



ROCK TALK

White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club

Member of RMFMS and AFMS

Volume 14 Issue 11 November 2010

whitemountain-azrockclub.org

Elected Officers

President	<u>Nanz Marshall</u> (928) 537-2524
Vice President	<u>David Bingell</u> (928) 367-4062
Secretary	<u>Tonie MonDragon</u> (859) 338-2296
Treasurer	<u>Larry Legge</u> (928) 537-2524
Editor	<u>Charlene Bingell</u> (928) 367-4062
Field Trip Chairman-	<u>Open</u>

Board Members:

<u>Ursula Wilson</u>	(928) 532-5703
<u>Eunice McQuiston</u>	(928) 536-7209
<u>George Stokes</u>	(928) 229-0328
<u>Karen Stokes</u>	(928) 229-0328

Volunteer Positions:

Show Chair	<u>Larry Legge</u> (928) 537-2524
Advertise & PR	<u>Larry Legge</u> (928) 537-2524
Librarian	Jan Pertruzzi (928) 368-4688
Door Prizes/50-50 Raffle	<u>Kathleen Varhol</u>
Auctioneer	<u>Bill Stalder</u> (928) 368-4496
Highway Clean Up	Nanz Marshall (928) 537-2524
Coalition Trips/Historian/Sunshine	<u>Eunice McQuiston</u> (928) 536-7209
Education (Schools/Libraries)	<u>Open</u>
Web Master	<u>Ron Ginn</u> winn3@gmail.com 480-294-0731

President's Message

November 2010

This month includes a warm Salute to the Troops for Veterans Day and a full belly of cheer for Thanksgiving.

I also hope you'll take some time this month to go out and about for rocks, maybe you'll even share with the rest of us your story. I always enjoy hearing fellow rockhounds adventures. The symposium in Socorro and the gathering at Diamond Point are just fun times this month.

Please note the ballot is again inside the newsletter. We did not have a quorum so please take the time to vote. A huge thank you goes out to those who did mail back their votes, but we're still shy a few.

Next month will be the Christmas Party. For those new members, it is a Potluck and if you choose a Gift Exchange. There is a \$10 limit for any rock outing related item. I'll bring the ham that was suggested. We always seem to fill the tables with lots of great goodies. YUM! It's a fun way to close a busy year and look ahead to 2011. I really hope to see you there!

Happy Day, Every Day!

Nanz

"Rock Talk" is published monthly by The White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Any comments members wish to have published in "Rock Talk" need to be turned in or called in at the general membership meeting to the Editor.

Membership dues are \$15.00 for single membership and \$20.00 for couple/family. Dues are due the first of January of every year along with a completed application.

Meetings are held at J.B.'s Restaurant on the Deuce of Clubs, Show Low, Az., 1st Tuesday of the month, social hour starts at 5:30/meeting at 6:30.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of General Meeting
White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club
November 2, 2010

President Nanz Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. There were 15 members present and no guests. We did not have a quorum.

Without a quorum the October minutes as published could not be voted on but the members present were polled and there were no corrections or additions.

Nanz announced the New Mexico Symposium for November 12-14.

Vice President, David Bingell was absent so there is no report.

Treasurer, Larry Legge, was absent but Nanz read his report.

Editor Charlene Bingell was absent so there is no report.

Secretary Tonie MonDragon reported that she had minutes from the October 24 Board meeting but there is no quorum of the Board to approve them.

Eunice reported that the Coalition trip will be November 20 and led by Lynn from the Payson Club. It will be to Diamond Point. This area is open for digging from October 1st to February 28th and for surface collecting the rest of the year. Fred said this was for protection of certain animal or bird species.

Nanz stated that we did not have a quorum even with mail in ballots so the election will be postponed until the December meeting.

Nanz announced the Christmas Party would again be a pot luck at JB's Restaurant and they would supply beverages and dinnerware. It was decided the Club would supply a ham which Nanz will prepare. Everyone else should bring side dishes and dessert. We will have a \$10 gift exchange with no "robbing".

We then took a 10 minute break to resume at 7:00 p.m.

Webmaster, Ron Ginn, then provided a demonstration via his computer and projector screen of the new website for the club and the new database he was building of our membership information. Ron talked about the American Federation website guidelines and entering their website competition. He also reviewed the criteria for the classified page. Members are invited to suggest logos for the Club.

