

Vista Gem & Mineral Society, P.O. Box 1641, Vista, CA 92085



To contribute articles and event notices, email to: Rockorder@sbcglobal.net

VGMS "SHOE BOXERS" SHARE THEIR EXPERTISE

Thursday, October 18, will be the club's annual "Shoe Box" meeting ... an event eagerly anticipated by both members and friends.

The "Shoe Box" gives members an

opportunity to give others a peek into their own rock-hounding niche ... to share their lapidary and/or silversmithing creations and their collections.

"Shoe Boxers" will be seated at tables where

they will display their handiwork and the equipment and tools they used to create it, demonstrate their techniques, and answer questions. Beading, cabbing,

Continued on p. 2

Stone of the Month

CAT'S EYE



Cat's-eye quartz is a macrocrystalline variety of the mineral Quartz (SiO₂). Quartz is the most abundant single mineral on earth. It makes up about 12% of the earth's crust, occurring in a wide variety of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. Quartz varieties are commonly separated into two groups based on the size of the individual grains or crystals; *macrocrystalline quartz* in which individual crystals are distinguishable with the naked eye, and *cryptocrystalline quartz* in which the individual crystals are too small to be easily distinguishable under

the light microscope. Some of the macrocrystalline quartz varieties are: [Cat's Eye Quartz](#), [Amethyst](#), [Ametrine](#), [Rock Crystal](#), [Rose Quartz](#), [Rutilated Quartz](#) and [Smoky Quartz](#)

Cat's-eye quartz usually forms in quartz veins, typically with massive milky quartz bordering the vein and quartz crystals of increasing



transparency growing in toward the center, the quartz growing around and enveloping the fibrous minerals already present in the vein.

Cat's-eye quartz is generally recognized by its *chatoyant* luster and hardness. It can be identified as quartz by its crystal habit, transparency, hardness, conchoidal fracture, occurrence and general lack of cleavage.

Not a single mineral species, but rather an optical phenomenon

What's Inside

From the President	3
Coming Events	3
Rockhounding	4
Lapidary School	5



Did you know?

Tiger Eye
is the
anniversary
gemstone
for the 9th
year of
marriage.

Cat's Eye continued

"chatoyancy" is caused by parallel fibres included within another mineral species, most commonly quartz. The *chatoyant* or cat's-eye effect visible in some quartz is usually due to the presence of asbestiform (fibrous) mineral inclusions or tube-like cavities in parallel orientation within the quartz. These parallel oriented features reflect light in the form of a well-defined bright band which moves across the surface of the material as it is turned. When fashioned with a rounded surface or "cabochon" shape, this "cat's-eye" effect is much more pronounced.

This phenomenon is also sometimes seen in tourmaline, apatite, corundum, chrysoberyl, beryl and other minerals. To avoid confusion, the name "cat's eye" should always be used as a modifier with a mineral species or gem name, not by itself.

Quartz chemical composition: SiO₂

Crystal habit: Cat's-eye quartz often occurs in massive form, also as macroscopic quartz crystals with horizontally striated hexagonal prisms terminated by a combination of positive and negative rhombohedrons

forming six sided pyramids.

Hardness: approximately 7

Color: gray to green to yellow, also white, red, blue, brown or black

Luster: chatoyant, vitreous

Transparency: opaque to translucent

Cleavage: none

Fracture: conchoidal

Streak: white

**October Program ...Continued**

chain making, faceting, amateur gemstone identification, inlay, intarsia, opals, pictures on rock, and wire wrapping will be among the "Shoe Boxer" specialties.

If you would like to be a "Shoe Boxer," please call Program Chair Carolyn Jungwirth at 949-492-

4814. She needs to know you will be participating so that she can have a table set up for you. Be sure to tell Carolyn whether or not you will need electricity. And, if you do, be sure to bring a long extension cord.

Participants should arrive between 6:50 and 7:00 p.m. to set up.

As at all VGMS meetings, there will be no selling.

Regardless of whether you opt to share your handiwork or be among those who meander from table to table and learn and admire, we hope to see you October 18!

From the President

If it is October, and my calendar says it is, then it must be time for our club's annual shoe box program. For anyone who doesn't know what a shoebox program is, I'll explain as best as I can.

