

NEEDLES GEM & MINERAL CLUB



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Editor:
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Blue Agate News
Our on-line NewsBlog
<http://ngmc.blogspot.com/>

Updated frequently, comments
welcome, news wanted

E-mail Sally with info:
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NEXT CLUB MEETING

April 18
First Baptist Church
404 F Street
Needles

Always 3rd Tuesday each
month Oct-May

BOARD MEETINGS
June December 2006
To Be Announced

Blue Agate News

Volume 1, Issue 4

April 2006

Congratulations!

To the newest life time honorary members this year!

George and Norma Truitt (we can't thank enough)

T More (who has been everywhere)

The Rock Lady Corinne More (who works for rocks)

Myrna Givens (the best)

Thank you for being part of our lives!

Welcome New Members

Sonia Chamberlain
Don & Joan McQuarie
Bill Rogers
Michael Dorn
Georgia and Earl Breault
Molly Barnett

The Blue Agate News is published monthly with the exception of June, July, August and September. Submission of articles is requested to the editor by the 21st of each month, preferably by email. (shayward@wyoming.com) 928-768-7437

The NGMC Newsletter is published via email - if you have Internet, please share your address with the Editor. This will save our Club money and you will have the newsletter immediately. You will have to download (FREE) Adobe Reader in order to view it.

The Blog (Web Log) – **Blue Agate News On-line** is free and can be updated daily. If you would like to have something posted, please email the information to Sally at the above address.

NGMC INFORMATION

THE OBJECTS 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 opportunity for the purchasing, exchange and exhibition of specimens and materials.

The NGMC meets the third Tuesday of each month from October through May at 6 PM Pacific Time in the Recreation Room at the First Baptist Church located at 404 F Street in Needles.

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

Membership per person: \$15.00 year

Name Badge: \$3.50

Field Trip Fee: \$1.00

"No Badge" fine: 25¢

NGMC OFFICERS

- President: Knox McCloy
- Vice President: Michael Boeck
- Treasurer: Frank and Mary Flynn
- Secretary: Sally Hayward
- Past President: Barb Ballard
- Past President: Corinne More
- Parliamentarian: Pat New
- Field Trip Chairperson: Barb Ballard
- Assistant to Field Trip: Corinne More

Honorary Lifetime Members

- George Truit
- Norma Truit
- Myrna Givens
- Corinne More
- Tom More

Refreshment Schedule

- March 2006: Frank and Mary
- April 2006: Barb and Ann
- May 2006: Season End at Sally's
- October 2006: Nancy and Linda
- November 2006: Paula and Sandy
- December 2006: Pot Luck Christmas



Our President Knox McCloy speaks:

designated trips.

First of all, thanks to all the Officers in the Club for doing a good job and in particular the Field Trip Chairperson for leading both the official and un-official

Recent trips lead by Corinne and Barb include Yucca and Franconia for Burro Balls and Chalcedony droplets. Corinne will give the reports.

With the recent snowfall in the hills there could be run off clearing up some mountain washes. It's time to clear off the dust on the metal detectors, put in new batteries and do some tramping in the hills.

Just a reminder that gold prices in March of 1995 were \$376 an ounce. In December 2003, \$394 per ounce and in March 2006 it is up to \$546 an ounce. Other minerals in the platinum group are even more spectacular.

The GPAA Gold Show in Spokane, Washington, on May 5-6 will hold a meeting to discuss rights and regulations of small scale mining. Appointed representatives are encouraged to attend and participate in the roundtable discussions. I would like to invite Jim and Ramona to be our representatives at coalitions meeting if possible.

Thank you all for your patience, and good hunting and prospecting.

Knox McCloy

FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES

Leader will state approximate 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 leader.)

Field Tripper will notify the leader if they are hiking/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.)

Handheld radios: Channel 6

FIELD TRIP REVIEW:

Field Trip - February 27, 2006 to Whipple Wash and Mountains:

Many thanks to Dennis and Marge Callaghan for their leadership!



