



El Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Society Annual Thanksgiving Fieldtrip

Burro Creek – Nothing, AZ

Nov. 26 - Dec. 1, 2024

It was another great field trip to Burro Creek! Randy & Madeline arrived on Tuesday to secure the camping spot, followed shortly by John & Tina. The sun had already set so after unloading and getting camp set up, everyone gathered around the fire to relax and catch up.



Wednesday – Setting off from camp, we explored the southside of Burro creek, visiting two homesteads and several sites along Burro Creek. One of the homestead sites had creek access to an area with ponded water and fish. A previous visitor left behind their spear, fashioned from a large stick.



Thursday – The day started with collecting Brecciated Porcelain Burro Creek Jasper Agate (hereafter referred to as pumpkin). Randy & Madalene worked diligently on two boulders, but eventually opted to let them be and moved on to collect a different piece. They also found a vein of opalized pumpkin. John found a piece of purple agate in one of the nearby washes.



After lunch we all headed across the creek to what my map had labeled “Acres of Agates”. It’s an old map so I hoped that we could locate the spot. However, the spot lived up to the name and boasted several colors of agate. After a short time of collecting, it was time for a break, so we headed back to camp.

Randy & Madilene stayed at camp, while John and I backtracked the previous days adventures to try to find a rock bag that got left behind. Along the way we crossed paths with six javelina, two burros and many bovines, but no rock bag. Oh well, back to camp!

For dinner, Chef Randy prepared a delicious Thanksgiving feast for everyone. We ate until our stomachs hurt and then when we didn’t think we could eat another bite, Randy brought out cheesecake ... with blueberry topping. YUM!!





Friday – Randy & Madiline needed to take care of some trailer business this morning, so John and I went to look for blue agate. Along the way we decided to “see where this road goes” and ended up going on an adventure and finding another homestead along the way. This one was in much better condition than the previous homesteads we’ve come across and even had a write-up about the people who once lived there. The couple had a small mining operation there on site and many small tanks and a large tailings pile. It’s not clear what

they were mining, but according to the documentation in the house they “recovered a considerable fortune”. Leaving this site, we bounced down the wash and continued with our planned search before heading back to camp.



Saturday – Elta and Denise joined the fun today. We started the day by going back to the homestead to walk around and explore the area some more, then got down to rockhounding. Since Elta and Denise hadn’t been to Burro Creek before, our first stop was the lithium mine. After walking along the wash and the surrounding area we ate lunch beside Burro Creek and watched the fish swim around. Once lunch was finished, we got back on the road and visited several of the collecting sites including Richard’s purple agate site. Amazingly, it didn’t look like anyone had been there since last year’s field trip.

After a busy day of collecting, we called it a day and headed back to camp. Elta and Denise returned to their hotel, the rest of us started packing up camp. Once finished, we gathered at the fire ring and enjoyed one last campfire and reflected on the week’s adventures.

