

THE ROCKHOUND RECORD

Vol. 72, Issue 1

Newsletter for the Mineralogical Society of Arizona, January 2006

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(602) 957-6793

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Lynne Dyer
Terry Dyer
Bob Holm
KJ Werner

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Shirley Fiske
(623) 551-0882

HELP NEEDED FOR ARIZONA ROCKFEST

Volunteers are needed for the following show activities:

- Setup Day on Thursday, Jan. 12
- Help with the school tours on Friday, Jan. 13 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Teardown after show on Sunday evening, Jan. 15.

Eight more displays are still needed to fill the cases at our annual show. If you are interested in displaying your collection, or volunteering for the school tours, please contact WR Russ at the following numbers:

602-684-7381 (cell phone)
or at 602-923-7802

Large coffee cans WITH LIDS are also still needed. Please bring to the January 13 meeting or to the show.

ARIZONA ROCKFEST "Psychedelic Rock Tour" Featured Mineral: Malachite

January 13-15, 2006
Tempe Diablo Stadium
2200 West Alameda Dr.
Tempe, Arizona
FREE PARKING

Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Admission:
\$5.00 - Adults
\$3.00 - Children ages 6 to 12

FROM THE EDITOR

This Is My Final Newsletter

This is my final newsletter as editor of "The Rockhound Record." I find that current demands on my free time dictate that I step back and give someone else the opportunity to be the newsletter editor. While I enjoyed doing it, I must be realistic about the time commitment that the newsletter requires.

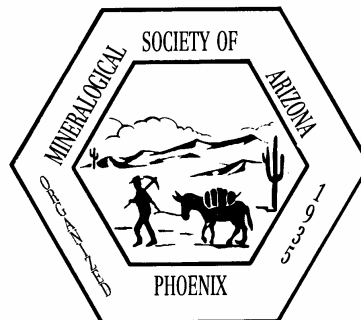
You may want to save this issue for the Arizona show listings from January through May of 2006. The club's meeting dates for all of 2006 are listed on the last page. If you receive the newsletter by e-mail, you may want to print this issue so you can refer to it later.

I would like to thank all of you, who have contributed to the newsletter since I assumed it from Deanna Smith in June of 2005. Many thanks to Tom Horton for his interesting "Mother Lode" series.

I will continue as the club secretary and will distribute the minutes of the board meetings to the membership by e-mail and hard copy, as I did with the newsletter.

Sincerely,

Lois Splendoria



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?

From The RockCollector, 12/2005

DUES ARE DUE!

Dues for 2006 are due now. Please mail your dues to Sally Fiske, 42011 N. Astoria Way, Anthem, AZ, 85086, pay at the January 13, 2006, meeting, or at our annual show. The rates are as follows:

Families & Couples - \$20.00

Single Adults - \$12.00

Juniors (18 yrs. and under) - \$2.50

Thanks, and we look forward to having you as a member in 2006.

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
ymasbelle@aol.com

Secretary - Lois Splendoria
chimes@extremezone.com

ROCKS, ROCKS, ROCKS Written by Mark Colen ROCK & GEM Magazine 2/75

I hope that I will never see, another
rockhound dumb as me. Who hunts for rocks
in every season, and makes his choice
without rhyme or reason.

From deserts hot and mountains cold, I've
taken crude and left the gold. The rejects I've
left gives me the blues, beautiful specimens I
never choose.

A hundred pounds or more I'd pack, with
blistered feet and aching back. From
mountains dark and mountains bright I've
carried a mountain of leaverite.

My fingers are bleeding, my nails are broke,
my days collection is the campsite's joke.
And then while I sit, rubbing a bunion . . . my
nine-year-old finds three for the Smithsonian.

When I pack the camper, I load every
compartment, with fill rejected by the highway
department. When I get home, I'm too
ashamed, to unload the junk that I have
claimed.