Nine NGMC members, four guests and one dog met at the Parker Dam Parking lot for an outing to Whipple Wash! Drop dead temperatures, gorgeous day and fantastic people made the trip into the wash and up to the huge cave. This was a "just scenery" trip.....no rock hounding. A few folks hiked around and we had a quiet relaxing lunch. We headed back out in the early afternoon to meet at the Paradise Café for a wonderful rootbeer float.

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday April 8 Be there at 11 AM – Kokoweef Mine tour and lecture ““Legendary, Underground River-of-Gold” by area historian Ralph Lewis. The club will pay the \$60 lecture/guide fee and each participant is required to pay \$5 per person. This will be one great day! For information call Sally Hayward at 928-768-7437. (See page 7)

Tuesday, April 18 is the Regular Business Meeting and first 50/50 drawing!

Saturday April 22 is the Winslow/Holbrook Wood Gathering. Gates open at 8 AM (See page 7)

Our Year End Feast will be Carne Asada at Sally’s House, 8704 Elm Street, Mohave Valley (Cross Street is South). Please bring a side dish that goes with Mexican food for eight, your beverage, dinnerware and a chair. Date is May 8, late afternoon....that’s a Monday! Our first Silent Auction will be held this date. Please bring only one item (space is a factor) and check in with Ann.

Tuesday, May 16 Regular Business Meeting.

3rd Tuesday October

3rd Tuesday November

3rd Tuesday December

ROCKHOUND CODE OF ETHICS

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner’s permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of 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 - fences, signs, and buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only 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 supply.

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”, to use “Good Outdoor Manners” and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public “image” of rock hounds everywhere.

Source: <http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm>



Hint

Use sanding cloth until it falls apart. The more worn it is, the more smoothly it sands. If faster sanding is desired, use a cloth freshly broken in. But for a super smooth finish, use patience and a well worn sanding cloth.

Source: Golden Spike News via Rockhound Rambling, 10-11/05

MEMBER PROFILE OF THE MONTH



Let me introduce you to Huck! Huck was so afraid he'd be left behind in Pinedale, Wyoming and not be able to attend NGMC field trips, that he leaped on Allan and Faith's luggage and refused to move. His housemates captured this wonderful moment for us.

Huck is a five-year-old (2001 model) Jack Russell Terrier who allows Allan and Faith to reside with him in Bullhead, Arizona, and Pinedale, Wyoming. He came to live with them when he was about one year old. The prior owner had too many dogs for his residential covenants; therefore, his loss became the Reed's gain!

The first two years, Huck was a wild child. Now, he loves sleeping in and not going on early morning walks with Allan. But when he sees the rock bags come out, he spins out of control with excitement! Rock on, Huck!

POLISHING TALC

By Richard Chappell, Jr.
Houston Gem & Mineral Society

The natives of Brazil have used the talc found there to make common utensils such as cooking appliances. Professional talc carvers from Anapolis-Goes, Brazil, showed me this quick method when they visited Houston, Texas, in a nation-wide tour.

1. CUT the talc into size desired with hand saw (even the pros didn't use any electric equipment except a lathe for hollowing out

bowls and pots). Sometimes this step may be skipped if the piece is of the correct size.

2. CARVE the talc into approximate shape with a knife.
3. SAND with 220 or 400 grit sandpaper.
4. SMOOTH with quadruple zero (0000) steel wool, the finest available.
5. HEAT in strong sunlight or warm oven until slightly warm to the touch.
6. RUB with clear paste wax while the talc is still hot, and you have got yourself a finished carving.

Reasonably pure talc is required, but impurities give it a delightful marking or pattern. This method may be used for cabs, statues, or anything else. The finished product may surprise you, as you can't tell how it will turn out until the paste wax is on.

Source: original source unknown, via eolap News, 3/99 via The Pegmatite, 01/03



Mind Your Manners!

