

ROCK CHIPPINGS

The Bulletin of the Woodland Hills California Rock Chippers, Inc.



Volume 48 Number 5

May 2008

This Month's Calendar

Saturday, May 17th

Classes: At Thalia's Home

10:00am:

"Making and Soldering Bezels."

Participants will have an opportunity to do an optional hands-on project making a simple pendant. For the hands-on project, I will have some stone and silver items you may purchase at cost. You may share my equipment if you do not have the needed items. For the project please bring supplies if you have them.

At the Center

6:15pm: Pot Luck

Theme – Italian

Guests always welcome.

6:45pm: Business Meeting

7:30pm: Program:

To Be Announced

FRA: June 14th

Future Programs: they will meet at Thalia's home to choose their next badge project and make another craft item - a copper bracelet.

*Happy Mother's Day
May 11th!!!!*

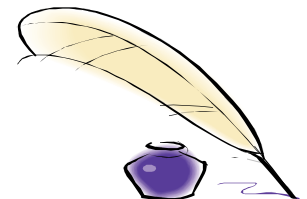
Prez Sez:

Well, it's time for our annual yard sale! This year it will be on Saturday, May 10, 2008, at Jean Buetow's house. The sale will be from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. If you have anything you'd like to sell, please bring it to Jean's house the night before the yard sale (call first), or bring it to the sale on Saturday. We will be setting up at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday. So here's your opportunity to get rid of all that stuff you've been collecting for the last year. If you're wondering what to donate, be creative! Whatever you don't want, someone else will! Possible items could be videos, DVD's, clothing, jewelry, furniture, bicycles, toys, books, silverware, plates, glasses/cups, etc. Remember, if you donate clothing, please make sure it has been cleaned and is in good shape.

So here's your chance to dig through your closets, garages, cars (wherever you store stuff) and come up with something spectacular for our sale!

Hope to see you there!

Gina



Membership Information

For any questions regarding membership in the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, please email Steve Dover at membership@rockchippers.org

Regular club meetings are held at 7:30PM on the 3rd Saturday of each month at: Canoga Park Community Center 7248 Owensmouth Ave. Canoga Park
Visit our website <http://www.rockchippers.org>

Future Rockhounds of America

Thalia Goldsworthy, FRA Advisor

FRA Meeting on June 14th

The youth of our club will be meeting on May 3rd from 10am to 1pm at the shop. They will be completing their cabochons and fitting them into findings. Great work for their Lapidary Arts badge. On June 14th they will meet at Thalia's home to choose their next badge project and make another craft item - a copper bracelet.

Thalia Goldsworthy, FRA Advisor

Classes Report – Soldering Classes

Thalia Goldsworthy, Coordinator

Class Meets on May 17th at Thalia's Home

The April class was held at the club's shop. Three participants were able to learn about torches by doing several hands-on pieces. They melted sterling silver, fused several pieces of scrap together, made and soldered a jump ring and finally attached the jump ring to the fused piece. All of these were done with the small butane torch. Great success for Barbara Brtadbury, Bob Meyer and Steve Dover. A special thank you to Virginia Rotramel for her sharing her soldering equipment and knowledge and assistance during the class.

The May class will be held at my home at 10am on Saturday, May 17th. It is a continuation of the silver soldering series. This time it will be about making and soldering bezels. Participants will have an opportunity to do an optional hands-on project making a simple pendant. The space for viewing the CD video's is unlimited, space for the pendant project will be limited to 6 participants. The project class will continue to meet at future dates for further soldering steps. There will be "homework" between classes to bring the project to the point of the next soldering. Call or email me to let me know you will be attending and whether you want to do the hands-on project.

For the hands-on project, I will have some stone and silver items you may purchase at cost. You may share my equipment if you do not have the needed items. For the project please bring supplies if you have them.

Silversmithing tools: files, snips for cutting solder, silver solder of your preferred type and hardness, flux, Butane torch, soldering block or surface.

A cabochon between 18 x 13mm and 25 x 18mm in size. Baroque shapes acceptable.

Fine silver bezel wire - 28ga, 1/8" or 3/16" depending on the height of the cabochon.

Sheet sterling silver - a piece of 24-26ga larger than the cabochon.

