 E. Sixth St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; bead artists, dealers, ancient, vintage, contemporary and designer beads, jewelry, tools, books; contact J&J Promotions LLC, P.O. Box 420, Williamsburg, NM 87942, (575) 894-1293; e-mail: beadshow@aol.com; Web site: www.beadshow.com

5-7--TULSA, OKLAHOMA: Show; Gem Faire Inc.; Expo Square/Exchange Center 1, 4145 E. 21st St.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

6--DELTA, COLORADO: Show; Delta County Rock Wranglers; Heddles Recreation Center, 530 Gunnison River Dr.; Sat. 9-5; free admission; dealers, exhibits, door prizes, family activities; contact Harry W. Masinton, (970) 856-3861

6-7--COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO: Annual show; North Idaho Rock Club; Kootenai County Fairgrounds and Event Center, corner of Kathleen and Government Way, one block east of Hwy. 95; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; contact Bev Bockman, (208) 773-5384; e-mail: bockbb@aol.com

6-7--MARION, KENTUCKY: Show, "Ben E. Clement Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show"; Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum, Fohs Hall, N. Walker St.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 11-5; free admission; dealers, silent auction, door prizes, children's activities, museum tour, fluorescent mineral display, guest speakers, KY Geological Society booth, digs at old mine sites; contact Tina Walker, P.O. Box 391, Marion, KY 42064, (270) 965-4263; e-mail: beclement@kynet.biz; Web site: clementmineralmuseum.org

12-13--REDWOOD FALLS, MINNESOTA: Show and sale; New Ulm Gem & Mineral Club; Redwood Area Community Center, 901 Cook St.; Fri. 11-6, Sat. 11-6; in conjunction with the Minnesota Inventors Congress; contact Russ Swigart, 36493 320th St., Redwood Falls, MN 56283, (507) 644-3604

12-14--ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO: Show; Gem Faire Inc.; New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 300 San Pedro N.E.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

12-14--PARK HILLS, MISSOURI: 12th annual swap and sale; Mineral Area Gem & Mineral Society, Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Club; Missouri Mines State Historic Site, Hwy. 32; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-5; free admission; rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary; contact Lloyd E. Marler, (573) 431-2951, or Missouri Mines State Historic Site, P.O. Box 492, Park Hills, MO 63601, (573) 431-6226

13-14--BUTTE, MONTANA: Show; Butte Mineral & Gem Club; Civic Center Annex, 1340 Harrison Ave.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Pete Knudsen, (406) 496-4395

19-21--BOISE, IDAHO: Retail and wholesale show; Bead Renaissance Shows; Expo Idaho, 5610 Glenwood; free admission; bead artists, dealers, ancient, vintage, contemporary and designer beads, jewelry, tools, books; contact J&J Promotions LLC, P.O. Box 420, Williamsburg, NM 87942, (575) 894-1293; e-mail: beadshow@aol.com; Web site: www.beadshow.com

19-21--CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO: Annual show; Road Runner Gem & Mineral Club; Living Desert Zoo and State Park, north on U.S. Hwy. 285; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; free admission; exhibitors, silent auction, door prizes, Wheel of Fortune, displays, Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park admission extra; contact Cathy Hamilton, 308 N. Lake, Carlsbad, NM 88220, (575) 885-8572; e-mail: cfhamil@leaco.net

19-21--SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO: 5th annual show; Palace of the Governors/New Mexico History Museum; Palace of the Governors Courtyard, downtown plaza; Fri. 9-7, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; contact Carlotta Boettcher, (505) 476-5112; e-mail: carlotta.boettcher@state.nm.us

20--COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO: Show, "Rock Fair at WMMI"; Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society; Western Museum of Mining and Industry, 225 N. Gate Blvd.; Sat. 9-3; adults \$5, children \$2; outdoor rock show, mining museum exhibits, vendors, rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, lectures, demonstrations, gold panning, metal detecting, children's area; contact Ronald "Yam" Yamiolkoski, (719) 488-5526; e-mail: info@csms.us; Web site: www.csms.us