- Be mannerly and perlitic.
- Look gneiss.
- To eat pyrite, use your fork.
- Don't let your apatite for things that come quartz show.
- Don't try to be a tufa or as hard as flint.
- If you must be a wulfenite, go find yourself a Ruby and don't go Gypsum some poor fellow out of his Opal. Willemite, but Jasper never would.
- Shist remember, keep swimming or you'll zinc.

Source: Lapidary, March 2001 via T-Town Rockhound, 9/05

Recipe of the Month
Easy Chicken Spaghetti
 Recipe from: Gerry Clark

- 4 -Medium Chicken Breast or 1 can (13oz) chicken breast meat
- 3 -stalks celery cut in half
- 1- Large onion quartered
- 1 -pkg. thin spaghetti (16 oz)
- 5 -carrots chopped
- 1 -can cream mushroom soup
- 1 -can cream chicken soup
- 1 -small jar pimientos
- 1 -can English peas
- 1 -8 oz. block processed cheese cubed

Boil chicken with celery and onion until done (I add 1 can of chicken broth).

Strain and reserve broth.

Remove chicken and cool.... Remove bone and cut into bite size pieces.

Boil spaghetti and carrots in broth. Drain and return spaghetti and carrots to pan.

Add soups, pimientos, peas, cheese and chicken.

Cook over low heat until cheese is melted. (About 30 minutes)

Salt and pepper to taste

Serves 8

Note: I have used ready cooked chicken from Bashas' Deli.

DENDRITES

Did you know that dendrites are perhaps the most common geologic oddity? They usually resemble a tiny fern frond or colony of algae. The term "dendritic" refers to branching figure resembling a fern, frond, branch or tree. They are usually formed in thin hard-bedded shale and limestone. Concentrations of the manganese mineral called pyrolusite (black manganese oxide) percolate into the cracks and fissures of shale and limestone, leaving

behind a residue which forms the dendritic patterns.

Source The Fossil Enquirer, via The Glacial Drifter 5/96, via Chips 'N Splinters, 9/05

AN IDEAL CLUB MEMBER'S ALPHABET

Always : attend meeting

Bring: someone with you

Communicate: with others

Develop: mutual understanding and respect

Enjoy: the hobby and have fun

Friendship: cherish and nurture the valuable commodity

Generosity, Goals, Gentleness: use when needed

Honesty: use it regularly

Ideas: Share with other members

Jealousy: avoid like the plague

Knowledge: help promote it

Labor: donate when and where needed

Mistakes: correct yours and overlook others

Nonsense: use frequently - breaks monotony

Order: help maintain at all meetings

Patience: develop as much as possible

Quarrels: never indulge. They serve no good purpose

Rocks: study, hunt, collect, work, polish, build with them

Share: your talents, energy and knowledge with others

Talent: use and improve as much as possible

United: help the club stay that way

Value: friends, members, yourself and the organization

Work: an important ingredient, be willing to help carry the load

X-rate: all gossip, malice, petty peeves & negative attitude

Yesterday: leave it where it belongs - in the past

Zeal: be generous with it, encourage other to do likewise

Source: Quarry Quips 4/2003 via The Calgary Lapidary Journal, 5/2005

WINSLOW/HOLBROOK WOOD GATHERING

Saturday April 22 – 8 AM

Whatever you put into your vehicle must be removed for weighing. Sizable pieces, which are guesstimated at a lesser weight, do not have to be removed. There is a charge of \$1.00 for the stuff you want to keep, from logs to dinosaur dung.

Meet at the International Petrified Forest Museum of the America's at 8:00 AM. The Museum is on the South side of HWY 40, Exit #292, about 3 miles East of Holbrook.

Please forward this to other groups you might belong to as I will be sending this only to the Diehard, SPMA and LA-Rocks.

Lodging can be found in Holbrook for the night of the 21st. or the 22nd. We have arranged a discount rate of \$32.00 + tax = \$35.54 for 2 persons per night at the Best Inn, 2211 Navajo Blvd, Holbrook (I confirmed rate 2/1/06.) AZ. Phone number is 928-524- If you go to Google.com and enter their phone number in the search field, you can follow a link to Mapquest.

