

THE ROCKHOUND RECORD

Vol. 72, Issue 4

Newsletter for the Mineralogical Society of Arizona, April 2006

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Upcoming Program

Friday, April 14, 2006

Ivan Rozo, of Republic Gems

"A Basic Approach to
'Safe' Emerald Trading"

**Emeralds and Global Traders
Risks While Trading Emeralds
How Prices Are Negotiated**



Betty Deming and her dog, Mac, at the Rowley Mine on February 25, 2006

Upcoming Arizona Shows

May 27 & 28, 2006 - Pinetop-Lakeside

12th Annual Gem & Mineral Show

Blue Ridge Jr. High (Gymnasium & Café)

Sponsored by: White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club

Admission: \$2:00 for adults, students free

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Show Chair: Sandra Angelo, P. O. Box 3504, Show Low, AZ, 85902, 928-537-2524

Parking: Free

Visit <http://www.admmr.state.az.us/showlst.htm>

For more show listings

General Meeting Minutes March 10, 2006

By Pierre Cantou, Secretary Pro-Tem

On the eve of the 143rd rainless day in Phoenix Metroplex, the meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Gil Flores, Jr. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Two guests, Chris Sands and Stacey Harris, were introduced by Betty Deming. Sally Fiske gave the Treasurer's Report.

On Saturday, March 18, will be held a Swap and Tailgate meet at Marc Watson's home, 2729 West Augusta in Phoenix, starting at 11 a.m. BYOM (Bring Your Own MEAT!) for barbecue and equipment, materials or handicrafts to swap and trade. On March 24-26 the Dan Helm's Collection will be sold at the family residence, per flyer handout. Dan died a year ago and was a longtime MSA member and ardent field collector, especially of Arizona materials.

Upcoming field trip possibilities may include trips to the Spectrum, Prism, or Monarch Mines; to the Black Pearl Mine northeast of Bagdad, Arizona; or to the Bagdad Mine proper (tour of mine). Normally, field trips will be the third Saturday of the month. (See **The Rockhound Record** for dates.) Tomorrow, Saturday, March 11, if it doesn't rain out the field trip, hardy types may try the Purple Passion Mine field trip.

The program tonight was by Gil Flores, Jr., and Chris Davis on the recent MSA field trip west to the Rowley Mine, southwest of the Painted Rock Reservoir in western Maricopa County, long known for its mimmetite and wulfenite crystals. Now Jim Richter, The Arizona Company, Tucson, and Ed Davis and Bill Gardner have been reworking Rowley and hosted an MSA field trip, which by the looks of the displays tonight was very successfully rewarded. Many lead-copper minerals are being dug: wulfenite, mimmetite, argentite, acanthite, boleite, caladonite, werreite, moly, copper minerals like chrysocolla, and possibly a couple of new, unnamed minerals, too.

Vice President WR Russ said a fellow, who has lived in or near the Superstition Mountains for 25 years, may be willing additionally to lead MSA members on field trips there to hunt for minerals. He talked of the Rockfest "Partnership" with MSA for the past five years and of certain "Sponsors" who he would like to continue to encourage with their participation and contributions.

In keeping with tradition, there were separate drawings for "Kids," Guests, and Members, followed by refreshments after the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Thanks to the Refreshment Providers!

General Meeting Minutes February 17, 2006

By Lois Splendoria

The meeting was called to order by Gilbert Flores, Jr. The visitors were introduced: Roger Peterson, of Scottsdale, and tonight's speaker, Alex Fagotti, and his wife, Darlene, of Show Low, Arizona.

Joanne Hesterman announced that Prospectors Day at the Museum would be tomorrow, Saturday, February 18, and outlined some of the activities. She said that volunteers are needed to help with this. She also said that the Maricopa Lapidary Society's show, "Art on the Rocks," would be held February 24-26 at Centennial Hall in Mesa.

