



San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.
A Non-Profit Educational and Scientific Organization

THE PEGMATITE

MAY 2018



SDMG General Meeting Monday, May 28, 2018

7pm, SDMG bldg.
hosted by the Junior Division

Public Welcome!

THE JUNIORS traditionally host the May General Meeting, and this year not only are the Juniors hosting the meeting, but also one of the Juniors will be the speaker. All the Juniors and their parents are encouraged to attend the May meeting and listen to **Aaron Liu's** presentation. You may remember that this accomplished member was featured in the April bulletin. Here's a brief recap: **Aaron** attends **Bishop's School**, where he is a junior. In March he was the First Place winner at the **Science**

Olympiad Regional Finals for Rocks and Minerals. He won the **Invitational Competition** after defeating five teams from five high schools in January, then he went on to compete against 77 teams from 28 high schools in the **Regionals**, where he took top the award.

There will be great door prizes, and after our great speaker, we'll have some great snacks. Please bring a treat to share. The Club will provide punch, coffee, and tea.

Official bulletin of the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society, Inc.

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American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
American Lands Access Association

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The mission of the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society, Inc., is to disseminate knowledge of mineralogy and earth sciences; to encourage the study of these subjects; to conduct classes in mineralogy and lapidary arts; to conduct field trips for the collection and study of specimens; to encourage interest in mineralogy and lapidary arts among young people; and to procure and maintain a collection related to the earth sciences and lapidary arts.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May 2018

by Jim Parrish

sdmgpresident@sdmg.org

OUR GENERAL MEETING falls on Memorial Day, Monday, May 28th. In the past, the May meeting has been turned over to the **Juniors** and their Coordinator. For the last decade or two, **Lois Lukasky** orchestrated this event, and it attracted a huge crowd. **Dave Smith**, our new **Junior Division Coordinator**, has promised to continue this annual event. So, it's **Dave's** turn, and we need all of you to show up and support his efforts to continue this legacy. He promised a very special speaker and lots of door prizes. Read about the meeting agenda on page 1.

I saw quite a few of you at the **Fifteenth Annual Sinkankas Symposium**. Our sister society, the **Gemological Society of San Diego**, along with the **Gemological Institute of America** organized a wonderful and fun day. Thanks to all parties involved, especially **GSSD's Jim Porter** and **Gary Thrapp**, and **GIA's Caroline Nelms** and **Kate Donovan**. **Dona Dirlam** retired from **GIA** recently, but she lent a guiding hand this year as in years past to ensure everything went smoothly. **Mr. Robert Weldon** did a great job as master of ceremonies, and we all became knowledgeable about **Tanzanite** and **Tsavorite** from the Mozambique mineral belt of East Africa.

The **Sinkankas Symposium** has become world renowned. Co-sponsorship with the **GIA** has added to its fame, and the program of expert speakers has only burnished its luster – this year was no exception. Every year I always think of **Roger Merk**, whose work and determination made it all happen. **Bill Larson**, president of **Pala International**, has been a supporter from the very beginning, lining up speakers and underwriting a lot of the costs. There would be no symposium without **Bill**. Look for a review of the event and with pictures in the June bulletin.

By the time you read this, our



Bruce and Judith Bridges were honored speakers at the Fifteenth Annual Sinkankas Symposium. The 2018 event commemorated the 50th anniversary of the discovery of Tanzanite and Tsavorite, which are synonymous with the name Bridges. Campbell Bridges, father to Bruce and husband of Judith, discovered the green grossular garnet near Tsavo, Kenya, in 1967. That same year he brought the first tanzanite crystals to Tiffany's in the United States for identification. Photo: Jim Parrish.

57th Annual Barbeque in Balboa Park will have already taken place. So, thanks to all of you hard-working volunteers who made it happen. Our **BBQ** is famous for its giant **Silent Auction**. People show up from all over Southern California. I'm sure you will see a report on it in next month's *Pegmatite*.





JUNIOR DIVISION

Coordinated by

Dave Smith

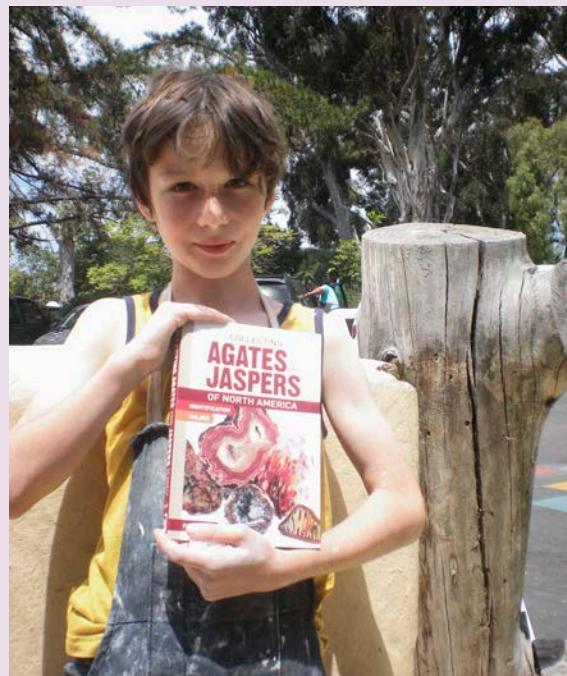
THE JUNIOR CLASS MEMBERSHIP has reached 71 members as of April 16th. Membership is a requirement to attend class on Saturdays 10:00AM – 1:00PM; however, the age range to participate has been set from 12 to 18 years. Exceptions have been allowed in the past and are based on a variety of criteria such as interest, maturity, and the student's wherewithal to use the machinery in our workshop. We want all **Juniors** to have a safe and enjoyable experience while under our care.

Last month, **Rowen, Donovan Maes, Alexander Blaz, and Braydon Pape** each received a copy of Patti Polk's *Agates and Jasper* book and more copies are coming.

All **Juniors** are encouraged to provide their cabochons to be included in the San Diego Fair case for display. The May 19th class is the deadline.

We'll also be participating as Sand Pit volunteers at the **San Diego County Fair** during the last week of June and maybe again in July. Youngsters who visit the **Gems, Mineral & Jewelry Department** always delight in sifting the sandbox for a buried gem or mineral treasure that they get to keep. Volunteers receive free entry to the Fair.

The **General Meeting** in May will be sponsored by



Donovan Maes was one of four Juniors to receive a copy of Patti Polk's book, *Agates and Jaspers of North America*.

the **Junior Division**. Its our annual fundraiser, and our own **Junior** member **Aaron Liu** will be the speaker. See page 1 for details.

School News

Bob Hancock

Attention Prospective Faceting Students. The Tuesday afternoon Faceting Class is now able to take a few beginning students at this time. The instructor will be **Mr. McCune**, our most senior instructor.

If you would like to start a class in faceting, Please contact **Bob Hancock** at 619-889-6886 for details. Thank You.

Parking Lot closures May & June

Spanish Village

Attention Students and Instructors. Spanish Village will be closing the parking lot in back for special events on the dates listed below. The lot will be closed at 6:00AM Saturday morning and reopened at 6:00PM on Sunday evening.

May 12 and 13, 2018

June 9 and 10, 2018

MINI MINERS MONTHLY
A MONTHLY PUBLICATION
FOR YOUNG MINERAL COLLECTORS

APRIL 2018 (vol 10 no 4)

- Focus of the March issue: Color in Minerals
- **Mineral of the Month: Pyrite ***
- Four mineral drawings to color from *Rocks, Minerals and Crystals: A Coloring & Collecting Book*, by Darryl Powell
- **Crystal Faces: James Smithson ***
 (people important to mineralogy & mineral collecting)
- Mineral Colors – idiochromatic, allochromatic, the colors of quartz, colors of other selected minerals, the most common chromophores (color-causing components) in minerals, colorful mineral names
- Mineral Colors Quiz
- Important Mineral Discovery Announced

* Available for download from the SDMG website courtesy of Diamond Dan Publications:

www.sdmg.org/mmm/Mini_Miners_Monthly_2018_v10n4_pp2and7.pdf

or <https://goo.gl/PVwxD1> (short URL)

Visit the publisher's website at:
www.diamonddanpublications.net

MINI MINERS MONTHLY
 A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR YOUNG MINERAL COLLECTORS
 VOL 10 NO 4
 APRIL 2018

HOWDY, HOWDY, MINI MINERS!

