

NEEDLES GEM & MINERAL CLUB



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

Editor:
Barbara Wiggins
bartobra@hotmail.com



NEXT CLUB MEETING

Oct 20 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 5

May 2008

TAX FILING CHANGE

NGMC needs to apply for an Employee Identification Number (EIN) and after receiving that number, apply for 501(c)7 Federal Non Profit status. There will be a one-time application fee for the 501(c)7. Upon receipt of the letter of determination we will file the necessary tax e-file return.

The members present at the May business meeting voted to present an amendment addition to our Bylaws. As required by our Bylaws, a thirty day notice of intent to amend the Bylaws needs to be sent out to all the members. When we return in the fall we can ratify that change at the October 20, 2008 meeting. This addition to our Bylaws will appear under Article 1, Section 2 as *"This organization runs on a calendar year as required for taxation purposes."*

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Treasurer, Ann Ferguson.

***HAVE A GREAT SUMMER
EVERYBODY !!!***

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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

October 2008 – Barb Ballard
 November 2008 – Sandy, Paula
 December 2008 – Christmas Pot Luck

UPCOMING SHOWS

May 30-Jun. 1, Las Vegas, NV - Las Vegas Bead Renaissance Show. Palace Station Hotel & Casino, 2411 W. Sahara Ave. 30th-31st. 10-6; 1st, 10-5. J & J Promotions L.L.C., 505-894-1293, fax 505-894-4080, info@beadshow.com, www.beadshow.com.

MAY 30-JUNE 3, LAS VEGAS, NV - JCK LAS VEGAS. Sands Expo & Convention Center and The Venetian Resort Hotel Casino. 800-257-3626, www.jckgroup.com. Credentials required.

June 6-8, SANTA MONICA, CA - CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS MARKET. Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. Juried. 808-422-7362, www.contemporarycraftsmarket.com. Open to the public; credentials required for wholesale buyers.

June 7-10, PHOENIX AZ - INTERNATIONAL PRECIOUS METALS INSTITUTE. 32nd Annual Conference of Precious Metals. JW Marriott Desert Ridge. No vendors. 850-476-1156, www.ipmi.org. Open to the public.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

April 11 – 13

Friday, 8 people, 5 cars and 1 dog went on a field trip near Ludlow. We started off on the south side of the freeway at Hector Road. Then we went to the north side of the freeway where we discovered a new spot after finding our way across the railroad tracks.

Saturday, we started with 17 people, 10 vehicles and 4 dogs. We collected copper minerals from an area south of Ludlow -- potential gem quality material and great yard rocks!!! From that location

we went to the Thulite (Ruby Zoisite) location south of the freeway. After returning, we collected some butterscotch colored jasper northwest of the campsite and some jasper with green color in it. By the end of the day we were down to 4 people, 3 cars and 1 dog who were going to spend the night.

One of our members had a flat, so this is a good opportunity to remind everyone to make sure those spares are properly inflated (as this one was) or they may be of little value.

Sunday, the remaining group headed off in different directions after packing to go home.



WORDS OF CAUTION

by John Wright
Conservation & Legislation Chair

There are two major bills, which at present are working their way through Congress that you need to be aware of as they could severely restrict access to publicly owned lands:

The first one is HR 2016, National Landscape Conservation System. If passed, this bill will essentially place 26 million acres of public lands controlled by BLM under a "National Park" type system which will eliminate or severely limit any type of recreational mining. This bill could also open the door for BLM under the influence of special interest groups to add millions of additional acres in years to come. More information on this bill can be found online at: "Lands Rights Network" <alert@landrights.org>. Subject: House Mark-Up, Wednesday 3-12, On National Landscape Conservation System. (For more information go to American Land Rights Assoc. website: www.landrights.org.)

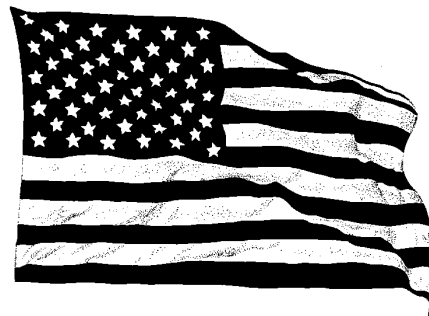
The second bill that we should be concerned about is HR 5610, Designation of Wilderness Areas, which according to a BlueRibbon Coalition Action Alert, dated Wednesday, March 19, 2008, Subject: Shades of things to come?, bralerts@sharetrails.org, "the bill would designate just about 500,000 acres of Wilderness in West Virginia, Arizona's Tumacacori Highlands; the Redwood Mountain Grove in California's Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park; the Sabinoso Wilderness in New Mexico; Oregon's Copper Salmon area and the South Fork of the San Jacinto River Canyon in Riverside County, California." With these lands being designated as "Wilderness Areas" public access will be almost completely eliminated. (For more information, go to the BlueRibbon Coalition website www.sharetrails.org).

