

# THE ROCKHOUND RECORD

Volume 75, Issue 1 Newsletter for the Mineralogical Society of Arizona  
January 2009



**NEXT MEETING:**  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2009**  
**AT 7:00 PM**

## MEETING TOPIC & SPEAKER

OUR SPEAKER WILL BE LEO LANGLAND

We had a wonderful guest speaker, Phil Richardson, fill-in in November, so Leo will be doing his presentation for us this month. The Program will be about the Kilauea & Arenal Volcanoes.

We'll see action sound history of the lengthiest eruption of this century, Kilauea, recorded by the US Park Service since 1900 & more recently, the USPS helicopter.

The 30 minute video (1997 edition) shows the latest PU U' O'o eruptions from it's start in 1983 when it took out the USPS Wahahula Visitors Center, then the overrun of lava in 1990 of the town of Katapana, & the 1992 overrun of the town of Kamoamoa, & the current flowing into the sea, since 1993.

The current update of the Langland's rented helicopter 35mm shots in October 1996 of Arenal volcano in Costa Rica, which has since exploded ash over their motel on May 5, 1998 & then the lava flowed on May 16th 1998 & came to rest just short of the motel, but forced 400 people to evacuate from the town between the volcano & the motel.



## WANTED: VOLUNTEERS AND MINERAL DONATIONS FOR MSA BOOTH AT FLAGG SHOW

Our club will have a booth at the 2009 A. L. Flagg Gem and Mineral Show scheduled for Jan. 9, 10, and 11, 2009, at Mesa Community College. We started doing this show in the 90's to raise awareness about our club, recruit some new members, and instill interest in everyone about mineralogy. Even though some of you may have already volunteered to work a 2-hr. shift in the booth, I feel sure that we will need extra volunteers. The shifts are generally 9-11 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 1-3 p.m., and 3-5 p.m. We would appreciate whatever time you may be able to give us, even if it is less than 2 hrs.

The activity goes really quick, as the squares need to be covered on the wheel's number board with every spin of the wheel. It really helps to have one person to deal with customers, one person to take the money and make change, and one or more persons to pick out stuff to put on the wheel. The wheel has been a big draw for the children in previous years, and we are expecting it to be again this year.

Which leads to the next "wanted" wish. We need small mineral specimen material to use for the wheel. If you have material that would be interesting to children (sparkly is always good!), which you have collected on field trips or have on hand, please consider donating some material for this cause. It would help greatly if the material is labeled, so we can tell the "winners" what they have won. Our club meeting will be Fri., Jan. 9, 2009, the night before the weekend of the show. You are welcome to bring your material to the meeting or out to the show in Mesa, if you are planning to come.

Thanks, and looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting and the Flagg Show. Here is a link for information:

<http://www.azminfun.com/asp/activities1.asp?level=1100&stope=1>

Lois Splendoria



## **ARIZONA MINERAL COLLECTOR**

### **NUMBER 115**

By Raymond Grant

There are not many new mineral finds in Arizona these days. But a really interesting one has been made in the Santa Teresa Mountains in Graham County. Evan Jones has a collection of new material for sale that was collected over the past 3 or 4 years.

The minerals include quartz, orthoclase, fluorite, hematite, epidote and beryl. The quartz is in sharp crystals up to 5 inches long from dark smoky to light gray. Some crystals show faces indicating dauphine twins. The orthoclase is sharp white crystals up to a couple of inches in size. The hematite is minor flat bladed crystals. The epidote at this locality is small green crystals. The fluorite is quite spectacular for Arizona; dark purple octahedrons (some with cube faces) up to 3 inches across. Some of the most spectacular specimens are the smoky quartz with purple fluorite octahedrons.

The most interesting mineral to me, is the beryl, it is a milky blue color. One specimen is a radiating group of terminated beryl crystals that is exceptional for Arizona and for most of the world. It should be on display at the Tucson Show this coming year, so look for it there. Unfortunately, the rest of the beryls are quite small. One, about three-quarters of an inch long is doubly terminated with darker colored zones at each end.

Of course the collectors are not telling the exact location. But the Santa Teresa Mountains have been of interest to me for some time. About 20 years ago there were some very nice epidote with quartz crystals for sale in Tucson. I bought a few and I got a few more from Dave Shannon, who also bought them in Tucson. The epidotes were small, up to a half-inch and very lustrous. Some of the quartz crystals had rutile needles in them. Again we never could determine the exact locality only the Santa Teresa Mountains.

Some local collectors have been out in this area and found some epidote and lots of quartz crystals. I am told there are areas with piles of quartz crystals, probably weathered out pockets. I was also told that is how the current material was first located, an area with many quartz crystals over the ground was found and digging in that area produced the specimens.

I may have more to report about this interesting location in the future, after some research.

## **JANUARY BIRTHSTONE**

Capricorn (December 22 – January 20)  
Aquarius (January 21 – February 18)

*By Heather Hill*

January's birthstone is the garnet which comes in a variety of colors including yellow and orange, green, pink, violet, shades of red, even colorless, but is most commonly known to be for its beautiful burgundy red. The variances are due to unique combinations of elements in each particular gem, such as calcium, iron, and manganese. It's Moh's hardness can be from 6.5 to 7.5

The word garnet derives from the Latin word for grain, or seed, due to the rounded crystals that form the garnet.

