



BRECCIA

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Volume 67 Number 4 April 2020

Calendar of Coming Events

April 28 - Meet and Greet at 7:15 and General Meeting at 7:45 with a presentation by Alan Achor on Antarctica

April 30 Board Meeting at Rick Kennedy's home

May 26 Meet and Greet at 7:15 and General Meeting at 7:45 with presentation by Missy Fox on Agates

May 28 Board Meeting at Jim and Missy Fox's home

June 14 - Founder's Day Picnic

June 23- Meet and Greet at 7:15 and General Meeting at 7:45, Silent Auction

June 25 Board Meeting at home to be determined.

All of the events including Smithies will resume again when it is safe to do so. The schedule shown is tentative.

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Presidents Message

Have you noticed how quiet it is lately? Very few planes are flying. The roads have fewer cars traveling along them. People are out walking and bicycling, and usually following the suggested distance apart. Children are in school, while staying at home.

Using the internet, Zoom and Facebook, teachers are creating class lectures and office hours for their elementary, high school, and college students. Managers are having work meetings the same way. Churches are worshipping using Facebook and Zoom, able to see the minister, hearing and seeing the choir solos, and following the liturgy. There are computer apps you can download, where you assign a host and play games where all the participants see each other and the progress of the game they are playing. You can chat with your friends in a group just by adding callers on your smart phone (call me and I will tell you how).

There are many 'gifts' cropping up all over. Diamond Dan has gifted all members of the AFMS with mineral 'Go Fish' and Bingo games. You will have received those games in an e-mail before you get this Breccia. Raley's and Nob Hill have special grocery bags for senior citizens that you can pick up outside the grocery store. Most grocery stores have special hours for senior citizens to go early when the most groceries are available. Museums are offering online museum experiences, usually in the form of special videos. Cable and satellite TV are offering free movies. Keep an eye out for other 'gifts' to help us through this time. Many, many more 'gifts' are coming, many using technology that we have had for a while, but have not needed to use.

It is hard to adjust from your normal routine to this new restricted life. I know because I am caught in it too. I have exceeded my highest number of books read in a week. But that is sitting for long periods of time, which is not a good thing to do. So I am also working on projects around the house, organizing my tools and collections, tossing unwanted items, and taking walks. I think of all of you, as well as my other friends and family, and send out articles that interest me, which I hope you also find of interest.

I challenge you to do or learn something new. You even have time to start learning a new language to take with you when we can travel again. Study that mineral you found recently. Write that book! Write that poem!

Search under Geology on YouTube or Ted Talks and find some interesting information about calderas, earthquakes, volcanoes, minerals, soil, etc. Rick Kennedy has a great article in this Breccia about something constructive to do with your time.

Don't Panic! Wash your hands – with soap!

From your President, Michele Smith



Smithies

On March 3, **Jim Sugiama** taught the last Smithies class that we were able to hold before social distancing began. He taught us how to construct simple rings using a variety of metal smithing skills. **Pat Speece, Jacquelyn Calderon, Jose Sul, and Jo Borucki** enjoyed learning or reviewing the variety of skills as they constructed their rings under Jim's methodical and patient leadership, and look forward to the time when the class can once again take place.

Thanks, Pat pat,speece@comcast.net



Jim



Jacquelyn and Jose



Pat

*
* **Founders' Day Picnic** *
* The annual Founders' Day Picnic is tentatively scheduled for Sunday June 14 at the Cabana Club. *
* This is subject to change as conditions warrant. *
* Sonia Dyer—Chairperson *
*

Bragging Rights

When we are able to resume our meetings, the theme will be the color **pink**.

Alan Achor - Chairman

Members' Displays (Show and Tell)

All members are asked to display at least one time per year, but you may display as many times as you like. There are no displays in meetings when Silent Auctions are scheduled. There are no displays in December because there is the installation dinner in lieu of our regular meeting.

Bob Kout has a three pound Chevron Amethyst that he has been polishing in anticipation of our March displays, so pretend you are looking at it as it would be sitting on the display table or better yet, watching Bob as he tells us about it. We are looking forward to seeing Bob and his display when our meeting resume.

Don't know what to display? Any type of rock, mineral, or fossil (identified or not), your latest project, information on a field trip, ideas for a display case, anything to do with rocks is appreciated. Sharing items helps to educate all who attend the meeting. Show off what you love so that we can enjoy it with you.