Color, color, color. One of the properties of minerals that makes them so beautiful and interesting. Why is one mineral more colorful than another? Mineral have a bit longer than most plants to grow. There is a very close relationship between mineral discovery and mineral discovery. This is one of the properties of minerals that makes them so beautiful and interesting. Mini Miners Monthly is a monthly coloring book for young mineral collectors. Many of the coloring pages are from the monthly "Crystal Face" coloring book. The mineral coloring book is a great way to learn about minerals. So grab your crayons and coloring fun.

James Smithson was a scientist with the same name. Can't find him in the monthly "Crystal Face" coloring book. Welcome to another month of "Crystal Face". Enjoy the fun!

Mineral of the Month
Pyrite

Pyrite is one of the most common minerals in the earth's crust. It can be found in all three types of rock, sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic. It is named after the Greek word for fire (pyr) because when a piece of pyrite is struck with steel, a spark is created that is hot enough to start a fire.

In Ross County, Ohio, long worm-like specimens of pyrite were collected from the Ohio Shale, an Upper Devonian sedimentary rock. One of these pyrite growths is pictured here. They look a lot like they may be the fossilized remains of some worm-like creature, but they are not. Geologists believe that the pyrite formed in burrows that were created by worms in the ancient sediments. Therefore, they could be called trace fossils because they preserve the trace of the motion of an ancient organism.

Physical Properties
 Chemical Formula: FeS₂
 Crystal System: Isometric (Cubic)
 Color: Brass-yellow; green to black when tarnished
 Mohs scale of Hardness: 6 to 6.5
 Luster: Metallic on a fresh surface
 Streak: Dark green
 Specific gravity: 5

Above: A pyrite growth from Ross County, Ohio

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What mineral is it? Answer: Crystalline

SDMG Master Calendar
 for 2017-18 available online at:
www.sdmg.org/pdf/sdmg_master_cal_2017-18.pdf
 deadlines for bulletin submissions listed for every month

GEMOLOGICAL SOCIETY of SAN DIEGO



GSSD General Meeting
Monday, May 7, 2018
7:00pm SDMG Building

NANCY ARTHUR-MCGEHEE will be the speaker for the May meeting. Her topic will be “Catching Light on the Edge, A Look at Historical and Contemporary Intaglios.” Intaglios are related to cameos – both are carved, but intaglios are engraved into the gem, whereas cameos are carved in relief. Both have been prized from early antiquity to the present day. Artist **Nancy Arthur-McGehee** is fascinated with gems and in particular with intaglio carvings. In her talk, she will show images of the early gem intaglios that inspired her to take up the medium, as well as images of her own work and that of other contemporary artists. She will also discuss tools and materials, and if there is time we will try our hand with a simple yet essential engraving technique using diamond drills and rotary tools.

Ms. Arthur-McGehee is a classically trained artist for whom both drawing and natural history are passions. She enjoys combining the pleasure of drawing with the joy of working a medium that captures, transmits, and reflects light. She creates intricately carved glass vessels, intaglio gems, and scientific illustrations.

Nancy has been given the peer-reviewed title of Craft Member by the London-based **Guild of Glass Engravers**, and she is a member of Gem Artists of North America. Her engraved glass is known and exhibited internationally, has won many awards, and is found in public and private collections. Her gem intaglios have been featured in **Rene Newman's** books, *Exotic Gems, Volume 3*, and *Gemstone Buying Guide*. Her intaglios have also been on display in the **Wertz Gallery** in the Gem Hall of the **Carnegie Natural History Museum**, and in several exhibits at the **Headley-Whitney Museum**. In 2015, she received a Gemmy Award from the **Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist's Design Competition**. In 2017, she became a graduate of the Gemology course at the **Gemological Society of San Diego**.

The society will have tea and coffee, please bring treats to share.



Nancy Arthur-McGehee at work in her San Diego studio.



“In the California Current,”
17.78 x 38.1 cm, Bohemian
glass, diamond drill engraved
and abrasive blast.



Star pink quartz cabochon,
103 ct, 63.5 mm, diamond drill
engraved.



Blue topaz, 149 ct, 46.7 x 42.3mm,
diamond drill and abrasive blast
engraved.

**NEWS FROM THE ONE & ONLY
GEMS, MINERALS & JEWELRY DEPT.**

by Anne Schafer, Coordinator

BY MIDNIGHT on the entry deadline of April 27, well over 120 gems, minerals, fossils, faceting, jewelry, and lapidary enthusiasts had entered a total of 365 entries. That's the third largest number of entries, all-time, beating out last year's number of 352. Right around 40 of the exhibitors are members of **San Diego Mineral and Gem**. Thank you for supporting the **Gems & Minerals Dept.** again this year!

There will be lots of cases filled with spheres (some of which will fluoresce), "how to" educational exhibits, the sweet desserts from the Rock Feast, plenty of faceted gemstones, petrified wood and geodes, the **Mineral of the Year Fluorite** entries, the **Fossil of the Year "Leaves, Cones and Fruits,"** 20 cabochons and a dozen carvings. Did I fail to mention jewelry? **"How Sweet It Is,"** the Fair theme category, has 13 entries; there are 11 pieces in Southwest Jewelry; and amongst the five handmade bola ties entered will be 100-year old Elbert "Mac" McCune's favorite bola. Way to go, Mac!

Schedule 2018

Online entry: sdiego.fairmanager.com

Entry deadline: Fri, April 27, at 11:59 pm

Entry delivery: Sat and Sun, May 26 and 27, 9am to 6pm

First day of Fair: Fri, June 1, 4pm to 11pm

Exhibitor

Appreciation: Wed, June 6, 6pm to 9pm

Last day of Fair: Wed, July 4, 10am to 11pm

Exhibit pickup: Fri, July 6, 9am to 8pm



Volunteer! Get a free ticket to the Fair!

Faceting Demos ~ If you would like to show off your faceting skills to the public (and you know how to run an Ultra Tec...), please contact **Bob Hancock** to sign up:

rtourmaline2@aol.com

Other Demos ~ Chain making, Fossil prep, Wax carving, Wire wrap, Bead stringing, and the list goes on. If you have a rock or gem related activity that does not involve an open flame, please contact Asst. Coordinator **Jennifer Stapp** to schedule your time slot:

Cat333@san.rr.com

Info Booth ~ If you like interacting with kids of all ages, and would like to help them screen for a free rock in the sand pile, please sign up for a two-hour slot in the Info Booth. (You can bring a couple show'n'tell items, too, for fun.) Look for the signup sheets in the Casting Room, in the near future or contact Asst. Coordinator **Jennifer Stapp** to schedule your time slot:

Cat333@san.rr.com

Remember: All volunteers will receive a free ticket to the Fair. Just pick it up at Will Call on the day you have signed up for.

Got questions? We have answers!

~ Contact Us ~

Coordinator Anne Schafer at:

858-586-1637 or Agate.Annie2@gmail.com
or sdfair@sdmg.org

Rock Tumbling Revisited

May 1, 2018

by Wayne Leibitzke

wleibitzke@shofu.com

IT HAS BEEN ABOUT THREE YEARS since I gave a presentation on rock tumbling at one of the club meetings. I have learned much since that time and thought it would be beneficial to share some of what I have learned since then. I have been tumbling stones now for about seven years and like to think I have learned everything there is to know about the subject. However, nothing could be further from the truth, as I am still refining my techniques and discovering new tricks of the trade, so to speak.

When I started tumbling I read every book and article on stone tumbling I could get my hands on. I soon discovered that beyond the four basic steps (shaping, conditioning, pre-polish, and polishing) of stone tumbling, there are many variations which can be adopted to achieve a better result at the end. You will need to experiment, as I have, to determine what method or methods work best for you. This can be a long process of trial and error over many tumbling runs as you look to refine your technique, but you will find it is well worth the time and effort, as the end result will testify.

Before we get into the actual steps and some tips, which I believe will greatly improve your tumbling results, let me dispel some misconceptions about tumbling. First, it is not necessarily an inexpensive hobby. Between the costs of the tumbler, tumbling grit, polishing compound, tumbling beads and other items like sieves, et cetera, the costs can add up quickly. Oh, did I mention the cost of electricity! So, why tumble at all? Well, the short answer is: you're in control of what you want to tumble and the result you are looking for. Had cost been a determining factor for me, I would have abandoned the hobby long ago. Second, not every stone you put in the tumbler will produce the result you are looking for.

Not all stones are created equal. I have found that only about 10% to 20% of the stones I start with end up as what I call "gem grade" – that is, those with no blemishes, cracks, or pits and can be used in making

baroque jewelry or displayed in your collection. About 50% of the stones are what I call "general grade" and display some minor imperfections. These are great for giving out as gifts to young stone enthusiasts or placing in glass containers for gift giving. The remainder of the stones are "low grade" and can be used as filler for future tumbling runs.

