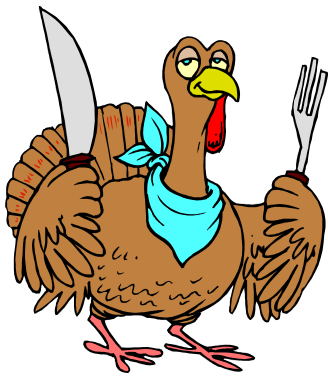


NEEDLES GEM & MINERAL CLUB



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

Editor:
Barbara Wiggins
bartobra@gmail.com



NEXT CLUB MEETING
Nov 17 at 6:00 p.m. PST

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 7

November 2008

TREASURER'S DREAM

Author Unknown

I fell asleep the other night
and while I had my snooze
I dreamed each member stepped right up
and promptly paid his dues.
But when I found it was a dream,
I nearly had a fit.
It's up to you to make it true,
so won't you please REMIT?

Source: Shin-Skinner, 11/05, via The RockCollector, 12/05

2009 DUES ARE DUE AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING

It is \$15 per person

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

John Taylor
Anthony Ballard

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2. Club Information
3. Refreshments Schedule/Upcoming Shows/Did You Pay Your Dues
4. Paleontological Resources Preservation Act
6. New Endangered Species - the Rockhound
7. Jasper or Agate
8. Using the Flex-Shaft/A Hint for Swappers
9. A Thanksgiving Poem/Buying Rough Opal
10. Hints 'n Such
11. Upcoming Trip Reports & Events/Field Trip Review

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@gmail.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@gmail.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

November 2008 – Sandy, Paula
December 2008 – Christmas Pot Luck

UPCOMING SHOWS

Dec 6 & 7--BARSTOW, CA Show, Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society, Cora Harper Community Center, 841 S. Barstow Road, Sat & Sun 10-5. Gene Haines (760) 256-0595; email: email@mdgms.org; web site: www.mdgms.org

Dec 12-14--COSTA MESA, CA: Show, "Gem Faire"; Gem Faire Inc.; OC Fair & Event Center/Bldg. 10, 88 Fair Dr.; 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

Dec 19-21--SAN DIEGO, CA: Show, "Gem Faire"; Gem Faire Inc.; Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio S; 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

Dec 19-21--VENTURA, CA: Show, "New Jewelry, Gem, Bead,& Mineral Show"; High Sierra Investment Group Inc.; Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, seniors and students \$3, children free; free seminar on "How and Where to Pan for Gold," certified gemologist and appraiser on duty; contact Jerry Fisher, 20385 Pahute Rd., Apple Valley, CA 92308, (760) 961-2728; e-mail: gefisher39@aol.com; Web site: highsierrainvestments.net

DID YOU PAY YOUR DUES ???

You pay your dues and what do you get?
Year filled with fun and friends - you bet!

You learn about rocks and minerals, too
There's oodles and oodles of things to do.

There's field trips and shows and programs galore.
Now what do you mean? "Can't we do more !"

Sure, there's scads of books for you to read
To keep your old noggin from going to seed.

There's auctions and door prizes and raffles to boot,
If you're lucky enough you can win lots of loot.

You don't have to remember - you're reminded to meet
By your monthly bulletin which we hope is a treat.

There are displays at most meetings for you to see,
And punch and goodies for refreshments to please.

You can visit with friends to your heart's content
So - do pay your dues - 'tis money well spent.

Did I hear you say '**WORK?**'? Yes, there's that, too,
But it can be fun if you work with the crew.

Just do your share - don't leave it to others,
We'd all shirk the work if we had our druthers.

So, plunk down your money and smile when you do,
'Cause there's lots of pleasure in store for you.

Can't think of a way you get more for your dough,
Than by joining a **ROCK CLUB** with Get Up and Go!

Source: Rear Trunk - date & author unknown, via
Calgary Lapidary Journal, 02/2007



PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES PRESERVATION ACT

The following was sent to Congressman Brian Bilbray of San Diego County, by a professional geologist, opposing House Bill HR 554, the "Paleontological Resources Preservation Act." If you want to continue to collect fossils on public lands, its time to write a similar letter to your elected officials.

Bill HR 554 would make it a crime for individuals to collect fossils on public lands. I am a registered professional geologist with a half century of experience working as a geologist, which includes the collecting of fossils. I believe bill HR 554 is ill advised and unnecessary. I have been involved in voluntary teaching of geology, including fossils, to school children and adults. This is a pastime that millions of Americans practice and enjoy. I do not understand the purpose of restricting and criminalizing their free exercise of their right to use THEIR public lands.