Rick Kennedy- Chairperson



Camp Zzyzx and Camp Paradise

While **Camp Zzyzx** was cancelled, **Camp Paradise** is still on the schedule for the last week in August and the first week in September.

Just for Fun

This rainy weather reminded me of a poem that I learned when I was a child:

The rain, it raineth on the just and also on the unjust fella.
It raineth more upon the just, because the unjust steals the just's umbrella.

Sunshine

We have good news to report. Bob and Kelly Kout have a brand new 9 pound, 8 ounce grandson named William. Congratulations and happy grandparenting!

To report someone needing sunshine, email **Margo Mosher** - margomosher@yahoo.com

Links to Important Websites

Link to Our SCVGMS Website: <http://www.scvgms.org/>

After you click on the above link, if you want to see the Breccia and other news items, scroll down and click on "Download", shown under the Newsletter option.

Link to CFMS Shows and Festivals: [CFMS Society/Club Shows](#)

CFMS Bulletin: <http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

To access the news from the **American Lands Access Association:** www.amlands.org

Calling all Rockhounds!

The Ruth Bailey Continuing Education drawing for Camp Paradise will be on April 28, whether or not we are able to have our general meeting. The dates of the camps are now set, and you can choose either the last week of August or the first week in September. To be entered in the drawing, you must fill out the "SCVGMS Continuing Education Application" and mail it to **Missy Fox, 16344 Shady View Lane, Los Gatos, CA 95032**. It is included in this month's Breccia on the following page. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who enjoy working with rocks. Some of the classes include silver smithing, cab making, soft stone carving, wire art, precious metal clay, casting techniques and beading.

The cost of this wonderful experience has been \$400.00 per person in years past, but if you win, you and your guest will be treated to free meals, classes, and accommodations for the week.

The following 3 criteria must be met in order to enter the drawing:

1. Attended 3 or more general meetings in the last year
2. Because there was no festival this year, you must have volunteered 8 or more hours for the 2019 annual festival
3. Have not won and attended Camp Paradise or Camp Zzyzx for the past 3 years

The deadline for submitting your application is the beginning of the April 28 general meeting time.

If you have any questions about the camp or the drawing, please contact Missy Fox at:

Email: jfox152@comcast.net or Phone: 408-356-7711.

SCVGMS Continuing Education Application

Filling out this application and returning it to the SCVGMS board enters you into the Continuing Education drawing. The winner receives tickets for two people to attend the week-long stay at Camp Paradise the end of August and the beginning of September. The drawing will be held at the usual time of the April 28 general meeting. The SCVGMS board welcomes you all to fill out the application if you have met the eligibility criteria below:

- Attended three or more SCVGMS general meeting a year.
- Volunteered eight or more hours at the annual festival or in preparation for the festival.
- Have not been a winner and attended the this camp or Camp Z'ZYZX in the last three years.

Name _____

What is the best way to contact you? Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please tell us what interests you about this opportunity. We like to hear what inspires people in this hobby. If you are a winner, we would like to share your words with the club members via the Breccia newsletter. Don't worry. We'll edit for spelling and punctuation.

Why would you like to attend Camp Paradise this coming season? _____

What is your favorite part in being in our hobby? _____

Things you need to know:

- The drawing will be held April 28 whether or not there is a general meeting. You do not have to be present to win.
- Up to five names will be drawn. If for any reason the winner is unable to attend the camp, the second person will be contacted, and so forth.
- The winner is responsible for his/her transportation to/from the camp and any additional material fees for special classes. The ticket includes accommodations and meals.
- To assure your accommodations and attendance in one of the camps, you must contact Sandy Kilcrease at email: slk95228@gmail.com, CMFS head of Earth Science camps to make arrangements by July 1. Further contact information can be obtained from Missy Fox, Continuing Education Chair.
- The winner will share his/her camp experience with the club by taking some photos, doing a show and tell at a meeting, and writing a short article for the Breccia.

Deadline for submitting the application for the drawing for Camp Paradise is at 7:45 on April 28.

Mail or turn forms in to Missy Fox, 16344 Shady View Lane, Los Gatos, CA 95032

Open to member and nonmembers alike.

Questions??? Contact Missy Fox (408) 356-7711 or email jfox152@comcast.net

The Three C's of Collection Maintenance

By Rick Kennedy

While we are going through this unprecedented time, many of us find ourselves at home with more spare time than we are used to. Perhaps a good use of this time would be to spend it on our rock, mineral and gemstone collections. If your specimens are in drawers or on display, a bit of maintenance is never a bad thing. The three "C's" of collection maintenance are clean, curate, and catalogue.

