Upcoming Program - Friday, March 9, 2007

Special Joint Meeting with the Mineralogical Society of Arizona & the Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation

Visitors from the University of China of Geosciences at Wuhan, including the Curator of the Yifu Geological Museum, will present a program about China. The Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum and the Yifu Museum of the University have established a joint agreement to exchange specimens, visits, information, display technologies, and to jointly organize exhibitions.

Plan to attend this interesting evening. Refreshments will be served.

An Adventurous and Happy Group of Rockhounds
On the Field Trip to Saddle Mountain, Feb. 24, 2007
(Picture Taken by Betty Deming)
DUES ARE OVERDUE!

MSA dues for 2007 are overdue at this time. If we do not receive your dues by March 31, 2007, your membership will expire, and you will no longer receive the newsletter. Please mail your dues to the new Treasurer, Andrew Greess, at the following mailing address:

2016 West North Lane
Phoenix, AZ  85021

You are also welcomed to pay at the March 9, 2007, meeting. The rates are as follows:

Families & Couples - $20.00
Single Adults - $12.00
Juniors
(18 yrs. and under) - $2.50

President’s Message

Seems like just a few days ago I wrote one of these. Well, it looks like the Chinese are finally going to be here for our program. I’ll bet Ray is breathing a sigh of relief. I’m looking forward to hearing what they have to say and hope they bring some samples of minerals from China.

Speaking of Ray, if you didn’t attend our February meeting, you missed a very good program. He showed slides and talked about the many, many mines he and his wife, Cynthia, have visited in Australia.

We had decided to have a special box with minerals for Juniors to pick from at each meeting they attend. Terry Dyer made us one that resembles a big rock with a hole in the side. He also put a plastic bug inside the entrance to remind Juniors to be careful when picking up rocks in the desert. If you have a nice mineral at home that you think a Junior would like, please bring it to the meeting and put in our "ROCK" box. It would be nice to include a name and location with it.

It was a beautiful sunny day for the field trip on February 24, not too hot and not too cool. There were 17 of us, and we also had another couple join MSA. That makes 11 new members this month (ask me if I am happy!!!!!!!!). There was plenty Chalcedony of different shapes and colors. Some may be fire agate, at least it had the color. Everyone left with quite a few pounds of rocks and sore backs. Ed brought two prizes for the best finds.

Remember the Verde Valley Gem show March 23,24 & 25 in Cottonwood. Look for more information in this newsletter. It is well worth seeing. Also, on March 24th is the coalition trip sponsored by MSA and led by one of our field trip coordinators, Ed Nichols. Map and information is also in this newsletter.

Our board meeting will be on Friday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m. at Bishop’s Restaurant, where we had our Christmas party. The address is 620 W. Osborn. I asked for the room from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., so you can come a little early and eat before the meeting if you want.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE MEETING,
AND BRING A FRIEND!

Betty L. Deming

MSA Officers

President - Betty Deming
bd_mac2003@yahoo.com
(602) 242-1553

Vice President - Chris Davis
cdgizwoman@aol.com
(623) 523-2333

Treasurer - Andrew Greess
abgreess1@aol.com
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Corresponding Secretary
Lois Splendoria
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(480) 813-3923
Coalition Field Trip
Sat., March 24, 2007
Club Sponsor – Mineralological Society of Arizona
Contributed by Ed Nichols

Meet at Hwy. 87 and Gilbert Road at 8:15 a.m. We will make a brief stop at Hwy. 87 and Fountain Hills Road at 8:45 a.m. for gas, etc. Leaving there 9:00 a.m. for the mineral location. The site is 27.3 miles going north from Gilbert Road and Hwy. 87 (Beeline). It is 19.9 miles from Fountain Hills Road. As you near the turnoff, get in the right turnoff lane and make a right over the cattle guard to the parking lot. Mineral found is compacted quartz crystals with unusual triangles and angular shapes in the compacted quartz. All material is on the surface. Wear good shoes, preferably boots.

The granite in this area is about 1.5 billion years old, one-third the age of Earth. Writing this in January, I’d make a weather prediction, but Ed Phillips would be mad at me. Carry lunch or late day snacks, or sandwiches that you prefer. Carry plenty of water. For tools, rock hammer, long screwdriver, or other prying tool. Digging won’t be necessary; only reason for rock hammer is for additional prying power. Bring spray bottle with a little Purex added to the water (a couple of tablespoons per quart). Don’t drink this; it’s for the hot quartz!

Please meet at the parking lot at 2:00 p.m. for showdown (Not High Noon!). Don’t worry—it’s for the prize for the best find. I’m the Judge.

Ed Nichols
After lunch, the four men further enlarged the cave mouth, and entered with climbing gear. In one spot, they rappelled down 90 feet, discovering four additional rooms, all with beautiful features, and one filled with a lake.