At this point, let me state that the old adage "Garbage In – Garbage Out" applies to stone tumbling. You will never achieve the results you are looking for, if you don't carefully select and prepare your rough stones (more on this later). Finally, tumbling just takes too long! Well, the answer to that is yes and no. If too long to you means you can't wait six to eight weeks to get finished stones, then the answer is yes, tumbling takes too long. However, you will miss out on the excitement of opening the barrel after each run and seeing the stones as they progress through the stages and finally come out of the polish stage with a beautiful shine. For me it is worth the wait to see the end result when I finally get to open the barrel after the final polishing. There is nothing like that feeling of satisfaction from a job well done!

Before we delve into the tips I have to offer, let's revisit the basic steps in tumbling. It should be noted that the basic steps involved are the same for rotary and vibratory tumblers with a few exceptions. I will point them out as we go through the steps.

Step 1 – Rough or Shaping Grind

This step is designed to remove all the unwanted material from your stones, along with any pits and inclusions using 60/90 grit. This step takes the longest and should not be rushed. Typical tumbling time is 7 to 10 days. I often leave the stones in for 14 to 20 days. You may need to repeat this step a number of times to get the stones ready for Step 2. This Step should not be performed in a vibratory tumbler. It will ruin the barrel.

Step 2 – Conditioning Grind

This step removes any small blemishes and pits left over from Step 1 and conditions the stones using 220 grit. This step usually takes 7 to 10 days in a rotary tumbler. A vibratory tumbler can be used for this step, as well as all of the remaining steps, which will reduce the tumbling time required.

Step 3 – Pre-Polish

This step prepares the stones for the polishing step and typically uses 500 or 600 grit. There are also a number pre-polish media on the market that can be used, as well. I use 600 grit for this step and find it works very well. As with Step 2, run the tumbler for 7 to 10 days.

Step 4 – Tumble Cleaning

I consider this step a must before going to the polishing step. While your stones may look clean after washing them, trust me when I say they are not. I like to use Dreft detergent for this step, however any non-phosphate detergent can be used. Ivory bar soap shavings is another good option.

You only need to the run the tumbler for about 24 hours. Since you are using a soap it may cause a gas build up in the barrel, so it is important to release any

pressure build-up, usually within 30 minutes of starting the tumbler. If you are using a vibratory tumbler for this step you can use a few squirts of liquid detergent along with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water (assuming you're using a 4-lb. barrel) and run it for 10 minutes. Then add water to cover the stones and run another 10 minutes. You don't have to worry about gas build-up, since the barrel in a vibratory tumbler is not sealed.

Step 5 – Polish

There are any number of polishes on the market today that can be used. The two polishes that have produced the best results for me are Tin Oxide and Aluminum Oxide. That's not to say that other polishes won't give you the result you are looking for. Polishing times may vary but 4 to 7 days in a rotary tumbler is recommended and 1 to 2 days in a vibratory tumbler.

WITH THE BASIC STEPS OUTLINED we now talk about the some of the important dos and don'ts of tumbling that are associated with the steps outlined above.

1. Preparing Your Stones – I mentioned the old adage earlier “Garbage In – Garbage Out.” By spending a little time preparing your rough stones before beginning the initial step you will greatly improve the quality of the finished stones. Shaping your stones by removing high or low spots, pitted areas, and sharp edges. This also reduces the grinding time in the tumbler to shape the stone before moving onto the next step. I like to tumble banded agates, like Botswana or Queensland agates from Australia. I cut the agate, if not already cut, and smooth the face using a 90 diamond wheel followed by a 220 diamond wheel. I leave the outside or exterior of the agate “as is” and then tumble it. If all goes as planned, you wind up with a beautiful polished face and a semi-rough polished exterior. A little bit of prep work goes a long way to getting a better end result and reducing the amount of time your stones spend in the shaping grind.

2. Barrel Cleaning – I can't emphasize the importance of this procedure enough. Thoroughly cleaning your barrel, whether a rotary or vibratory barrel, should not be overlooked. Left over grit and stone particles from the previous step can ruin the nest load you are



Figure 1. Rough stones.



Figure 2. Agates ready to tumble.

tumbling. I recommend, along with many others, that you have at least two barrels. One for Steps 1 and 2 and one for steps 3 through 5. This will greatly reduce your chances of contaminating any one the tumbler runs. I mentioned in Step 1 that I often leave the stones in for up to 20 days. I do this for two reasons: first, to ensure that I have broken down all the grit in the barrel, and second, to make the barrel clean out more easily, because the grit will be broken down more. This reduces the chance of contaminating the next tumbling run. Thoroughly rinsing and scrubbing the barrel usually does the trick, but if you want to really clean the barrel between steps, load the barrel three-quarters full with tumbling beads and add a small amount of detergent and run for 1 to 2 hours. Make sure the beads you use are ones you used for this process before. The beads will pick up and retain any particulate during the cleaning process.

3. Discarding the Slurry – The golden rule here is: “DO NOT DISPOSE OF THE SLURRY DOWN YOUR SINK OR TOILET.” Doing so will eventually result in a clogged drain and major plumbing issues. While there are a number of methods detailed in the various books and literature, the method that I found works the best is to dispose of the slurry using 1-gallon milk or water jugs and then placing them in the trash. The bottom line is: find a method that works best for you, and remember to follow the golden rule of slurry disposal.

4. Use of Cushioning Media – Almost all tumbling books and articles address the use of a cushioning agent or media. Everything from sawdust to walnut shells to sugar have been suggested and used. The standard cushioning media used today are plastic tumbling beads. These serve two purposes: first, to help cushion the load and second, to help carry the grit to the stones. The use of plastic tumbling beads in a rotary tumbler is a must during all steps, in my opinion.

The action of the rotary tumbler is much different from a vibratory tumbler, and the stones are more easily damaged. That is not to say that you should not use them in a vibratory tumbler. Remember that plastic beads will retain grit, so they should always be used in same step you perform each time.

I highly recommend that you store the beads in plastic containers clearly marked with the step number

they are used for. Also, dry your beads before storing them. Wet beads are difficult to work with.

5. Cleaning Your Stones – Your stones should be thoroughly cleaned before each step, which includes cleaning them before starting Step 1. Make sure any and all dirt or grit is removed from any pits or cracks in the stones, as well as removing any tumbling beads that may have gotten lodged in the stone during the tumbling process. I will emphasize again the importance of not skipping Step 4 before going to the Polishing step. While not all tumbling instructions include this step, I believe it should be. You will be surprised how dirty the slurry is when you empty the barrel. Having clean stones for the polishing step will greatly improve the end result.

6. Loading the Tumbler – Proper loading of the barrel is crucial to producing a good result. There are a few basic rules – if followed – will ensure proper tumbling action and optimize the results for each step. The barrel, whether for a rotary or vibratory tumbler, should be three-quarters full. This includes your stones, grit, and any tumbling media. If you are using tumbling media, which I highly recommend, it should comprise no more than one-quarter of the load. The stones should be of the same relative hardness, and mixed sizes is recommended, because it helps in the tumbling action.

You can tumble slabs; however, I recommend that the slabs comprise no more than one-third of the load in a rotary tumbler to ensure proper tumbling action.



Figure 3. Clear plastic pellets.

Tumbling slabs in a vibratory tumbler, while possible, is a little trickier. My experience is that they can tend to stick together, especially in the polishing phase. This in part may be caused by the slurry being too dry. Adjust the slurry by adding water but being careful not to make it too wet. I tend not to polish slabs in my vibratory tumbler.

7. Polishing Tricks – This is the step you worked so hard and waited so long to achieve. When polishing agates and jasper, I recommend either Aluminum Oxide or Tin Oxide. I have achieved the best results with these two polishes. That's not to say that other polishes will not work. I tend to stick with what works best once I have achieved the result I am looking for.

As with the other steps when using a rotary tumbler, I use tumbling beads to help cushion the stones and carry the polish to the stones. In addition to the beads, I also use round wood balls of varying sizes. They help carry polish to the stones and cushion the load. I have spoken with some folks who use strips of leather to help in the polishing step. I have not personally attempted this myself, so I can't give you any advice about its effectiveness.

If I polish my stones using a vibratory tumbler, I do not use plastic beads or wood balls. I use ceramic media only. The ceramic media helps in the actual polishing process, and cushioning of the stones is not as critical in a vibratory tumbler. What is important is to make sure you keep a proper slurry in the bowl to maximize the polishing effect.