Prizes were then drawn. The door prize was won by Tonie, a booklet on Arizona minerals. The 50/50 amount of \$5.50 was won by Bill Stalder, Linda Stalder won the eagle statuette, and Sandra Angelo won the Chalcedony specimen.

The meeting ended at 7:40 p.m. The Silent Auction ended 3 minutes later.

Respectfully submitted,
Tonie MonDragon, Secretary

Minutes of Board Meeting
White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club
October 24, 2010

The board meeting was held at JB's Restaurant and was called to order at noon. Present were Nanz Marshall, David Bingell, Charlene Bingell, Karen Stokes, George Stokes, Eunice McQuiston and Tonie MonDragon. Fred McQuiston was present as a member.

President Nanz Marshall stated the reason for the meeting was to amend the Bylaws to establish a position of Membership Chairman and to define a classified page for the website.

At the September Board Meeting Ron Ginn's proposal for the position of membership chair was discussed and approved in concept.

Nanz excused herself from the meeting and David took over as Vice President. Tonie stated that the new position could be added to the Bylaws but the

basic job description should appear in the Operating Regulations that are an addendum to the Bylaws.

A discussion ensued regarding the data base to be maintained by the Membership Chair and what information would be included. Nanz returned to chair the meeting. After further discussion regarding the data base and report functions it was decided the Operating Regulations would state that the Membership Chair would maintain the data base consisting of the application information and the membership type and date of membership and maintain the Roster with flags for communication by mail or e-mail. Furthermore the Membership Chair would use the data base to define reports that would produce the Club Roster, mailing labels and such other reports as the Board would request. Board Member Karen Stokes offered to be trained as Ron's back-up on the web site.

Nanz requested hard copies of the information that was added to the database (roster) and information added to the web site. It was agreed that Ron would forward the information to Charlene who would print it and deliver it to Nanz. Charlene also offered to print the web site information each January for the Club library and update the changes monthly in the Library.

The Board then discussed the Classified Page function of the Web Site. After discussion it is the Board's recommendation to accept advertisements of up to 3 items, no photos and no more than 255 characters plus identifying information of name, phone number and e-mail address. The ad would print in our newsletter and run on the web site for 30 days beginning on the date of publication in our newsletter. The information would have a cut off date of the first Tuesday of each month (at our meeting). The cost of the ad to defray print expenses would be \$2.00 per month. The classified ads would be accepted from our Club members and members of other rockhound clubs in Arizona. The fees are nonrefundable.

Ron Ginn will make the recommendation to the general membership at the next meeting.

David then offered a prize for the board member who selected the secret number. Eunice won a

mineral specimen from Australia. Upon motion of Charlene Bingell and seconded by David the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonie MonDragon, Secretary

Next Meeting

Mark your calendars: Our meetings are always the first Tuesday of the Month- Next month will be **December 7, 2010** - at JB's Restaurant on the Deuce of Clubs in Show Low- social hour starts at 5:30 meeting starts promptly at 6:30 PM.

Web Site Info

whitemountain-azrockclub.org

Birthdays

Happy Birthday October and November babies! Harvest Season time to celebrate the good things we have been given -CELEBRATE!

November

Gaylord Hayes - 23

Kathleen Heitzman - 21

December

David Bingell - 10

Diane Murphy - 30

Robert Stalder - 2
Lynne Wheeler - 26
Janie Ballard-8
Bunnie Dale- 19
Patricia Cassidy - 8
Clint Frost - 05
Sammis L Haley - 5
Brookie Embry -15

FIELD TRIPS

No Field Trip in December

No Field Trip Report for October

Coalition Field Trip - November
20, 2010

Sponsored by the Payson Rimstones
Rock Club

DIAMOND POINT CRYSTALS

Meet at: 11:00 am
Where: Going towards Payson on Hwy 260,
turn off onto Control Road (FR 64) and
continue on to the Diamond Point Fire tower
turn-off which will be on your left. Lynne
Wheeler-Benker will be there waiting for
you. Approximately 10 minutes later, you
will all drive on to the area where the
Forest Service Sign is located that
indicates you are allowed to dig in this
area.

FYI-From October 1 to February 28, you are
allowed to dig a cubic yard area as long as
you fill your hole back in. Only hand tools
are allowed. You must protect tree roots
from damage and you can not dig closer than
six feet from the base of a Ponderosa or Oak
tree.