Clean: Most of our items have been on display or in a drawer for many years, they may just have a bit of dust, or they may be undergoing chemical alteration. For many specimens, a simple blow with "canned air" that people use to blow dust off of their computer keyboards is enough. For others, water with gentle brushing or a gentle spray from a water. "Needle Gun" will do the trick. Check any sulfide rocks/minerals (Pyrite and Marcasite are the worst offenders) for strong smells of Sulphur. That is a sign that the minerals are suffering from chemical degradation. Depending on the level of degradation, the specimen may be salvaged or may need to be disposed of.

Curate: Do your specimens have labels? You may know quite a bit about the rocks you have, but others don't. All of your specimens should have labels. Now is a good time to check your labels for accuracy or to make labels for specimens that don't have them.

For materials from the USA, labels usually follow this format:

- Mineral or Rock name
- Precise location (Mine name or anything that defines the most accurate locality info)
- County
- State

For material whose origin is outside the USA, the first two lines should be the same, from there one has to improvise as all countries are organized differently into counties, states, provinces, prefectures, regions, departments, etc. Online sources like Mindat are very helpful to obtain the most precise locality information.

Catalogue: Once you have all of the information that would go on a label, create a catalogue so that you have both a handy list and a way to cross reference the specimens in your collection. It is best to do this on a computer in a spreadsheet program like Excel, but you can use even the simplest of word processing programs or even write it out by hand if you want to be "Old School". I organize my spreadsheet with the following headers:

- Catalogue number – Rock or mineral species name – Location – How acquired – Comments
- Here would be an example:
#1001 – Quartz, variety Scepter – FH Claim, HJ, Washoe Co., NV – Self collected – Dug in May, 2016.

If you want to, you can also add a picture of your specimen!

When you are done, you will know your specimens better, you will have a database of what you have and maybe even come up with more ideas for at home or at show displays once the world gets back to normal.

Enjoy!

An Observation

By Jo Borucki

This forced shelter-in-place time and social distancing has members of our gem and mineral society not meeting nor doing the other social activities that we are accustomed to doing. We have much more time alone. I am enjoying this time and finding time for all sorts of projects that I had set aside because I was committed to doing other things. I am also simply being in times of quiet and meditation. Maybe you too will enjoy just being with your own experiences during these more solitary weeks, though I hope that you will not experience what I once described in my poem shown below.

The inspiration for this poem was that I was attending a meeting where we all wore name tags, and I was talking with Laurie Pines, a member of a memoir class that I was often, but not currently enrolled in. She suggested that I come to the memoir class that coming Friday. When I replied that I was currently not a member, she suggested that I go in her place because she would not be attending. Mischievously, I removed her name tag from her shoulder, attached it in place on my shoulder, smiled, and said that I would attend. So I wrote a poem to read at the class. When it was my turn to read, I slapped the adhesive backed name tag to my shoulder on the sweater I was currently wearing, and read the following:

“I woke up today, confused, not knowing who I was. Perhaps it's because it was dark in the room when I put my slippers on, and I put them on the wrong feet. It's the only explanation I can come up with at the moment.

Am I Who?

So what do you do when you get out of bed
and don't have a clue who you are?”

Well this was the pickle I was in when I said
“So look around, search near and far.”

I looked through the closet, checking my clothes,
There were no clues, no visible signs,
But in a drawer full of sweaters, on one of those,
Was a name tag with the name “Laurie Pines”.

Problem solved, I got dressed, and decided to eat
When this guy kissed me and then called me Jo
He looked so familiar, so nice and so sweet,
But who am I? I really don't know.

So here I am all you nice ladies and gents,
I hand you this puzzle, I do
I'm so very confused as I sit on this fence
Am I Laurie? Am I Jo? Am I who?”

And so my friends, who read this Breccia, use this time well and become, once again, acquainted with your own selves.



Guidelines From Our President

The Coronavirus guidelines prompted the state of California to direct the residents of five counties, including Santa Clara County, to stay at home except for critical needs and to avoid being around other people. We are directed to shelter in place, starting at 12:01am on Tuesday, March 17th.

