

SEDONA RED ROCKING NEWS

Sedona Gem and Mineral Club

P.O. Box 3284, Sedona, AZ 86340

www.sedonagemandmineral.org

General Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Sedona Library off of Dry Creek Road in West Sedona. The Board of Directors meets at 5:00 PM the week before the General Meeting, also at the library. Members and guests are always welcome to attend.



April 2011

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MEMBER AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

MEMBER ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

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Be sure to attend the annual Sedona Gem and Mineral Show October 15 and 16, 2011, at the Sedona Red Rock High School, Sedona. For more information call Garry Kappel at (928) 634-4698.

APRIL PROGRAM

"Reactive Metals Studio - Products and Services"

Presented by Bill Seeley, President and Founder

Bill Seeley is the President and founder of Reactive Metals Studio, Inc., in Clarkdale, Arizona. Through his workshops and teachings, he has pioneered the use of reactive metals in jewelry and the arts since 1980. His business distributes wrought titanium and niobium wire, sheet, and tube products in the small amounts needed by metalsmiths. Included in the product line are anodizers and masking products which are used to color these aerospace metals. The process of anodizing allows the artist to create a broad range of colors on the metal. This greatly increases the color palette that is available to the metal artist.



Reactive Metals Studio (RMS) has carved a very special niche in the jewelry world. The little company is known worldwide for its exclusive product line. The reactive metals known as titanium and niobium are hypoallergenic and make perfect findings for metal-sensitive wearers. Niobium earwires are available in eight colors to go with almost any look. Specialty welders and findings are available for fabrication along with a variety of beads and findings in silver, copper, brass and gold plate.

A section of the RMS online catalog is devoted to the ancient metals of Japan. In the early '80s, Shining Wave Metals were introduced. Of note is Mokumé-gane or wood grain metal. These are highly decorative laminates used most notably in the hand guards (tsuba) of Samurai swords. The laminates are made up of fused layers of a variety of metals. They contain silver and gold in the traditional alloys and some ancient alloys that are not as familiar. Shakudo is copper with 4% gold added to the alloy. Its patina colors to a dark blue black, whereas Shibuichi is copper with a small amount of silver and is pinkish in its natural state. Shibuichi's patina colors to grey, green and even blue. Again, RMS provides a much expanded pallet of metals for the designer.

Other sections of the catalog are devoted to a diverse range of hard to find supplies. These include: miniature nuts & bolts, taps & dies, patinas, metalsmithing books, CDs and even beautifully made titanium chains. All of these products and more can be seen in the downloadable catalog at www.reactivemetals.com.

Bill also offers workshops which explore the attributes of the reactive metals titanium and niobium. His classes, are centered on the surface embellishment of niobium. This ductile and easily manipulated metal is highly anodizable. Working from color charts developed in class to highly textured and colored samples, the class progresses through a series of demonstrations, PowerPoint presentations and lots of hands-on work. Coverage includes: safety, anodizing, masking, selective removal, and graphics. The history and development of the instructor and RMS is presented in slides along with the work of a broad range of artists. The participants are encouraged to produce materials for later use in finished jewelry.

~ from Becky Solon

APRIL FIELD TRIP

Holbrook, AZ

Like petrified wood? Silly question, I know. SGMC is hosting a coalition trip to Holbrook, AZ on Wednesday April 20. There will be some pretty awesome rock being collected that day.

We will meet at 9:30 AM at the Adamama exit, #303 which is located about 15 miles east of Holbrook on I-40. Park at the meeting area on the south side of the I-40 interchange and get signed up for the trip.

There are some sandy washes to cross over during our short trip the ranch. Everyone should be in a high clearance, preferably 4WD vehicle. There should be plenty of spaces in other vehicles to ride share to the ranch if you have a standard car.

Our host, the ranch owner, has a few rules to follow:

1) No collecting of Indian artifacts or pottery. He has an Indian ruin near his home, and he will gladly show you the pieces he has.

2) Surface collecting only; light digging is allowed with small hand tools.

3) Please no chipping at larger wood and no hammering - collect only loose material.

This is a FEE trip. A \$5.00 per person charge will be collected as you sign up on the club waiver and release form. Please have the exact amount ready, to facilitate a quick sign-up and entry to the ranch.

You will pay \$2.00 per pound for any wood you collect. An announcement will be made letting you know what time you should head back to the weigh station.

BRING CASH ... NO CHECKS, CREDIT OR DEBIT CARDS will be accepted for payment. Bring a lunch, water, sun protection, and the container you plan to carry back to the weigh station. Oh, bring a camera. There is a great photo opportunity of the Indian ruins. Please pay attention to the weather forecast. If it rains on the 19th or is raining the morning of the 20th (Holbrook) the trip will be cancelled. The washes are treacherous in wet weather.