Tonight's refreshments were provided by Cecilia Flores and Shirley Croegaert. Sally Fiske said there was no treasurer's report tonight and asked if there were any outstanding bills for Rockfest. Gilbert said the bills will be subtracted from the proceeds.

Gilbert recognized Betty for volunteering to sell tickets at Rockfest for the last five years, as she was not able to do it this year. He said there were a lot of sponsors for this year's show and showed the newspaper article that appeared in the East Valley Tribune and some of the other newspaper coverage for the Rockfest show. He said he needs for someone else to run the Rockfest show in 2007 and detailed what needs to be done at the show, i.e., setup, teardown, ticket booth, wheel, and displays. He said attendance was down at the 2006 show. Terry Dyer suggested doing a survey, and WR Russ said he did not think that surveys work. Ed Nichols suggested that we combine with another club to have a show, and several members explained our past ventures in this regard. It was pointed out that there were a lot of other events going on during the week of Rockfest. WR said that 10,000 children have attended Rockfest over the years.

There will be a field trip to the Rowley Mine on Saturday, February 25. Meet at the McDonald's Restaurant in Gila Bend at 9:30 a.m. This will be for surface collecting only. Someone asked if we were going underground, but it is a legal issue, and that is why we don't go underground. Flyers were available on the front table for the Coalition Field Trip on Saturday, February 25, to Mingus Mountain for red Jasper and black Hematite.

(Continued on Page 4)

COALITION FIELD TRIP
SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2006 - HOLBROOK, AZ
CLUB SPONSOR: SEDONA GEM & MINERAL CLUB
Contributed by Betty Deming and Terry Worman

We have another fabulous opportunity to collect petrified wood on a private 60,000 acre ranch near Holbrook. Our club has arranged again for us all to hunt the Paulsell Ranch next to the Petrified Forest National Park. Even though our coalition prefers not to repeat trips to the same location every year, this is an exceptional property which may be sold to the government at any time and our opportunity to collect there would be lost forever. Wonderful rainbow and picture wood litters the ground. This is the stuff rockhound dreams are made of. Our cost is \$1.00 per pound. We will hunt the ranch on Saturday and then drive back to the privately owned International Petrified Forest Museum, where you can choose from tons of wood laid out on pallets at \$2.00 per pound, or polished pieces inside their shop. If you spend a little time hunting, you'll find material that is as good as it gets.

BONUS !!!

The museum houses one of the largest collections of Native American artifacts in the Southwest. Bring a towel. Some of you will want to spend hours in there drooling, as I did.

DATE OF FIELD TRIP: Saturday, April 22, 2006 9:00 a.m.

MEETING PLACE: The International Petrified Forest Museum. I-40 exit 292, one quarter mile south of I-40.

MOTEL: I have negotiated a special rate for Friday night, April 21, of \$32.20 per room including tax for two people for our coalition members at the Best Inn, (maybe not the best) 2211 Navajo Blvd., 928-524-2654. Take exit 289 off I-40 and go north about 1 mile; it's on your left or west side of Navajo Blvd. Tell them you are with the Coalition of Rock Clubs when you call to make your reservations and you will get the special rate.

OPTIONAL: Come join us for dinner and breakfast.

Dinner – Friday, April 21 - 6:00 p.m. - The Mesa Restaurant

The Mesa Restaurant is across the street and east a short distance from the motel. The food is Italian and is about the best in town. We will all sit in the banquet room. Please bring bragging rocks to show club members at dinner, petrified wood from your last trip or other favorites.

Breakfast – Saturday, April 22 - 7:30 a.m. - Denny's Restaurant

Order from menu. Denny's is across the street and east about a mile from the motel.

Please RSVP to Pat McMahan if you are having dinner or breakfast so he can let the restaurants know.

