



# DESERT DIGGINS

## MOJAVE DESERT GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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### OFFICERS

President	Vivian Watts
Vice-President	Dian Hare
Secretary	La Vella Tomlinson
Treasurer	Gene Haines

### BOARD MEMBERS

Danny Watts	Rob Stapp
Nick Beall	Steve Crowell
Melita Crowell	
Scott Stevenson	(past president)



# 2013



The Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral Society (MDGMS) is a nonprofit organization. The objectives of the society are:

- \* To collect and study minerals and rocks.
- \* To disseminate a general knowledge of the science of mineralogy and allied subjects.
- \* To provide opportunity for the exhibition and exchange of specimens.

### Meetings / Workshops

Meetings: 1st Friday (7:00 P.M.)  
Workshop: 3rd Friday (6:30 P.M.)

Location: 25647 W. Main Street  
Barstow, CA 92311

### February 1st Meeting

Theme: Elements  
Hostess:  
Door Prizes:

### Annual Membership Dues

#### PAYABLE IN JANUARY

Adults: \$20.00  
Juniors: \$10.00 (10 to 18 years)



Editor: Kent Berryman  
E-Mail: [email@mdgms.org](mailto:email@mdgms.org)  
Website: [www.mdgms.org](http://www.mdgms.org)

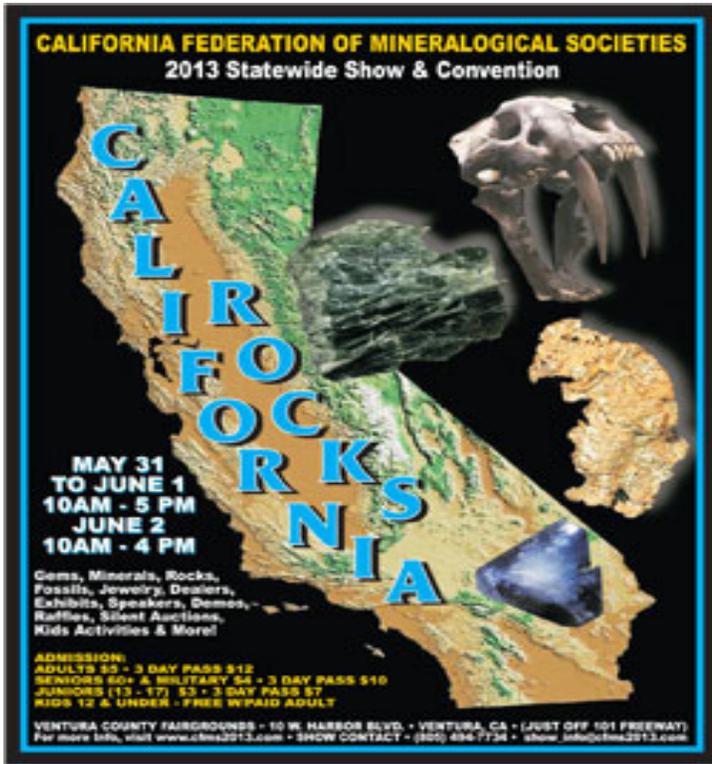
### Birthdays

- 07 Norm Sheppard
- 10 Debbie Burbeck
- 11 Edward Deren
- 11 Ronald Millard
- 14 Konner McWhitney
- 16 Kent Berryman
- 16 LaVella Tomlinson
- 17 Gene Haines
- 20 Joan Bird
- 20 Donna Patterson
- 24 Melita Crowell
- 26 Vivian Watts



# DESERT DIGGINS

## MOJAVE DESERT GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY



### Pink Diamond Found in Australia

Mining giant Rio Tinto said it has unearthed a “remarkable” 12.76 carat pink diamond in Australia, the largest of the rare and precious stones ever found in the resources-rich nation.

Named the Argyle Pink Jubilee, the huge rough stone was found at Rio’s pink diamond operations in the Kimberly region of Western Australia and would take 10 days to cut and polish.

