
SMOKE SIGNALS

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

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August 2009

Puffs from the Chief....

NOTICE: SEPTEMBER BARBEQUE MEETING WILL BE HELD **MONDAY, SEPT. 14, 2009** AT THE FARMERSVILLE SR. CENTER. **TIME: 6:00 PM.** BRING YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE. DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED. MEMBERS WHOSE NAMES BEGIN WITH **A - M PLEASE BRING SIDE DISH AND SALAD.** MEMBERS WHOSE NAMES BEGIN WITH **N - Z PLEASE BRING SIDE DISH AND DESERT.**
There will be a short meeting after dinner.

BOARD MEETING - MONDAY, AUG. 31, 2009 - 7:00 PM - FARMERSVILLE SR. CENTER.

ALL BOARD MEMBERS PLEASE CALL ME IN ADVANCE TO PLACE AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA IF REQUIRING BOARD ACTION.

Thanks to Vice President, Mike Obert for inviting Dr. Gregg Wilkerson, mining geologist with BLM, to present his expertise and thoughts concerning the Clear Creek and New Idria areas. The Club members presented many good, pertinent questions to add to the program's success. One of Gregg's suggestions was that perhaps the Club could become involved in working with BLM, EPA and CFMS to help keep the hunting areas open. He spoke of the possibility of the Club staking a claim if economically possible. More information will be gathered to obtain information that will hopefully help keep hunting areas open.

Chief, Don Vieira

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Get your stories and information to the Newsletter Editor

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

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this months newsletter

California Rockhounding..

California's geological forces have created one of the widest varieties of rocks and minerals found in any state. This rock and mineral wealth has long been recognized by rockhounds even before the gold rush days.

Early rockhounds were prospectors looking for valuable minerals and gemstones for commercial purposes. Eventually, however, more people were drawn to rockhounding for recreational purposes, mainly for the beauty that rocks and minerals provide.



By the 1930s, interest in rockhounding increased significantly and it was during this period that rockhounding groups were formed and collecting areas in the desert were publicized.

With increased popularity of rockhounding, some rockhounds regarded certain areas as their own and feared that other collectors would deplete their rocks and minerals. This led to substantial amounts of material being removed and an increase in mining claims. By the 1960s the government saw a need to regulate the collection of rocks and minerals on public lands.

*Meeting
August 3, 2009*

The meeting was called to order by President Vieira at 7:30 PM. The flag salute was led by Joe Navarro. There were 30 members and 1 guest.

President Vieira introduced Dr. Greg Wilkerson, a Mine Geologist representing the Bureau of Land Management, who Brought the Club up to date on what Gem and Mineral gathering sites have been restricted or closed all together. Thank you Dr. Wilkerson.

Laura Riggs asked that all members be thinking of a deserving member for the honor of Life Membership.

President Vieira announced that the Club has purchased \$150.00 worth of cut slabs, for the members to use and the grab bags for the 2010 Show, from Ruth Wilcox.

All members that would like to enter a case in the Tulare County Fair please sign the sheet being circulated by President Vieira who will be contacting them at a later date about where and when to set them up.

Ed Smith announced that any member that has rocks to donate for the Shows silent auction please contact him, he also asked that members bring rocks for identification to the October meeting.

Although it wasn't announced at the meeting President Vieira called and asked that I include the information that the September meeting will be held the second Monday of the month because of the Labor Day Holiday, it will be a pot luck dinner meeting, Tony Hart will be bar-b-quiring, all members with last names that start with A to M please bring a side dish and salad, all members with last names that start with N to Z please bring dessert and side dish.

He also asked me to let the members know that there will be a Board meeting on Monday, August 31, 2009, at the Farmersville Senior Center at 7PM

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

*Respectively submitted
Corene Keys
Secretary*

**REMEMBER.....
WHEN ROCKHOOUNDING 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.**



FEATURING MEMBER, RUTH WILCOX

Long time Honorary Life Member, Ruth Wilcox generously gifted some Chrysoprase and Stone Canyon Jasper to be given to new members. The rock was collected approximately fifty-three years ago. Ruth has been an active member for many years. She served as president for three terms: 1965 - 66 and 1990 - 1992. She also volunteered to do the cooking during our Tule Gemboree for many years and continued to bake many delicious pies until recently. The Club also purchased from Ruth, some rocks that were collected many years ago that were a big attraction in the Silent Auction.

Many thanks for your generosity and service to our Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Ruth.

**Sincerely,
Tule Gem & Mineral Soc**

Visitors to the Mojave Desert often ask where they can rockhound. Perhaps the best source of information is rock, gem, and mineral groups found in communities throughout southern California. Libraries, bookstores, and "gem and mineral shows" are also very good sources of published information. Although any hill, mountain, or wash can provide some wonderful rock and mineral discoveries, the following listed areas are some of the well-known sites visited by rockhounds in which good samples can still be found.

Many rockhounding sites require hiking or driving to remote areas on sandy or rocky roads where there is a possibility of getting stuck. It is always a good idea to travel in a group and to bring plenty of drinking water with you when traveling in the desert. If you must travel alone, be sure to let someone know of your plans. Remember to stay on designated open roads. Cross country travel is illegal, as is driving in designated Wilderness Areas.

Maps

Desert Access Guide Maps showing the distribution of public and private lands are available for sale at BLM offices. These maps can be purchased at any BLM office.

California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos,
Moreno Valley, CA 92553 - Phone: (951) 697-5200

Barstow Field Office, 2601 Barstow Rd., Barstow, CA 92311 - (760) 252-6000

Needles Field Office, 101 W. Spikes Rd., Needles, CA 92363 - (760) 326-7000

Ridgecrest Field Office, 300 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555 - (760) 384-5400

Palm Springs South Coast Field Office, 690 W. Garnet Ave., N. Palm Springs, CA 92258 - (760) 251-4800

El Centro Field Office, 1661 South 4th, El Centro, CA 92243 - (760) 337-4400

Additional Information:

If you would like additional reading material on rockhounding, please visit the California Welcome Center., Tanger Way, Barstow, CA 92311 - (760) 253-4813.

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!!