There are trillions of fossils in the rocks within the United States. The collecting of a few thousand or even tens of thousands of fossils each year will not deplete this resource in 1,000 centuries nor does it contribute any significant environmental impact. **To appoint bureaucrats and law enforcement individuals, who are untrained in paleontology, to enforce this dumb law is ludicrous and another waste of taxes.** I find it incredible that with all the problems facing this country you folks in Washington are wasting your time and our money on such absurdly silly legislature.

A few paleontologists want to restrict their fellow Americans so that they alone can pursue this hobby. It is a hobby for them too, because people cannot make a living as paleontologists unless we taxpayers support them with grants of our money. No one should have his access to knowledge restricted so that only a few anointed experts can pursue fossil collection and study. Many of the finds and much research in paleontology occurs as a result of amateur and semiprofessional research and collecting. What is next? Will only librarians be allowed to use the libraries or only biologists be allowed to go fishing?

If this bill is passed, a family on a weekend outing can be jailed and fined for picking up a fossil even if they do not recognize it as a fossil. How do we restrict children from picking up a fossil any more than restricting them from picking a wild flower or catching a butterfly? Children need to explore nature to be children. Our scientists, including the very paleontologists promoting this law, come from a childhood curiosity that includes pastimes like fossil collecting. I became a geologist because of a childhood pastime of collecting fossils, which began at the age of 8 years. In my professional career, I have added billions of dollars in resources to our nation's benefit. Many other geologists share the same background and have made similar contributions. You have to decide if the passage of this stupid Bill HR 554 is worth the price of further diminishing our nation's available energy and mineral resources and our future supply of scientists. Or perhaps in the future we can also import our scientists from China too?

I urge you to vote against bill HR 554.

Sincerely,
Eugene V. Ciancanelli
California Professional Geologist #357

~

Another dissenting view of H.R. 554:

Americans have long been collectors of fossils. Thomas Jefferson was fascinated by the fossilized bones of mastodons and giant sloths and one of his charges to Lewis and Clark on their epic exploration of the American West was to try to discover a living representative of these impressive creatures. Since that time, thanks to generations of amateur and professional practitioners of what we now call paleontology, we today know a lot more about the many species that now remain on the earth only as fossils. The hobbyists and scholars who gathered their finds and organized the knowledge gained from their discoveries were lucky to have existed before this bill becomes law. Their good timing keeps them out of the hands of the about to be created corps of fossil police.

S. 3069: Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act - Introduced by B. Boxer [D-CA]

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s110-3069>

H.R. 6156: Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act - Introduced by Howard McKeon [R-CA]

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-6156>

H.R. 554: Paleontological Resources Preservation Act - Introduced by James McGovern [D-MA]

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-554>

Source: CFMS Newsletter, 10/2008]

CONTACT INFORMATION:

CA 41st District: Congressman Jerry Lewis

2112 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-5861

Fax: (202) 225-6498

<http://www.house.gov/>

AZ 2nd District: Congressman Trent Franks

1237 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone: 202-225-4576

Fax: 202-225-6328

<http://www.house.gov/>

Editor's Note: You can also get information about these bills at the Library of Congress' website, <http://thomas.loc.gov>

JASPER OR AGATE: A SIMPLE DISTINCTION

by Dave Olson

Jasper and agate are the rocks we hobbyists deal with most often in pursuit of our goals as lapidaries and collectors. Do we really understand the difference between the two? Often, confusion arises when attempting to describe a specimen as either jasper or agate.

Both jasper and agate are composed of extremely fine interlocking quartz crystals called crypto crystalline quartz. As such they are both members of the fine-grained quartz family referred to as Chalcedony. Chalcedony occurs throughout the world in beds, bands, nodules, geodes, botryoidally masses, as a replacement of fossils, wood tissue or other minerals, and as a cementing material. It is deposited from silica-rich waters, often carrying other mineral impurities.

It is the presence of these mineral impurities which stains the micro quartz grains to produce the wide variety of colored patterns, banding effects and inclusions that differentiate the basic "gem" forms of crypto crystalline quartz - jasper and agate from ordinary drab chalcedony.

So what is the difference? In general, agate, is a transparent to translucent form of chalcedony in which the coloration takes the form of regular bands, rings, clouds, wispy inclusions or distinct groups. Agate containing straight or concentric bands is referred to as fortification agate. Moss agate contains delicate wispy or lacy inclusions of coloring minerals, often green mineral chlorite that penetrated cracks in the silica gel matrix prior to hardening. Now they remain as fine picture-like images. Agates are usually named by employing the geographical area where it is found with a descriptive adjective, as "Priday Ranch Plume Agate."