20-21--RIVERTON, WYOMING: Show, "Wyoming, A River of Gems"; Riverton Mineral & Gem Society; Fremont County Fairgrounds, Armory, 900 S. Federal Blvd.; Sat. 9-8, Sun. 9-4; adults \$1, children under 12 free; dealers, gems, fossils, jewelry, rocks, beads, spheres, lectures, kids' games, wheel games, mineral identification, display cases, silent auctions, raffles; contact Rex Rogers, 1010 Mary Anne, Riverton, WY 82501, (307) 856-9544; e-mail: rogerspg@msn.com; Web site: www.rivertongemclub.com

26-28--GRAPEVINE, TEXAS: Show; AKS Gem Shows; Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-4; adults \$5; classes in beading, PMC, chain maille, and more; contact Kay Schabillon, (504) 455-6101; e-mail: info@aksshow.com; Web site: www.aksshow.com

26-28--SANDY (SALT LAKE CITY), UTAH: Show; Gem Faire Inc.; South Towne Exposition Center/Exhibit Hall 5, 9575 S. State St.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

27-28--LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI: Osage Rock & Mineral Club; 8th annual show; The Country Club Hotel and Spa, 301 Carol Rd.; Sat. 11-5, Sun. 11-5; free admission; gemstones, jewelry, meteorites, geodes, fossils, minerals, quartz crystals, custom jewelry, cabochons, gift items, demonstrations, displays, kids' games, prizes; contact Roger Varvel, (417) 532-4367; e-mail: rvarvel@fidnet.com

### **JULY 2009:**

3-5--FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO: Show; San Juan County Gem & Mineral Society; Farmington Civic Center, 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

10-12--DURANGO, COLORADO: 56th show; Four Corners Gem & Mineral Club; La Plata County Fairgrounds, 2500 Main Ave.; Fri. 11-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; contact Joanna Baker, P.O. Box 955, Durango, CO 81302, (970) 385-6850; e-mail: info@durangorocks.org

11-12--CASPER, WYOMING: 62nd annual show; Natrona County Rockhounds Club; Best Western Ramkota Hotel, 800 N. Poplar St.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; adults (12 and up) \$3, seniors (65+) free, children (11 and under) free; contact Stephane Anderson-Rott, PO. Box 123, Mills, WY 82644, (307) 333-5162; e-mail: cina31373@aol.com

**FOR A MORE COMPLETE LIST OF ALL SHOWS (I ONLY LIST A FEW) GO TO**  
<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp> **OR REFER TO A COPY OF ROCK & GEM MAGAZINE.**

# We're head'en to "AGATE RENDEZVOUS 2009"

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 29<sup>th</sup> to September 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 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 and take showers. The small town of Reserve is eleven 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" at 5:30 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 10 years, we have averaged about 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.

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 25 August, the town will be having their 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 local rock club will be having their 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.

**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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>. The rooms and RV spaces fill up fast.

**The Bunk House Bed & Breakfast** in Apache Creek is 505-533-6949.

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

**Rode Inn Motel** on Main Street in Reserve is 505-533-6661. They have Cable TV, Direct Dial Phones, Queen Beds and a Laundromat.

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

BBQ Restaurant in Reserve

Ella's Café in Reserve

Little Adobe Café in Rancho Grande

The host for AGATE RENDEZVOUS is the Chaparral Rockhounds and is co-sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Rockhounds. If you are planning on coming to AGATE RENDEZVOUS, please try to RSVP NLT the 24<sup>th</sup> of August. For any additional information about the Rendezvous, please contact Yonis Lone Eagle, RMFMS Vice President at 505-860-2455 or via e-mail at: rockymountainrockhounds at yahoo dot com. All rockhounds that attend will abide by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies "Code of Conduct".