8. Burnishing – Burnishing is an optional step after polishing, but instead of using grit, you're using some form of soap or powdered laundry detergent. This will put even more shine on your rocks, brighten them up, and remove any haze and residue from the slurry.

If you're not sure whether the burnish stage will add more brightness to your rocks, a simple test can be done. Take one of your rocks and buff one side with a very soft cloth for 10–20 seconds. If the side you buffed is shinier than the other sides, it will benefit from a burnish stage. I like to use Dreft, but borax or shaved layers of ivory bar soap will work, as well. Whatever you use, make sure there are no additives in the soap that will harm your rocks. Also, be sure to add your plastic pellets for protection. The ratios here are the same as in the grit stages. About 2 tablespoons per

pound of rock is recommended.

Remember, since you are using a soap, it may cause a gas build-up in the barrel. Therefore, it is important to release any pressure build-up, usually within 30 minutes of starting the tumbler. All you need is 24 hours in a rotary tumbler for this step. But the longer, the better!

9. Read and Follow the Manufacturer's Operating Instructions – This may sound condescending, but you would be surprised by the number of people who don't read the manufacturer's instructions on how to use their tumbler properly. The proper operation and maintenance of your tumbler will save you a lot of frustration and headaches. Tumblers, in general, are not complicated devices. However, improper operation and lack of proper maintenance can cause major problems. You invested a lot of money in a good tumbler, proper maintenance will not only extend the life of your tumbler but help avoid costly repairs.

10. Don't buy a Cheap Tumbler – When it comes to tumblers you get what you pay for. Bottom line – cheap tumblers do not get the job done. Lortone and Thumler are probably two of the most recognized tumbler brands out there and for good reason. They provide high quality tumblers that last and get the job done. This also means you can get spare parts for your tumbler when you need them. Lortone offers rotary tumblers in a number of barrel sizes ranging from 1.5 lbs. up to 40 lbs.

Thumler offers barrel sizes from 3 lbs. to 15 lbs. and also offers three vibratory tumblers, as well. Tumble-Bee® is another brand but only offers barrel sizes of 2 and 4 lbs. While I have no personal experience



Figure 4. Lortone QT 12 Tumbler.

using one of these tumblers, they appear to be well-made and are typically priced a little lower than the other two brands at comparable sizes. This would be a good choice for someone who wants to try tumbling without making a huge investment.

National Geographic now offers a hobby rock tumbler at a reasonable price. Again, I have no experience with this tumbler, but the reviews on Amazon were almost all positive. This may be another good choice for the first-time tumbler, especially a younger child. As with anything, do your research before purchasing your tumbler. Make sure you purchase a tumbler that suits your needs. If you are tumbling smaller stones in small quantities, buy one with a barrel size of 1.5-lb. or 3-lb. capacity. For larger stones and large quantities purchase a tumbler with a 6-lb. or 12-lb. capacity.



Figure 5. National Geographic Hobby.

Tumblers can be purchased directly from the manufacturer or through authorized dealers. Check around as prices can vary. Also, I do not recommend purchasing a used tumbler, if you are just getting started. That's not to say that a used tumbler is necessarily bad, but if you don't know what to look for, you could end up having problems due to excessive wear and tear of the tumbler and/or barrel.

11. Buying a Used Rotary Tumbler – I mentioned earlier that the cost of equipment and supplies can add up quickly. However, there are ways you can save money. Buying a used tumbler is one way to save money, but caution should be exercised when doing

so, especially if you are buying one on-line and you can't actually inspect it. When buying a used tumbler, thoroughly inspect the unit and barrel. Look at the overall condition of the unit to see if looks like it has been maintained. Plug the unit in to make sure it runs. Check the drive belt for any cracks and the idler and drive shafts for excessive wear. Make sure they spin freely in the bearings. Inspect the barrel for wear and any cracks, especially around the lip where the inner lid seats in. The barrel should flex a little and not be hard. The outer lid should fit snuggly over the barrel lip and not be out of round. Remember – *caveat emptor* (“buyer beware”).

12. Saving Money on Supplies – The cost of grit, polish, and tumbling media can add up, especially the polishes. You can save a substantial amount of money by shopping around and buying in quantity. Of course, if you buy grit in large quantities, the shipping cost can be quite expensive, so find a local source, and pick it up yourself. Club rock shows can also be a good place to find grit at cheaper prices, as well as polishes and tumbling media. Often you will find sellers who just want to get rid of what they have, and they are willing to deal. Swap meets are another choice, but they can be hit-and-miss for what you find. Check the local estate and/or garage sale listings for these supplies. I have gotten some great deals on grit and polishes in the past.

In addition, you will need other supplies that are used in the clean-out between steps. Items like strainers, sieves, measuring cups, funnels, buckets, et cetera, can be purchased at thrift stores or dollar stores. You don't need any fancy items here. Just make sure any used items you purchase are in good shape and not ready to fall apart. A little common sense and a good visual inspection should do the trick.

13. Proper Storage of Tumbling Supplies – This may seem trivial but it is actually rather important. Mark all your containers, I like to use clear plastic containers, with the content and or step it is used in affixed to the container. This is particularly important for plastic tumbling beads, which once used, must be reused in the same step.

Some polishes look alike such as Tin Oxide and Aluminum Oxide. Failure to properly label the containers can mean you won't be able to tell them apart in the future. I also recommend you store you



Figure 6. Polishing compounds.

plastic tumbling beads dry. Working with wet beads is difficult as they tend to cling to everything, including your hands. Spread them out on paper towels to dry before storing them.

14. Tumbling Log – When just starting out in the hobby, it is good idea to keep a log of your tumbling runs. You can make up your own or use one that is available from a book or website. RockTumbler.com has a form that can be printed free-of-charge. I used this form when I first got started and found it very helpful. If you are running more than one tumbler at a time, I highly recommend using a tumbling log to keep track of the start times, step number, and type of material.

15. Website Resources – The Rock Tumbling Hobby Forum (forum.rocktumblinghobby.com) is a message board site where you can post questions and articles. Whether you are just starting out or you're an experienced tumbler, this is a great site to get your questions answered and share information. Another good web resource is RockTumbler.com. On the home page, there's a section called "Tumbling Articles and Resources" – it has a wealth of useful information. Also, YouTube has literally hundreds of videos available to watch. Of course, not all of them are necessarily useful, but there are some good ones out there.

16. Rock Tumbling Books – There are any number of books that have been written on rock tumbling over the years, in addition to the ones you receive when you purchase your unit. While the instruction booklet you receive with your tumbler is important and should not be discarded, I have found them to be lacking, for want of a better term, when it comes to detailed tumbling instructions. The most important information in these booklets is how to operate and maintain your tumbler properly.

There are several books I highly recommend you have in your collection. They can be purchased from Amazon. The first one listed below is out-of-print; however, good-quality used copies are still available.

- The Complete Book of Rock Tumbling (Chilton's creative crafts series)
- How to Tumble Polish Gem Stones (Wexler)
- Modern Rock Tumbling (Hart)
- Gemstone Tumbling, Cutting, Drilling & Cabochon Making: A Simple Guide to Finishing Rough Stones (Magnuson)

Of course, there are other books and articles available to the tumbling enthusiast, but these are ones I have found to be the most helpful and informative. Remember, no single book has all the answers or techniques.

While I have only scratched the surface, I hope that the information I have provided will help you improve your end result and encourage you not to give up. Also, feel free to contact me if you have any specific questions. I am always willing to share my knowledge with other rock tumblers.



Figure 7a, b. The finished product.

WEMO Route Network Travel Project – In the home stretch?

May 1, 2018

by Kim Campbell Erb and Lisbet Thoresen

WE'RE STANDING at another mile marker in the long saga of the **West Mojave (WEMO) Route Network Travel Project (WMRNP)**. It's shaping up to become a summer blockbuster in a public lands version of the Clash of the Titans franchise, with OHVers and conservationists driving the plot and its likely possible outcomes. As these behemoths gird themselves to square off in another round, the collateral interests of other stakeholders can seem like a side-plot involving bit players.

If the **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** can clear the current comment period hurdle and another one after that (protest period: eta April 2019), then October 2019 is the target date for deploying a final working plan of the **WMRNP**. Now that stakeholders have had some time to review the four alternative route maps, it appears highly possible that the agency's timetable may slide.