We have so many talented people in our club and the shoebox is a way for them to share their knowledge and expertise in the lapidary field. We set up several small tables around the room to give each person an individual working space so they can demonstrate their individual skills. I think we have a wire wrapping table, a chain making table, at least one, and possibly two, jewelry making tables, a diachronic glass making table, a sphere making table and an intarsia table.

This is your chance to come out and show the rest of the club what you have been doing -- and we need all the participants we can get to make the night a roaring success. If anyone can add to the program please contact either Ray Pearce or Mary Anne Mital and we will set up an extra space for you.

We had a nice meeting in Sept and as usual, Carolyn Jungwirth did a super job on the program. Cathy Davis had to back out at the last moment because her father ended up in the hospital and Carolyn brought a tape on Tanzanite and Dick Knox filled up the rest of the night with a program on geodes. Thanks go out to Carolyn. Several of our members got out to the San Diego Lapidary Society annual show at the Bernado Winery and everyone who attended seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. I even saw several of our members spending their hard earned money on things they didn't need but just had to have.



Remember that the Fallbrook Club is having their show on the 7th of Oct. This is only a one day show but is always worth attending. I've rambled on long enough for this month so I'll close by asking for a super attendance at the shoe box and please bring extra goodies for the food table. Thanks and enjoy.

Ray Pearce, VGMS President

COMING EVENTS

Oct 13-14 Trona Ca. 84830 12th St. , contact Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356

Oct 20 Field Trip, Needles Club, rock hounding for Chalcedony. Meet at 9 am (Pacific Time) 2 miles South of Havasy Landing Rd, Hwy 95 S from Needles, at the kiosk (west side of Hwy 95). Bring water and lunch. For more info call (928)768-6335.

Oct. 19 - 21 Gem & Jewelry Show, Anaheim Convention Center, 800 Katella Ave, Anaheim, CA, Fri 12- 6 pm, Sat 10 am -6 pm, Sun 11am- 5 pm

Oct 19 - 21 Gem Faire at Del Mar Fairgrounds
Contact Gem Faire (503) 252-8300

Nov. 3 - 4 San Diego, CA - San Diego Mineral & Gem Society. Gem Diego. Al Bahr Shrine, 5440 Kearny Mesa Rd. 3rd, 9:30-5; 4th, 10-4. Wayne Moorhead, 858-586-1637, waynfacet@yahoo.com, www.sdmg.org

Nov 3 - 4 Anaheim Opal Society at the Clarion Hotel Anaheim Resort, 616 Convention Way, off of Harbor Blvd, Sat 10 am- 6 pm and Sun 10 am - 5 pm

Nov 9 - 11 West Coast Gem and Mineral Show, Costa Mesa, CA at the Holiday Inn, 3131 S. Bristol, Costa Mesa, Fri & Sat 10 am -6 pm, Sun 10 am -5 pm



Rockhounding in SoCal

California's geological forces have created one of the widest varieties of rocks and minerals found in any state. This rock and mineral wealth has long been recognized by rockhounds even before the gold rush days.

Early rockhounds were prospectors looking for valuable minerals and gemstones for commercial purposes. Eventually, however, more people were drawn to rockhounding for recreational purposes, mainly for the beauty that rocks and minerals provide. By the 1930s, interest in rockhounding increased significantly and it was during this period that rockhounding groups were formed and collecting areas in the desert were publicized.

With increased popularity of rockhounding, some rockhounds regarded certain areas as their own and feared that other collectors would deplete their rocks and minerals. This led to substantial amounts of material being removed and an increase in mining claims. By the 1960s the government saw a need to

regulate the collection of rocks and minerals on public lands.

Visitors to the Mojave Desert often ask where they can rockhound. Although any hill, mountain, or wash can provide some wonderful rock and mineral discoveries, the following listed areas are some of the well-known sites visited by rockhounds in which good samples can still be found.

Many rockhounding sites require hiking or driving to remote areas on sandy or rocky roads where there is a possibility of getting stuck. It is always a good idea to travel in a group and to bring plenty of drinking water with you when traveling in the desert. If you must travel alone, be sure to let someone know of your plans. Remember to stay on designated open roads. Cross country travel is illegal, as is driving in designated Wilderness Areas.