Jasper, on the other hand, can be somewhat translucent but it is most often opaque. The colorations of jasper is usually much darker than that of agate and is totally random with respect to pattern of distribution. Finely divided hematite gives the color to reddish jaspers and another iron mineral, goethite, is responsible for yellows and browns. Chlorite and nickel minerals contribute to green coloration. As with agate, jasper comes in many colors and displays an almost infinite variety of patterns. Because of these properties, it is an extremely versatile material for cabs, scenic "pictures" to be framed and other functional and decorative purposes. It is truly the bread and butter "gem" of our hobby.

Source: Petrified Digest, 08/03, via Gneiss Times, 04/06

USING THE FLEX-SHAFT

by Pam Lombardi
Canaveral GMS

The flex-shaft is one of the most useful and versatile tools to have in your shop. It's essential for drilling, carving, sanding, polishing, and engraving stone, metal, glass and even wood. Since the hand piece is a safe distance from the motor it can be water cooled. Stones and metal can get hot! Holding your work under water protects your fingers and can keep your stones from over heating and shattering.

The possibilities grow with optional attachments such as a drill press, milling table, hammer (a mini jack hammer!) for bending bezels, a mini wax lathe and many others. Just look in your jewelry supply catalog or website. The Allset Setting Guide System is a big help with cutting seats for pave', prong, cluster and channel settings.

The most popular is made by Freedom. There are several motor choices available ranging from 1/10 hp to 1/3 hp, reversible or non. Reversible is preferred because it lets you back out of a hole and running in reverse tends to throw debris away from you rather than into your face, but keep in mind that most fluted burrs and drill bits can only be run in the forward direction.

You will need a way to control the motor. A foot pedal frees your hands to hold the hand piece and your work while varying the speed with your foot. I also use a dial control when I need a steady consistent speed. The most common hand piece is the Jacob's chuck type just like your power drill has and uses a chuck key to open the jaws to accommodate drill bits and mandrels from 1/16 inch to 5/32 inch. Also available are quick-release, collet and others for special applications and dedicated usage.

You can get started with a few drill bits, an assortment of burs, some polishing and cutoff wheels. Choosing the right bur for your project can be a daunting task. The book "Making the Most of Your Flex-shaft" by Karen Christians is a wealth of information. It explains the many types and shapes of burs as well as alloys they come in and how to get the "best bang/buck ratio. For an excerpt from this book see: <http://www.ganoksin.com/borisat/nenam/flexshaftintroduction.htm>.

There are some excellent free online videos produced by Freedom Inc. at this website: <http://www.blackstoneind.com/foundations/store/storepage.asp?page=Video>. Here you'll find: Introduction and Proper Set-up, Safety Guidelines, Hand pieces and Accessories, Maintenance of Shafts & Sheaths, & Motor Maintenance.

Source: adapted from Canaveral Moonstone, 8/2007, via The RockCollector, 10/2008



We Salute Their Bravery

A HINT FOR SWAPPERS

Psychologists have confirmed the basis for a practice the Chinese jade dealers have used for centuries. Before pricing materials, the dealers carefully watch a customer's eyes. It is now established that the pupils of a person's eyes will widen when viewing something especially desirable.

So when buying or trading, don't think you're safe with just a 'poker face' – you'd better do something about those eyes – or at least, don't look up!

--by Marge Mills from Rok-Tok via Hound's Howl, 9/08, The RockCollector, 10/2008

A THANKSGIVING POEM*Author unknown*

'Twas the night of Thanksgiving
 But I just couldn't sleep;
 I tried counting backwards,
 I tried counting sheep.

The leftover beckoned
 The dark and the white
 But I fought the temptation
 With all of my might.

Tossing and turning with anticipation
 The thoughts of a snack became infatuation.

So, I raced to the kitchen
 Flung open the door,
 And gazed at the fridge,
 Full of goodies galore.

Gobbled up the turkey and buttered potatoes,
 Pickles and carrots, beans and tomatoes.
 I felt myself swelling so plump and so round,
 Till all of a sudden, I rose off the ground.

I crashed through the ceiling,
 Floating into the sky
 With a mouthful of pudding
 And a handful of pie.

But I managed to tell as I soared
 Past the trees...
 Happy eating to all...
 Pass the cranberries, please.

May your stuffing be tasty,
 May your turkey be plump.
 May your potatoes 'n gravy
 Have nary a lump.

May your yams be delicious,
 May your pies take the prize,
 May your Thanksgiving dinner
 Stay off of your thighs.