Archaeologists date the use of the garnet all the way back to the Bronze Age as it has been found in primitive style jewelry among the graves of lake dwellers. Not all garnet is gem quality; it can be used as an effective abrasive and used commercially for grinding and polishing, such as can be found in garnet coated sandpaper.

The garnet is one of the protective gems of travelers, symbolic of love and the desire for a loved one's safe travel and speedy homecoming. Many myths and legends surround the garnet; a Biblical legend is that Noah hung garnet on the ark to light his way through dark and stormy nights.

One Greek myth links the garnet to a story of Persephone, goddess of sunshine, who was abducted by Hades, god of the underworld. He ended up releasing Persephone after he offered her pomegranate seeds, which apparently guaranteed her return to him.

Garnet was first mined in Sri Lanka over 2,500 years ago, and can also be found right here in Arizona, in Idaho, South America, India, Australia, Africa, and Russia.

*SOURCES: Birthstones.com, Aboutbirthstones.com*

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**I will continue researching each month's birthstones up until the June/July/August issue; for that, and all subsequent newsletters, I will submit articles on different topics. If interested, you can find birthstone information for each month in the June – December 2008 archives and in the January – May 2009 newsletters. If you have ideas for interesting rockhounding topics you'd like to read more about, let me know.**

**Also, you will probably notice the absence of a puzzle this month and I promise to get more interesting things to do in upcoming issues like new puzzles and crosswords. Your input is also very welcome as to what types of activities you might like to see in our newsletter.**

**Thanks for reading!**

## COALITION TRIP FOR JANUARY

**ROWLEY MINE ROCK TRIP  
SATURDAY, JAN 24, 2009**

Sun City Rockhound Club

The Rowley Mine is a fee area to collect and the fee is fifteen dollars per person (\$15.00.) The mine is currently under lease to a group headed up by Bill Jaeger and Jim Ruker. They are operating the mine under Arizona Mining Laws, therefore, all collecting is surface only. Over the years, the tailings have produced hundreds of specimens of Wulfenite, Mimetite, Cerussite, Barite, Galena, Chrysocolla, and many other minerals. Bill thinks there are at least 35 minerals in this location.

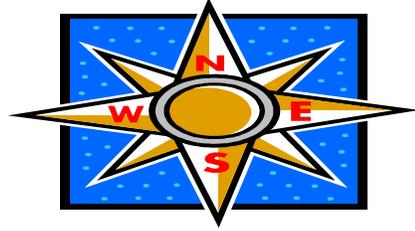
We will meet at McDonald's on the west side of Gila Bend at 9:30 a.m. for our trip to the mine. Take I-10 west and take Exit 112, Route 85, south to Gila Bend. If you get separated, when leaving Gila Bend, go west on Interstate 8 towards San Diego about 12-13 miles to exit 102, Painted Rock exit. Go north following the black top road for about 12 miles to the entrance to Painted Rock State Park. From that point, continue 1.6 miles toward Painted Rock Dam at which time, you will turn right on an ill defined road that takes you about a mile on a dirt trail to the Rowley Mine. The road is rough, and in good shape. A passenger car can make the trip with out much trouble. Painted Rock State Park has restroom - outhouse type.

If you have time, on leaving the Rowley, there is a large pile of rocks that the Indians used as messenger boards hundreds of years ago. The petroglyphs are really interesting and there is info for a self-guided tour available at the park. The mine dump is dirty, red, and will stain your clothing even if it is not wet. When it is wet, the red will be with you for a long time. Bring shovels, rock hammer, digging tools, a bucket for your finds, and a desire to find some really nice minerals. You never know what you will find in the next shovel.

Any questions, please call me at my business at 623-974-6036.

Thank you, and hope to see you on Jan 24th.  
Mark Larson, Sun City Rockhound Club.

Remember it is a fee of \$15 per person.



## MSA JANUARY FIELD TRIP

**January 17, 2009**

January 17<sup>th</sup> is our annual field trip to Saddle Mountain. It will be good for both young and semi young rockhounds. We will meet briefly at the Museum at 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Washington in Phoenix at 7:30 a.m.

Next stop will be at Tonopah, about 60 miles west of Phoenix at 9:00 a.m.; leaving there at 9:15 a.m.

Those who wish can go to Tonopah directly. There are food and gas stores there.

See you there. Also, I'll have maps at the Jan. 9th meeting for those who need them.

Ed Nichols  
YeOlde Rockhound

# **ROCK SHOWS**

**SEE Front Page for more important details on the Flagg Gem and Mineral Show !!**



**January 1 – February 28, 2009  
QUARTZITE**

Desert Gardens International Rock & Gem Show  
P.O. Box 2818 Quartzite, AZ 85346  
1155 Kuehn Street, ¼ mile east of Exit 17  
Hours: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM  
Admission & Parking: FREE  
Dealers Contact: Sandi McAllister 928-927-6361  
Website: [www.desertgardensrvpark.net](http://www.desertgardensrvpark.net)  
Email: [dggemshow@ureach.com](mailto:dggemshow@ureach.com)



## **UPCOMING EVENT OF INTEREST:**

### **PROSPECTORS' FAMILY DAY**

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in February 02/21/2009

FAMILY DAY OF FUN!  
FREE EVENTS  
FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

Co-Sponsored by the Museum and AZ  
PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION & The MARICOPA  
LAPIDARY SOCIETY  
MLS sponsors Select Dealers!