Rules and Regulations

Part 8365 of Title 43 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) provide for the collecting of "reasonable quantities" of rocks, minerals, semiprecious gemstones,

and invertebrate and plant fossils of non-scientific importance, for personal use. With respect to rockhound material, the Field Office considers a "reasonable quantity" to be not more than can be carried in a daypack.

Regulations do not allow collecting on "developed recreation sites and areas," or where otherwise prohibited or posted. Care should be exercised not to collect minerals on mining claims. Most claimants will allow rockhounding if the individual interested in rock collecting first asks permission. Remember, it is your responsibility to determine if an area is open to collection or if you are on private land.

Petrified Wood

The collection of petrified wood is governed by regulations found in Part 3622 of Title 43 CFR. Persons may collect petrified wood for non-commercial purposes without charge, from public lands. There is a limit of 25 pounds per person per day, plus one piece (to avoid breaking a large piece) to a maximum of 250 pounds per year.

Vertebrate Fossils

Collection of vertebrate fossils is illegal on public lands without a paleontological permit. Violators will be prosecuted under the "theft of government property" provision of 18 USC (United States Code), Section 641, and may face a minimum fine of \$1,000 and a year in jail, and up to \$10,000 and 10 years in jail. Permits to paleontologists are available from BLM State Offices.

Prehistoric Artifacts

Virtually all sources of colored silica (agate, chalcedony, jasper, obsidian, etc.) have been historically used by Native Americans in the building of weapons and other tools. The collection of any artifacts, including projectile points, ovate bifaces, cores, flakes, and all other material worked by prehistoric cultures and now found on public lands, is prohibited by the Antiquities Act of 1906, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, without an

Continued on p.6



Word of the Month – Chatoyancy

When impurity minerals occur in fibers, they give gemstones a silky appearance. When the fibers line up along one of the crystalline axes, a stone can be cut to display a bright reflective line—a special effect called cat's-eye. "Chatoyance" is French for cat's-eye. The most common cat's eye gemstone is quartz, with traces of the fibrous mineral crocidolite. Tiger's-eye is the most obvious of this effect. The version in chrysoberyl is the most precious, and is called simply cat's eye.

Learning Lapidary in Vista

The Vista Gem and Mineral Society started their Lapidary Class back in 1987. The class is now conducted at Brengle Terrace Recreation Center, 1200 Vale Terrace, Vista. The City of Vista Recreation Department, along with our present and former mayors have made it possible to hold our successful class every Tuesday night from 6 to 9 PM. The Vista Gem Society provides the rough rock and the equipment to aid the 18 students to learn the art and science of making a cabochon and then finishing it into a sterling silver mounting. Most students can make a few pieces during the 8-week class. Nine members of the Society volunteer their time all year round, except Christmas and New Years to teach the students

this rewarding art. It is an 8-week course and we allow the students to repeat the class one time before they are placed on the repeat list. This way they can hone in on their skills, some even joining Society. The students are also invited to take a class on Chain Making to further enhance their lapidary projects. This class is offered toward the end of the 8-week course. Many members have helped in keeping the class rolling for so many years and are to be commended. The class costs \$50.00 plus the cost of the sterling silver. There is a waiting list for the class.

Lois Harr is the class administrator and can be reached at (760) 724-0395 for the reservations or questions.



Some examples of students' work

Helpful Tips

To Clean Silver:

Use warm soapy water, add a couple tablespoons of ammonia to a cup of warm water with soap and brush the piece with an old tooth brush until clean. Rinse and wipe dry.

Shop Hint ~ Spic and Span has oxalic acid in it. It is an excellent source for the final polish of tumbled stones. Use one cup of Spic and Span for each six pounds of stones.

Submitted by Lois Harr

Rockhounding *continued*

archaeological permit; such permits may be obtained from BLM State Offices.

Rock for Decorative Purposes

With respect to the collecting of decorative veneer stone, the Barstow Field Office considers a "reasonable quantity" to be not more than can be carried in the trunk of a car.

