

NEEDLES GEM & MINERAL CLUB



**P.O. Box 234
Needles, CA 92363**

Editor:
Barbara Wiggins
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NEXT CLUB MEETING

April 21 at 6:00 p.m. PDT

First Baptist Church
1421 Commercial St.
Mohave Valley, AZ

Usually 3rd Monday of each
month, Oct-May

BOARD MEETING

30 minutes before Club
meeting each month

Blue Agate News

Volume 3, Issue 4

April 2008

YEAR END POT LUCK APRIL 21 @ 6:00 p.m.

Our Year End Pot-Luck will be held one month earlier this year so we can include the members who go north for the summer.

If you did not sign up to bring a side dish at the last meeting, please call Sally at (928) 768-7437 or Lori at (928) 234-3391 to sign up (if you haven't been called)?

Our new meeting place is great! If you haven't already been there, see the map on page 3.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kelley Pope
Tracy Uden
Charles Bennett

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NGMC INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

THE OBJECTIVES OF NGMC

To promote public interest in collecting and studying rocks and minerals.

To preserve and perpetuate the lapidary arts.

To provide field trips to obtain lapidary material and minerals for preservation and display.

To provide an opportunity for the purchase, exchange and exhibition of specimens and materials.

The **NGMC meets** the third Monday of each month from October through May at **6:00 p.m. Pacific Time** unless otherwise notified.

NGMC - 2008

President: Barb Ballard	928-768-6335
Vice President: Pat New	928-768-5640
Treasurer: Ann Ferguson	928-768-7150
Secretary: Sally Hayward	928-768-7437
Past President: Corinne More	760-326-5005
Past President: Knox McCloy	928-768-9064
Auditor: Gisela New	928-768-5640
Facilities Chair: Faith Reed	928-763-3511
Field Trip Chair: Bob Ferguson	928-768-7150
Membership Chair: Lori Clary	928-234-3391
Newsletter Editor: Barbara Wiggins	928-453-0948
Raffle Chair:	
Refreshment Chair: Lori Clary	928-234-3391
Sgt at Arms: Knox McCloy	928-768-9064

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS

George Truitt
Norma Truitt
Myrna Givens
Corinne More
Tom More

Membership dues are payable at the November meeting and delinquent after January 1. Please send dues to the official Club address on the first page of this Newsletter, attention: Treasurer.

This Club is a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (**CFMS**) <http://www.cfmsinc.org/>.

Membership per person:	\$15.00 year
Name Badge:	\$ 3.75
Field Trip Fee:	\$ 1.00
"No Badge" fine:	25¢

FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES - NGMC

- Leader will state approximately how far, road conditions, and if 4WD is required when each field tripper signs in.
- Each car is to keep the car behind in sight and STOP if the car is not in sight (unless otherwise stated by the leader).
- Field trippers will notify the leader if they are hiking or driving to another site and their approximate return time.
- Field trippers will notify the leader if they are leaving the group and sign out (with time).
- Members wear name badges.
- Handheld radios: stay on Channel 6

The **Blue Agate News** is published monthly except June, July, August and September. Articles are requested to be to the editor by the **15th** of each month, preferably by email at bartobra@hotmail.com or call (928) 453-0948. The Blue Agate News is also published via email - if you have internet, please share your address with the Editor. This saves the club money and you will have the newsletter immediately. The Newsletter is in PDF format so it will be necessary to download Adobe Reader (free program) in order to view the newsletter. You can also view the newsletter on line at <http://needlesgemmineralclub.blogspot.com/>. Please e-mail Barbara with information at bartobra@hotmail.com.