- 1) Do not panic.
- 2) Keep your hands washed and avoid touching your face. If you touch your face, wash your hands.
- 3) There are a bunch of tasks and crafts around the house that you have been putting off. Start working on them, but don't run to the store to get something to complete a project. Just move on to the next one.
- 4) If you are feeling cut off from people, call a friend. Several of my friends are using text chains all day long.
- 5) Learn to do something new! There are several cool classes on YouTube, as well as cute animal and baby videos.
- 6) My personal favorite is to read a book or five, and you can check out e-books online.
- 7) Exercise! Walk around the block, do exercises at home. Just stay away from other people. Be careful around your family members too. Wash your hands frequently.
- 8) If you think you are sick, call the doctor – don't go in. Most health problems can be taken care of over the phone. You can even have your drugs mailed to you.
- 9) Some grocery stores will take an online or phone order, and you can pick it up at the store while you wait in your car, or have it delivered. You need to go online to find out which ones (at least Safeway and Target).
- 10) Don't Panic!

I feel like I have bugged you enough. Be patient! See you soon.

Still here, Madam President, Michele K Smith

Calling All Story Tellers

These are unusual times, and this is not a typical Breccia. There are extra articles and extra fun, as a result. Please enjoy articles on maintaining your mineral collections, keeping yourself safe amid our Corona Virus crisis, growing your own mineral crystals, and other topics as well as our usual news and features. This brings me to put in writing an idea that I have been mulling over for awhile. There must be all kinds of writing talents among you Breccia readers. I would love to include your articles and stories about our hobby in future Breccias. The more variety the more fun and informative this publication will become.

Please write your stories or articles using Microsoft Word or like software and email them to jobrucki@yahoo.com. Let's make this publication a community effort and more fun for all.

Jo Borucki, Breccia Editor

SCVGMS Field Trips

May 16th, Saturday: Mariposa Mineral Museum, hours 10:00 a.m. to 4: p.m.

Mariposa Fairgrounds

5005 Fairgrounds Rd, Mariposa, CA 95338

Meet at the fairgrounds 10:30 a.m.

Drive time is about 2 1/2 hours.

June 7th-June 13th, Sunday-Saturday

Delta UT, Dugway Geode Beds, Drum Mountain. Agate, Obsidian, Malachite, Azurite

Other areas to be determined.

Drive time is about 11 hours.

June 18th-June 24th, Thursday-Wednesday

Prineville Pow Wow, rock show and field trips

Drive time is about 9 hours.

Followed by Virgin Valley, Rainbow Ridge, Opal

Drive time is about 5 hours.

Drive home drive time is about 9 hours.

Field Trip Coordinator: Stephen May Email: Stephenmay0990@gmail.com

Salt Crystal Garden Recipe

Put some pieces of something porous such as brick, tile, cement, or sponge in a glass or plastic bowl or jar.

Day 1: Over the base material, pour two tablespoons each of water, salt (iodized or plain) and Mrs. Stewart's Bluing. (The bluing can be bought online or at many grocery and hardware stores in the laundry products section.)



Day 2: Add two more tablespoons of salt.

Day 3: Pour into the bottom of the bowl (not directly on the base material) two tablespoons each of water, salt, and bluing. Add a few drops of vegetable food coloring to each piece of porous material.

By this time, a beautiful flower-like growth of crystals begins to appear. To accelerate growth, add two tablespoons of household ammonia with the other liquids to increase evaporation rate. Adult supervision and a good ventilation is required if you are doing this with children.

To keep it growing, add more bluing, salt, and water from time to time.

Note from Jo Borucki: I used to do this with my daughters and later, grandchildren. It's really fun and lovely. If you want to grow more permanent crystals, please see the next page for growing alum crystals.

Growing Alum Crystals

These crystals are permanent and can be used in jewelry

Materials

1/2 cup (120ml) of very hot water. Boiling is okay but not required.

2 clean 1 quart narrow mouth glass Mason jars

2 1/2 tablespoons (45 g) of pure alum powder (potassium aluminum sulfate—you must have the right kind!)

Metal stirring spoon

Paper towel

Rubber band

12" (30cm) light nylon fishing line

Scissors

Ruler, pencil or single chop stick

STEP 1: Add 1/2 cup (120 ml) of hot water to a clean jar.

STEP 2: Slowly stir in the alum with the metal spoon. Add as much alum as you can until it starts to pile up on the bottom of the jar. This means your solution is saturated

STEP 3: Cover the jar with the paper towel and use the rubber band to keep it in place. This keeps dust out of your alum solution and prevents impurities from wrecking your crystal structure.

STEP 4: Let sit overnight (sixteen hours minimum).