Mining Claims

The requirements for location of mining claims on public lands for commercial mineral development is contained in various Federal Regulations. The information is also available in an easily readable publication entitled "Discovery, Location, Recordation, and Assessment Work for Mining Claims in California." This publication can be purchased at any BLM office. BLM field offices maintain a record of location for active and abandoned mining claims in the LR-2000 computer system.

Maps

Desert Access Guide Maps showing the distribution of public and private lands are available for sale at BLM offices. These maps can be purchased at any BLM office.

California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553 - Phone: (951) 697-5200
Barstow Field Office, 2601 Barstow Rd., Barstow, CA 92311 - (760) 252-6000
Needles Field Office, 101 W. Spikes Rd., Needles, CA 92363 - (760) 326-7000
Ridgecrest Field Office, 300 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555 - (760) 384-5400
Palm Springs South Coast Field Office, 690 W. Garnet Ave., N. Palm Springs, CA 92258 - (760) 251-4800
El Centro Field Office, 1661 South 4th, El Centro, CA 92243 - (760) 337-4400

Additional Information

If you would like additional reading material on rockhounding, please visit the **California Welcome Center**, Tanger Way, Barstow, CA 92311 - (760) 253-4813.

Rockhounding Locations

- 1. Opal Mountain Black Mountain** - 5 miles north of Fossil Bed Road via dirt road . Jasper . Nodules . Opal
- 2. Mule Canyon** - 3 miles north of Yermo . Agate . Borax . Celestite . Jasper . Olivine . Petrified Wood . Satin Spar . Silver . Travertine . Olivine
- 3. Alvord Mine** - 7 miles north of Manix via dirt road . Agate . Calcite . Chalcedony . Jasper . Pyrite
- 4. Pisgah Crater** - 1 mile south of Interstate-40 off of Historic Route 66 . Lava . Volcanic Bombs
- 5. Cady Mountains** - 6 miles north of Pisgah via dirt road . Agate . Chalcedony . Geodes . Jasper
- 6. Afton Canyon** - 1 mile southeast of Afton off ramp via dirt road . Agate . Calcite . Chalcedony . Jasper . Nodules
- 7. Broadwell Dry Lake** - 6 miles north of Ludlow via Crucero Road; west to hilly area . Banded Agate . Moss Agate . Geodes . Jasper . Onyx
- 8. Halloran Spring** - Turquoise Mountain North of Halloran Springs . Azurite . Turquoise

*Or you could call
Montie Hazen and
ask!*



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Rockorder Newsletter
via e-mail.

rockorder@sbcglobal
.net

On the Lighter Side

If it's a rock larger than ten inches in diameter, it's called a "Boulder".

If it's a rock larger less than 2 inches in diameter, it's called a "Pebble".

If it's a rock between 2 and ten inches in diameter, it's called a "Cobble".

If you stub your toe on it, it's called "something else!"

**The Rockorder
Bulletin of Vista Gem & Mineral Society
P.O. Box 1641
Vista, CA 92085-1641**

Membership in this Society is open to anyone interested in mineralogy, gemology, and related educational subjects. Regular meetings are held

The **3rd Thursday** of each month except July and August at

**Gloria McClellan (Senior) Center
1400 Vale Terrace
Bregle Terrace Park
Vista, CA
7:30 P.M.**

Please send exchange Bulletins to:
Cherie Wilson
4904 Amador Dr.
Oceanside, CA 92056-4969

**Vista Gem & Mineral Society
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Application for Membership Vista Gem & Mineral Society

All information for club use only

Date _____

Last Name First Nickname

Spouse and Children

Street Address City Zip Phone

E-mail address

Are you willing to take part in Committee work? _____

Please list any special talents and abilities _____

Dues (includes bulletin): Family (husband, wife & children under 18)	\$25.00 year
Couple	\$22.00
Single member	\$12.00

Please make checks payable to Vista Gem & Mineral Society
P.O. Box 1641, Vista, CA 92083-4599
For more information phone (760) 724-0395 or (760) 758-4599

VISTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1641
VISTA, CA 92085-1641



Oct 18 – VGMS meeting

Oct 20 – Needles Field trip

Nov. 3 - 4 San Diego
Mineral & Gem Society

Nov 9 - 11 West Coast
Gem and Mineral Show,
Costa Mesa