The Blog (Web Log) – **Blue Agate News Online** is free and can be updated frequently October through May. If you have information you want posted, please email it to Sally at rockhound.ngmc@gmail.com or sign up to contribute directly to the Blog. You may access the Blog at: <http://needlesgemmineralclub.blogspot.com/>

Refreshments Schedule

April 2008 – Season End Pot Luck
 May 2008 –
 October 2008 – Barb Ballard
 November 2008 – Sandy, Paula
 December 2008 – Christmas Pot Luck

UPCOMING SHOWS

May 3-4 -- ANAHEIM, CA: 49th annual show, "Gem Roundup"; Searchers Gem & Mineral Society; Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W. Crescent Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4:30; family fun, kids' program, silent auctions, gold panning, grab bags, hourly door prize, dealers, tools, minerals, gemstones, jewelry, books. Contact Betty Nelson, (714) 530-1365; e-mail: betty@azteche.com; Website: www.searchersrocks.org

May 3-4 -- BAKERSFIELD, CA: Show, "Art In Stone"; Kern County Mineral Society; Kern County Fairgrounds, Ming Ave. and P St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; lapidary, gem, mineral and fossil displays, dealers, demonstrations, silent auction, grab bags, Spin-N-Win. Contact Ismael Sanchez, 1200 Dolores St., Bakersfield, CA 93305, (661) 301-4609; e-mail: sbkelley@bak.rr.com; Website: www.kcmineralsociety.org

May 3-4 -- KINGMAN, AZ: Show; Mohave County Gemstoners; Kingman Academy of Learning, 3419 Harrison; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; free admission; dealers, jewelry, fossils, rough material, minerals, gems, crafts, club displays, silent auction, raffle prizes. Contact Pete, (928) 565-4321, or Dave, (928) 692-3797

May 16-18 -- COSTA MESA, CA: Annual show, "West Coast Gem & Mineral Show"; Martin Zinn Expositions; Holiday Inn - Bristol

Plaza, 3131 S. Bristol; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; 120 dealers, China, Brazil, Russia, India. Contact Regina Aumente, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004, (505) 867-0425; e-mail: mz0955@aol.com; Web site: www.mzexpos.com

May 17-18 -- NEWBURY PARK, CA: 34th annual show, "Pageant of a Thousand Gems"; Conejo Gem & Mineral Club; Borchard Park, 190 Reino Rd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4:30; free admission; mineral, rock and fossil exhibits, demonstrations, gem and jewelry sales, youth activities, door prizes, silent auctions. Contact Robert Sankovich, (805) 494-7734; e-mail: rmsorca@adelphia.net; Web site: www.cgamc.org

MAP TO MEETING PLACE



At the Arrow

**First Baptist Church
 1421 Commercial St.
 Mohave Valley, AZ**

CUBIC ZIRCONIA OR DIAMONDS...

how can you tell?

- Cubic Zirconia (CZ) doesn't have the sharp edges of a diamond.
- A line drawn on a sheet of paper is visible through a diamond.
- CZ will be transparent if dropped in water; a diamond will remain visible.
- Take it to a Jeweler!

Source: Roc-Tok, 2/1997, via Rock Rattler, 6/2000

NEW METHOD OF TUMBLING

by Al Nutile in Tulip City Conglomerate

The writer believes that the following idea can take much of the work from the popular method of tumbling. All of the instructions we have seen state: "Wash stones and tumble very clean between each change of grit or final materials," at the same time stating, "If liquid is too thick add some slurr or grit from previously used material."

We know some will argue against our method, but here goes: Don't wash at all after each week of tumbling with grit! Start with #50 grit, tumbling a week. Then DON'T EMPTY THE TUMBLER, but add 5 teaspoons of new grit [one step finer] to the mixture in the three pound tumbler. Follow this procedure through #190, #320 and #600 grit. Now [finally] thoroughly wash the stones and tumbler before pre-polish and final polishing.

For a really glossy finish, take one or more weeks [after washing out the polishing powder] adding three spoons of sugar, one spoon [level] of *Cascade* or *All* or any non-sudsing detergent and add about ten drops of muriatic acid, if you have some, let stand one minute - open, close tub, and tumble for a week.

We have run eleven tubs using this method and found that even ordinary sandstone comes out highly glossed. Except for extra final steps, you save three washings and getting rid of the slurr each time. Saves time, work and mess, and still gets a better polish.