Rita Topp, field trip coordinator

MEMBERSHIP NOTE from Rose Marie Licher

Normally the Club Roster of members is published at the time of the April newsletter. But, because of the treasurer being out of the country for a month at the start of the new year, and a later change in treasurers, we will wait until after the April meeting to publish the roster. A tentative copy will be at the April member meeting for members to check to be sure their individual listings are correct.

Why Can't We Ask Questions?*Observation by one club member*

It seems like everywhere you turn these days, people are riled up, either by politics, war, the economy, relationships, or any number of things. This also seems to be true in day to day interactions with others. If someone has a different opinion or spin on something, people can't even agree to disagree anymore.

This was very evident at a recent meeting of the club. A few people wanted to know what was going on and what the procedure was for scholarships and other money that has been given in the past for education. It was a valid question and could have been answered or merely deferred to a later meeting when the chairperson had time to prepare. Instead a blow up occurred and people were angry. Why? What was there to get angry about?

All members should certainly have the right to know what's going on and a reasonable expectation to questions without a total melt down or explosion. Most clubs function with a board of directors to make decisions so that no one person has power to make unilateral decisions. Maybe the way the questions were presented wasn't the best idea since no one knew it was going to be discussed and the people involved had been out of town. Still, the reaction was way off base.

I understand that people have varying opinions, values, etc. But to not allow for questions and discussion is not the way to go. We should be able to respect each other and listen even if we don't like what they are saying.

This club has good people. People who genuinely love rock collecting and making things and learning about different aspects of the hobby. Let's get on with that.

Thank You.

Linda Kappel, Club Member

MARCH FIELD TRIP REPORT *by Rita Topp*

The field trip to Copper Chief Mine on Saturday, March 19 attracted new members Barbara and Mike, and we also had Joe, a retired geologist. Joe provided printed information about the history of the mine and a lot of facts about the Siderite mineral we were collecting.

The magnificent view of the Verde Valley was not so magnificent; some atmospheric conditions provided a haze over the area thus no one was too impressed. Just take a drive up on a clear day, and you'll see for yourself how stunning it really can be.

The men outnumbered the ladies on this trip and that was OK by us. Our buckets and back packs were filled with our "can't leave it behind" finds. Members collected display specimens, slabbing material and yard rock. Ask Susan R. about the yard rock that needed 3 strong men to pick up and load into their truck. Speaking of members, we had 3 men with the same 1st name ... MIKE. Talk about confusing. Oh, I almost forgot to mention, a few perfect Siderite crystals were found.

After a couple of hours collecting we took suggestions on a restaurant for lunch. We decided on Mexican fare and headed for Su Casa in Clarkdale. Really good food when it finally arrived at our table. I'm not really complaining, the wait gave us time to chat up a variety of subjects, and the chance to get to know each other a bit better.

Diamonds

Are

Forever



April Birthstone - Diamond

If you've ever felt mesmerized by the dazzling rainbow of colors reflected in a skillfully cut diamond, then you've experienced the mystique of April's birthstone. Once an adornment possessed only by kings, this beautiful gem is surrounded by romance, mystery, and passion.

Many stories surround the gift of a diamond as a token of affection. The ancient Greeks believed that the fire of a diamond reflected the flame of everlasting love. Archduke Maximilian of Austria apparently agreed -- in 1477, he gave a diamond ring to his fiancée, Mary of Burgundy. And so began the tradition of presenting the diamond as a promise of marriage.

The origin of wearing the engagement ring on the third finger of the left hand is rooted in the Egyptian belief that the "vena amoris," or vein of love, runs from the heart to the top of this finger.

The word "diamond" comes from the Greek word "adamastos," which means "invincible." And in terms of durability, the diamond is indeed so. Being the hardest substance known to man, it holds a supreme place among gems. In sixteenth century England, uncut diamond crystals were set into "scribbling rings," and the exposed points were used by lovers to etch romantic vows into window-panes. Diamonds have been used as cutting and

engraving tools since early times, for carving cameos from stone, cutting jade, and drilling pearls.

Diamonds were believed by the ancient Greeks to hold magical powers. In fact, it was thought that they may be splinters of stars fallen to earth, tears of the gods, or perhaps crystallized lightning. Diamonds were worn into battle by kings, as a symbol of strength and courage, and kept as talismans against poisoning, devils, and phantoms. A diamond is said to bring its owner wealth and happiness as well as protection.

At first diamonds were possessed only by the elite. In fact, in the 13th century, Louis IX of France established a law reserving them only for kings. But as more sophisticated methods of diamond mining and exporting evolved, diamonds became more plentiful and accessible to others. Nevertheless, this gem has always been the object of greed and desire, and history is rife with stories of diamond theft. The legend of diamond powder being an effective poisoning agent is said to have originated to discourage diamond smugglers from swallowing the gems.