My backyard garden grows neither daisy nor
aster, instead it resembles a rock quarry
disaster. But my wife just smiles as if she's
happy 'cause she got me started as a lappie-
dappie.

Rocks in the winter, rocks in the spring, none
that I take are worth anything. Rocks in the
kitchen, rocks in the bed, my wife even says
I've got rocks in my head.

But the worst part of all, I've yet to tell, it's
made my life a living hell. For I've developed
a mental block, I CAN'T IDENTIFY A SINGLE
ROCK.

*Reprinted from the July 1995
ROCKHOUND RECORD*

ROCK EUTHANASIA

by Janet Whitaker

Rocks, those innocent little fellows you see by the roadside, have a dark side to them. Once you stop your car, they call to you, but your ears refuse to hear, your heart hears through, those plaintive calls echoing in your heart and head, "Take me home. Take me home." You walk on, bravely stepping over them, then you hear it again, "Pick me up." You automatically follow orders and before you know it, you are home again. When you open your trunk to get out a couple of rocks you picked up, you are amazed to see that they have multiplied into a trunk full of happy, giggling rocks.

As your wife walks by, she says that you are banging your rocks together, but you know that it is the rocks giggling. Sure enough, some of them have slipped into your house. Now it seems that every time you look, there are more rocks--outside, inside, under the sofa, in the garage, in the kitchen, and in the bathroom. You know you couldn't have put them there. They must sneak around at night while you are asleep.

Finally, they have taken over the entire house. One of you has to go. Will it be you, or the rocks? No question, you are staying, so what is there to do? It is time for ROCK EUTHANASIA. Now that the decision has been made, how do you proceed? What are your opinions?

Sell them: Can we sell them? They aren't slaves, but we have become their slaves.

Give them away: Trying to give them to your friends is a serious problem. You will run out of friends long before you run out of rocks. Remember they don't stop multiplying just because you want them to.

Youth Groups: Youth groups always want rocks; but I worry about my rocks. Will they be loved and get the tender loving care that I have given them? Some youths want to make astronauts out of them, sailing them through the air. The rocks have not had sufficient training for that, and have disastrous crash landings.

Abandon them: You could just go away and let them lay here. If you do that, they could become delinquents. When that happens, they tend to break windows and generally get into trouble. Can you be arrested for creating delinquent rocks?

Make a rock garden: You can try planting them in a rock garden, but all of the times that I have tried it, no matter how diligently I water and fertilize them, they just will not grow or blossom. I don't know why they call it a rock garden. They multiply much faster in the garage.

Landscaping: You might line the borders or your driveway with them. That sounds like a good idea, but the rocks must not like it. When your car tires get too close, the rocks bite them and let out all the air. Then you have to worry about how to deal with angry tires, too.

Construction: I tried incorporating my rocks into a bench. I thought that was a good idea, but the birds didn't like it, I guess. They regularly sat on the bench and did unmentionable things on my friends.

I guess the only solution is to get a bigger house and more storage. If the trend continues, I will not need to have a cemetery lot, just bury me under my rocks.

*Reprinted from the October 1995
QUARRY QUIPS*

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you would like to perform some "Rock Euthanasia" before the 2006 Arizona Rockfest show takes place, the MSA will be glad to recycle your donations to use on our Wheel of Fortune.

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK!

The MSA bids a fond farewell to one of its members, Helen Roz, who moved to North Carolina in November of 2005. If any of you would like to correspond with her, her address is the following:

1235 Summer St.
Mt. Pleasant, N.C. 28124

**General Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2005
by Cecilia Flores**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by MSA President, Shirley Fiske. After the pledge of to the flag, Betty Deming welcomed the visitors and new members, Roberta and John Hayes. Cookies for the meeting were baked by MSA Junior member, Sam Greess

Treasurer, Sally Fiske, reported the club finances and reminded everyone that dues are due. It was requested that members state their preference of email or postal delivery of the bulletin. MSA is a FAMMM member through its donation to the museum.