Where:  
AZ Mining & Mineral Museum 1502 W. Washington  
St. Phoenix  
602-771-1611  
[www.mines.az.gov](http://www.mines.az.gov)



**The AZ Mining & Mineral Museum (AZMMMR)  
maintains a list of Arizona club shows on  
their website:  
<http://mines.az.gov/General/museum.html>**

## **DON'T MISS IT!!!**

**THE FLAGG GEM & MINERAL SHOW  
FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY  
JANUARY 9, 10 & 11, 2009**

Hours: 9 am – 5 pm  
Admission: FREE  
Parking: FREE

Mesa Community College  
West Parking Lot  
NE Corner of Dobson Road and the US  
60 Superstition Freeway

Free activities for kids  
Free mineral samples for  
children and teachers

MCC Geology faculty and students will have activities for kids such as digging for fossils. The Arizona Leaverites will let kids buy a collection of labeled rock and mineral samples. 12 samples can be picked out for \$1.00. Other groups will have special activities and free samples for children.

Local Mineral and Lapidary Club booths  
Food

Over 80 dealers selling minerals, fossils, jewelry, beads and much more.

Minerals, Fossils, Gems,  
and Lapidary Material for Sale  
Special Exhibits  
The Peralta Stones

*Part public service, this show lets all the clubs set up and find new members, provides educational activities for kids, raises funds, and promotes the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum.*

*Sponsored by the Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation*

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

Hello, I am excited about the upcoming year. I am glad we had such a great turnout for the Christmas party. I realized there were a LOT of new faces. It is good to see all the new members, and I am looking forward to getting acquainted with you. Just a few years ago the members of the club were concerned that we might not be able to keep going.

There is a notice in the front of the newsletter about the A. L. Flagg show on Jan. 9, 10, and 11 at Mesa Community College. I hope you will be able to come out and help with the booth and wheel. It is really fun watching the children (and adults) at the Wheel when they win a new-found treasure. This can also be a group activity that the club does together.

Even if you are not able to volunteer, I would encourage you to take in this show, as it is really a good one and a good place to buy mineral specimens at reasonable prices. This show is also a good place to get acquainted with other rockhounds and talk to the people in the club booths of the Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation, formerly known as the A. L. Flagg Foundation, and the Leaverites.

Looking forward to seeing you at the January 9th meeting and the Flagg Show.

Lois Splendoria

MSA President, 2009



**NEWS FROM THE TREASURER:**

Dues are now over-due. Please mail to me or see me at the meeting. I will be emailing and / or calling members this month who haven't paid yet.

**Betty L. Deming**  
2922 W. Claremont St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85017



Sign-up for volunteers at the Flagg show

Friday

9-1 Ed Nichols & Bob Holm  
1-3 Joanne Hesterman & Lynn Dyer  
3-5 Ed Nichols & Bob Holm

Saturday

9-11 Debra & Dennis Long & Emil Stoyanov  
11-1 Shirley Fiske & Roger Deming  
1-3 Lois Splendoria & Betty Deming  
3-5 Dave Lay

Sunday

9-11 Ed Nichols & Bob Holm  
11-1 Lois Splendoria & Edna Luft  
1-3 Betty Deming  
3-5 Betty Deming

We could use another person on Sat. to help Dave Lay from 3-5 & Sun. 1-5 to help me, Betty Deming

**MSA CONTACT INFO:**

President:

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[chimes@extremezone.com](mailto:chimes@extremezone.com)  
602-571-4577

Vice President  
& Field Trip Coordinator  
(Club Trips):  
Ed Nichols  
[epidote555@yahoo.com](mailto:epidote555@yahoo.com)  
(480) 636-1251

Treasurer and Coalition Field  
Trip Coordinator: Betty Deming  
(602) 242-1553  
[bd\\_mac2003@yahoo.com](mailto:bd_mac2003@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Position vacant.  
Interested?  
Contact Lois Splendoria

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(623) 979-5246

Librarian/Door Prizes/Hospitality:  
Bob Holm (623) 247-1325

Refreshments: Lynne Dyer  
(480) 396-2393

**MSA BOARD OF  
GOVERNORS:**  
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BOB HOLM, K.J. WERNER

**HEATHER HILL  
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ARIZONA  
1502 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007**

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[www.azminerals.com](http://www.azminerals.com)



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**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:** Adults – Single Adults \$12.00, Juniors (18 yrs. and under) -\$2.50, Families & Couples - \$20.00.

**Mail dues to Betty Deming at  
2922 W. Claremont, Phoenix, AZ 85017**

The Mineralogical Society of Arizona is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies.



[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

[www.rmfm.org](http://www.rmfm.org)

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