



# DESERT DIGGINS

## MOJAVE DESERT GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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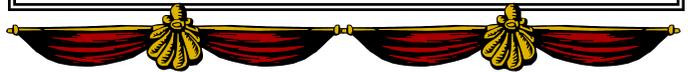
# 2013

### 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)



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

### March 1st Meeting

Theme: Halides  
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)

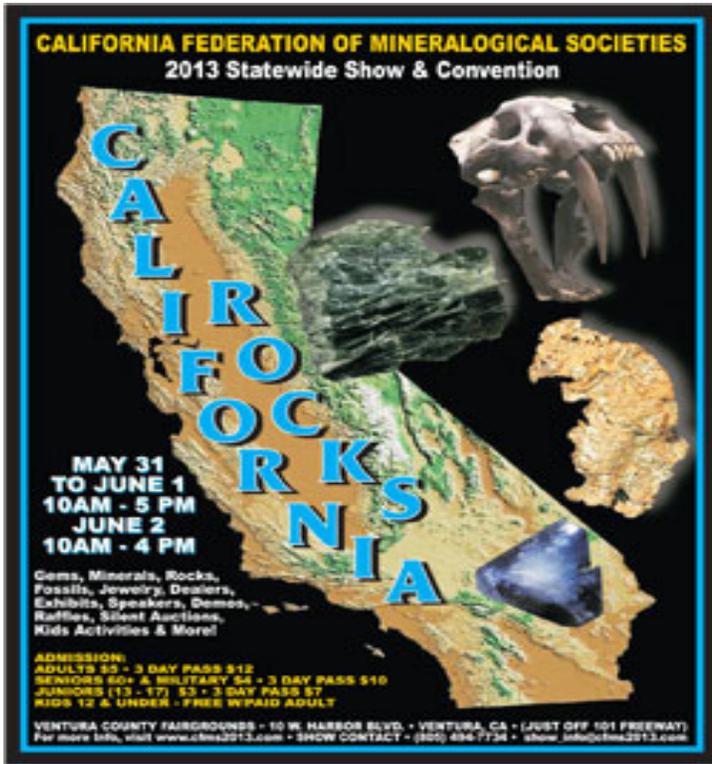
### Birthdays

- 01 Dorothy Oberg
- 02 Susanna Baum
- 12 Katie Boyd
- 13 Greg Wagner
- 13 Bob Wheeler
- 14 Johnny Rout
- 19 Peggy Haines



# DESERT DIGGINS

## MOJAVE DESERT GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY



### Rockhounds

You might be a rockhound if your living room looks like an exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum.

You might be a rockhound if you will dig a ten foot deep hole in 110 degree heat to find a walnut sized agate and say you are having fun.

### Rock Shows

March 2-3 Arcadia, Ca. Monrovia Rockhounds  
The Arboretum & Botanic Gardens  
301 Baldwin Ave. 9:00—4:30 daily

March 2-3 Ventura, Ca. Ventura Gem & Mineral  
Ventura County Fairgrounds  
10 W Harbor Blvd. Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4

March 23-24 Torrance, Ca. South Bay Lapidary  
& Mineral Society, Ken Miller Rec. Center  
3341 Torrance Blvd. Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4

### Rockhound Training Kit

How to become a rockhound:

1. Get a bag of marbles
2. Go collect rocks
3. For every rock you pick up - replace it with a marble.
4. When you have lost all your marbles - then  
You are a rockhound

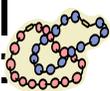
Dops and Digs 2012

### Aquamarine

Derived from the Roman word “aqua,” meaning water, and “mare,” meaning sea, this pale blue gem does indeed resemble the color of seawater.

The Aquamarine is a member of the beryl family. Beryl is a mineral that crystallizes within large grained igneous rocks on the earth’s crust.

Aquamarine varies in color from blue-green to a light sky-blue, but gems containing green are often heat treated to remove this less desirable color. The majority of Aquamarines, unlike other gemstones, are flawless. It is a relatively abundant gem, the largest being in Brazil, but other sources of Aquamarine are China, India, Australia, Africa, and the United States. Aquamarine is a very hard mineral, making it a durable gemstone for use in jewelry.