At 9:00 a.m. Saturday we will meet at the International Petrified Forest Museum, exit 292, and will drive in caravan about 1 hour to the ranch. We can stay as long as we wish. Bring lunch, snacks, water, tools, squirt bottles, and a small backpack. Also bring boxes for your rocks. Two wheel drive vehicles are OK. Carpooling on dirt roads will be arranged at the Museum. **Questions or RSVP, contact Pat McMahan, 928-300-8333.** Pat will have his cell phone on before and during the field trip. Call Pat Thursday night 4/20/06 between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. If rain is threatening, if rain is likely, Pat will cancel the trip.

DIRECTIONS: From Flagstaff intersection of I-17 and I-40, go east on I-40 about 92 miles to Holbrook. Exit 292 is approximately 7 miles east of Holbrook on I-40.

General Meeting Minutes February 17, 2006

By Lois Splendoria

(Continued from Page 2)

WR Russ asked for input from the club members about what they would like to have for programs. He asked anyone interested to e-mail him at his administrative assistant's ID, azrockfest@hotmail.com. He suggested that for the June meeting, the members bring in their favorite collected mineral specimens and do a show and tell. Someone suggested meeting on Saturday rather than on Friday night. Chris Davis said he did a meeting with his science students at Trevor Brown High School, and he also talked about some of things he has done with his students over the years. WR said he would make a \$250 donation to Chris Davis' school in the hope that it will be possible to get two students at the MSA meeting.

Marc Watson offered the lot behind her home for a tailgate party on Saturday, March 18. WR introduced Alex Fagotti, tonight's speaker, who did a program on Michigan Copper. He was a dealer at the 2006 Rockfest. He showed the members some specimens from Afghanistan, which he purchased recently. After the program, the raffle was held and refreshments were enjoyed by all.



Pyrite Suns

Pyrite Suns are found in the coal mines of Sparta, Illinois at the 300 foot level in a very narrow seam laying on top of the coal vein. Miners in four mines bring them out in their lunch buckets, thus preserving what would otherwise be destroyed in the mines. Originally thought to be marcasite, research by the Smithsonian Institute has proven them to be pyrite and, therefore, very durable. Surrounded by black shale and coal, a very difficult cleaning process unveils their hidden beauty. Dating in age to 35 million years old, one of the present theories of origin has them as a pyritized fossil replacement of a lily pad. Their natural beauty lends them to a variety of jewelry making ideas.

*From The Breccia, 2/06, via The Lithics 4/99,
via the Rocky Reader 9/00, via the Rock Collector
12/00, via Grant Co. Rolling Stones
date unknown*

General Meeting Minutes January 13, 2006

By Lois Splendoria

The meeting was called to order by Gilbert Flores, Jr. Two visitors were welcomed: Chris Davis, of El Mirage, who is a high school teacher at North High School; and Henry Vanderbosch from Wilcox. Gilbert welcomed K. J. Werner, one of our new board members, to the meeting.

Sally Fiske gave the treasurer's report and said that Richard Flagg had made a generous donation to the club. New membership cards are available on the front table tonight.

Gilbert said the Arizona Rockfest show started today and will be running for the next two days. Both girl scout and boy scout troops are expected tomorrow, Jan. 14. He explained the theme for this years show and told about some of the attractions. Signup sheets for show volunteers were distributed at the meeting. Some of the members asked where to park for the show. It was explained that members could come in from the back before the opening of the show, and the members were reminded to wear their badges to the show.

Lois Splendoria will be continuing as the newsletter editor. Shirley, Sally, and Don Fiske will be assembling and distributing the newsletter from now on.

A field trip to the Rowley Mine is tentatively set for February 25 to collect on the dumps. Gilbert told what to bring in the way of tools and protective gear. We do not have to pay a fee for this trip. The group discussed meeting at the McDonald's in Gila Bend at 9:30 a.m. that day.

Some of the members talked about the Date Creek trip that they took a few years ago. Betty suggested a field trip to Bagdad, Arizona. More discussion followed about the another trip to the Bagdad, Arizona, mine. Gilbert said he would try to schedule this for March or April. More discussion followed about various field trip locations. Betty suggested bringing in minerals for show and tell that we have collected on field trips. One of our visitors, Chris Davis, asked how to find out more about rocks and minerals. He said some of the schools are planning to drop earth science classes because of the AIMS preparation.