Betty Deming and Gilbert announced the there was no field trip planned for this month by the coalition or MSA. Gilbert did mention the possibility of a field trip to the Rowley Mine, which is now in new hands.

MSA Show Chairman, Gilbert Flores announced that a work meeting would be required to prepare material for the Rock Roulette. It has not been determined if there will be one or two wheels at the 2006 Rockfest. The work meeting will be at 10:00 at Marc Watson's, 2927 West Augusta, where the MSA property trailer is parked.

The slate of officers was presented to the members. W.R. Russ accepted the nomination from the floor for the position of Vice President. A motion to accept the board as presented was carried. Gilbert V. Flores volunteered to serve as president with the membership voting to accept. K.J. Werner volunteered to fill the vacancy on the board created when W. R. Russ was elected vice president.

In her museum report, Liz Anderson made a plea for Saturday volunteers. The museum appeared in the *Arizona Highways* magazine on four different occasions during the year. A representative from the governor's office toured the museum.

There was some discussion of the Christmas party being planned for the same day and time as the December meeting. The dinner will be at Tutti Santi Restaurant on December 9, at 7:00 p.m.



The speaker for the evening, world renowned mineral photographer and MSA member, Jeff Scovil, was introduced by Vice President, Gilbert Flores. Jeff dressed appropriately for this program about his recent travels to Palestine and various other countries. As always, Jeff had beautiful photos of the various areas he visited and of course, the wonderful minerals owned by premier collectors. His trip, which started in Israel, included Palestine, Barcelona and Cannes, among others.

The Mother Lode - Part 14 Growers' Gold

By Tom Horton

As California gold mining continued full blast through the 1850's, 60's and 70's, a new form of "California Gold" emerged in the form of farming production. From the very first days of the Mother Lode, farmers coming from various parts of the world, who preferred farming to mining, had formed farms and orchards to supply both themselves and the miners with food products. Many of these first farms were in the valleys of the rivers used as hydraulic mining tailings dumping grounds. As hydraulic mining continued, many of these farms were buried under the runoff tailings, some to the depth of one hundred to two hundred feet of hydraulic mining runoff "slickens." The slickens mixture consisted of gravel, mud, tree trunks, rocks, dead animals, broken whiskey bottles and other non-farming productive detritus. Slickens also began to fill up channels in the various rivers and streams downstream of the mines. Navigation on the Sacramento River was threatened with shallowing water, "slickens-bars" and other such. The off color, slickens mud streams even penetrated as far as the current location of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Although normal farming produce enjoyed considerably profitable success in sales to the mining community, the advent of the Union Pacific Railroad and the refrigerated railroad cars (using ice from the Sierra Nevada) meant that the markets in the eastern part of the continent were available to these farmers for otherwise perishable goods. The Central Pacific Railroad expanded to the extent that it was servicing most of the farming communities, both of the mining areas and the farms of the Sacramento and the San Joaquin Valleys. Various farming equipment that made it easier to produce more with the same resources were developed in this area during this time frame.

California grown wheat, because it did not spoil as readily as other farm produce, could be shipped essentially anywhere in the world. The farms in the California river valleys became vast oceans of wheat fields. While at the same time that farm produce, in particular the wheat crops, increased to the extent that farm profits in any one year

exceeded those of gold mining, the population of the farmers began to exceed the population of the miners. In the 1870's, the farmer population was approximately 48,000 against the mining population of 36,000. Meanwhile, hydraulic mining slickens continued to threaten farmers' growing fields and river navigation while at the same time causing significant downstream flooding of towns like Marysville, Yuba City, Sacramento and others.

A widening schism was developing between the mining community and the farming community. Nevada City became the center of the mining community in the northern mines area with the Nevada City Daily Transcript and its fire-breathing editor becoming the voice of this community. Sacramento became the center of the farming community with the Sacramento Bee becoming the voice of this community. The Nevada City Daily Transcript editorials preached the dogma that "the miners were the first in the area, had provided the gold that drove the machine that was California and were entitled to do as they pleased". The Sacramento Bee preached the opposite. Many newspapers were sold . . .