### BIRTH- STONES



January....Garnet

August.....Peridot

February...Amethyst

September..Sapphire

March.....Aquamarine  
April...Tourmaline/

Octo-

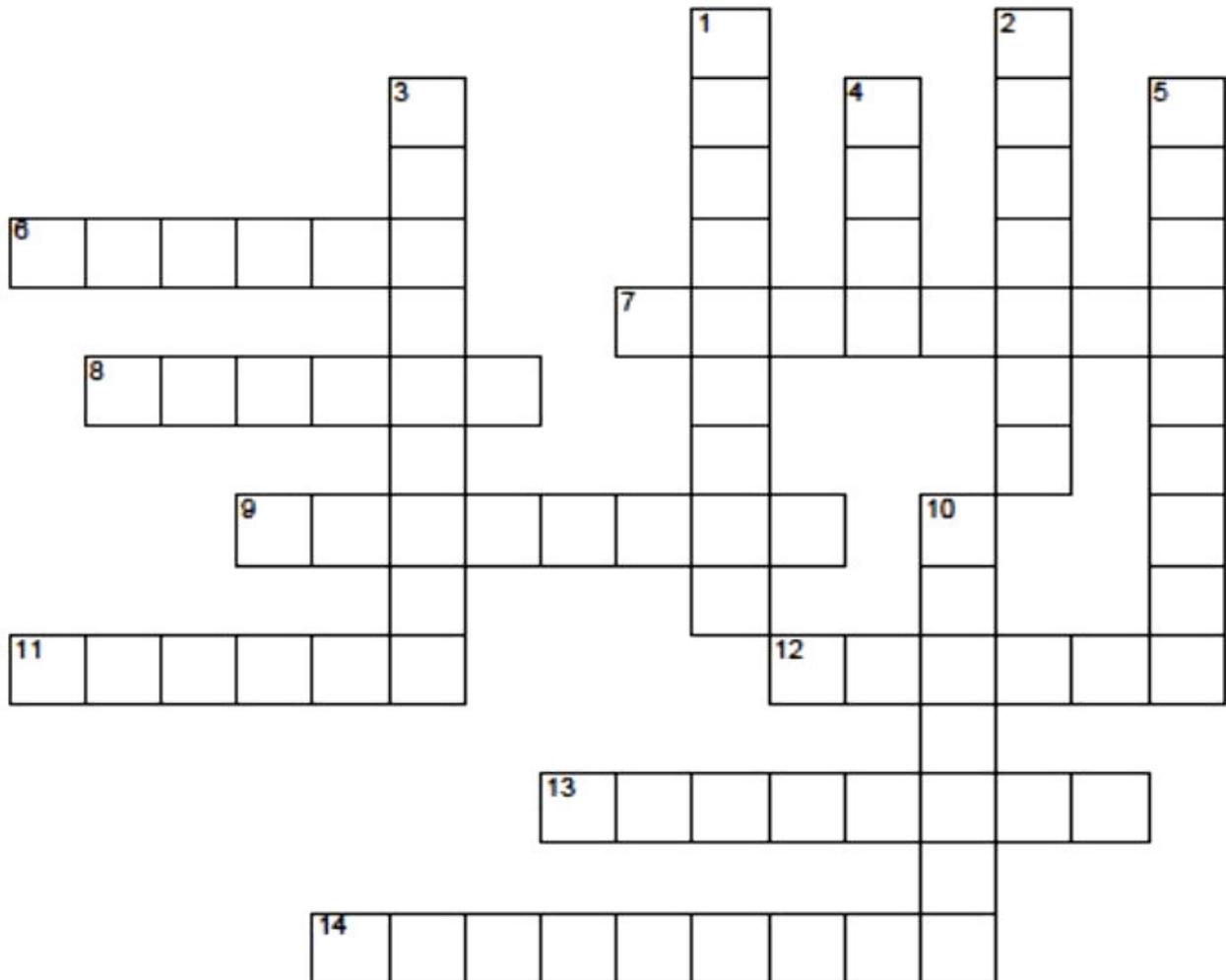
April.....Diamond

Opal

May.....Emerald

November....Topaz/

# Common Minerals



[www.rocksandminerals4u.com](http://www.rocksandminerals4u.com)

## ACROSS

- 6 the main source of lead
- 7 an iron ore, sometimes used in jewelry
- 8 sometimes called fool's gold
- 9 sulfide mineral, long metallic slender bladed crystals
- 11 a very heavy sulfate mineral
- 12 rock salt
- 13 calcium fluoride
- 14 a bright green copper carbonate

## DOWN

- 1 a naturally magnetic rock
- 2 a bright blue copper carbonate
- 3 metamorphic quartz sandstone
- 4 a silicate mineral known for its perfect cleavage into thin sheets
- 5 strontium sulfate, its name means celestial
- 10 a common carbonate mineral, often a replacement mineral in fossils

Answers on page 4

# DESERT DIGGINS

## MOJAVE DESERT GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

### Show, tell, share

by Gene and Peggy Haines

#### Themes for 2013:

~~January - Carbonates~~

~~February - Elements~~

**March - Halides**

April - Oxides

May - Phosphates

June - None (Barbecue)

July - Sulfates

August - Sulphides

September - Silicates

October - Organics

November - Outer Space

December - None (Party)

The naturally occurring examples of this group are: Fluorine, Chlorine, Bromine, and Iodine.