Source: EFMLS News, 11/2003, via The
 Backbender's Gazette, 11/2007

**BUYING ROUGH OPAL
 SEVERAL DIFFERENT CONDITIONS**

Mine Run. Direct from the mine. The stones have not been cut or ground down. This means that there is more guess work in the cutting. Purchasing mine run opal can be risky if you are not very experienced.

Off Cuts. The miner has removed whatever opal he has a market for and sells you what's left. With off cuts, you can usually tell what you are going to be able to cut. You must still watch for cracks in the opal because once a crack becomes obvious, a stone can lose half its value.

Rubs. This can often be the best way of buying rough if you are not very experienced. The miner has cut and ground the stones into basic shapes, after having removed most of the rubbish. What you have left is the stone nearly ready for the dopping and polishing process.

You have the satisfaction of cutting your own stones without the high risk of buying mine run rough.

Opal is officially sold in troy oz. there are 20 d.w.t. pennyweights to a troy oz. There are approximately 30 grams to a troy oz. and approximately 30 oz. to a kilo.

Source: Stony Statements, 9/2008, via The
 RockCollector, 10/2008

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.

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: The Pegmatite, via The RockCollector, 4/2005



To tumble soft material that is hard to polish, start with the second coarsest grit. Fill tumbler 3/4 or 7/8 full, so the stones will roll and not fall. About 1/4 the normal amount of cerium oxide polishes better than the usual polishers.

Source: Owyhee Gem via RockhoundRambling, 5/2008



Ever want to remove a lacquer coating from an otherwise nice piece of lapidary material? Want to avoid using harsh chemicals? Here is a tip for you. Obtain some apple cider vinegar, the brown colored kind. Submerge the lacquered object in it, leave for a week, then remove and scrape off the lacquer with your thumbnail or other appropriate blunt tool. Repeat if necessary.

Source: by Mary Jane Dunn in The Pegmatite, 3/2007, via Rockhound Rambling, 5/2008



The "star" in synthetic sapphire moves with the light, but does not do so in a natural sapphire.

Source: The Ammonite via Rockhound Rambling, 10-11/2005



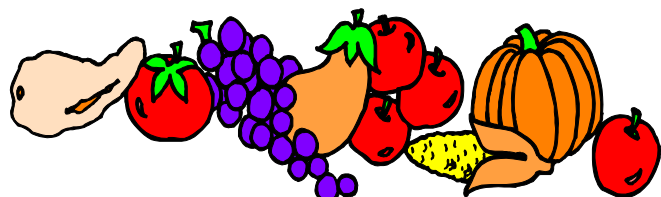
The secret or the art of healing fractures in a cab with epoxy is to shape your stone and semi-polish it. To get rid of that nasty crack, heat the stone to 200 degrees in the oven. Mix the epoxy and apply it to one edge of the crack. Gradually apply the epoxy, working from one end of the crack to the other. This is very important. You will notice that the epoxy becomes very liquid when it touches the hot stone and it flows right into the crack. By applying the epoxy at one end and working toward the outside edge of the cab the air is driven out. Put the stone back in the oven for 20 minutes. The epoxy will harden. Scrape off the surplus and finish polishing. If done right the fracture will be difficult to detect.

Source: Puget Sounder, date unknown, via Rockhound Rambling, 10/2008



Some soft stones such as malachite and azurite can be patched to fill in small pits and cracks by taking a scrap of the material to be patched, crushing it and mixing it with epoxy. Clean the stone thoroughly with alcohol, coat the pits or cracks with epoxy, then fill with mixture of epoxy and powdered stone, working it well into the crack with a toothpick or pin, leaving a little above the surface of the stone. Let dry completely, sand wet and polish, using care not to get the stone hot in sanding or polishing.

Source: The Geode, date unknown, via Rockhound Rambling, 10/2008



UPCOMING TRIP REPORTS & EVENTS

TBA

November 9
7:45 a.m.

Meet in the parking lot of the McDonald's in Searchlight, NV and we will proceed from there.

BURRO CREEK

November 22
8:00 a.m.

Although this trip is planned as a day trip for the Club, we will meet at the intersection of Highway 93 and Burro Creek Crossing Road to accommodate those who wish to camp at the BLM campground the night before. We will be looking for Pastelite, Jasper, Purple Agate, Apache Tears, colorful pink Chert and more. It is about 18 miles back in from Highway 93 to the collecting area.

ARTILLERY MOUNTAIN/MAGGIE MINE

December 6
TBA

If you have questions about any of these field trips, please contact Bob Ferguson at (928) 768-7150 or LDRider@frontiernet.net.

FIELD TRIP REVIEW

Mohave Jasper
October 25



BLUE AGATE NEWS
NEEDLES GEM & MINERAL CLUB
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