STEP 5: Pour the contents of the first jar into the second clean jar, leaving the residue in the first jar. Inspect this residue closely. These are small "seed" crystals that you're going to need to create a larger crystal, so make sure they are large enough to work with. If not, return the solution to the jar and wait another day.

STEP 6: Use the light nylon fishing line to tie a knot around the largest seed crystal. Do not damage the crystal. If it is too small, return to step 5 and get a larger seed crystal to work with. The more perfect your seed crystal, the better your end crystal will look.

STEP 7: Tie the other end of the line around a ruler so that you can hang the crystal completely in the alum solution. You can use a pencil or chopstick (or similar) instead. Do not let the seed crystal touch the sides of the jar or the bottom of the jar, as this will affect the crystal's shape.

STEP 8: Cover the jar again with your paper towel and rubber band. Place in a safe spot, out of the way where it can grow for many days.

STEP 9: Wait for at least a week. The longer you wait, the larger the crystal will grow. If you see small crystals starting to form on your jar, take out the crystal on the fishing line, place it back in the cleaned first jar, and pour the alum solution back in that jar as well (a fine screen might help). Don't let any of the small crystals get in, because they will compete with your big crystal for alum and it won't grow.

Creative Enrichment

1. Try using thread and growing tiny crystals all along its length.
2. Try altering the cooling rate by adding ice cubes, setting the cooling jar in a bath of ice water, or keeping the solution in a saucepan and leaving it on the stove at a very low heat.
3. You could also grow a crystal without the string, just by letting it sit in the solution.
4. Try adding some glow-in-the-dark liquid from a yellow highlighter to your solution to make a crystal that glows under UV light.

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<https://www.amazon.com/Garret-Romaine/e/B0037I87T8>

The Science Behind the Fun

Scientists call alum a hydrated potassium aluminum sulfate, with the chemical formula $KAl(SO_4)_2 \cdot 12H_2O$. That means it has a potassium atom, K, and an aluminum atom, AL. It is sulfate, which is sulfur and oxygen, and it is hydrated, meaning it has water molecules, in this case, twelve, along for the ride.

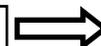
Alum was used by the ancients to purify water, because it attaches to silt and solids, which either float or sink. Today it is used to stop bleeding, in deodorants, and for pickling. It is known as “Fitkari” in India and “tawas” in parts of Asia.

Alum can grow into large isometric crystals that resemble two pyramids stacked at the base, if the solution is refreshed. As long as fresh solution continues to flow into an area where crystals have started, crystals can grow at room temperature, and its faces can make attractive, inexpensive jewelry.



Alum Crystal Being Grown on a Wire

Artificially Colored Alum Crystal



Note: Our thank you to the editor of the South Central Federation of Mineral Society for permitting us to print the instructions on the previous page for creating alum crystals and for using the previous article, “The Science Behind the Fun” from the SCFMS Newsletter for April. Enjoy both and have fun creating your own alum crystals.

Rockhound of the Month

The March Rockhound of the month is **Jim Fox**. Missy Fox received Rockhound of the month for February (ladies first) for her work on the Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Festival. Jim is receiving the March Rockhound of the month for his work on setting up the Festival. Jim has been exceptional in helping to organize and set up the festival for the future. Together, Jim and Missy have created and maintained a festival notebook. It is filled with ‘how to’ information that is needed for setting up and creating our festival. There are so many parts to this job and it goes on all year long. We are very grateful that Jim and Missy agreed to co-chair this job. Even though we aren’t having this festival in 2020, their work will allow us to more easily put together the festival for 2021. Do we hear some applause for Jim? Thank you, Jim. You truly deserve this award.

The Rock-hounding Trip to Lone Pine

by Jo Borucki

In June 2013, my husband, Bill, our friend Gene Westerberg, and I decided to explore the area around Lone Pine, California. It is just north and east of Bakersfield on highway 395 nestled at the foot of Mount Whitney with the Sierras to the east and looking west toward the Alabama Range. We had a great time poking among the mine dumps and seeing the local attractions.

We stayed at the Best Western Motel in Lone Pine, and I recommend it as a well-run, friendly, and comfortable motel. In 2013, it cost about \$130 a night including taxes and fees. This was a typical price for the area unless one wanted to stay in really bare bones, not highly rated by customers- type-place. Bill and I are past camping or staying in less than comfortable places at this time in our lives.

