

Burro Creek Field Trip Report

Held on Wednesday 11/2/22 to Sunday 11/6/22

Location: Burro Creek, Az.

Members: Donna DeGrande, Madoline and Randy LaFord, Richard Mueller, Dave Rosendahl

After about a six-hour drive, the group met at the Date Creek Ranch in Arizona for quartz crystals. We were going to set up camp here the first day, but the weather was somewhat cold and windy, so we decided to head over to our Burro Creek campsite and ensure we had a spot before they all filled up. On Wednesday we organized our camp and had a delicious supper and a huge campfire. Thursday found us waiting for forecasted rain to clear. We were off about 1pm on Thursday and traveled about one mile up the road when we found a van stuck in the middle of a sandy spot on the road. We tried to pull them out without success. We ended up getting help from a nearby campsite. We had spent a lot of time helping the young man get his van out of the sand, when it started to rain again. We headed back to camp to wait out the rain and plan for the next day.

Friday we were off with clear skies and warm temperatures. The BLM had graded the road seven miles all the way to and across Burro Creek. The trip to the river used to take an hour and now it took 20 minutes. First stop, the Lithium Mine located several miles east of the crossing. We collected Lavender Agate that looked like coral and Opalite/Chert in a muddy mine area of Lithium clays. Shortly, we were off to Richard's Purple Agate site. Donna scored big here with large slabs of a beautiful dark purple agate 4" thick. So did Randy and Madoline. Richard and Dave did not do so well here. Next, we planned to go to a site for a Pumpkin colored Pastelite located up a wash east of the purple site and found the road had washed out during the rains. Our next stop was for a Dendritic Agate site shown to us several years ago by Pat McMahan of Agates with Inclusions. Everyone found nice pieces of this agate and Dave, being the last to leave, found a large boulder of agate in the wash. It took both Randy and Dave to get it out and back to the truck. It was about 50 pounds of a beautiful burgundy and pink agate with lots of dendrites. We headed back to camp after an incredible day to discuss plans for Saturday over a great meal and campfire.

Saturday we were off bright and early knowing we would be collecting within an hour. First stop was across Burro Creek since it was now graded. We drove around to a site on the north side of the creek. We spent some time enjoying the view here of large pools on the creek next to a boulder strewn rapid. We decided to head back to Richard's purple agate site to find more large specimens. We all collected nice smaller specimens, but did not get as lucky as we did on the previous day. Since we spent most of the day here, we only had time for one short stop at the Lithium Mine. Madoline and Randy drove to the top of the mine to collect, while Donna and Dave collected in a wash next to a massive tailing pile going up about 50 feet to the flat of the mine. The rain had washed off thousands of pieces of Lavender Agate, with some being darker purple. Donna and Dave had full buckets within what seemed like minutes. While taking their buckets back to the truck, Dave spotted one more piece he wanted and brought back a longer bar to free it from the dirt. The piece looked like a slab about 4" thick and the size of a football on the surface. After getting it out, it was about 4 inches and 18 inches round. Carrying a 60-pound slab back to the truck was no easy task. Wow! What an end to a great trip.

We had seen burros every day we went out and got very close to them each time. Donna said she wished she had an apple to see if they would come closer. They were healthy and beautiful with new winter coats.

Madoline amazed us at night with her black light and we found many of the minerals fluoresced with colors of green, blue, red and orange. That night at the campfire, we wondered what the trip would have been like if we had the full four days to collect. Sunday morning, we said our goodbyes and we all were off to San Diego.

David Rosendahl





