Most Halides are soft, transparent, and have low-density with good cleavage. Best examples are **Fluorite** which is composed of Calcium Fluoride,  $\text{CaF}_2$ , and **Halite**, which is made of Sodium Chloride,  $\text{NaCl}$ . Both have cubic crystal structures and a high order of symmetry, often occurring as interesting mineral specimens, they are always popular with collectors as display specimens.

**Fluorite** comes in many colors from colorless, white, blue, purple, blue-green, green, yellow, pink, or red. **Halite**, also known as rock salt forms from the evaporation of brine-either from the ocean or inland lakes. **Halite** may be colorless or white, blue, yellow, purple, or pink.

#### Answers to crossword

##### Across

6. Galena
7. Hematite
8. Pyrite
9. Stibnite
11. Barite
12. Halite
13. Fluorite
14. Malachite

##### Down

1. Magnetite
2. Azurite
3. Quartzite
4. Mica
5. Selenite
10. Calcite

### Gem Hardness Test

#### Drop of Water Test for Topaz

Quartz and topaz are not easy to separate by eye, and sometimes it is impossible when the quartz is a true topaz color. There is a big difference in price between the two, and anyone describing quartz as "topaz," however innocently, may well be in trouble. Topaz is quite a different mineral and is harder than quartz. Because of this, a drop of water will not spread on topaz but will spread on quartz. Clean the stone as effectively as possible with a cloth or handkerchief to remove all traces of grease. It must be dry before the test. Then place a drop of water on it with a thin glass or metal rod. On stones with a hardness of less than 7 on the Mohs scale, the water is dispersed. On harder stones, it will remain a globule. The harder the stone, the more rounded will be the globule.

Via Grindings 2012

### Drilling a Stone

One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've found these often break or burn up. The reason I think is that the drill pivots on the piece of diamond on the drill tip. By pivoting the diamond does not cut. When it doesn't cut, you tend to add more force, and the drill is damaged by excess heat.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are reasonable in price, for instance \$6 for 2mm diameter.

Chuck up the core drill in a drill press or a freedom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris. Also, if you're drilling a through hole, go very easy on the pressure as the drill is about to break through. Otherwise, you will usually chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.

Via Brad Smith, The Nugget, April 2012

### Magnetite

The mineral magnetite, used in compass needles, has been found in Monarch butterflies. This discovery may help explain the well-known yearly migration of this species from eastern North America to Mexico.

Via Southern Utah Rock Club 3/12

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

**Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society**  
**General Meeting Minutes, February 1, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by president *Vivian Watts*, followed by the flag salute.

**Program:** The video program was on banded agates by *Michael Carlson*.

**Hostess:** Happy Birthday was wished to all with a February birthday and celebrated with an amethyst birthday cake from *Vivian* and delicious refreshments from hostess *PennyHarper*.

**Door Prizes:***Bill Tomlinson* donated gold key chains which were won by *Kemp Root and KonnerMcWhitney*.

**Business:** Treasurer *Gene Haines* reminded members that it is time to pay the club dues. There are many enjoyable activities, field trips, workshops, gem shows that are possible when you are a member.

The MDG&MS board members voted to have the Faceting Machine be sold by bidding. Please watch the newsletter for when & how to bid if you would like the faceting machine, accompanying equipment & books.

*Dian Hare* humorously reported on the trip to Quartzsite. *La Vella Tomlinson* reported on the upcoming rock Tailgate hosted by the Victor Valley Rock & Mineral Club the second weekend in March that is fun too.

The Minutes of the January 4<sup>th</sup> General Meeting were approved by the members.

**Cab of the Month:***Konner* won cab of the month with a tumbled Jasp-Agate that he found in his back yard.

**Show, Tell & Share:** The theme this month was “Elements”. *Penny* brought copper nuggets and a pure gold coin to share. *Gene Haines* continued by sharing more copper and the history of copper mining. Today copper can be analyzed to discover its original mining location & it has been discovered that Egyptian tools were made from copper from the great mines of Michigan. *Ed Deren* shared his dowsing rods made from welding brazing rods (which contain copper in the brass) He has prospected with his dowsing rods and demonstrated how he could locate *Penny’s* gold coin, *Nick Beall*, & lost keys – Amazing. *Danny Watts* talked about “When People Discover You are a Rock Hound” and the rocks they will give you. A miner from Borate gave him a large Colemanite specimen from the 300 ft level of the mine. *CharlesToles* brought his case with his interesting collection. A mystery was how he made his agate puzzle. Secret is a diamond band saw. Since the beginning agate slab is two sided, completing the puzzle is tricky.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by *Vivian Watts*.

Respectfully submitted,

*La Vella Tomlinson*, secretary

# 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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