I have been asked to offer bead stringing and wirewrapping classes soon. If you want to participate in a beginning class or have projects you would like assistance with I would be open to scheduling a separate time for these - a different day or evening that will not conflict with the FRA or ongoing silver soldering classes. Call or email me and we can work something out.



Federation News



California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
presents the statewide

Golden Bear Gem & Mineral Show June 27-29, 2008

10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Friday, Saturday & Sunday



Featuring the very best in Gems, Minerals, Jewelry,
Fossils and Lapidary Art

Seaside Park, Ventura County Fairgrounds, Ventura, CA
Adults \$5 * Seniors (60+) \$4 * Students \$3 * Kids (under 12) Free w/paid adult

Courtesy

Lillian Berwager, Courtesy

In memory of Bryan Pratt

Bryan and his wife, Diane, were former members of Rock Chippers. He served as club president (1985 and 1986) and is remembered for his good-natured comments about his Scottish heritage. Bryan passed away on April 10, 2008. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Diane and his family.

A Special Get Well to member Barbara Bradbury for a speedy recovery as she recuperates from pneumonia.

Happy May Birthdays

May 7 Larry Bradbury

May 11 Myrna Barton



Happy May Anniversary

May 11 Bob and Margie Meyer

May 25 Mark and Lisa Evidon

KEEPING ON, KEEPING ON

As many of you know, I started faceting in 2006 at Camp Paradise to see if I wanted to keep the faceting machine that was hanging around on my shop's workbench. I got hooked on faceting. When I came home I found I needed to have some work done to correct several problems that were present in a "used" machine. But, in the meantime, I continued to cut a few stones at home on my own. I had heard about the Northern California Faceters Guild while at camp and found out that they had an annual competition for faceters. This was an opportunity to have an expert look at the stones I was cutting on my own without any other faceter's help and tell me what I needed to do to improve. For the 2007 contest, I knew that my work I was doing on my own was really less than able to qualify for the judging, so I decided that I had a year to try and could enter a stone in 2008 to see what I needed to do to improve my ability to cut good stones. I wanted to see whether I could see well enough during the cutting process to have my stone qualify for the Novice certificate.

The Novice entry was to be quartz, standard round brilliant, 12mm plus or minus 1mm in size. My first attempt was almost 13mm and had many points that were overcut or undercut and a thick girdle. My equipment was needing attention but I was not ready to have the repairs made as I wanted to facet. I decided that I would use this badly cut stone as a preform and recut it to see if I could meet the requirements. I must have recut the stone at least 2 more times, each time it became smaller. I quit when it was just 11mm in size. Sent it off to the contest and hoped it was good enough for the judges to even look at. To my great surprise I received an email letting me know that I had achieved Novice status and that my stone was being returned with the medallion I earned. I had won First Place!. I expected a nice certificate to put up on my shop wall. What came in the mail was an engraved medal - with ribbon attached! Even more valuable to me the package also contained the evaluation sheets from the two judges who inspected my stone.

(cont.)

They had sketches of the areas where I could improve my cutting (seeing). I still had small scratches, points did not meet, and the girdle was too thick for a competition stone. Now I know what to do to improve my cutting. I will spend some time looking for the items the judges saw. My seeing needs to improve.

I have competed in other types of jewelry and exhibits. Each time I have received valuable information to improve my work. I am so glad that I continued keeping on and risked the Novice entry. I hope all of you out there will take courage from my success and be willing to compete in whatever category of the lapidary arts interest you most. It is a wonderful way to learn about the work you are doing and the fastest way to improve. The Ventura County Fair is coming this summer. As part of that event they have a Gems and Mineral section. You can enter a case, or a single item. There are no entry fees, and there are small cash prizes. Although you may not get judges reports, it is a great way to discover how well you are doing with your art. I will have more information at the May meeting regarding entry classifications and the dates to submit your entry. Take a chance - find out how your work ranks. You will learn much and that will improve your skills and the end results.

Thalia

Rock Candy

from <http://rockhoundingar.com/pebblepups/growcryst.html> via Arrowhead News 04/2007

Dissolve 1½ cups sugar in ½ cup boiling water. This is a thick, hot syrup. It will burn you and keep on burning your skin because it is sticky, so be VERY careful not to spill it on yourself!

We put our solution in a 1½-inch deep tray and suspended crochet twine from chopsticks for the crystals to grow onto. These crystals grew for about two and a half weeks before we couldn't stand it anymore and took them out.