There was no speaker for tonight's program, so the members watched one of the Museum's videos, "Riches from the Rock," narrated by Richard Graeme. After the video, the raffle was held, and refreshments were served.

**2006 Contractual Agreement
Between SPD and MSA
For Arizona Rockfest**

Initial Fee by SPD to MSA		\$1,000
Total Net People	1,616	
(-) Base	3,000	

In fairness to all, the RATE BASE is evenly distributed among the three days. This is due to the fact that Friday was a discount rate day.

Rate Base	Friday	0
	Saturday	0
	Sunday	0
Subtotal		0
Total Net Gain		\$1,000

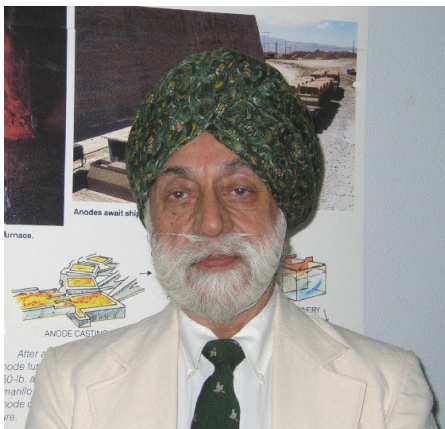
MSA Expenses		
	10 X 10 Tent & Delivery	\$160.00
	10 X 20 Tent	\$200.00
	7 Tables @\$7.50/ea.	\$ 52.50
	2 Side Walls @\$26.00/ea.	\$ 52.00
	Labor at Gate - 25 hrs. @ \$12.00/hr.	\$300.00
	Subtotal - MSA Expenses	\$764.50
MSA Total Gain		\$235.50

Hope, Humor, and Activism Come to ADMMR

By Elizabeth Anderson

From Quetta, Pakistan to Lucknow and Dhanbad, India and from thence to Urbana, Illinois to State College, Pennsylvania, and finally to Phoenix, Arizona. You might say that the most recent Director of the Arizona Department of Mines and Mineral Resources, Dr. Madan Singh, is an extremely well-traveled mining engineer. He laughs with delight about his journey, "For I never intend to retire from working, you know. Life has too much to offer."

He brings with him a quick wit, a humanistic outlook towards community, razor sharp thinking processes, a global outlook, deep faith, and the zeal to educate people about the necessity and benefits of mining in this state and nation.



The ADMMR'S new director: Dr. Madan Singh

"A change of attitude is needed," he states emphatically. "I want to make people aware of the improvements that mining has brought to civilization just in the past century or so. Because of rocks and minerals, we are currently enjoying a life which even the long ago kings and emperors of the past did not have available to them. Their amenities included candlelight but did not include air conditioning, safe shelter, reliable travel, and even matches and medications."

How did Dr. Singh arrive at this point in his life? He was born in Pakistan to a well-placed Sikh family, but the Partition Vote in 1946 drove these gentle monotheist believers out of their homes and livelihoods. He still remembers the terror he felt as a teen when it was thought his businessman father had been one of the one million slaughtered during the upheaval. Incredibly, his family was able to charter an airplane to fly the patriarch to safety. Today, Dr. Singh talks thoughtfully about past events. "I can't complain. I am very fortunate and it has made me feel extremely lucky that God has been so good to me and mine. One cannot dwell on the past. What is important is the here and now."

It was his father who steered him to study Mining Engineering, which he did at the Indian School of Mines and Applied Geology after college. It was quite a coup to be accepted: of the several thousand applicants every year, only forty are chosen. "Mining was considered an honorable profession," he declares. "At that time in India, their wages were good, and, like miners everywhere, they brought great benefits to our industrial societies."