Source: Pickin's & Diggitis, 7/1996, et al, via Rock Chips, 6/2000

COLLECTING ROCKS

Author unknown

I think that there will never be
 An ignoramus just like me
 Who roams the hills throughout the day
 To pick up rocks that do not pay
 For that's one thing I have been told
 I take the rocks and leave the gold.
 O'er deserts wild and mountains blue
 I search for rocks of varied hue.
 A hundred pounds or more I pack
 With blistered feet and aching back.
 And after all is said and done
 I cannot name a single one.
 I pick up rocks where e'er I go
 The reason why I do not know
 For rocks are found by fools like me
 Where God intended them to be.

Source: Rock Chip Reporter, 4/2003, Tips & Chips, 2/2004

THE TEN ROCKMANMENTS

- Thou shalt not touch thy neighbor's minerals unless he placeth them into thy hand.
- Thou shalt not test the strength of crystals by punching, squeezing or biting.
- Thou shalt not drop thy neighbor's fossil, for many do not bounce properly.
- Thou shalt not place thy neighbor's specimen into thine own pocket.
- Thou shalt not argue the name of that mineral too violently; sometimes thou couldst be wrong.
- Thou shalt not test thy neighbor's agates for hardness by rubbing them together.
- Thou shalt not climb over thy neighbor when on a field trip, lest thou are willing to spend the remainder of the day, digging him or her out.
- Thou shalt protect thine eyes, hands, and feet, so thou canst enjoy many more field trips.
- Thou shalt not encroach upon thy neighbor's digging, lest his hammer be dropped upon thy toe.
- Thou shalt not complain about or denounce thy club officers, under penalty of being elected as one thyself.

Source: Nana Gems via the Berks Geode via Desert Diggings, 3/1999, via Chips 'n Splinters, 3/2005

TYPES OF SAWS

by Val Carver

There are 3 basic classifications of lapidary saws; these are:

- a. Faceter's Saw
- b. Trim Saw
- c. Slab Saw

Faceter's saws are primarily used to prep small chunks of rocks for faceting. Faceter's saws can sometimes be used for VERY LIGHT trim saw work. Usually they have blade sizes in the 4" to 5" diameter range and are usually manual feed. These types of saws are tabletop mounted units. Prices for faceter 's saws are normally in the \$200 to \$300 range. Most faceter 's saws are designed to be used with water and water-based lubricants.

Trim saws are used to reduce the size of a chunk of rock. This type of saw is normally used to cut cabochon preforms from materials that have been slabbed. They can also sometimes be used for light slab work or to cut a rock in half. Most trim saws are manual feed; some have vices to chuck up a rock. Trim saws usually come in blade diameters (sizes) of 6", 8", and 10". These saws are tabletop-mounted units. Prices for trim saws range from \$400 for the 6" size to \$975 for a 10" sized unit. Depending on the construction of the saw, they will require either water-based lubricants or oil lubricants. This saw classification also includes ring saws, diamond band saws, and scroll saws.

Slab saws are the big boys of the saw world. They are used to take large chunks of rocks and normally make slabs out of them. A slab is defined as a piece of rock cut with parallel surfaces. Slabs are typically cut from 1/8" thick to several inches thick. Normally slabs are cut 1/4" to 3/8" thick for cabbing. Slab saws come in blade diameter sizes of 10", 12", 14", 16", 18", 20", 24", 30", and 36". The 10" through 14" units are normally tabletop units while the 18" and larger are stand-alone units. Price ranges for new slab saws are from \$900 for a 10" unit to \$15,000 for the 36" size. The function that makes a slab saw a slab saw is that the rock is chucked up in a vice and is fed into the rotating blade by some type of feed drive mechanism. The slab saw also has a transverse table feed so that after you have cut a slab, you can back the rock out, and without unchucking the rock, move it over with a crank on the table and be lined up to cut another slab. ALL slab saws should be used ONLY with oil lubricant.

Source: The Rock Rustler's News, 4/2005, via The Backbender's Gazette, 09/2006

"AFMS CODE OF ETHICS"

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

Hints 'n Such

These hints were gathered primarily from the bulletins of other clubs. They have not been evaluated for safety or reliability and could be unsafe or could cause damage to your project. Please use caution and safety when trying out any new idea.