Other Motels in the close vicinity are: (This is old info I did not call.)

Super 8 - list cost is \$49 (928) 524-2781

Motel 6 - List cost is \$36 (928) 524-6101

Econo Lodge - List is \$45 (928) 524-1448

Source: LA-Rocks forum

Kokoweef Information Saturday April 8

We will **depart** 11 AM from the Bailey Road Off ramp, I-15. Take 95 North to Searchlight, go west on 164 to I-15. Go south on I-15 to the next exit which is Bailey Road (Mountain Pass), exit there, turn left or east and wait there. We will all drive in together with Ralph. It should take about 1 ½ hours from the Needles area to get to the meeting place. Remember we will depart at 11 AM. Following are further detailed directions from Ralph.

Turn left to go across the I-15 overpass AND CROSS the cattle guard. Turn left immediately on the PAVED road which is parallel to I-15 (pavement lasts for only 1/2 mile). As soon as the paved portion begins to bear right it immediately changes to a 4 mile washboard, dirt road. Continue on the primary (best) dirt road as it winds up, up, up, up to the flat ground. You'll see Kokoweef Peak on your left looking like a lone, triangle-shaped mountain peak. When the road forks stay to the right side and continue on the best, graded portion of dirt road. Take the first LEFT turn on the graded road, which now takes you toward the mountain. At the next "T" intersection, turn left into the "rustic" Kokoweef mill site. Look for signs or flagging to take you the rest of the way to a large building to the dead-end dirt road where we'll meet for my talk about the "Legendary, Underground River-of-Gold."

Source: Ralph Lewis and Sally Hayward

Here is a short biography for Ralph Lewis, our speaker/lecturer on April 8. Mr. Lewis is compiling his research into an in-depth book, CD and screenplay/script about the legend with a real and revealing ending. Ralph Lewis is a V.P. of the Crystal Cave Mining Co., which owns the private property at Kokoweef Peak. Currently Mr. Lewis has been involved as a volunteer with the legend-searches at Kokoweef Peak in practically all aspects of the work done there since 1979, including drilling, blasting, tunneling, mapping, mining legalities, past newsletter editor, tour guide, descent-team member, etc. Having done the hard, physical work of exploratory mining, he is no longer a fan of the adventurous-but-inefficient concept of "tunneling to imaginations."

After 1983 after seeing his father suffer from the loss of his life savings, in an unrelated 'mining venture,' his personal focus toward the Cocoweef legend has been to look for its truths first, and forget about "all that gold!" Mr. Lewis was directly involved in initiating and coordinating the geophysical field-

research that was undertaken at Kokoweef Peak. Most recently, he has been pursuing independent historical and geophysical research, seeking truth between extreme views.

Here is some of what we might hear during his lecture:

Legendary Underground River-of-Gold"

Through bygone years, the original phonetic and alphabetic form of the word Cocoweep was turned into "Kokoweef," as seen on contemporary maps as: "Kokoweef Peak." The earlier, more accurate spelling "Cocoweep" can be traced back to mining records from 1886. Some assume "cocoweep" has a Native-American Indian origin while others hypothesize it is Spanish, Norse, or French.

This change in form-and-fact illustrates how the sites and sounds of information, over time, often get distorted and changed. In this instance, between 1886 and the 1930's Great Depression, a few less-exacting, non-native men-out-west had loosely misspelled, mispronounced, misplaced and "redefined" the word "Cocoweep" into "Kokoweef." Today, for many over-eager souls, its meaning and motivation, has also been transformed from "wet cave" into a resemblance of something more humorously exaggerated into: **"The World's Largest Treasure Hunt for Caverns Hiding a Mega-Billion Dollar Underground River-of-Gold!"** Today it's become a nostalgic, over-valued, imagination-riddled, gold-laced legend. The legend is not often given much objective, critical examination. Professionals tend to condemn the legend without investigation, where eager prospectors too easily accept the story as fact. Since 1934, millions of dollars have been spent in searches for "the underground river's gold."