The light pink Argyle Jubilee is a similar color to the 24-carat Williamson Pink given to Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II as a wedding gift which was later set into a Cartier brooch for her coronation.

Rio produces more than 90 percent of the world’s pink diamonds from the Argyle mine, and said large stones like the Jubilee typically went to museums, were gifted to royalty or end up at prestigious auction houses like Christie’s.

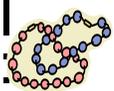
Christie’s had only auctioned 18 polished pink diamonds larger than 10 carats in its 244-year history, Rio said.

Via Dops and Digs April 2012

### Geo Quiz

Answer to last months quiz:

Conglomerate and Breccia both have chunky textures, but the chunks are round in a conglomerate, and angular in breccia.



### BIRTH- STONES



January....Garnet	August.....Peridot
February...Amethyst	September..Sapphire
March.....Aquamarine	October...Tourmaline/ Opal
April.....Diamond	November....Topaz/ Citrine
May.....Emerald	
June.....Pearl /	

“When nothing seems to help, I go look at a stonecutter hammering away at his rock perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the hundred and first blow it will split in two, and I know it was not that blow that did it, but all that had gone before.”

Jacob Riis

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**Mineral of the Month**

**Barite**

Barite, barium sulfate, BaSO<sub>4</sub>, is an anhydrous sulfate mineral. Other anhydrous sulfate minerals are celestite (strontium sulfate) and anglesite (lead sulfate). Barite is often associated with lead, silver, and antimony sulfides. It is also found in cavities and pockets in sedimentary limestones' and dolomites. Barite is the main source of barium, often used in radiography and oil drilling.

Barite is in the orthorhombic crystal system. Colors can range from colorless, white, and variations of blue, green, yellow, and red. It usually has thin to thick tabular crystals. The crystals can occur as square tablets, beveled edge tablets, and prisms with a chisel tip. A "desert rose" is a rosette of barite plates with an aggregate of sand and earth inclusions.

Barite is a common material and found in many locations throughout the world. Barite has a hardness of 3 to 3.5 with a specific gravity of 4.3 to 4.6. Streak is white. Fracture is conchoidal. One way to test for barite is the flame test. Powdered barite will burn light green in a gas flame.

Via Canaveral Moonstone May 2012



**Theme of the Month: ELEMENTS**

The basics of the elemental minerals are those that are naturally occurring substances which are both pure and have a clearly defined structure. In the mineral record they are well represented and there are over 100 different types being found. Elemental minerals are also known as "native" materials, and include metals like gold, silver and copper, as well as non-metallic ones such as sulfur. These native metals are relatively pure – typically **more than 95 percent**, but most have small quantities of other elements composed of impurities.

Although the elemental minerals are rare, there are two exceptions: graphite and sulphur. **Sulphur** has been collected since ancient times and was considered to have certain healing properties for various ailments. Today it is used heavily in industry such as in the manufacturing of your car's tires and its use in many pesticides. **Graphite** on the other hand has been used for centuries in since it is a soft carbon (*diamonds* are also harder forms of carbon) substance. It was used in makeup, pencils, lubricated moving metal parts and today is even in the cores of nuclear reactors around the world.

**Native forms:** Copper, Diamond, Gold, and Silver. **Others:** Arsenic, Bismuth, Graphite, and Sulphur.



**The Absent Minded Rockhound**

A certain rock hound was exploring the geode country of Oregon. One day he came upon an unusual geode. To see it better he licked it and rubbed it on his sleeve. Suddenly, a genie appeared and said, "I am the genie of the geode. Because you are a good rock-hound, I will grant you three wishes." After thinking a bit the rock-hound said, "I've always dreamed of owning a collection of diamonds. That's my first wish." Poof, a fabulous collection of diamonds appeared. The rock-hound thought of his pickup rig which was in bad shape and wished for a new one with all the trimmings. Poof, a brand new rig with all the trimmings sat before him.