From the stunning display of stones flashed by movie stars at awards ceremonies, to the modest engagement ring of a young bride, the diamond continues to enjoy great popularity among those of all status.

SAVE ROCKHOUND STATE PARK!

from John Martin

Rockhound State Park is located near Deming, New Mexico on 249 acres that was dedicated on June 17, 1966 by Governor Jack Campbell. The property was donated to the State Parks Division in 1964 by the Deming Ranchettes development company. The name of the Park is derived from the fact that the Park's original intent was to cater to rock collectors.

The Park was originally founded upon rock collecting, a popular recreational activity in the 1960s. Common at Rockhound is a variety of minerals, including perlite, thunder eggs, jasper, geodes, agate, rhyolite, and quartz. Rockhound sits at the base of the Little Florida Mountains, which are comprised of a late tertiary volcanic rock that includes interbedded fanglomerate intruded by rhyolite domes and dikes. These volcanic units are between 22 and 38 million years old and appear to extend less than 600 feet deep below ground.

Today the practice of collecting rocks at Rockhound State Park and on other public lands is no longer considered a recreational activity by those who are charged with the management of our public lands. In fact the park is trying to make it a misdemeanor to remove any geological or biological item from within Rockhound State Park.

In the beginning visitors were encouraged to collect rock and mineral specimens for personal non commercial use up to 25 pounds per visit.

The fate of Rockhound State Park has not yet been completely sealed. The process has started to remove rock collecting from the park and most of the published state literature has already deleted any reference to our hobby of Rockhounding. The final decision must have input from the public on the changes to the Rockhound State Park Management Plan. That plan is currently being revised and has been released for public comment. In the management plan revision all reference to Rockhounding in Rockhound State Park has been removed and replaced with fines and legal actions for removing rocks and minerals. Even the name is being changed from Rockhound State Park to "Florida Mountains State Park".

To save Rockhound State Park and to maintain our hobby within the park will take a lot of effort from the Rockhound Community, and many letters will need to be written to the managers and elected officials of New Mexico letting them know that Rockhounding is a responsible recreational activity and exceptions to the rules should be made at Rockhound State Park. A writing campaign helped to save the California State Rock, Serpentine, and it can help in New Mexico to save Rockhound State Park. Time is running out for Rockhound State Park. Your input is needed now. The change process has started.

Please submit comments by: April 18, 2011
Fax: 505-476-3361
Mail: 1220 S St Francis Drive, PO Box 1147, Santa Fe, NM 87505
Drop off at the park or regional office; or
E-mail: nmparks@state.nm.us

More information on Rockhound State Park, a copy of the revised Management Plan and sample letters from which you can choose your comments and points can be found on the ALAA Website www.aamlands.org. Please get involved and become a Rockhound Activist!



Membership Application
(please print)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Renewal or New
Membership Desired (Check One)

Individual \$15.00 _____

Family \$25.00 _____

Junior (9-18) \$ 5.00 _____

If a family membership, please list the
names of family members below:

Would you like to receive your Newsletter by:
(Circle Yes or No)

Post Office (printed B/W) Yes or No

Email (in color) Yes or No

You may mail this application
with your dues to:

Sedona Gem & Mineral Club

P.O. Box 3284

Sedona, AZ 86340

Cut this section from the newsletter and mail to
the above address, or you are welcome to come
and join at one of our regular meetings.

Questions?

Call Garry Kappel: (928) 634-4698

www.sedonagemandmineral.org



Sedona Gem and Mineral Club April Newsletter, 2011



MAY 2011

14-15—FOUNTAIN HILLS, ARIZONA: Retail show; Rick Obermiller; Fountain Hills Community Center, 13001 N. La Montana Dr.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2, children under 12 free; indoor show, mostly Arizona dealers, gems, minerals, jewelry, fossils, kids' activities, drawings, raffles; contact Rick Obermiller (602)826-2218; e-mail: obrocks@gmail.com

24—MESA, ARIZONA: Show; Rings & Things; Holiday Inn & Suites, 1600 S. Country Club Dr.; Tue. 12-4; free admission; gemstones not available in our catalog or online store, bead strands, 15% off many gemstone and bead strands, findings and stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson (509) 252-2900. e-mail: drobertson@rings-things.com
Web site: www.rings-things.com/Show/index.html

APRIL 2011

9-10—KINGMAN, ARIZONA: Show and sale; Mohave County Gemstoners; Kingman Academy of Learning, 3420 N Burbank; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; free admission; rough rock, slabs, cabs, jewelry, wire wrapping, silver and gold smithing, lapidary and jewelry fabrication equipment and supplies, demonstrations, raffles, prizes, children's activities, educational information, displays, crafts, fossils, minerals, silent auction, door prizes, cash raffle prizes; contact Mary Gann: e-mail: quadpol@aol.com; Web site: www.gemstoners.org

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