Recreational Digging Only-No Commercial
Digging Allowed!!! This is the Tonto
National Forest and you are allowed this
digging as an exception to the usual rules
from the local ranger station. Surface
Collecting is allowed all year, but digging
is limited to the afore mentioned dates in
this specific area. There is a \$5000 fine
and time in jail if you ignore the closed
dates and sign info.

Layer your clothing. Weather changes

quickly. Bring chairs and pack a lunch, we
will break about 12:15 to visit and eat at
the front of digging area-SEE YOU THERE!!

For more info-see GEM TRAILS OF ARIZONA site
32, or ROCKHOOUNDING ARIZONA site 32

Lynne Wheeler-Benker, Coalition Rep.
Home (928)442-9529 or Cell (928)978-4062
SUPPORT THE COALITION OF ROCK CLUBS OF
ARIZONA

VOLUNTEER WANTED - Field Trips - 2010

WANTED: Someone to assume the title and
responsibilities of the "Field Trip Chairperson"

Rock and Gem Shows

NOVEMBER 2010:

13-14--LAKE HAVASU CITY, ARIZONA: 41st
annual show; Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society;
Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave.; free admission; Sat.
9-5, Sun. 9-4; more than 30 display cases,
handcrafted jewelry, mineral and fossil collections,
educational displays, hands-on activities, kids'
games and prizes, demonstrations, cutting and
polishing gemstones, silversmithing, dealers, tools,
findings, rock slabs, finished jewelry, door prizes,
raffle prizes; contact C.J. Stone, (928) 505-2865;
Web site: <http://lakehavasugms.org>

27-28--WICKENBURG, ARIZONA: Show,
"Wickenburg Gem & Mineral Show"; Wickenburg
Gem & Mineral Society; Community Center, 160
N. Valentine St.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission;
more than 40 vendors, gems, minerals, jewelry,
door prizes, grab bags, spinning wheel, raffle;
contact Beth Myerson, P.O. Box 20375,
Wickenburg, AZ 85358, (928) 684-0380; e-mail:
myerbd@gmail.com

DECEMBER 2010:

3-5--HUACHUCA CITY, ARIZONA: 2nd annual show, "Miner's Mania Gem Show"; Tombstone Gem Show; Tombstone Territories RV Resort, 2111 E. Hwy. 82; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; free admission; Arizona lapidary artists, miners and collectors, many local minerals, Arizona mining history displays, prizes, special raffle; contact Betty Krug, P.O. Box 414, Tombstone, AZ 85638, (520) 457-9505; e-mail: rockwranglers@gmail.com; Web site: www.tombstonegemshow.info

JANUARY 2011:

1-31--QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA: Show, "Desert Gardens International Gem & Mineral Show"; Desert Gardens RV Park; 1064 Kuehn St. (I-10 Exit 17, south side); 9-6 daily; free admission; crystals, minerals, rough, polished, jewelry, lapidary equipment; contact Sharon or Sandy, 1064 Kuehn St., Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6361; e-mail: info@desertgardensrvpark.net; Web site: www.desertgardensrvpark.net

14-16--GLOBE, ARIZONA: 54th annual show; Gila Co. Gem & Mineral Society; Gila County Fair Grounds, 3 mi. north of US 60-70 Junction; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; live demonstrations, door prizes, displays, minerals, jewelry; contact Val Lathem, (602) 466-3060; e-mail: val65@cox.net

<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp>

Education

Ron Ginn presented more information on the website and database that will be used for the club. If you have any questions or suggestions or corrections please contact Ron Ginn.

Magdalena's Rocks

Continued-

'Selenite'

Colour: Colourless, light tints ...

Name: From the Greek σελήνη, for "moon," in allusion to the moon-like white reflections of the mineral or to the quality of the light transmitted by semi-pellucid gypsum slabs of cleavages used as windows.

www.mindat.org/min-5527.html.

What is Selenite, and How are Selenite Crystals Formed?

Selenite is a crystallized form of gypsum. Chemically, it is a hydrous calcium sulfate. Gypsum is a common mineral that takes on a great variety of crystal forms and shapes. On the Salt Plains, the crystals are formed just below the salt encrusted surface. They are seldom found deeper than 2 feet below the surface.

Crystals take on the characteristics of their environment; the finer the soil, the more clear the crystals. Iron oxide in the soil gives the crystals their chocolate brown color. Because these crystals form in wet soil, sand and clay particles are included within the crystal. These particles often form an "hourglass" shape, found only in this area. Other foreign objects in the soil, such as sticks, rocks, bones, and even cockleburrs, are sometimes included as the crystal forms.