The rock-hound then asked the genie if he could save his last wish for later, because he wanted to think about it for a while. The genie nodded and disappeared. The rock-hound placed his diamond collection in his new rig and headed for home, happy as a lark. He turned on the radio and began to sing. Soon he was absentmindedly singing along with the music... "oh, I wish I were an Oscar Meyer Weiner..." "poof..."

Via Southern Utah Rock Club, March 2012

**DESERT DIGGINS**  
**MOJAVE DESERT GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**

**Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society**  
**General Meeting Minutes, January 4, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by president Vivian Watts, followed by the flag salute.

The 2013 Board Members were sworn into office by president *Vivian Watts: Danny Watts, Nick Beall, Melita Crowell, Rob Stapp, & Steve Crowell*. Then the Officers were sworn into office by board member *Rob Stapp: Vivian Watts*, president; *Dian Hare*, vice-president; *Gene Haines*, treasurer; *La Vella Tomlinson*, secretary.

**Guests / New Members:** *Dave & Debbie Burbeck, Don & Cheri George; Didi Naples, Clifford Swenson, and Sharon Rogow* were welcomed. January Happy Birthdays were wished to our members.

**Program:** A film "Thunder Eggs of the United States", by Leon Kabat.

**Hostess/Door Prizes:** Hostesses for refreshments were *Melita Crowell & Vivian Watts*. Door Prizes were surprises from *Melita and Leslie Walker*. Thank you, *Vivian, Melita and Leslie*.

The General Meeting minutes for November were approved by the membership. The Christmas Party was in December.

**Treasurer's Report:** *Gene Haines* presented the Treasurer's Report. Reviewed the current financial status of MDG&MS; then a spreadsheet plan for 2013 showing expected expenses and outgo for this year. The finances for the December Mineral & Gem Show were reviewed with all expenses listed: from the big expense of newspaper advertising to the purchase of new blue plastic skirting for the display tables. Income was listed next: from the vendor's rental of their spaces to income from the new Opportunity Drawing. The result was enough profit for three scholarships.

For the success of the Mineral & Gem show, \*Thank You\* goes to *Gene Haines* for his tireless organizational feats, to *Everett Odegaard* for his woodworking skills in building the new display cases, to our Vendors for the wonderful gems & minerals that they bring, to the City of Barstow for the sharing of the Community Center, to all the volunteers who worked at the show for the club's Silent Auction, Opportunity Drawing, Grab bags, Spin the Wheel, to all the members who brought their treasures to Display, to everyone who WORKED HARD not only on set-up & take-down, but all during the year preparing for our show.

**Business:** *John Pickett* reported that the Galaxy Wheels are worn on our Genies, especially those on the left. *John* volunteered to be the official Genie Checker & will report to the board any problems and the correction necessary.

*Dian Hare* reported that *Bob & Jennifer Reynolds* have donated an Ultra Tech faceting machine to the club.

*Vivian Watts* reported on the Mineral Federation Meeting that *Vivian and Danny* attended in November. Literature & information, including a CD from the Public Land Management Advisory Committee are available.

The next MDG&MS Board Meeting will be on Friday February 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m., before the General Meeting.

**Cab of the Month:** *Bill Depue* won with a moss agate cab collected from the southern Cady Mts. *John Pickett* also showed agate cabs collected on trips with *Bill KonnerMcWhitney* polished a mahogany obsidian cab. *Edward Deren* polished a Fire agate cab. *Danny Watts* finished Rain Forest Jasper. *Melita Crowell* made a cab of her new find from the Panamint Mts that she calls "Watermelon Marble" with its chartreuse outside and pink in the center. *Melita* included a slab in the door prize drawing tonight.