Critics of the current iteration of the Draft plan say it's not much different from the version that landed it in the courts in 2006. A 2009 ruling produced a stern admonition to **BLM** saying that the plan inadequately protected areas with high conservation and cultural values, while giving higher priority to off-road vehicles over other uses (including other recreational uses). The new draft plan would designate 6,300 miles of OHV routes traversing the **West Mojave (WEMO)** portion of the **BLM's California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA)**. Conservationists want a scaling back and removal of lots of redundant (duplicative) routes that were carried over from the plan that was challenged in the courts over a decade ago. Ideally, OHVers would be happier to have closer to 10,000 to 11,000 miles. (If **BLM** opens the **Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP)** to plan-level amending, changes to land use designations may result in corresponding changes to motorized routes, but it's anyone's guess precisely how it will all shake out. But, that's another story.)

Regardless of what stakeholder titan you sympathize with, it's pretty clear that the average (non-GIS literate) person will find it difficult to use and comment on the maps **BLM** has produced – there are two versions: PDFs and an online interactive map. In addition to problems

What is the West Mojave (WEMO) Route Network Project and Plan Amendment (WMRNP)?

The West Mojave Route Network Project (WMRNP) is a travel management planning effort covering 9.24 million acres in the West Mojave area of the California desert. Approximately 3.1 million acres in the planning area are public lands managed by the BLM. The planning area covers the western portion of the Mojave Desert in southern California including parts of San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Kern, Inyo, and a small portion of Riverside Counties.

The WMRNP supplements the 2006 West Mojave Plan. The supplemental plan has two broad sets of goals to develop and deploy management strategies for Access Management and Livestock Grazing.

The WMRNP supplemental EIS provides the framework for route designation in the West Mojave area, consistent with the rest of the West Mojave Plan. The plan amendment will also address inconsistencies in the language between the CDCA and the West Mojave Plan. In addition, travel management plans are being prepared to designate specific routes in various parts of the West Mojave and implement the route network.

The plan applies to public lands in the planning area, and the travel management strategies apply on lands that are available for motorized and mechanized travel on designated routes only, totaling approximately 2.35 million acres.

Other public lands in the planning area may be in closed areas, such as wilderness, or in open areas, such as OHV Open Areas. Closed and open areas have existing area-specific travel management guidance, policies, or plans. (Source: BLM.)

West Mojave Route Network Project DSEIS/LUPA

Comment period now open Deadline: June 14, 2018

The BLM has prepared a Draft Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) and Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the West Mojave Route Network Project (WMRNP) within the West Mojave (WEMO) Planning Area of the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA). A 90-day comment period was opened on March 16th.

*Federal Register doc 2018-05272
<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2018-05272>*

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<http://tinyurl.com/qy85geq>

select the "public lands" lists

related to map usability, some users have identified serious flaws in the mapping of the routes and mileage calculations, which raises questions about the accuracy of the underlying data. And the online maps don't match the geo-referenced PDF versions. So, which ones are right?

The answer is no one knows. The court did not require **BLM** to provide an interactive online map tool, so where there are discrepancies, one might reasonably wonder if the PDF maps will be treated as the authority version. In which case, is it a waste of time even using the online interactive map interface? This issue could be legal fodder all on its own.

We've tried out the mapping tools and reviewed some selected areas in **BLM's** maps, which include more than 15,000 miles of routes. In the interactive version of the four alternative maps, the routes have been broken into 250,000 smaller route segments. There are few labels to help orient the user in the detailed views of the map grid, and commenting on tiny route segments is pretty unwieldy. In fact, there are a myriad of usability issues. For example, some routes have four different WEMO_IDs for the exact same sections. Due to GIS data conversion errors, some routes have gaps – "stop-starts" – that create roads from nowhere, roads to nowhere. These gaps do not reflect actual on-the-ground conditions that have been verified as continuous routes.

After communicating via email and direct dialogue with **BLM** staff at the **BLM**-hosted Open House meetings in April, we began drafting a comment letter memorializing our dialogue about Rockhound-specific concerns. We expect to add more examples of problems identified in the maps and have a final letter prepared by May 20th. There are more than a few issues, but the main ones are enumerated below.

.....

No way to know how much Rockhound data made it into the WMRNP maps.

1. Make-work exercise for Rockhounds. One would reasonably expect that all comments from any projects that have subject relevance or geographic relevance to **WMRNP** would have been incorporated into the maps for this comment period. Apparently, that's not the way it works. According to **WMRNP** project leader **Katrina Symons**, comments submitted on other non-**WEMO** projects previously were not incorporated

Why is the West Mojave Route Network Project (WMRNP) important to Rockhounds?

The WMNRNP is a component of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), which is the largest land use plan amendment in California state history. It is critically important to Rockhounds, because its maps are supposed to incorporate routes to collecting areas. Destinations without vehicular access will make it impossible for many rockhounds to visit them. Likewise having areas to park near collecting areas.

Rockhounds should review BLM's map data and submit comment letters for routes that are missing or delineated inaccurately to ensure continued access to their favorite collecting areas.

Stay tuned to the SDMG website for updates at:
<https://goo.gl/tSyHmh>

in the **WMRNP** maps, even from projects that are related, notably the **DRECP**. **BLM** advises users to re-submit comments made on other projects (e.g., **DRECP**) to **WMRNP**.

Comment: While it is not reasonable to place the onus on users to re-submit data to **BLM** that it already has in rockhound-tagged records, the reality is we cannot compel **BLM** to be responsive. Since we don't want anything to get left out, if in doubt, re-submit.

2. "Secret places" & private vs. public information. **BLM** is treating rockhound information as confidential, saying some rockhounds have "secret" collecting areas they want kept private. Perhaps some do, but **BLM's** own terms of service policy says public comments are PUBLIC. **BLM** was, shall we say, non-committal when we asked for verification that it had our previous comments in its database and that the data made it into the **WEMO** maps.

Comment: We pointed out to **BLM** that its logic seems, well, illogical. On federal lands managed in compliance with the **Route Network Project**, legal motorized routes will all be in the public domain, including the ones that lead to "secret" collecting areas. So, how secret is that?

We also reminded the **BLM** that Rockhounds contributed hundreds, if not thousands of comments to the **WEMO** project (and others such as **DRECP**). The comments were submitted with the expectation

of ensuring continued motorized access to collecting areas for ALL Rockhounds and the public in the final **WEMO** map. Well, here we are. For users who do not want their submissions made public, they should say so in their comments. Users should not have to tell **BLM**, by default, to make their comments publicly available.

Map usability issues.

3. Maps need feature labels. The interactive maps contain 250,000 route segments. Most users are not GIS-proficient, and the maps are difficult to read without feature labels or landmarks to help the viewer figure out where they are in the landscape, especially when the map is magnified.

Comment: A hunt and peck approach to reviewing and commenting on routes comprised of 250,000 segments is not reasonable. **BLM** has relational links between routes and destinations in its databases, but they are not shown or labeled in the maps. These data need to be labeled meaningfully for users. In fact, it would be enormously helpful to have a rockhound-centric layer showing hobby collecting areas with the full route to them.

4. Rockhound-centric maps. Since we know **BLM** already has the relational data connecting destinations and routes, in April we asked for maps to use during the comment period. Here was the response from **BLM's Matt Toedtli**:

“Closer to the release of the Final EIS, tentatively scheduled for October 2019, we will consult with the field office, district and/or state geologist to determine if and how rockhounding sites will be available on public route maps. It may be decided that it is better to release as a separate set of maps, rather than on our route-centric subregion maps.”

Here was **Kim Erb's** response to **Matt Toedtli**:

“I do not favor waiting until October for a ‘rockhound map’ to be released as it will be too late to comment for those who find it too difficult to figure out if their data was included in the current maps. The BLM should make this process as easy as possible for the public to review and verify. There should already be a rockhound layer as it was in the works several years ago during the WEMO meetings. They must be connected to the ‘route-centric’ maps because that is the only way the public will be able to determine if the routes they need are

What Rockhounds need to know about making comments on WMRNP.

You MUST include a reason for every comment you submit. It is not enough to tell BLM what you want done – “connect these two route segments” – you have to tell them why. Make your comments route segment-specific. You don’t have to be overly verbose, just remind BLM that you’re a rockhound and you want to be able to get to your favorite collecting area. If the area has been published in a field guide, it can only help to include the page citation with your comment. Is this laborious? You bet.

Sample response. “The gap between these adjacent route segments must be filled with a connecting segment to ensure open motorized access to reach a previously known, previously accessible hobby collecting area. (This comment relates to a comment submitted previously to DRECP in 2015 by San Diego Mineral & Gem Society.)”

There are four maps – which one should Rockhounds comment on?