That Tuesday our main destination was the Brown Monster-Reward Mines which are 13 miles northeast of Lone Pine on State Route 395 and then 5 miles east on the Manzanar-Reward Road. The Reward Mine closed down for the final time in the late 1950s, but in its hay-day, made its owners wealthy with its rich deposits of gold, silver, and some copper. With the hope of finding such minerals as the very rare blue-green caledonite and the less rare bright rich blue chrysocolla, and with our rock screens, screwdrivers, trowels, and water bottles in packs on our backs, we labored up the steep rock scabble for a day of searching . We repeated the same activities on the first part of the next day. We enjoyed the solitude. There was plenty of solitude because few others, unlike us, seemed to think the heat, dust, and hard work were fun. We found some modest samples of caledonite and chrysocolla.

Later that Wednesday afternoon, with the temperature over 90 degrees, we sought coolness and a change of pace by taking flashlights and exploring the hard-rock mining tunnel left by the miners at the Monster Mine just a ways from the Reward Mine, safe and solid, and going into the hill over 2000 feet. We hoped to find crystals loosened when the miners bored into the hill, but found nothing except graffiti left by those who felt that they must leave their mark on as much of the world as possible. There were beautiful several inch long quartz crystals imbedded above us on the ceiling, but they were firmly embedded and about six feet or more above our heads.

Dusty and tired, we needed something less strenuous so we drove either the Lone Pine Narrow Gauge Road or the Owenyo Lone Pine Road, I no longer remember which, where we looked for and found some aquamarine crystals. They were opaque, but were still exciting to find. Look at http://rockingwiththerocks.com/invo_berl for more information about this location, which, in addition to beryl, is an area where you also may find amazonite. We also found some obsidian. Just a note: I have trouble remembering the word obsidian until I think of the word obsessed, which I always am when it comes to finding minerals.

By Thursday, the temperature registered in the high nineties, so we decided to see local sights and stay out of the dry blazing heat of the desert. We visited Manzanar, originally, during World War II, an internment camp for people in the United States who were of Japanese ancestry, and now a museum. During World War II and after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, whether or not they were citizens, they were feared as enemies. Manzanar was one of the 10 internment camps that was constructed, and all Japanese were herded into the camps after being stripped of most of their possessions. The apartments at Manzanar measured 17 by 20 feet, with five to a building, and 8 people were housed in each apartment whether related or not. The barrack-like buildings were constructed with pine boards, covered with tar paper, uninsulated, and with knot holes showing the sand beneath the floor boards. Communal bathrooms and mess halls were situated at intervals between the residential buildings. The Japanese remained in these camps from 1942 until 1945. Our visit to Manzanar was informative and thought-provoking, and I hope in the future we are wise enough not to paint a group of people, all with a negative brush, and then treat them as we treated our citizens of Japanese ancestry. I recommend reading Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston.

We also visited the film museum in Lone Pine. The Lone Pine area, including the Alabama Hills, was the site for many movies, especially westerns, and later, some science fiction. The museum boasts many artifacts, including movie posters, costumes, and saddles, one with more silver than leather, wonderful old automobiles, and even some of the art produced by the Japanese from Manzanar. It was well worth the two hours or so that we spent walking around or watching a film showing scenes from some of the westerns. Tom Mix, Gene Autry, and my childhood hero Hopalong Cassidy, filmed many movies in this location.

For more information on rockhounding in the eastern Sierras try www.mammothlakes.us/activities/rock_hounding.shtml. It lists over 50 rock hound trails. I didn't know until I started paging through Gem Trails of Northern California that there are also sites within a thirty mile radius of Lone Pine that have fossils. Mazourka Canyon, about 15 miles north of Lone Pine on California 395 has coral, crinoids, and shells. Owens Valley, about 25 miles north of Lone Pine, is shown to have quartz crystals and Apache tears. Westgard Pass, about 45 miles north of Lone Pine and then about 15 miles east of California 395, has plant fossils and trilobites, and Cottonwood Lakes about 20 west of Lone Pine has quartz and feldspar crystals. It is an area where you can spend several days rock-hounding and visiting historic sites.

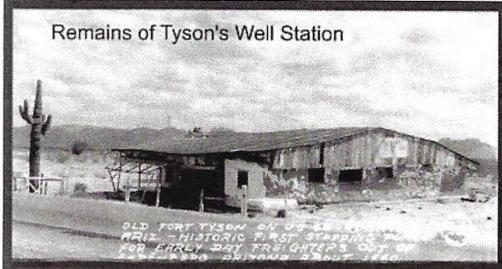
And so we arrived home the middle of June 2013, tired and happy with the fun we had. Gene enjoyed that he considered the rocks all as leaverites. As usual, Bill analyzed his rocks, and I ogled and gloated over mine, putting most of them in my rock garden in our atrium. So to you readers, enjoy your rockhounding adventures where ever you choose to have them.