Meanwhile, slickens volumes increased enormously. Springtime floods would wash enormous quantities of this material into the river bottoms of the area. The downstream valleys of the Yuba River had by best estimates 684 million cubic yards of this material in the early 1880's, while the Bear River had 254 million, the Feather 100 million, the Sacramento 100 million and the American 257 million. These estimates were shown to be on the low side by subsequent investigations. Some 39,000 acres of mostly what had been good farming land had been covered over with slickens rendering them useless for farming.

Various law suits had been brought against the miners in the California State Courts during the late 1870's demanding the end to hydraulic mining. Various defenses were established by the mining community to the extent that because of the many mines contributing to the slickens runoff in any river or rivers runoff, it was impossible to determine which mine was responsible for what was happening and thus the suits were defeated.

(Continued on Page 6)

**Meeting Minutes
Board of Governors
December 9, 2005
by Lois Splendoria**

The Board of Governors had a brief meeting at the Pointe at Squaw Peak after the MSA's Christmas dinner on December 9. President Shirley Fiske called to order the meeting to order. In attendance were Sally Fiske, Lynne Dyer, Terry Dyer, Lois Splendoria, and Gilbert Flores.

Life Members - The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the situation with the Life Members and whether they should be asked to pay \$6.50 per year for the newsletter. Shirley and Sally asked Lois to send them her latest membership list, which states who has paid and who has not, so that the Life Members can be contacted to see if they still wish to receive the newsletter. Lois will continue to e-mail the newsletter to the Life Members who have e-mail ID's. It was decided to hold off on the decision about this until after the list is received and processed.

Sally asked for clarification on what the term of an honorary membership is, and the answer was that it is for a period of one year.

Annual Show - Setup Day for the Arizona Rockfest show will be Thursday, Jan. 12. The featured mineral will be Malachite. The group discussed ordering the trophies. There will only be a 25 cent wheel this year, and no \$1 wheel, due to lack of material. Gilbert said volunteers are needed for setup day.

It is planned to have 20 display cases. Gilbert has talked to John McLaughlin, the club's mineral curator, about using some specimens from the club's collection, which are not in the Glendale Library display, for a show display.

Membership - Sally pointed out that in looking over the new members' applications, the thing that stands out most is that they are interested in field trips. She recommended that in the future the MSA focus on field trips, rather than on mineral shows and programs, to attract and keep new members. It was suggested that the field trip announcements be listed on the front page of the newsletter. This topic will be discussed again after the first of the year.

Gilbert said there will be a field trip to the Rowley Mine in January 2006. He will follow up with the exact date.

Miscellaneous - Shirley announced that Joanne Hesterman will be opening the museum for the MSA meetings in 2006. Shirley also said that she thought WR Russ had secured a speaker for the Jan. 13, 2006, meeting at the museum. Although this is the weekend of the show, the meeting will be held as usual at the museum.

Since there was no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.



The Mother Lode - Part 14 - Growers' Gold

(Continued from Page 5)

Another defense was that even if the mines had been shut down, the current accumulations of mining tailings would continue to cause subsequent problems. The status of the California court system of the times being "the finest that money could buy," the still very large hydraulic mining profits and the widespread bribery of trial jury members rendered most of these law suits impotent. "Who hath the gold maketh the rule!" The hydraulickers had the gold . . .

In 1880, Governor Hall proposed what he believed to be a compromise between the increasingly powerful farming community and the already powerful mining community. This compromise was based on the idea of containing the slickens runoff using a system of dams and levees combined with the idea of running the slickens off into (at the time) worthless swamplands. Statewide taxes were to be used to pay for all this. Californians in non-farming areas of California objected to paying taxes to address mining/farming area problems. This act of the California State Legislature was called "The Drainage Act". It failed to solve the problem . . .