Additional passages branched into the darkness, suggesting more awaits discovery. After exploring for several hours, and going about 1,000 feet into the cave, the spelunkers returned to the surface and reported their find to the park rangers.

The cave is believed to be one million years old. Joel Despain, cave manager for Sequoia National Park, said, "There are things in this cave that could really open windows into our knowledge of geologic history and the formation of caves throughout the West." The cave will not be open to the public, and only a few dozen experts will get to see the inside. McBride, as the discoverer of the cave, had the honor of naming it: Ursa Minor, because the cave shimmers like the stars of the Little Dipper, and for the bear skeleton that was found inside. How many people can say they have explored the Sierra Nevada from the inside?

Reprinted from the
"THE ROCKCOLLECTOR"
December 2006/January 2007

Welcome,
New Members!

Dr. Debra Ivey
Nanci and Bruce Johnson
Nicholas, Carissa, and Alexandria Martinez
Tedd and Dana Smith
Rebecca Thursby

Joined February 16, 2007

Debra & Dennis Long
Joined Feb. 24, 2007
May 17-22, 2007 - Coalition Field Trip  
Sponsored by The Payson Rimstones  
To Jacob Lake, Arizona

I am publishing this information early, so that everyone may plan ahead for motel rooms.

Lois Splendoria

**Material To Be Collected**  
Malachite, Azurite, Fossils, Round Balls, Septarian Nodules in Utah (1 hour North)

**PLAN AHEAD FOR ROOMS IF YOU ARE NOT DRY CAMPING (in the group area)**  
Come for the entire time or the weekend. I am planning time at the major collecting site for Saturday and Sunday. People there Thurs. will be taken out to major site for a look see; on Friday anyone may join me for a quickie Utah daytrip. On Monday we will probably go for fossils; I will have a map for those that come up to fossil and ball sites. Drive back home Tuesday.

**DIRECTIONS:** (about 3-1/2 hours out of Flagstaff)

North out of Flagstaff on 89; then west on 89A over to Jacob's Lake. Collecting area- FR461 is off 67, which is south of 89A. Go in on FR 461; @ 2.7 miles road on left goes downhill—be careful as there are a few higher rocks to avoid. Group camp site is @ 3.4 miles in on FR 461. Drive down hill; at bottom turn west (straight ahead is a meadow) and continue for 1.2 miles to open pit on left of road. (I took my Ford Expedition last spring). There is collecting before and around 1.2 mile pit.

**Lodging / campgrounds / dry camping**

**Dry camping** - large group camping area-FREE  
(This is where I will be camping with 23-ft. Starcraft white toyhauler.)  
3.4 miles west on FR 461 on south side (FR 461 behind the Ranger station and Jacob Lake Lodge off 67)  
(Collectors area is less then mile away) THIS IS A LARGE LEVEL AREA.

**Jacob Lake Inn** - [www.jacoblake.com](http://www.jacoblake.com)  
Cabins, motel rooms and hotel rooms - $75-$123

**Kaibab Campe RV Village** - RV sites / trailer sites / tenting sites also on FR 461  
[www.kaibabcampervillage.com](http://www.kaibabcampervillage.com)

Rates - $27 - full hook-ups; tent sites - $13; tenting - $4 per person  
Cabin-style room - $70 - 1-2 persons

Feel free to e-mail or call me if you have more questions.

Lynne Wheeler  
[dlw182@cbiwireless.com](mailto:dlw182@cbiwireless.com)  
928-472-7170 or Verizon Cell - 928-978-4062

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Pictures of minerals found at Jacob Lake on Page 6.
MORE PICTURES FROM THE FEB. 24, 2007 FIELD TRIP TO SADDLE MOUNTAIN

Chris Davis (left center) and Ed Nichols (right center)

Everybody is looking for those great finds!

More Treasures!

Chalcedony

UPCOMING SHOW

March 23, 24, 25, 2007 - Cottonwood
Verde Valley Gem and Mineral Show & Jewelry Show
Mingus Union High School, 1801 E. Fir St., Cottonwood, AZ, 86326
www.mingusclub.org
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: $3:00, children free
Show Chairperson: Doug Evenson, 807 S. Tigres Trail, Cottonwood, AZ, 86326, 928-634-0459
E-mail: dougevenson@verdecomm.net
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:

Andrew Greess  
2016 West North Lane  
Phoenix, AZ, 85021

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2007, WE ARE RESUMING OUR FRIDAY MEETINGS**

| FRIDAY | March 9, 2007 |
| FRIDAY | April 13, 2007 |
| FRIDAY | May 11, 2007 |
| FRIDAY | June 8, 2007 |

**NO MEETING IN JULY OR AUGUST, DUE TO SUMMER VACATION**

AFFILIATIONS

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
www.rmfms.org

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies - www.amfed.org