Single crystals, penetration twins, and clusters are the typical crystal shapes most frequently encountered on the refuge. Exceptional individual crystals measuring up to 7 inches long have been found, along with complex combinations weighing as much as 38 pounds.

In certain places on the Salt Plains, gypsum and saline solutions in the soil are sufficiently concentrated to promote crystal growth. When temperature and brine conditions are ideal, the crystals may form very rapidly. When heavy rains or floods bring great quantities of freshwater to the plains, some of the selenite crystals may go back into solution until conditions are right for recrystallization.

As long as nothing happens to change the mineral content of the waters draining into the Salt Plains, these crystals will continue to form, just as they do today.

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/oklahoma/selenite.html>

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- **Color** is usually white, colorless or gray, but can also be shades of red, brown and yellow.
- **Luster** is vitreous to pearly especially on cleavage surfaces.
- **Transparency** crystals are transparent to translucent.
- **Crystal System** is monoclinic; $2/m$
- **Crystal Habits** include the tabular, bladed or blocky crystals with a slanted parallelogram outline. The pinacoid faces dominate with jutting prism faces on the edges of the tabular crystals. Long thin crystals show bends and some specimens bend into spirals called "Ram's Horn Selenite" Two types of twinning are common and one produces a "spear head twin" or "swallowtail twin" while the other type produces a "fishtail twin". Also massive, crusty, granular, earthy and fibrous.
- **Cleavage** is good in one direction and distinct in two others..
- **Fracture** is uneven but rarely seen.
- **Hardness** is 2 and can be scratched by a fingernail.
- **Specific Gravity** is approximately 2.3+ (light)
- **Streak** is white.
- **Associated Minerals** are [halite](#), [calcite](#), [sulfur](#), [pyrite](#), [borax](#) and many others.
- **Other Characteristics:** thin crystals are flexible but not elastic, meaning they can be bent but will not bend back on their own. Also some samples are fluorescent. Gypsum has a very low thermal conductivity (hence it's use in *drywall* as an insulating filler). A crystal of Gypsum will feel noticeably warmer than a like crystal of quartz.
- **Notable Occurances** include Naica, Mexico; Sicily; Utah and Colorado, USA;

and many other localities throughout the world.

- **Best Field Indicators** are crystal habit, flexible crystals, cleavage and hardness.



<http://www.galleries.com/minerals/sulfates/gypsum/gypsum.htm>



http://www.crystalheartbooks.com/images/med_selenite-crystals.jpg

Septarian Nodules or Septarian Concretions



☞ A septarian nodule

Septarian concretions or **septarian nodules** are concretions containing angular cavities or cracks, which are called "**septaria**". The word comes from the [Latin](#) word *septum*; "partition", and refers to the cracks/separations in this kind of rock[1]. There is an incorrect explanation that it comes from the Latin word for "seven", *septem*[2], referring to the number of cracks that commonly occur. Cracks are highly variable in shape and volume, as well as the degree of shrinkage they indicate. Although it has commonly been assumed that concretions grew incrementally from the inside outwards, the fact that radially oriented cracks taper towards the margins of septarian concretions is taken as evidence that in these cases the periphery was stiffer while the inside was softer, presumably due to a gradient in the amount of cement precipitated.

The process that created the septaria, which characterize septarian concretions, remains a mystery. A number of mechanisms, *i.e.* the dehydration of clay-rich, gel-rich, or organic-rich cores; shrinkage of the concretion's center; expansion of gases produced by the decay of organic matter; brittle fracturing or shrinkage of the concretion interior by either earthquakes or compaction; and others, have been proposed for the formation of septaria (Pratt 2001). At this time, it is uncertain, which, if any, of these and other proposed mechanisms is responsible for the formation of septaria in septarian concretions (McBride *et al.* 2003). Septaria usually contain crystals precipitated from circulating solutions, usually of calcite. Siderite or pyrite coatings are also occasionally observed on the wall of the cavities present in the septaria, giving rise respectively to a panoply of bright reddish and golden colors. Some septaria may also contain small calcite stalagmites and well-shaped millimetric pyrite single crystals.