The December issue of the *AFMS Newsletter* had a short article on the history of Quartzsite, AZ. I previously had no idea how Quartzsite became the Mecca for recreational rockhounds every January. It really piqued my interest and I wanted to know more.

In 1856 Charles Tyson and his wife Victoria arrived in the area. In the early years of the American gold rush, panhandlers began to arrive in Arizona searching for the precious metal. Gold deposits were discovered in the desert mountains of Plomosa and Dome Rock in the area, and a boom in the mining industry followed. Charles Tyson was a miner who foresaw the mining potential of the area.

The Yavapai Indian Tribe (Mojave-Apache) resented the arrival of these white settlers. The water supply was their main target. In 1856 Charles Tyson built his own private fort, Fort Tyson, for protection against the Indian raids.



Remains of Tyson's Well Station

In 1864 Tyson hand dug a well. Between 1866-1867 the Tyson's Well Stage Station was built. It was a stop on the famous Butterfield Overland Mail route between Ehrenburg and Prescott, AZ and Riverside, CA. In 1875 a traveler described the place as being "the most melancholy and uninviting place that they had ever seen. It reeks of everything unclean, morally and physically." The route was used to transport not only travelers but supplies to support the miners and US Army.

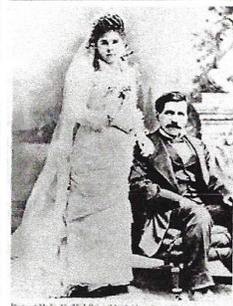
survive on less water. Ali was the lead camel driver during the US Army's experiment with the US Camel Corps. The cost of the American Civil War resulted in Congress did no longer approving more funds for the Corps. The camels were auctioned in 1864. Ali was discharged from the U.S. Army at Camp McDowell in 1870.

He next ran a freight service between the Colorado River and the mining establishments further east, using the few camels he had purchased. His business was unsuccessful, however, and he released his camels into the desert near Gila Bend. With his camel adventures now in the past, he became a legend of sorts, talked about as a strange yet skillful and funny person running camels in the American desert. In 1880 Ali became an American citizen using his birth name Philip Tedro.

Ali was hired in 1885 by the US Army in Arizona, under the command of General George Crook during the Geronimo Campaign where he was in charge of packing mules. Later Ali moved to Quartzsite, AZ with his wife Gertrudis Serna and family. During his years as a resident of Quartzsite, he did some mining in the local mines and on occasion served as a scout for the US government. He ended his life as a failed prospector. Local merchants helped him with handouts. Congressman Mark Smith even tried to get him a pension, but since he was never an official soldier in the Calvary the paperwork wasn't processed. He died in 1902 and was buried in the Quartzsite Cemetery which was renamed the "Hi Jolly Cemetery" in 1903, in honor of Hadji Ali.



Hi Jolly lived well into his seventies. The locals were so fond of him that when he died that they spent several weeks building Hi Jolly a special pyramid tomb, made of multicolored petrified wood and quartz. It was dedicated on Jan. 4, 1903. Thirty-three years later the Arizona Highway Department came along and cemented a bronze plaque to the tomb, telling Hi Jolly's story, and topped the pyramid with a metal camel silhouette.



Hadji Ali and his wife Gertrudis Serna

In 1897 there was a small mining boom. The establishment of the railroad affected the commercial aspect of the area since most people preferred to travel by train. However, Tyson's Well stage station continued to provide rest and refreshment to travelers and freight drivers plus general supplies and mining supplies. It's reported that Tyson Wells had 3 general stores, 11 saloons, a hotel, a barber shop and a Chinese restaurant and a short lived post office. With the boom and arrival of the railroad it became necessary to reopen the post office. A new name had to be found since the post office did not permit offices to re-open under formerly used names. It was suggested the name Quartzite, since quartzite is actually found in the vicinity, but quartz is not. However, the U.S. Postal Service, in error, apparently added an "s" to the name. Today Quartzsite is approximately nine miles east of the old Tyson's Wells which lay nineteen miles from Ehrenberg. Therefore, a different name was doubly suited.