Once the 26 million acres of public lands controlled by BLM are placed under a "National Park" type system by HR 2016, it is very reasonable to assume that at some date in the not too distant future these sites will also be designated "Wilderness Areas" by a bill similar to HR 5610. The public may be allowed to visit certain parts of these areas to look but not touch. The really disturbing part about all of this is that

the millions of acres covered by these two bills are only a small portion of a grandiose plan by special interest groups to eventually join numerous areas like these into plots far larger than your wildest dreams.

While we rest on our laurels, our adversaries are very diligently working to have public lands placed "Off Limits". They know that this is an election year and "Green" is definitely a popular theme with politicians lately. Who knows, perhaps they think there could be another Oscar or Nobel Prize waiting out there. Remember, we also have a vote and should certainly let our desires be known.

Source: AFMS Newsletter, 05/2008



THE EMPTY CHAIR

by Robert (Bob) Ross

The strength of a Rock Club lies first of all
In occupied chairs at the meeting hall.
The empty chair breeds an air of unrest,
Discouraging the officers from doing their best.

What better way to learn first-hand
The pros and cons and make a stand?
You agree or reject, that's your solemn right.
The important thing is, you came tonight.

The rabble-rouse and rumor clown
Will desert the fight when the chips are down.
Those sound-off guys pretend to care,
But are largely responsible for the empty chair.

Monthly meetings are the practical way
To voice your opinion and have your say.
Decisions are reached; and in your heart,
You find the truth of doing your part.

Source: Snoopy Gems, 04/1997, via The Calgary Lapidary Journal, 05/2008

KNOW YOUR ROCKS

LEAVERITE: Also known as Dropite, Junkite and Crudite. This type of rock should be discarded immediately. It constitute 90% of most rocks. This includes Sourgrape Agate and Mutilated Quartz.

SACK ROCK: This is material that is stuffed into a sack but falls from the top as the bearer struggles back to the car. If taken home, it will be tossed into a corner and forgotten.

WONDER ROCK: You always wonder why you brought it home and where you found it.

BRAGGIN' ROCK: Also called Pocket or Eating Rock. This material is licked, rubbed, spit upon and fondled until it assumes a near polish and is frequently passed around for admiration.

@#%x+ ROCK: A large, heavy, possibly angular rock, that falls on your foot as soon as you have removed your hiking boots.

Source: The Conglomerate, 08/1998, via The Calgary Lapidary Journal, 05/2008



FRACTURE OR CLEAVAGE ?

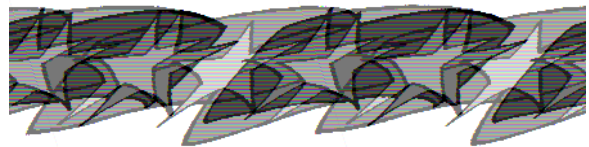
Do you know the difference?

If a crystal is broken and the break is irregular, it is said to have a fracture.

If the break occurs along a plane and parallel to a crystal face, it has cleavage.

Cleavage is caused by the internal structure and varying strength of bonds between plane of different atoms, e.g., the cleavage of mica into thin sheets is called perfect cleavage.

Source: Dust & Grit, 01/1987, via The Calgary Lapidary Journal, 05/2008



ARE YOU SURE IT'S JADE?

If a chip is knocked off the freshly broken surface, it should not sparkle in the sun. If it does, it's not jade.

If you can scratch it with a knife-point, it isn't jade.

It will be much heavier than a common rock of similar size.

Tap the specimen with a hammer. If a moon shaped fracture appears, it is agate or jasper, but not jade.

If it is jade, it will have a smooth, waxy, almost greasy look.

The only positive test for jade is x-ray analysis and specific gravity tests.

Source: Rockhound Rumbings, 11/2000

HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS THAT CAN BE USED AS ROCK CLEANERS

By Betsy Martin

Safety: Always use plastic containers, rubber or nitrile gloves, eye protection, good ventilation, and great care when handling these products.

- **Zud or Barkeeper's Friend** cleansers (contains oxalic acid) - Warm or hot solutions will remove iron stains and are helpful with clay deposits. These cleaners can be used with a toothbrush on sturdy surfaces.

- **Toilet Cleaner** (the hydrochloric acid type) - Dissolves calcite rapidly. After treating anything with an acid, rinse very carefully and soak in ample fresh or distilled water for a while to leach out any acid remaining in crystal seams and fractures. You can then follow up with a final soak in dilute Windex to neutralize remaining traces of acid.

- **Lime Away** (dilute hydrochloric acid) - Dissolves calcite more slowly. Rinse as you would for other acid treatments (see above).

- **Calgon** - Dissolve this powdered water softener in water. Use for clay removal.

- **Vinegar** (acetic acid), **soda water**, **colas** (carbonic and phosphoric acids) - Will slowly etch out very delicate fossils in limestone. Rinse as you would for other acids (see above)

- **Iron Out** (iron stain and clay remover) - Mix with warm water and use with good ventilation. It will lose strength if stored. Rinse with plain water.