A spectacular example of septarian concretions, which are as much as 3 meters (9 ft) in diameter, are the [Moeraki Boulders](#). These concretions are found eroding out of [Paleocene](#) mudstone of the Moeraki Formation exposed along the coast near [Moeraki, South Island, New Zealand](#). They are composed of calcite-cemented mud with septarian veins of calcite and rare late-stage quartz and ferrous dolomite (Boles *et al.* 1985, Thyne and Boles 1989). Very

similar concretions, which are as much as 3 meter (9 ft) in diameter and called "Koutu Boulders", litter the beach between Koutu and Kauwhare points along the south shore of the Hokianga Harbour of [Hokianga, North Island, New Zealand](#). The much smaller septarian concretions found in the [Kimmeridge Clay](#) exposed in cliffs along the Wessex Coast of [England](#) are more typical examples of septarian concretions (Scotchman 1991).



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concretion>

Fascinating Facts about Rocks and Minerals

- Did you know that the diamond is the hardest natural substance found on earth?
- Did you know that quartz is one of the most common minerals on Earth?
- Did you know that marble forms from metamorphosed carbonate rock, most usually limestone?
- Did you know that basalt is the most common rock on Earth?
- Did you know that breccia is a rock composed of generally large, sharp fragments cemented together?
- Did you know feldspars make up more than 50% of the Earth's crust?
- Did you know the first recorded use of turquoise dates back to 5000 BC in Mesopotamia, where people used the gemstone to make beads?

● Did you know lapis lazuli is treasured for its rich blue color and is often used in jewelry? Did you also know that ancient Egyptians used powdered lapis lazuli as eye shadow?

● Did you know jade because of its toughness has been used for many cultural things like hammers, fish hooks, and stone axes?

● Did you know that rubies are one of the most popular gemstones today?

● Did you know that the first geologist on the moon was Harrison Schmitt who was part of the Apollo 17 mission? From the rock samples he collected, scientists have been able to learn many things about the moon.

● Did you know that the Earth is approximately 4.8 billion years old?

● Did you know that gold is so soft and easily worked that you could roll an ounce of it into a hair-thin wire 50 miles long?

● Did you know that the biggest pure-gold nugget was found in Australia in 1869 and weighed 156 pounds?

● Did you know that platinum is so rare that two million pounds of ore may contain only one pound of metal?

● Did you know that geodes are dull balls of igneous or sedimentary rock on the outside, but contain beautiful crystals on the inside?

● Did you know that meteorites, rocks from space, help scientists learn about the solar system and are very valuable, too?

● Did you know that the Taj Mahal built between 1632 and 1654 in India is made entirely out of marble?



Fall Picture- Thanks Eunice!

Next Meeting is our Holiday Party Pot Luck. Please come and if you want to exchange a gift, please bring a rock related gift- \$10 or less – Come enjoy the fun! We keep meeting items short and sweet and there are no education portion- Just eating and gift exchange.

<http://library.thinkquest.org/J002289/fact.html>

White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club
OFFICIAL ballot of Officers and Volunteers for 2011

President ___ Nanz Marshall _____

Vice President ___ David Bingell _____

Secretary ___ Tonie MonDragon _____

Treasurer ___ Larry Legge _____

Editor ___ Charlene Bingell _____

Field Trip Chair _____

Board Members-at-Large: (either 7 or 9 needed total with officers included)

___ Karen Stokes _____

___ Ursula Wilson _____

Volunteer Positions:

Auctioneer ___ Bill Stalder _____

Webmaster ___ Ron Ginn _____

Historian ___ Eunice McQuiston _____

Coalition Field Trip ___ Eunice McQuiston _____

Bonus Prizes ___ Eunice McQuiston _____

Sunshine ___ Eunice McQuiston _____

Highway Cleanup ___ Nanz Marshall _____

Claims Filing ___ Nanz Marshall _____

Show Chair _____

Librarian _____

Door Prizes/Greeter/50/50 Raffle ___ Kathy Varhol/Linda Stalder _____

Membership Chair ___ Ron Ginn _____

All mail in votes of the Official Ballot must be received by the November meeting
and they must have a signature to be counted.

Signature: _____

White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club
P.O. Box 3504
Show Low, AZ 85902-3504

Member:
Rocky Mountain Federation
Of Mineralogical Societies



American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies



It's the Time Of Year to Vote

Enclosed Ballot - We need a quorum.

Vote and or Volunteer

Positions are still open

Join the Fun!