Between 1934 and 2003, all legend-related efforts at Kokoweef Peak have been unprofitable. The legend has fueled countless

imaginations with few supporting facts. Disbelief in the legend is the easiest, most affordable and comfortable route for most uninvolved spectators not willing to endure the legend's frustrations. Still, faith and greed can be a persistent driving force in human endeavors, and as a result, this legend is quite alive in the year 2003.

For this author, after many years of personal, determined and unsuccessful work at Kokoweef Peak, he has realized that building a fact-based analysis of the history of mining efforts, followed up by objective field research, is more likely to lead to this legend's treasures. Truth, in itself, contains its own worthwhile rewards.

Since 1934, many well-intended attempts to find a "river-of-gold" have simply been self-imposed failures created by chasing wrong, over-simplified assumptions, based on poorly-researched information. This legend of Kokoweef's gold is riddled throughout with contradictions, inconsistencies, and incorrect assumptions. Adding to the obfuscation of the truth is the fact that the search for gold seems to automatically "attract" deceptions, distortions, imaginations and exaggerations. This "game of whisper" adds to already inaccurate data about this legend's obvious goal which is "to find any way down to the alleged underground river-of-gold."

But, even before the "game of whisper" began, earlier campaigns to intentionally inflict confusions about the legend's real gold, the truth has probably done the most damage. To this day, well-intended, faithful folks keep searching the treasure promised in the legends. For some, the treasure is gold, for others the treasure lies simply in finding the truth. In order to discover the precious metal promised in these legends, accurate guiding information must first be re-discovered. This is simply because mental attention and physical efforts should change directions of work efforts as new, more accurate information is located.

Mr. Lewis is actively and patiently attempting to filter out "old nonsense." Today, his personal quest to "find Cocoweep" has become more than story re-telling. Unlike his predecessors, he refuses to "promote excitement" solely for financial gain. He strives instead to slowly develop "probable-certainties" by seeking to establish truth without disposing of logic, avoiding a greedy rush to adventure, excitement, and gold

After 20 years, Mr. Lewis is convinced there IS more to this legend than meets the eyes. Deliberate obfuscation of the truth is the design of one particular prospector, Earl Dorr. Dorr's business was not to make anyone else wealthy but himself. Conversations with one of the prospector's nephews corroborate the idea that since the prospector was unable to develop his find, he decided to also hide it from the rest of the world. The prospector then hid the only known surface entrance leading down through caverns to the hypothesized "river-of-gold."

Earl Dorr died in 1957, and one of the best sources of historical knowledge for this topic disappeared. However, the story of his mining remains in the sworn, public affidavit he signed in 1934, later published in the November 1940 article on page 37 of the California Mining Journal. Over time, the legend's complexity grows as more puzzle pieces have been introduced into this legend by various self-serving interests.

Truthfully speaking, to date, all searches for the river of gold at Kokoweef Peak can be summed up as "Over 65 years of 100% inspiring, dedicated, emotionally driven, adrenaline-ridden, adventurous and successful failures." This state of affairs remains as people continued to get blinded or distracted from the truth by imagination-based "gold-talk." However, after being in print for so long, gold-blinded and faith-filled folks will probably always be searching for this alleged wealth in California's Mojave Desert



Ralph Lewis near one of the HEAVY set stone markers he found at Kokoweef.

Source: Ralph Lewis, Inland Geological Society.

Thank You.....

The Needles Gem and Mineral Club thanks Maty Middleton for an outstanding job in the Needles Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter and Blog the last our months. Thank you for your considerable time and effort Maty!



BLUE AGATE NEWS
NEEDLES GEM & MINERAL CLUB
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Please send Exchange Bulletins to the address above.

Needles Mountains in the Rain



Happy Easter April 16