General Meeting Minutes

Recorded by, Mary Beth Pio, Secretary

WHRC MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 19, 2008

Called to order at: 7:43 P.M. by Gina Marquardt
Pledge of Allegiance led by Virginia Rotramel.

Guests from the sign up sheet were welcomed:
Virginia and Bill Huber, Nancy , Frank and Shannon Ramy.

A quorum was established-Yes

The March minutes were approved as written no corrections or additions.

Old Business

The yard sale will be held on May 10th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Robyn will create fliers that will be emailed to the members for distribution.
Fliers may be placed at grocery stores on their bulletin boards, at libraries, laundry mats,
Apartment mailboxes, local mom and pop restaurants, in the windows of your car.
Items for the yard sale may be brought to Jean's house the evening before the yard sale.

Brian Pratt has lung cancer and his wife Diane could use some communication and
Fellowship from the club members please contact Thalia for the phone number.

Motion: Proposal to add \$100.00 to the shop fund.

Proposed: Myrna Barton

Seconded: Virginia Rotramel Passed: Yes

Break for refreshments was at 8:00 P.M. followed by the Silent Auction.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Beth Pio, Secretary WHRC

3 CHEERS FOR THE SILENT AUCTION**Carol Plummer**

Whoever thought Silent Auction night would turn out the way it did. What a fun and exciting night it was. It was good to see new faces and people excited over the items up for auction. I don't think Jean Buetow ever imagined running out of auction slips but thank goodness for extra scraps of paper. And thank you Jean for sharpening all those pencils! I applaud all those who helped to make it such a successful night. There were so many wonderful and expensive donations from the Club Members. People walked away with rough rock, slabs, books and other nice items not rock or gem related. I do have to give special thanks to Lisa and Mark Evidon and Robyn Hawk for without some of their special donations, the club would never have made the almost \$500 it brought in that night. Too bad we didn't have time for a third round but now we still have a lot of nice items for the next Silent Auction. Keep on Rock'n....

Grassroots Effort Needed! Shep Koss, CFMS Fieldtrip Coor.

Glad to see the interest this closure (Clear Creek Mgmt. Area) is generating among us.

Sad to see this is what it takes. Even sadder, this isn't, or shouldn't be, the only area of concern.

Please check out the following link for the California Wilderness Coalition.

<http://calwild.org/places/index.php>

It lists over 300 proposed sites for becoming a Wilderness designation under the California Wild Heritage Act. Areas that we, as rockhounds, frequent, areas we consider prime collecting areas and "home". Areas such as the Cady Mtns, Ship Mtns, Kingston Range, Soda Mtns. Yep, over 300 sites. Yet, we don't get in an uproar until AFTER the fact. And, yes, I consider myself a conservationist (won't call myself an environmentalist anymore due to the stance they now take). However, the primary group fighting these closures are the people many rockhounds despise...the off-roaders. We're too content with standing by the sidelines or, literally burying our heads in the sand, it seems to me. Not enough speaking up, not enough taking a stand, not enough organizing, not enough protesting to these government agencies or our "representatives" and not nearly enough awareness. I don't know how many of you read the LA Times a couple of months ago on desert closures by a state senator of ours who is gladly expanding military base boundaries and freely giving into environmentalists vowing to have Afton Canyon and the Cadys "closed off by summer". Haven't seen anyone on this group nor any other I belong to bring this up. However, we speak out freely AFTER the fact. Isn't it time we stop fighting amongst ourselves and wield what voice we have beforehand? Another group we should support is the Blue Ribbon Coalition and www.sharetrails.org.

From SoCalRocks

Shows and Events

May 10-11 2008, Reno, NV

Reno Gem & Mineral Society
Reno Livestock Events Center
1350 N. Wells Ave.
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
John Peterson (775) 356-8820
Website: www.renorockclub.com

May 17-18 2008, Yucaipa, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Yucaipa Community Center
34900 Oak Glen Road
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
Bill Jochimsen (909) 790-1475
Email: bjim2285@aol.com
Website: [/www.mysite.verizon.net/YucaipaGem/103.html](http://www.mysite.verizon.net/YucaipaGem/103.html)