By 1900, less than 20 people lived in town. The major problem was the lack of water at the mines, which affected production. Water brought from La Paz, AZ sold for \$1 a gallon to \$5 a barrel. Most gold was recovered by primitive dry washing. From 1900 to 1960, election records listed a population from as few as 14 to a few hundred during the Depression, to 50 in 1960 on a permanent basis.

In 1936 SR95 was extended north through Quartzsite to SR72 in Bouse, AZ. It became US95 in 1960.

In 1965 the Quartzsite Improvement Association was formed with 44 members. The population of city and surrounding area was a few hundred at this time. February 1967 the first POWWOW was held in an old school building on 1 acre of ground. Historical records are not clear but it suggests 20 vendors "tailgated" outdoors with estimated attendance of 1,000. In 1968 there were 42 tailgaters outside and 242 exhibitors inside, all on 4 acres.

The shows began to bring in more people and snow-birds and the town began to grow. The population in 2019 is estimated at 3,766. Growing at approximately 100 people a year.

Today well over 2,000 vendors go to Quartzsite every year to sell rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, and jewelry. Setting up outside is not easy for the dealers. Besides the unpredictable weather, dust covers everything and it is a daily, never-ending chore to keep the bins and displays clean. Vendors also have to secure their merchandise, tables, and tents every night, not only against theft but primarily against potential rain or wind damage. Altogether there are about 10 shows in Quartzsite from late December to late February. Today attendance tops well over 1 million people.



So I guess in conclusion, Quartzsite is known for three things: it's rich American history in the movement west, Hi Jolly and the Annual Quartzsite Pow-Wow.

Sources: Source: Fort Tyson, Wikipedia, Quartzsite AZ, Wikipedia, List of historic properties in Quartzsite, AZ

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Secretary: Rick Kennedy	(408)529-9690
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Federation Director: Stephen May	(669)248-3993
Alternate Fed. Director: Paul Kidman	(408)356-4995

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Cal Hansen	(408)394-4642

Parliamentarian: Dean Welder	(408)353-2675
Historian: Jacquelyn Calderon	(408)995-5211

Calderon

SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS

Bragging Rights Chair: Alan Achor
 Donation Receiving Committee Chairs:
 Michele Smith and Jim Sugiyama
 Festival Chairpersons 2020: Jim and Missy Fox
 Field Trip Coordinator: Stephen May
 Founder's Day Picnic Chairman: Sonia Dyer
 Founder's Day Raffle: Pat Speece
 Founder's Day Bingo: Stephen May
 Hospitality: Pat and Louis Schuesler
 Installation Dinner: Rick Kennedy
 Member Displays: Rick Kennedy
 Refreshments: TBD
 Silent Auction: TBD
 Sunshine: Margo Mosher
 Trophies: Frank Mullaney
 Webmaster: TBD

Note: Some of these committee heads may change. Michele Smith and Stephen May are working to fill all positions.

An Invitation

This society is pleased to invite guests to attend general meetings, study groups, and field trips. General meetings are normally held the **fourth Tuesday of every month with meet and greet time beginning at 7:15 followed by the meeting at 7:45 PM at 100 Belwood Gateway (the Cabana Club), Los Gatos, CA 95032.** Belwood Gateway is just south of Blossom Hill Road between Leigh Avenue and Harwood Road. The next **General Meeting scheduled for on April 28.** The **Board Meeting is at the home of Rick Kennedy on April 30**

Note: The schedule is tentative and depends on the status of the Corona Virus and whether we still need to shelter in place.

Our Society's Purpose: The inculcation of a love of rocks and minerals by the furtherance of members' interests in the earth sciences and by education in all facets of related educational activities with the promotion of good fellowship, proper ethics, and conduct.

Our Membership Requirements: Attendance at two general meetings within twelve months. This society is a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) and is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). Dues per year are \$5.00 for Junior, \$20.00 for an individual, and \$30.00 for the household.

Our Newsletter, the Breccia, is published ten times annually. **The deadline for all articles is the Sunday after the general meeting.** The Breccia editor is Jo Borucki who may be contacted by email at joborucki@yahoo.com or by phone at (408)245-2881. Leave a message if no one picks up the phone. The Breccia is proofread by Pat Speece. Exchange bulletins may be sent to Jo Borucki, 1196 Sesame Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Permission to copy is freely granted to American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) affiliated clubs when proper credit is given.

Study Group Leaders

For information, please contact the leader listed below.

Smithies: Pat Speece 408- 266-4327 pat.speece@comcast.net

Cabbers: We need a leader. Can it be you?