- **Bleach** - Dilute solutions of bleach can remove organic deposits and disinfect minerals collected in areas used by livestock. Rinse with plain water.

- **Hydrogen peroxide** - Use to remove manganese stains. Rinse with plain water.

- **Citric acid** - Use to remove manganese stains. Rinse as above for acids.

- **Windex** (with ammonia) - A good clay deposit remover and final surface cleanup. Works well in ultrasonic cleaners. Rinse with plain water.

- **Distilled Water** - Use to clean sensitive species and as a final soak after acid treatment.

Removing Thin Coatings:

On moderately hard minerals – use toothpaste (a feldspar abrasive) and a toothbrush.

On hard minerals – use toothbrush with pumice powder and water.

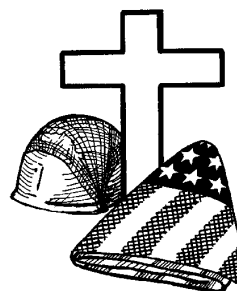
On calcite (including bruised places) - quickly dip in vinegar or Lime Away and rinse thoroughly.

Repeat. Soak in plain water afterwards to leach any acid from cracks.

Cleaning Tools:

Toothpicks, seam ripper, bamboo sticks, sewing needles in a pin vise, old dental tools, old toothbrushes, periodontal brushes, canned air, Exacto knife, single edge razor blades, cheap small stiff bristle brushes.

Source: The Franklin County Rockhounder, 5/2007, via Rockhound Rambling, 04/2008



MURPHY'S LESSER KNOWN LAWS

forwarded by B. Jay Bowman

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
3. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
4. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
5. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
6. If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them, five or six at a time, on a hill, in the fog.
7. The things that come to those who wait will be the scraggly junk left by those who got there first.
8. The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.
9. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
10. When you go into court, you are putting yourself into the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

Source: AFMS Newsletter, 02/2008

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.



Natural and synthetic stones need TLC. Here are some tips for extending the life and luster of your stones:

- Clean stones with hot, soapy water.
- Dry stones thoroughly with a soft towel.
- Some stones can be cleaned in an ultrasonic cleaner; some can be permanently damaged if cleaned in one (amber, coral, lapis, opal, pearl and turquoise, for example).
- Rub gems with a smooth, soft cloth to remove fingerprints and keep them shiny.
- Store stones away from intense heat and light.

Source: West Seattle Petroglyphs, 01/2007, via The RockCollector, 05/2008



The secret of hiding fractures in a cab with epoxy is to shape your stone and semi-polish it. Heat the stone to 200 degrees in an oven. Mix epoxy and apply it to one end of the crack and work toward the outside of the cab so that the air in the fracture is driven out and the resin now replaces it. You will note that the epoxy becomes very fluid when it touches the hot stone and flows right into the crack. Put the stone back in the oven for 20 minutes for the epoxy to harden. Scrape off the surplus and proceed with your final polish.

Source: West Seattle Petroglyphs, 01/2007, via The RockCollector, 05/2008



Here's an old SPEEDY SANDING tip. I hope someone out there can use it. The day I found that the sandpaper on the sanding drum was worn down to such an extent that it would not remove the grinding marks from a cabochon. I had no extra paper on hand and had to finish the cab as it

was a gift. I thought I'd try the loose grit for sanding. I placed a wet sponge under the sanding drum so that the worn out came in contact with the sponge to keep the paper moist but not too wet. I turned on the motor and began sanding. The results were wonderful. I had to dip the stone in the grit a few more times before finishing. I found that I was never in danger of over sanding, and had no need to be careful with the edges. I sand all my cabs this way now, as it is faster and better. When I replace the paper, I never use a grit coarser than size 400.

Source: J.F. Fahner in West Seattle Petroglyphs, 01/2007, via The RockCollector, 05/2008



Manual car washes are good places to clean large rock specimens that are not fragile. The hard spray cleans all nooks and crannies.

Source: Dusty Rocks via The RockCollector, 05/2008



Before grinding and sanding cabochons, put cold cream on your hands and rub them until they are dry. This fills the pores and cracks in your fingers. When grinding, sawing, or sanding is completed, the dirt can be washed off easily. Also a good idea for painting.

Source: Gemstar via The RockCollector, 05/2008



To remove clay and ferrous oxide from the surface of petrified wood, use MR. CLEAN. (Do not use oxalic acid as it darkens the specimen.)

Source: Scott Shrader, 2/24/1998, on the Internet at shrader@scsn.net via Pick & Pack, 5/2008, via The RockCollector, 05/2008



When grinding and sanding obsidian, always grind from the center out. Otherwise the wheel and sanding belts will pick up tiny chips of glass that will scratch your stone.

Source: Contact Zone via The RockCollector, 05/2008

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PO BOX 234
NEEDLES, CA 92363-0234



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



WYOAQHA photo '07