May 17 - 18 2008, Newbury Park, CA

Conejo Valley Gem & Mineral Club
Bochard Park
190 Reino Rd., Newbury Park, CA
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4:30
Robert Sankovich (805) 494-7734
Email: rmsorca@adelphia.net
Website: www.cgmac.org

May 31 - June 1 2008, Glendora, CA

Glendora Gems
859 E. Sierra Madre
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
Bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638
Email: YBidwell2@aol.com

May 31 - June 1 2008, Woodland Hills, CA

Rockatomics Gem & Mineral Society
Pierce College
Victory and Mason
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
Louise Gerik (818) 347-1234
Website: rockatomics.com

June 7-8 2008, La Habra, CA

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society
La Habra Community Center
101 W. La Habra Blvd.
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
Don Warthen (626) 330-8974
Email: warthen@earthlink.net
Website: nocgms.com

For those of you that are members of the many Rockhound groups online this is going to be a repeat but I really feel it is time to see the local Gem & Mineral Societies getting as involved as the ORV's in the growing loss of areas we are allowed to visit...what good is Wilderness that is fenced in! What are we supposed to do take our kids up to a gate and say this is a desert – if they can't go into the area – get sand in their toes – what good are all the efforts to save it!??

The BLM has issued an emergency closure for 31,000 acres in the Clear Creek Management Area based on EPA's report "CCMA Asbestos Exposure and Human Health Risk Assessment. Attached please find an Information Fact Sheet which explains our decision in more detail and includes dates and times of public meetings you may want to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me. Thank you.

Lesly Smith
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**EMERGENCY CLOSURE EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2008 OF 31,000 ACRES
WITHIN THE CLEAR CREEK MANAGEMENT AREA
INFORMATION FACT SHEET**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began conducting a study in 2004 on asbestos exposures experienced by CCMA users during typical recreational activities. The study was conducted to provide BLM with information to manage and minimize human health risks at the CCMA and to update a similar study conducted by the BLM in 1992.

On May 1, 2008 the EPA released the report, "CCMA Asbestos Exposure and Human Health Risk Assessment." The report stated the exposures measured by EPA for many recreational activities at CCMA are "above the EPA acceptable risk range of lifetime cancers." It also notes that children "have greater risk than adults due to higher exposure measurements [and] are of special concern because their exposures occur earlier in their lives.

Based on the findings in the report, BLM simultaneously enacted an immediate temporary closure on May 1, 2008 of 31,000 acres of the area to all public access/entry upon release of the EPA report while a Resource Management Plan (RMP) to determine the long-term management of the area is underway. The BLM's number one priority is to protect the public's health and safety.

Over the next two years, BLM will be preparing a Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement to guide the long-term management of public lands within the CCMA. EPA and BLM will host a public meeting to discuss the results of the EPA Human Health Risk Assessment and BLM will discuss the need for the temporary emergency closure on May 8, 2008.

(CONT.)

Clear Creek Closure (continued)

The Fee Program has been suspended and partial refunds will be issued to all persons who purchased a Season Pass.

Public Meetings

May 8, Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, EPA and BLM, open house from 3:00 - 5:00 pm, meeting from 6:00 - 9:00 pm

May 19, Veteran's Memorial Hall, 649 San Benito St., Hollister, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

May 21, Martin Luther King Jr. Library Room 225, 150 E. San Fernando St., San Jose, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

For More Information

Contact the Hollister Field Office at (831)

630-5000 or visit our website at

http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/hollister/clear_creek_management_area.html

An Update from Stephen Blocksage, CFMS Publicity/Public Relations Committee

Here is the basis for the concern of the BLM the current (PEL) permissible exposure level to asbestos is .1 of a fiber per cubic centimeter per 8 hours.

That is to say that on tenth of an asbestos fiber is trapped in a filter through which is being pulled 1 cubic centimeter of air per second. Over 8 hours how many CC's of air get pulled through the filter? Above this level respiratory protection is required in several stages as levels get higher. This exposure level is based on man milled asbestos fibers which have been broken down into individual fibers. These fibers have the ability to remain airborne for 48-72 hours and easily breathed in thus the need for protection.