The "Great Spring Flood of 1881" overran the newly constructed dams and levees system, caused significant flooding of the downstream towns and cities, and destroyed significantly more farmland. Clearly it was time for Clint Eastwood to take a hand . . .

Upcoming Arizona Shows

January 1 - February 28, 2006 - Quartzsite

Desert Gardens Intl. Gem & Mineral Show

P. O. Box 619, Quartzsite, AZ 85346

1155 Kuehn Street, 1/4 mile east of exit 17

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Admission and Parking: Free

Dealers Contact: Sandi McAllister, 928-927-6361

January 6 -15, 2006 - Quartzsite

Tyson Wells Rock-Gem-Mineral Show

P. O. Box 60, Quartzsite, AZ 85346, 928-927-6364

W. Corner I -10 Freeway & Highway 95, Quartzsite, AZ

www.tysonwells.com

Admission and Parking: Free

January 6 - 8, 2006 - Mesa

34th Annual Flagg Gem & Mineral Show

Mesa Community College, 1833 W. Southern Ave., west parking lot, Mesa, AZ,

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

Admission and Parking: Free

Dealers Contact: Ray Grant, 480-814-9086

January 13 - 15, 2006 - Tempe

Arizona Rockfest

Tempe Diablo Stadium, 2200 West Alameda Dr., west parking lot, Tempe, AZ,

Sponsored by: Mineralogical Society of Arizona

www.azminerals.com

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

Admission: Adults - \$5.00, Children Ages 6 to 12 - \$3.00

Parking: Free

Dealers Contact: WR Russ, 4515 E. Joan De Arc, Phoenix, AZ 85032

602-923-7802, cell: 602-684-7381

January 13 - 15, 2006 - Globe

Gila County Gem & Mineral Show,

Gila County Fair Building, 3 miles north of junction U.S. Highway 60-70 Globe, AZ 85501

Hours: Fri.& Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Admission: \$2.00 donation, free parking

Show Chairperson: Bill Morrow P. O. Box 1716, Claypool, AZ 85532, 928-4258431

Dealers Contact: Clyde Caviness, 5709 S. McKinney, Globe, AZ 85532, 928-425-7200

January 20 - 29, 2006 - Quartzsite

Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama, Rocks, Gem-Arts-Crafts Show

SW Corner of I-10 Freeway and Highway 95, Quartzsite, AZ

www.tysonwells.com

Admission: Free

Dealers Contact: Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama, P. O. Box 60, Quartzsite, AZ 85346, 928-927-6364
(mail 6-8 months ahead)

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January 25 - 29 2006 - Quartzsite

Quartzsite Improvement Association POW Wow, Gem & Mineral Show

Sponsored by: Quartzsite Improvement Association,

Dealers contact: Diane Abbott, P. O. Box 881, Quartzsite, AZ 85346

928-927-6325, Fax 928-927-4503, www.quartzsiteimprovementassoc.com

Admission: Free Parking

February 9 - 12, 2006 - Tucson

Tucson Gem and Mineral Show™

Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Ave., Tucson, AZ 85701

www.tgms.org - E-mail: tgms@tgms.org

Sponsored by: Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Hours: Thursday through Sat., 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Admission: \$7.00, under 14 free with paying adult

Parking: \$4.00 to \$5.00

Dealers Contact: Show Committee, P. O. Box 42588 Tucson, AZ 85733, 520-322-5773

For a listing of all the peripheral Tucson shows: www.tucsonshowguide.com

February 11 - 12, 2006 - Wickenburg

Gold Rush Days, 54th Annual Gem & Mineral Show Sale

Wickenburg Community Center, 160 N. Valentine, Wickenburg, AZ 85390

Hours: Fri., Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Admission: Free, Parking: fee