Preserving Iron Meteorites: A new way to preserve your iron meteorites, especially etched ones, is to submerge them in ATF (Automatic Transmission Fluid) in a small Tupperware container. This prevents rust better than older methods, such as gun oil and WD-40. For meteorites in glass display cases, you can enclose a VCI (Volatile Corrosion Inhibitor) with them. These Emitters contain special compounds which evaporate, forming a very thin layer only a few molecules thick, on the surface of all metals present. For more information go to www.CortecVCI.com.

Submitted by Shawne Lardin, VGMS, in Rockhound Rambling, 2/2008, via The RockCollector, 3/2008



Polishing Jade: For polishing jade, we find that heavy harness leather, at least 1/8" thick, is most suitable. Do not try to use light leather. A piece of felt floor covering makes a good cushion behind the leather. Chrome oxide is the most satisfactory polishing agent. Slow speed, not over 350 rpm, for a 10" disc works best. Quite heavy pressure is generally required. Particularly for flat surfaces. And just enough water to keep the leather moist, applied with the chrome oxide in the form of a thin cream. Considerable pull will be felt as the leather dries out. It is only while this pull or drag is felt, that actual polishing takes place.

Source: LaphoundNews, via The RockCollector, 3/2008



Lapis Test: Hydrochloric acid is good for testing lapis lazuli. A drop of it on the blue stone (the backside) creates an odor of hydrogen sulphide (rotten eggs). On the white areas, it usually effervesces because the white is usually calcite. This test will distinguish lapis from sodalite or lazulite.

From Mineral Matter via The RockCollector, 3/2008



Stabilizing Porous Stones: If you would like to try your luck at stabilizing porous stones such as turquoise so that they can be cut and polished, the Silvery Colorado Rock Club offers the following advice: Take a jar with a lid and add one pint of acetone. To this, add the complete contents of both the resin and hardener tubes of epoxy glue. Mix well, and add well dried stones. Cover the jar, and let it sit for at least four days. Remove the stones and allow a week for them to dry. They should now be ready to work. Please note that the acetone is highly flammable, so use caution.

Source: Pegmatite, via The RockCollector, 04/2005



Mineral specimens may be poisonous under certain conditions, or when mixed with cleaners. Never heat cinnabar or stibnite. They produce poisonous gases.

Source: The Rockpile, 6/2005, via Rockhound Rambling, 1/2006



Lapidary Tip: To identify and grind out pits in the cabochon, spray the rough cab with red enamel from an aerosol can, then grind the paint off with a light touch. Pits and lines will stand out as bright spots, making it unnecessary to wipe the cab so see if the pits are out. This is especially helpful when grinding freeform cabs from fire agate.

Source: The Petrified Digest, 11/1999, via The Rockcollector, 4/2005

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

Mountains Near Ludlow

April 11 - 13

This will be an exploratory trip of the area led by Montie Hazen, who knows that area inside and out. Come out for one day or all three days! Those who wish to camp can do so at the Gravel Pit 2 miles west of the Dairy Queen. Meet Montie Hazen at the Dairy Queen at the Ludlow exit from I-40 at 9:00 a.m. PDT each day.

Plamosa Road

April 19

We will be looking for chrysocolla and barite at two sites off of Plamosa Rd. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the U.S. Post Office's parking lot at 1500 S. California Ave. (next to the Circle K) in Parker. It is located on your right as you are leaving town traveling towards Quartzsite. Call Bob Ferguson at (928) 768-7150 with any questions.

Check the Blog often, as updates are posted when available.

<http://needlesgemmineralclub.blogspot.com/>

FIELD TRIP REPORT

March 29

Thirteen people (11 members, two guests) and two dogs (Huck and Mandy) met at the Blue Agate Mine. Kathy Sporre showed some of the group a whole new way of rock hounding! Ask her about it!!



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NEEDLES, CA 92363-0234



Please send Exchange Bulletins to the address above
Or email to rockhound.ngmc@gmail.com



WYOAQHA photo '07