The asbestos in question is contained serpentine and other asbestos bearing minerals and is only disturbed by the vehicle travel which can indeed crush and abrade the natural materials however its has continually been shown that asbestos in its natural state whether disturbed by tires of by mining generally posses minimal threats to people since it stays air born for very short periods of time. Occasionally a single fiber gets loose and lands in one of the air pumps sampling air in Clear Creek. Thus for that day the exposure level is 10 times the PEL for an enclosed building. This has happened numerous times at Clear Creek during heightened off road activity and storms and fires.

Your exposure on Southern California freeway from brake dust or washing a dark colored car or hosing off a dark colored driveway on very hot day where the water is evaporating very quickly leaving behind the asbestos washed of the interior of our asbestos cement water systems to float after the water is dry.

For comparison the largest asbestos mines are located in Canada at Lac Magnentic in Quebec and are surrounded by towns and villages. None of these locations exposed to the open pit mining at many individual mines has shown increased cancer or asbestosis levels because the fibers are mined not milled into individual fibers.

When I suggested a field trip for the CFMS in the past I was contacted by the State Industrial Hygienist regarding the asbestos threat at Clear Creek and his concern for our group going there. I pointed out my knowledge of Asbestos and the facts limiting float times in the natural environment. He then agreed with and withdrew his concern. We indeed had a very successful field trip and to my knowledge no one that I know off has gotten the symptoms of Asbestosis or Mesothelioma from any exposure to Clear Creek air or soil.

Now the question is will the BLM listen to reason or insist on poor to bad science regarding exposures at Clear Creek. Clearly if there were less vehicular traffic on the slopes all over the 31,000 acres less fibers would be air born. If the traffic is constrained to the roads as now constituted and those roads are maintained to keep dust down it would go long way to helping the cause of keeping those random fibers out of the traps and allow the BLM to worry about what it does best Mercury Control !!!

For your FYI I hold and EPA Asbestos Abatement Contractors License which is current and am also a Certified Indoor Air Quality Manager State of California and the World Health Organization. I suspect that as soon as the off-roaders are no long at work that the levels will drop such that the BLM could allow day hiking, rock hounding etc.

Hope this adds some insight as to what is going on. Also there is web site that reports the daily air quality at Clear Creek and gives the exposure level for the past 24 hours on a time weighted average.

Excerpt from various online Rockhound Forums

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, Incorporated

Our club, a non-profit corporation, was formed for educational and instructive purposes: to foster collection and study of minerals, to disseminate knowledge about them, to sponsor field trips to find them, to encourage the use of them in lapidary and faceting studies, etc. And to have one whale of a good time doing those things with all of our friends.

Regular meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 7:30 PM. Potlucks are at 6:30pm. FRA Orientation at 7:00pm. Field trips are at various times throughout the month. Guests are always welcome to attend.

Membership is open to interested applicants after they have attended at least 2 meetings. Annual dues are due in November for the following year. Membership fees are currently \$25 for one adult, \$15 for a second adult at the same address, juniors (ages 10-18) and pebble pups (ages 4-9) \$5 each. New members pay an additional \$6 initiation fee per person. Late joining new members may have lower dues as they are prorated after mid-year.

We are a member club of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and affiliated with the

<u>Elected Officers</u>			
President	Gina Marquardt	Director At Large	Gene Berwager
Treasurer	Barbara Bradbury	Director At Large	Robyn Hawk
Secretary	Mary Beth Pio	Director At Large	Steve Dover
		Director At Large	Myrna Barton

<u>Chairpersons and Appointed Positions</u>	
Auditor.....	Thalia Goldsworthy
Bulletin.....	Robyn Hawk
Custodian.....	Brandon Higdon
Classes/Workshop....	Thalia Goldsworthy
Courtesy/Hospitality.....	Lillian Berwager
Display/Education.....	Carol Plummer
Federation Director.....	Virginia Rotramel
Alternate Fed Director.....	Open
Field Trips.....	Committee
FRA.....	Thalia Goldsworthy
Historian.....	Gene Berwager
Librarian.....	Barbara Bradbury
Library Displays.....	Thalia Goldsworthy
Membership.....	Steve Dover
Parliamentarian.....	Bill Blair
Programs.....	Open
Publicity.....	Diana Dixon Davis
Refreshments.....	Lillian Berwager
Shop	Jean Buetow, Bob Meyers,Ron Rizor and Virginia Rotramel
Club Show.....	Virginia Rotramel Chair.
Ways and Means.....	Jean Buetow
Webmaster.....	Thalia Goldsworthy

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