Dealers Contact: Lucille Burroughs, P. O. Box 26375, Wickenburg, AZ 85358, 928-684-0099

February 18, 2006 - Phoenix

Prospectors' Day

Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum, 1502 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Gold panning, demonstrations, panning equipment, and more, activities for children

Sponsored by: Arizona Mining & Mineral Museum and Arizona Prospectors Association

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Show Chairperson: Warren Rosebraugh, 9614 Pineridge, Sun City, AZ 85351, 623-974-0539

February 25, 2006 - Arizona City

Arizona City Gem & Mineral Show

Arizona City Community Center, 13270 S. Sunland Gin Road, Arizona City, AZ 85223

Sponsored by: Arizona City Gem & Mineral Society

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Show Chairpersons: Harvey Olender, 1920 N. Thornton Rd., Sp. 415, Arizona City, AZ 520-876-2415
& Rae Tennery, 1920 N. Thornton Rd. Casa Grande, AZ 85222

Dealer Contact: Julene Dixon, P.O. Box 1131, Arizona City, AZ 85223, 520-466-6653 and Maxine Haggard, P. O. Box 1508, Arizona City, AZ 85223, 520-466-5119

Admission and Parking: Free

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February 24 - 26, 2006 - Mesa

56th Annual Phoenix Gem & Mineral Show

Mineral & Jewelry Expo, "Art on the Rocks"

Mesa Centennial Center, 201 N. Center St., Mesa, AZ

Sponsored by: Maricopa Lapidary Society

Show Co-Chairperson: Sandi McDonald, Pedro Chavez, or Joanne Hesterman

Admission: \$5.00, \$1.00 off coupon available at the Arizona Mining & Mineral Museum, 1502 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Parking: Free

Hours: Fri. & Sat. - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Show Chair Pedro Chavez, 623-825-1512

Dealers contact: Laurette Kennedy, home 602-944-5737, cell 602-738-2552

E-mail: LKennedy11@aol.com

March 24 - 26, 2006 - Cottonwood

Annual Verde Valley Gem and Mineral Show

Mingus Union High School, 1801 E. Fir Ave, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Sponsored by: Mingus Gem and Mineral Club

Hours: Fri., Sat. - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Admission: Fri. - \$1:00, Sat. & Sun -\$3:00, 3-day pass -\$5:00, children under 12 free

Show Chairperson: Peter Martin, 1801 Kock Ranch Rd., Cornville, AZ 86325, 928-649-0745

Dealer Contact: Richard Casmier, P.O. Box 586, Rimrock, AZ 86335, 928-592-0232, rcasmier@aol.com

March 30, April 1, 2, 2006 - Yuma

Yuma Gem & Mineral Society

Club exhibits in the Yuma Fair

Contact Wes Riley, 10657 S. Ave. 9E # L1, Yuma, AZ 85367, 928-305-6299

May 27, 28, 2006 - Pinetop-Lakeside

11th Annual Gem & Mineral Show

Blur Ridge Jr. High (gym & Café)

Sponsored by: White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club

Admission: \$1:00 children under 12 free

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

Show Chairperson: Tonie Mondragon, P. O. Box 3504, Show Low, AZ 85902, 928-537-8855

Parking: Free

For more show listings, visit <http://www.admmr.state.az.us/showlst.htm>

Happy New Year!



MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ARIZONA
1502 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Address Correction Requested

First Class Mail

Mineralogical Society of Arizona
Founded 1935
A Non Profit Organization

www.azminerals.com

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.

Newsletter: Reprinting permission granted with proper credit given.

UPCOMING MEETINGS IN 2006	
Friday	January 13
Friday	February 17
Friday	March 10
Friday	April 14
Friday	May 12
Friday	June 9
Friday	September 8
Friday	October 13
Friday	November 10

AFFILIATIONS

**Rocky Mountain Federation
of Mineralogical Societies**

**American Federation
of Mineralogical Societies**