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**Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society**  
**General Meeting Minutes, January 4, 2013**

**Show, Tell, and Share:** *Vivian and Melita* brought Rock of the Month, blue Lapis Lazuli. *Vivian's* has pyrite inclusions which make the Lapis more valuable. *Melita's* Lapis was from Afganistan. *La Vella Tomlinson* brought the carbonate Calcite to share. *Bill Depue* described the green, yellow & moss agate they are finding in the southern Cady Mts as the same as found by *Walt Lauderback* in the 40's & 50's. *Danny and Rob* dug in the green ash area and found tube agate instead of the anticipated moss agate. They described the method of Muriatic acid to remove the calcite coating on the agate tubes & how they finished the tube agate into polished display pieces.

The meeting was adjourned by president *Vivian Watts* at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*La Vella Tomlinson*, Secretary



**Ancient Tools Revealed by Melting Arctic Ice**

A 270-year-old birch arrow (in four pieces) along with the *stone projectile point*. These artifacts were found in places where ice patches have melted away in the Canadian Arctic. Warming temperatures are melting patches of ice that have been in place for thousands of years in the mountains of the Canadian High Arctic and in turn revealing a treasure trove of *ancient hunting tools*.

Ice patches result from layers of annual snow that, until recently, remained frozen all year. As Earth's temperature has warmed in recent decades due to the accumulation of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, some of the ice patches have begun to melt away, sometimes revealing *ancient artifacts* to the surprise of archaeologists. "We're just like children opening Christmas presents. I kind of pinch myself," said Tom Andrews, an archaeologist with the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife, Northern Territories, Canada, and lead researcher on the International Polar Year Ice Patch Study.

Ice patch archeology is a recent phenomenon that began in Yukon. In 1997, sheep hunters discovered a 4,300-year-old dart shaft in caribou dung that had become exposed as the ice receded. Scientists who investigated the site found layers of caribou dung buried between annual deposits of ice. They also discovered a repository of well-preserved *artifacts*. Andrews first became aware of the importance of ice patches when word about the Yukon find started leaking out. "We began wondering if we had the same phenomenon here," Andrews said. In 2000, he cobbled together funds to buy satellite imagery of specific areas in the Mackenzie Mountains, which form part of the border between the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, and began to examine ice patches in the region. Five years later, he had raised enough money to support a four-hour helicopter ride to investigate two ice patches. The trip proved fruitful. "Lo and behold, we found a willow bow," Andrews said.

That discovery allowed Andrews and his team to get more funds that the team then used to explore eight ice patches in four years. The results have been extraordinary: Andrews and his team (including members of the indigenous Shutaot'ine or Mountain Dene) have found *2,400-year-old spear throwing tools*, a 1000-year-old ground squirrel snare, and *bows and arrows* dating back 850 years. "The implements are truly amazing. There are wooden arrows and dart shafts so fine you can't believe someone sat down with a *stone* and made them," Andrews said.

Biologists involved in the project are examining dung in the area for plant remains, insect parts, pollen and caribou parasites. Others are studying DNA evidence to track the lineage and migration patterns of caribou. The dung and artifacts can be found at these spots because for millennia, caribou seeking relief from summer heat and insects have made their way to ice patches where they bed down until cooler temperatures prevail. Hunters noticed caribou were, in effect, marooned on these ice islands and took advantage. "I'm never surprised at the brilliance of ancient hunters anymore. I feel stupid that we didn't find this sooner," Andrews said. Andrews is concerned about retrieving more artifacts, because his funds have run out and two of the eight ice patches have already disappeared. "We realize that the ice patches are continuing to melt, and we have an ethical obligation to collect these artifacts as they are exposed," Andrews said. If left on the ground, exposed artifacts would be trampled by caribou or dissolved by the acidic soils. "In a year or two the artifacts would be gone."

Submitted by Gene Haines

# Desert Diggins



**MOJAVE DESERT  
GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY  
P. O. BOX 138  
BARSTOW, CA 92312  
PHONE: (760) 255-1030**

Mojave Desert  
Gem & Mineral Society  
P.O. Box 138  
Barstow CA 92312

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