- Alternative 1 is the no-action plan.
- Alternative 2 is the conservation plan.
- Alternative 3 is the recreation plan.
- Alternative 4 is the Preferred plan, the plan most likely to be adopted.

The routes in Alternatives 1 and 4 are close in total miles, but they do not overlap precisely – 800 miles of routes are shown in one and not the other.

BLM will not apply comments across all Alternative Plans. Since it would be very laborious to repeat the same comment in each and every plan, BLM advises users who click and comment directly on a route link in any given Alternative Plan, for example, Alternative 3, to include a statement directing BLM to apply the same comment to another plan, for example, Alternative 4.

Map tutorial.

Passed along from Ruth Hidalgo, a tutorial on how to use BLM's interactive map can be found online at:

jawbone.org/index.php/seekritmodules/471-offroader-s-guide-to-wemo-online-map

or short URL:

<https://goo.gl/wVhsXA>

Where to find BLM's WMRNP maps.

Comment directly in BLM's map online at the short URL: <https://goo.gl/g7oYLF>

or download BLM's geo-referenced PDF maps at the short URL: <https://goo.gl/Pkm2X9>

Visit the SDMG website for updates at:

<https://goo.gl/tSyHmh>

proposed to be kept open. It is essential that the rockhound community in general be provided a reasonable and not overly technical method to determine where their collecting sites are on the maps and if the routes proposed to be kept open will serve those sites.”

In our comment letter we'll ask **BLM** to extend the comment period to provide users adequate time to provide comments after **BLM** makes needed changes and verifies previously submitted rockhound-specific content is indeed in the maps. The **WEMO** project was long in the making and built on the hard work not only of **BLM** staff, but also the **Desert District Advisory Council (Dac)**, especially **Kim Erb** and **Randy Banis**, and many, many Rockhound volunteers.

In the light of so many years of effort on the part of so many people, we feel strongly that **BLM** should host more public meetings at more venues located closer to city centers (e.g., Los Angeles, Orange County) during the comment period to accommodate the many

recreational users who work and live in more populous areas but cannot reasonably attend the distant meeting locations at the end of a business day during the work week. They will be left out if **BLM** does not make more of an effort to accommodate them.

The clash of the titans may spill into the courts and sideline **WEMO**, again. Another variable in an already complicated equation is the **DRECP**. It's hard to envision **WEMO** not undergoing significant changes, if **DRECP** is subjected to plan-level amending of land use designations. The comment period on **BLM's** proposed **DRECP** review only just closed on March 22nd, so the public won't know for awhile what the next plot twist will be or when it will happen. It seems likely that **BLM** could get plenty of time to fix not only the map data, but also the usability of the maps – maybe even produce rockhound-centric maps for hobbyists to use during the comment period. Stay tuned for the next installment in the Clash of the Titans franchise.

The authors:

Kim Erb is a rockhound activist who served on the Desert District Advisory Council from December 2011 to December 2014. She represented Rockhounds during her tenure.

Lisbet Thoresen is Public Lands Representative for the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc. and Chair of the Public Lands Advisory Committee—South for the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.



Please be courteous and call the field trip leader to ask if you may participate in the field trip. Be sure to call again if you decide to cancel, so folks aren't waiting around for you. All CFMS affiliate clubs will ask you to sign a waiver, and you must agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics and listen to directions of the field trip leaders.

May 19, 2018

Basin Road

Materials: Jasper and agate

Sponsor: Ventura Gem & Mineral Society and Conejo Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: Chuck Borchart, chuck.cgmctrips@gmail.com

May 25–27, 2018

Wiley's Well campout (tentative)

Materials: Agates, chalcedony roses, psilomelane, petrified wood

Sponsor: Conejo Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: Chuck Borchart, chuck.cgmctrips@gmail.com

July 26 – 29, 2018

Davis Creek

Material: Obsidian

Sponsor: CFMS-North

Contact: Dick Pankey, 925-439-7509 or dickpankey@juno.com (preferred)

National Park Service Re-Thinks Massive Fee Increase

April 11, 2018

by Western Slope No Fee Coalition*

THE NPS HAS BACKED OFF – for now – on their proposed surge pricing of up to \$75 to visit the most popular Parks during their busiest seasons. They received over 100,000 comments, of which 98% OPPOSED the proposal, according to the Washington Post!

That's great, but before you breathe a sigh of relief and declare victory, don't overlook the most insidious part of the proposal – surge pricing during the most popular times of year. Although they got the message that \$70-\$75 was too high, the **NPS** is far from having given up on surge pricing as a strategy.

Revenue generation, so far, is much more important to the **NPS** than either conservation or public access.

The **NPS** is considering a long list of other fee-increase possibilities that have been proposed in the past by the **National Park Hospitality Association**, which represents the private concessionaires doing business in the Parks, including:

- Per-person entrance fees instead of per-carload
- Charging daily fees, vs the current weekly price
- Lowering the age for free entrance from 16 to 12
- Charging a fee for disabled visitors (including disabled veterans), who currently are entitled to free entry
- Charging foreign visitors premium fees
- Variable pricing - lower on advanced purchase, higher on same-day entry

Backing off on this particular proposal is a strategic retreat by the **NPS**, not a surrender! The forces trying to turn our National Parks into mere theme parks are not giving up, and neither can you! We will continue to monitor carefully and keep you informed.



Background

On October 24, 2017 the **National Park Service** issued an announcement that they wanted to implement a huge “targeted” increase in entrance fees at the most popular National Parks. Their “target”? Families whose vacation schedules are tied to the school calendar, lower-income visitors, and your wallet! These 17 parks would charge a premium entry fee during their peak season, more than doubling the current cost of a single-visit entry to \$70!

The parks involved, along with their peak season when the increase would be in effect are:

May 1 – September 30 for Arches National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Denali National Park, Glacier National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Olympic National Park, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Park, Yellowstone National Park, Yosemite National Park, Zion National Park

June 1 – October 31 for Acadia National Park, Mount Rainier National Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, Shenandoah National Park

January 1 – May 31 for Joshua Tree National Park

A pass for unlimited visits to a single park during its peak season was proposed to cost \$75.

But let's be realistic: nobody who can afford \$70 or \$75 would pay it to visit a single Park! At those prices,

* Reproduced by permission. The original article is available online in the Western Slope No Fee Coalition archive at: <http://myemail.constantcontact.com/Good-News--Fees-Scaled-Back.html?soi=1103044050286&aid=dRGQ7WrfYaA> or short URL: <https://goo.gl/QSvT3a>.

you'd be crazy not to buy an annual all-Parks, all-seasons "**America the Beautiful**" pass for \$80. For only \$5 or \$10 more than what was proposed as the single-visit or single-Park fee, you can visit all the Parks all year long. Clearly, that \$80 price won't last long – in fact an increase to at least \$100 has been suggested by the park concessionaires for years.

The justification cited for this massive increase was to address backlogged maintenance. But the **NPS** only anticipated that it would raise an additional \$68 million – which would barely touch their claimed backlog of **\$12 BILLION**. They haven't revealed how they calculated that \$68 million, but given that most people would have bought an America the Beautiful Pass, their estimate was probably wildly optimistic.

Further complicating things, the revenue from **America the Beautiful pass** sales stays at the site where the pass is purchased, even if that's a **Forest Service**, **BLM**, or other non-NPS site, or an **NPS** site that doesn't charge a fee at all, so even if this were implemented, many Parks would miss out on the hoped-for funding. At the same time, basic economics says that raising the price would deter visitation, especially by families and lower-income visitors – groups that the Parks claim to be trying to attract.

The bottom line? Under this – for now – failed proposal, America's best places at the most desirable times of the year would have only been available to the wealthiest few.

Many members of Congress weighed in against this proposal. You should contact your U.S. Representative and both of your U.S. Senators. Thank them for helping get this stopped, but remind them that the **NPS** has several more bad ideas in the pipeline that would make our National Parks more expensive for families to visit and ask them to stay vigilant!

The Western Slope No-Fee Coalition is a broad-based organization consisting of diverse interests including hiking, biking, boating, equestrian and motorized enthusiasts, community groups, local and state elected officials, conservatives and liberals, Republicans and Democrats, and just plain citizens.

BLM Field Tour & Desert District Advisory Council Business meeting

Friday & Saturday

June 8 – 9, 2018

Ridgecrest, CA

AGENDA: WMRNP

~ The meeting date is tentative ~

Check the Federal Register for confirmation

or the BLM website at short URL:

<https://goo.gl/v5x1Cb>

The **DAC** attempted to schedule a meeting in May to provide opportunity for public engagement on the **WMRNP** before the comment period closes on June 14th, 2018. However, the **Department of the Interior (DOI)** just implemented a new rule for all public advisory council meetings – BLM has to provide detailed agenda and field tour itineraries 60 days in advance of a proposed date. That made June 8th/9th the earliest opportunity for a **DAC** meeting. **BLM** is awaiting **DOI**'s approval of the proposed dates, venue and program agenda. If approved, the meeting will be posted immediately in the **Federal Register** website and the **BLM** website.

