

---

---

# SMOKE SIGNALS

“Great Spirit, grant that I may not criticize my neighbor until I have walked a mile in his moccasins.”

Volume 1, Issue 12

Tule Gem and Mineral Society Newsletter...www.tulegem.org

February 2009

---

---

## Membership Reminder

Your TGMS dues are \$20 and need to be paid soon.

Please make your check out to TGMS and send to:

Laura Riggs  
12175 W. Lacey Blvd  
Hanford, Ca 93230

Puffs from the Chief and our club minutes will return in March newsletter.

Thanks for your patience!!

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2 Class and workshop schedule

Ant Hill Field trips

3 Winter destinations

4 Events and Happenings

Get your stories and information to the Newsletter Editor

Call 735-9984, email: rlnpirate@att.net

## Quartzsite, Arizona

**The Best of the Western Gem shows..... (Well the biggest anyway)!!!!!!**

Quartzsite, in western Arizona, just 20 miles east of the Colorado River on I-10, Quartzsite has been a rockhound's paradise since the 1960s



Over 2,000 vendors of rocks, gems, minerals, fossils and everything else imaginable create one of the world's largest open air flea markets during the first 2 months of the year.

In 1856, settler Charles Tyson built a fort at the present site of Quartzsite to protect his water supply from attacks by Native Americans. Fort Tyson soon became a stopover on the Ehrenburg-to-Prescott stagecoach route. It had become known as Tyson's Wells by the time the stage stopped running and the town was abandoned.



Looking for that perfect gift.

## TGMS SHOP SCHEDULE

Visit the Tule Gem and Mineral Society rock shop in Visalia. This shop is full of great equipment for members to use. Not sure what to do with that great specimen you picked up? What about making a cabochon? Let the master craftsmen of TGMS show you how. Here is a class schedule

Faceting – Tuesday 9 am – 12 pm with Joe Navarro  
Call Joe for more details 747-1824

Cabochon – Cutting and Polishing  
Tues 6pm – 8pm Mike Obert 733-2543  
Thurs 6pm – 8pm Don Vieira 732-7739

Silver Piercing and Wire Wrapping  
As requested call Judy Link 747-3288

### OPEN SHOP HOURS:

TUES	6PM – 8PM	MIKE OBERT 733-2543
WED	6PM – 8PM	JUDY LINK 747-7739
THURS	6PM – 8PM	DON VIEIRA 732-7739
FRI	4PM – 6PM	STEVE HAYWARD 734-3843

TGMS shop is located at the northern end of the Visalia Sales Yard in a modified single wide mobile home.

Take advantage of the great equipment and vast wisdom of the TGMS masters.

## ANT HILL FIELD TRIP March 21, 2009 10 am

This is a co-op field trip with the conejo Gem and Mineral club, Tri-Clubs and CFMS field trip to collect shark teeth fossils. The weather should be nice and cool, with a possibility of rain so dress accordingly. The dig site is 500 yards up a hill from the parking area.

From Hwy 99 in Bakersfield turn East on Hwy 178 after 10-12 miles, turn left on Harrell Hwy going north 3.5 miles around the hill into the Kern River

Valley. We will be parking on the left in a ravine at the bottom of the hill.

TOOLS: Rock pick/hammer, gad, pry-bar, hand sledge, pick, shovel sifter, bucket or pack, plastic bags and paper to wrap collectables and protect eye protection.

Bring eats and drinks. Bathrooms are 2 miles down the road at Hart Park.

Material to collect: Shark teeth fossils, many types and sizes from the Miocene Epoch 10-15 million years ago. There are also other fossil bone fragments and teeth to be found.

Contact Rob Milner for more info 559-359-6174  
[rdmiller@verizon.net](mailto:rdmiller@verizon.net)



Entrance to the Opal Hill Mine

**There are lots of fun trips you can take without the club.**

**If you are headed to Southern California check out these places**

**Bradshaw Trail  
Hauser Geode Beds  
Opal Hill Mine  
Tumco/Hedges Ghost Town**

**More info at [www.desertusa.com](http://www.desertusa.com)**

**REMEMBER.....  
WHEN ROCKHOONDING DON'T  
FORGET TO COLLECT SMALLER  
SAMPLES TO BE INCLUDED IN 2010  
GEMBOREE GRAB BAGS.  
And turn in any leftover show cards.  
TGMS recycles these as labels for  
2010 grab bags.**

### TGMS Classifieds:

Items run for one newsletter only, editor is not responsible for items advertised. Advertiser MUST be a TGMS member in good standing.

**FOR SALE:** 18" Highland Park Saw with nearly New 16" Blade, 24" Frantom with nearly new 24" blade and extra blade. Both saws are in Top condition. Cleaned & Painted, nothing to Fix or clean. Call Gary Robertson 734-1925



A small mining boom revitalized the town as Quartzsite in 1897 and it remained thus until 1965, when the Pow Wow Rock, Gem & Mineral Show began the rockhound migration to Quartzsite each year.

These days, the population can swell to almost 1 million during January and February as rockhounds, jewelers and vendors attend the eight major gem and mineral shows.

**Another great winter destination....**The Bradshaw Trail is located in southern eastern Riverside County and also a small segment in Imperial County. It is an east-west trail beginning approximately three miles north of the community of North Shore near the Salton Sea State Recreation Area.



Bradshaw Trail, just past Wiley's Well Campground

Formerly used as an overland stage route, this trail was blazed by William Bradshaw in 1862. Beginning at San Bernardino and ending at La Paz, Arizona (now Ehrenberg), this trail was used extensively between 1862 and 1877 to haul miners and other passenger to the gold fields at La Paz. This trail is now a 70 mile graded road that traverses mostly public land between the Chuckwalla Mountains and the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range. Offering spectacular views of Palo Verde Valley, this trail offers warm winter fun.

More info is available in: **The Gold Road to La Paz:** a must read for Bradshaw Trail adventurers.



## 2009 Meeting Schedule

January 5, 2009

February 2, 2009

March 2, 2009, Installation Dinner

April 6, 2009

May 4, 2009

June 1, 2009 Annual Picnic

July 6, 2009

August 3, 2009

September 14, 2009

(one week later due to Labor Day Holiday)

October 5, 2009

November 2, 2009

December 7, 2009 Christmas Party

**Every Meeting and Every Member is important....Hope we see you soon!!**