Dr. Singh muses that people today tend to look at mining through 19th century eyes, instead of celebrating its environmental consciousness and the great benefits it brings to humankind. In a recent discussion, he overhead it said that housing developments, farms, cities, and even university campuses cause more permanent damage than today's mines. None of those areas, it was said, are able to be restored. It is a thought-provoking statement to him.

During a side discussion about rainbow colors, Dr. Singh supposed that blues and indigos are favorites of his because of the calmness they represent. This led to a dialogue about his wife and son. He chuckles when he talks of her, this woman of his life with whom he has a mutual, enduring love affair. His eyes twinkle when the years of their marriage are brought up. "No," he says, "I cannot tell you how many years this most traditional of all marriages has existed. She is delightful and outgoing, but feels that people will find her age if they know how long we have been together. I must respect her wishes. In this, at least, she is most definitely the boss!" When pressed, he finally allowed that decades would probably be a more accurate time line mark than years.

Their son, with whom both parents are close, is studying communications at ASU. His relationship with his father is deeply personal, and both men have learned to adjust to the differences of the generational outlook.

The fresh wind that has blown through the department and museum has a marvelous mustache, a fashionably bright turban, and a twinkle in his eye.

Welcome, Dr. Singh!

*Reprinted from the First Quarter 2006 FAMMM
(Friends of the Arizona Mining and Mineral
Museum) Newsletter*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From B. Jay Bowman

Reprinted from the April 2006 AMFS Newsletter

From Signs . . .

Automatic Blanket

Ensure sound sleep with one of our authorized dealers.

Give Us Your Dirty Clothes

Ladies! If you drive by our new launderette and drop off your clothes, you will receive very swift attention!

In an Office Building:

"Toilet out of order. Please use the floor below."

Outside a Disco:

"This is the most exclusive disco in town. Everybody welcome."

From the Newspaper . . .

Room Wanted

Young, sentimental, loving male. Loves to play. Wants Room and Board with loving female. Cannot pay rent, but offers true love, constant company, and 24-hour protection. Will serve as escort to and from classes, if desired. Will keep you warm all night long. Allows you complete freedom to date others. Call 466-7523. DO NOT CALL unless you are truly interested in giving a home to this adorable puppy.

FREE. Beautiful 6-month-old kitten, playful, friendly, very affectionate, OR . . . Handsome 32-year-old husband—personable, funny, good job, but hates cats. Says he goes or cat goes. Come see both and decide which you like.

Wedding gown worn only once, by mistake. Asking \$100.



Need to Contact the Officers?

President - Gilbert Flores
gilbertflores@cox.net

Vice President - WR Russ
(602) 684-7381 or (602) 923-7802

Treasurer - Sally Fiske
xmasbelle@aol.com

Secretary - Lois Splendoria
chimes@extremezone.com

**MSA
Statement of
Income and Expense
For Arizona Rockfest 2006**

Expense

Awards - \$233.49
Staples (Printing) - \$28.27

Income

Wheel - \$517.37

LOIS SPLENDORIA

MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ARIZONA
1502 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Address Correction Requested

EXCHANGE EDITORS:
Please send all newsletters to the return address listed above.

**Mineralogical Society of Arizona
Founded 1935
A Non Profit Organization**

Purpose: To promote popular interest in the various Earth Sciences, and particularly the fields of Geology, Lapidary, Mineralogy, and related subjects. ID badges are available from the Treasurer.

Meetings: 7:00 p.m. at the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum, 1502 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ, on the second Friday of the month, September through June (except February, which is the third Friday).

Dues: Families & Couples - \$20.00, Single Adults - \$12.00, Juniors (18 yrs. and under) - \$2.50. Please mail your dues to Sally Fiske, 42011 N. Astoria Way, Anthem, AZ, 85086.

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First Class Mail

UPCOMING MEETINGS IN 2006	
Friday	April 14
Friday	May 12
Friday	June 9



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**Rocky Mountain Federation
of Mineralogical Societies**

**American Federation
of Mineralogical Societies**