According to **BLM Field Officer Charles Symons**, the field tour itinerary proposed to the **DOI** visits to historical mining districts, including in Randsburg.

We'll send out a special email blast, as soon as BLM announces a date or status change.

ON THE GO ... TO A SHOW



MAY

4-6 YUCAIPA, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Yucaipa Music & Arts Festival

Venue: Adams St. & Yucaipa Blvd.

Hours: Fri 6–10pm; Sat noon – 10pm;

Sun noon – 7pm

Admission: Free. Public welcome.

Contact: Lee Peterson, 909-794-0731

or res09ayd@verizon.net

Web: www.yvgms.org

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5-6 ANAHEIM, CA

Searchers Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show

Venue: Brookhurst Community Center

2271 W. Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801

Hours: Sat 9am – 5pm; Sun 10am – 4:30pm

Admission & Parking: Free. Public welcome.

Contact: Debra Tanner, 714-329-0290

or debratannernew@gmail.com

Website: www.searchersrocks.org

Rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, beads, rough, slabs, vendors, gold panning, silent auction, hobby supplies, vintage stones, door prizes, gemstones, grab bags, tools, equipment and exhibits. Lapidary supplies and demonstrations, many fun activities for the kids. Lunch, snacks and drinks are available.

18-20 SANTA ANA, CA

West Coast Gem & Mineral Show (Spring)

Sponsor: LLD Productions

Venue: Holiday Inn, Orange County Airport
2726 S. Grand Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705

Hours: Fri and Sat 10am – 6pm;

Sun 10am – 5pm

Admission & Parking: Free. Public welcome.

Dealer List: www.mzexpos.com/dealer-list

Web: www.mzexpos.com/west-coast-spring

80 dealers, wholesale and retail, featuring minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, beads, crystals, meteorites, lapidary, decorator items and gifts.

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Santa Ana, CA

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Santa Ana, CA 92705
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Jewelry • Mineral Specimens
www.johngarsow.com

JUNE

8-10 LA HABRA, CA

North Orange County Gem & Mineral

Society

(NOC) 2018 Show

Venue: La Habra Community Center

101 W. La Habra Blvd., La Habra, CA 90631

Hours: Fri 5:00– 8:00pm;

Sat and Sun 10:00am – 5:00pm

Admission: Free.

Contact: Armando Perdoza,
forestandson@yahoo.com

Web: www.nocgms.com

Exhibits, prizes, unique rocks, gems, jewelry. Tools, geode cutting, Kids' grab bags.

WEST COAST – SPRING GEM & MINERAL SHOW



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9–10 ESCONDIDO, CA**Palomar Gem & Mineral Club****64th Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show****Venue:** California Center for the Arts
340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido, CA 92025**Hours:** Sat 10:00am – 5:00pm;

Sun 10:00am – 4:00pm

Admission: Adults \$5.00; Kids 12 and under
Free with paid Adult admission.**Parking:** Free.**Contact:** Dawn Vickers, dawnjvickers@gmail.com
or 760-415-3806**Web:** www.palomargem.orgDealers selling gems, rock rough, finished stones,
jewelry, findings and supplies, beads, other rock
related products. Free gem identification, lapidary
and jewelry demonstrations, educational displays.**9–10 GLEN DORA, CA****Glendora Invitational Gem & Mineral Show****Sponsor:** Glendora Gems & Mineral Society**Where:** Goddard Middle School Gymnasium
859 E. Sierra Madre, Glendora, CA 91741**Hours:** Sat, 10:00am–5:00pm

Sun, 10:00am–4:00pm

Admission: Free.**Contact:** Bonnie Bidwell, 626-963-4638
or Ybidwell@aol.com**23–24 CULVER CITY, CA****57th Annual Fiesta of Gems****– Jade is the featured gem****Sponsor:** Culver City Rock & Mineral Club**Where:** Culver City Veterans Memorial Aud.
4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230**Hours:** Sat 10:00am–6:00pm;

Sun 10:00am–5:00pm

Admission & Parking: Free.**Contact:** Janice Metz, 310-850-4398**Website:** www.culvercityrocks.org/fiesta.htmClub displays and exhibits, Kid Zone, craft
demonstrations, book sales, tool dealers, 30+
gem and jewelry dealers, free hourly door
prizes, grand prize raffle.**2018 – 2020 SLATE****SDMG OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS***Anne Schafer
Chairman, Nominating Committee*

The Nominating Committee has selected the following slate of four (4) officers and sixteen (16) directors for the two-year term from July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2020. This slate satisfies the requirements of the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society Bylaws in that the people named are members in good standing and have agreed to be nominated.

For President: Jim Parrish

For Vice-President: John Kruzel

For Secretary: Ellen Riceman

For Treasurer: Anne Schafer

For Board of Directors:

Andy Anderson	Melissa Ordway
Donna Beers	Sally Parrish
Rocio Bergum	Doug Peeler
Donna Casey	Dave Smith
Stephanie Griffin	Dee Smith
Bob Hancock	Jennifer Stapp
Lois Lukasky	Paul Williams
Wayne Moorhead	Jill Williamson

Members in good standing as of March 31, 2018, who comprise a group equal to at least two percent of the total membership of SDMG (i.e., a group of 15 members) may file a written petition with the Board at the MAY Board meeting proposing one or more alternative candidates in lieu of one or more of the candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee. This petition shall include the following: (1) the written consent of each alternative candidate; (2) the name and signature of each petitioner.

The identity of each such alternative candidate named in the petition and the individual nominated by the Nominating Committee who would be replaced by such alternative candidate shall be published in the JUNE Pegmatite, and such publication shall indicate that such alternative candidate was nominated by petition.

If there are no alternate candidates, the above nominations will carry forward to the General Meeting in June, where they will stand.

SDMG BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**March 19, 2018**

In attendance: President Jim Parrish and Board members Andy Anderson, Donna Beers, Rocio Bergum, Tim Bickford, Bob Hancock, John Kruzel, Lois Lukasky, Wayne Moorhead, Doug Peeler, Ellen Riceman, Dave Smith, Dee Smith, Jennifer Stapp, Paul Williams and Jill Williamson. A quorum was present. **Excused:** Anne Schafer, Shirley Leeson, Sally Parrish, and Adriana Zulewski. **Guests:** Letty Evans, Stephanie Griffin, Mark Kantis, Melissa Ordway and Richard Igelman.

Membership: Total membership in SDMG as of this date is 770, including 67 Junior members.

Show location discussion: Richard Igelman reported that a new venue has not yet been found. He has looked at about 18 locations, and the suitable and available ones cost \$9-\$10K for three days. The Show Committee will meet further to discuss possible locations.

Juniors: Dave Smith reported that there is a steady group of 5 to 7 Juniors attending class each week, ages ranging from 8 to 14. Dave is considering awarding a prize each month to the Junior with the best cab.

School Director: Wayne Moorhead reported that Jim Parrish negotiated a great deal with Diamond Pacific on the purchase of two Titan units for the Cab Room, at a cost of \$2,000.00 each, plus a delivery fee of \$75. Diamond Pacific will also evaluate SDMG's current (old) Titans when their staff delivers the new machines.

School Liaison: Bob Hancock reported faceting classes are filled, except for Tuesday afternoon. Bob is collecting donations of faceted stones to be used as special door prizes at the Banquet. The #4 machine is being repaired at Ultra Tec.

Donations: (1) Paul Williams received a donation of mineral specimens, books and maps on March 17. (2) Jill Williamson took in a donation of a tool box, as well as some rocks for the Juniors.

Outreach: Many visitors have signed the guest book in the SDMG Museum.

Public Lands: Lisbet Thoresen reported via email that eight other clubs have signed the DRECP letter. The January eNewsletter went out to 1,523 subscribers; 37% were opened.

Banquet: Jennifer Stapp reported that the Banquet will be on March 24 at Elijah's, and that Robert Weldon from GIA will be the speaker.

BBQ: Doug Peeler reported that all vendors have been contacted, and the contracts are all set.

Old business: Wayne Moorhead reported that he is looking at vinyl curtains or sliding doors to be used between the Casting and Cab Rooms.

New business: Dave Smith reported that the Nominating Committee recommends:

President: Jim Parrish

Vice President: John Kruzel

Secretary: Ellen Riceman

Treasurer: Anne Schafer

Board Members at Large:

Andy Anderson, Donna Beers, Rocio Bergum, Donna Casey, Stephanie Griffin, Bob Hancock, Lois Lukasky, Wayne Moorhead, Melissa Ordway, Sally Parrish, Doug Peeler, Dave Smith, Dee Smith, Jennifer Stapp, Paul Williams and Jill Williamson.

A motion was made to accept the Nominating Committee's proposed slate, and the motion was passed by the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.

SDMG BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

April 16, 2018

In attendance: President Jim Parrish and Board members Andy Anderson, Donna Beers, Rocio Bergum, Bob Hancock, John Kruzel, Lois Lukasky, Wayne Moorhead, Doug Peeler, Ellen Riceman, Anne Schafer, Dave Smith, Dee Smith, Jennifer Stapp, Paul Williams and Jill Williamson. A quorum was present.

Excused: Garry Cannon, Shirley Leeson and Sally Parrish. **Absent:** Adriana Zulewski and Tim Bickford. **Guests:** Letty Evans, Herbert Hancock, Melissa Ordway and Richard Igelman.

Membership: Total membership in SDMG as of this date is 792, including 71 Junior members.

Juniors: Dave Smith reported that there is a steady group of regulars, from 5 to 6 Juniors attending class each week, plus a few new Juniors. Dave requested that membership dues be refunded to father and son, when son was determined to be too young to attend Junior class. The treasurer was directed to reimburse Dave for the purchase of aprons and Collecting Agates & Jaspers books given out to Juniors as prizes.

School Director: Wayne Moorhead reported that the cost to repair and recalibrate the #4 faceting machine was about \$800. Wayne is considering installing an acoustic curtain on a sliding rail between the Cab and Casting Rooms. Paul Williams stated the club needs a new wet/dry vacuum. Motion carried, authorizing Wayne Moorhead to purchase a heavy duty wet/dry vac, cost NTE \$400.

Librarian: Donna Beers announced that the SDMG library is open Wednesdays, from 9 am to 3 pm, for members.

Donations: (1) Judy Johnson donated a ton of rough rock and slabs. (2) Laurie Wagner and laura McCloud made cash donations. (3) Eve Anderson donated minerals and a book. (4) Patricia Kent donated four boxes of minerals and other materials, most suitable for sale at Prado. (5) Shirley Leeson donated boxes of minerals.

Outreach: Dave Smith and Donna Beers gave tours of the classrooms. Anne Schafer gave mini-docent tours of the museum on April 14.

Banquet: A preliminary Banquet report was available.

Jennifer Stapp proposed that the 2019 Banquet be held at Elijah's on March 2nd, and a motion passed on a vote of 16-1 approving that date and location for the 2019 Banquet.

BBQ: Doug Peeler reported that ticket sales are slow. Simon King and Gladys Walker will be available to conduct the door prize drawing. Anne Schafer to contact Rocio Bergum and Dave Smith about loading at the SDMG Building for delivery to the BBQ lawn.

Show Committee: Bob Hancock reported that the committee met one hour before the Board meeting, to review and discuss potential venues for the 2018 Show, and to hear new information about additional venues. As a result of this review and discussion, Bob reported that the Show Committee recommended that the 2018 Gem Diego Show be cancelled, and that planning should begin to hold a larger 2019 show at a different venue. At the Board meeting, a motion was made to cancel the 2018 show, and to plan for a larger 2019 show at a different venue; the Board voted to pass the motion, 12-4.

Old business: Wayne Moorhead reported that the new curtain between classrooms is in process, but that obtaining new keys for the building is in limbo.

New business: There was no new business.

(Any member may attend Board meetings. The next one is May 21, at 7 pm in the SDMG Building.)

SDMG Library

SDMG Bldg.

Donna Beers

Hours:

Wednesdays, 3 to 6pm

Reference use only, no lending.

Access the catalog online at:

<https://cloud.collectorz.com/sdmgmerklib/books>

Who may use the Library?

Membership is not required to view the catalog, but only **SDMG** members may come use the reference library.

We Need Volunteer Assistant Librarians.

Members willing to volunteer in the Library will enable us to extend the hours of access.

If you can help out, contact Donna:

librarian@sdmg.org



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Second adult, same address: \$10.00

Junior (under 18): \$10.00

Membership application forms are available on-line at www.sdmg.org,

and at the Village Silversmiths Shop in the SDMG Building,

or by contacting the SDMG Membership Secretary membership@sdmg.org

or by writing to her at:

San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
attn: Angela Cannon
P.O. Box 710783, Santee, CA 92072

Please allow up to 3 weeks for processing your application

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

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WEBSITES

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www.sdmg.org

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www.cfmsinc.org

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CLASS SCHEDULE – 2018
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BEFORE ALL CLASSES.

Email school@sdmg.org for class availability before attending any class to find out when the class starts and ends, if special materials are required and whether you qualify to attend. Fee is \$5.00 per class; it is usually easier for instructors if payment is made for a full month; cash or checks only, please. **Classes are open to members only** and students must read and follow the **School Rules** available in the classroom and at:

<http://www.sdmg.org/class-schedule/school-rules.pdf>

CABOCHONS	Tue	6 – 9pm	Tim Bickford
	Wed	9 – 11:30am	Jim Claypool
	Wed	12:30 – 3:00pm	Jim Claypool
	Wed	6 – 9pm	Nita Sani
	Thu	7 – 9pm	Jon Evans
FACETING	Tue	noon – 3pm	Elbert McCune
	Tue	7 – 9pm	Jerod Schneider
	Wed	9am – noon	Bob Hancock
	Wed	noon – 3pm	Donna Beers
	Wed	7 – 9pm	Elbert McCune
	Thu	7 – 9pm	Bill Brisebois
BEG. METALS FABRICATION	Tue	9am – noon	Lois Lukasky
	Tue	noon – 3pm	Lois Lukasky
	Wed	6 – 9pm	Stephanie Griffin
	Thu	9am – noon	Denny Turner
	Thu	1 – 4pm	Denny Turner
	Sun	5 – 8pm	Dee Smith
ADV. METALS FABRICATION	Tue	7 – 9pm	Al Fuente
	Wed	9am – 3pm	Denny Turner
	Wed	9am – 3pm	Jackie Leverone
	Thu	7 – 9pm	Ellen Riceman
	Fri	9:30am – noon	Dee Smith
	Fri	12:30 – 3:00pm	Dee Smith
	Sat	4 – 7pm	Stephanie Griffin
CASTING	Mon	1:30 – 7:00pm	Rocio Bergum
	Tue	9am – 2pm	Dave Smith
	Fri	5 – 7pm	Rich Yarbrough
STONE SETTING	Mon	by appointment	Miguel Asmar
ROCK CARVING	Mon	9am – 1pm	Jan Kunsa
SPHERE MAKING	Sat	1 – 3:30pm	Paul Williams
JUNIORS	Sat	10am – 1pm	Dave Smith
DESCRIPTIVE MINERALOGY	Wed	6:30 – 9pm	Doug Peeler

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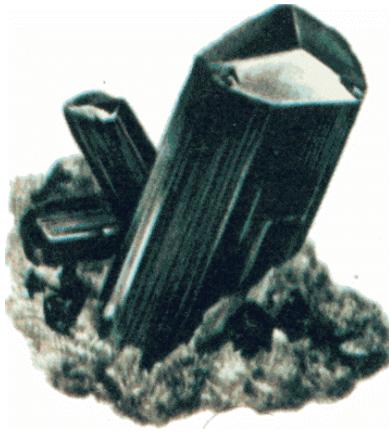
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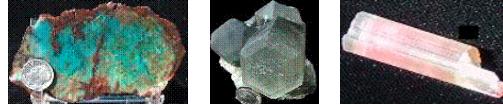
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reviews, slideshows
and more at:
www.sdmg.org

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THE PEGMATITE – MAY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 GSSD Mtg 7pm, SDMG bldg	8	9	10	11 West Coast Gem & Min Show Santa Ana - begin	12
13 West Coast Gem & Min Show Santa Ana - end	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 SDMG Board Mtg 7pm, SDMG bldg	22	23	24	25 SD Fair Deliver exhibits 9am-6pm	26 
27 SD Fair Deliver exhibits 9am-6pm	28 SDMG Mineral Div Mtg Juniors host 7pm, SDMG Bldg	29	30	31	1 First Day - SD Fair 4-11pm	2 