

ROCK TALK



White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy almost spring! The weather will continue to be erratic throughout the month but that is just March in the mountains. Welcome back, Malcolm, Carol, David, Natalee, and Larry. So good to see you all! You have been missed.

Another lively show and tell. And a great presentation by Rollo. What is really cool is that the Jurassic Park site is located in Snowflake and several of our club members have been there. This would be a super field trip where we could see impression fossil footprints by pre-dinosaurs.

The STEM fair is happening this month. Judging begins on-line March 10. If you are interested in being a judge, contact Meghan Dorsett [msdorsett@gmail.com]. We will again be a sponsor and have a display at the awards ceremony on Saturday, March 15 at the Performing Arts Center in Snowflake. This science fair fits well with our educational mission. Some of the ideas and experiments are pretty amazing. It is a privilege to be able to participate.

Our mini gem show this month should be a lot of fun. And who knows, it could become a regular event. Cathy cannot chair two shows. Think about raising your hand! I'm sure Cathy will be willing to train you.

Trivia - White and shining, silver is one of Earth's oldest metals, adored since ancient times. Rarely found in its pure form, it is found mostly alloyed with gold or combined with sulfur and arsenic in ores. Silver coins were once used to keep water fresh on long voyages. And the superstitious believe that silver wards off vampires.

Have a great month.

Sandra

TREASURER'S REPORT

February Expense

Rock Talk Printing & Postage
Deposit for Elk's Lodge Use
Meeting Supplies

Upcoming Expense

Concho Mini Show
Rock Talk Printing & Postage
Tax Preparation

Income This Month

Show Vendor Contracts
Silent Auction
50/50 Raffle
Member Dues & Donations

NOTICE: Last names M-Z will supply the potluck table at the March meeting.

BULLETIN BOARD

March arrives;
A season's blend
Where Winter ends
And Spring begins!

Happy birthday to:
Bonnie Adams
Judy Valentine
Beverly Willmon

Why not join our
Let's Do Lunch Club
Where: Bandidos Mexican Food
2101 Deuce of Clubs
When: Thursday March 27
12:00 Noon
Let's Celebrate Our
March Birthdays!!

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DON'T FORGET ...

GEM & MINERAL SHOW INVITATION



WHERE: Mellon Center
Concho, AZ
DATE: SATURDAY
MARCH 29, 2025
TIME: 10:00 AM to
3:00 PM

Free Admission—Fun For All Ages!!

- ✓ Children are welcome with adults.
- ✓ Games & educational activities for ages 5-105.
- ✓ Displays of fluorescents, copper-related ore, rocks that look like food & other interesting specimens.
- ✓ Food trucks on site with great lunch food!
- ✓ GOLD—Learn how to pan for gold & recognize fool's gold.
- ✓ Give our spinning wheel a whirl and see what you win!
- ✓ VENDORS selling jewelry, gold, & rock specimens; fossils, crystals, hand-crafted trees of life & more!
- ✓ Attendees will be invited on a field trip with the White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club.

Show presented by White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club Non-profit 501(c)3

Rock Talk Newsletter

Our newsletter is published monthly by the White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Any information or comments members wish to include in the monthly newsletter must be given to the editor at the general membership meeting or call the editor no later than Tuesday following the meeting.

Membership Dues

Membership dues are \$20 for a single membership and \$25 for a couple/family. (\$5 less if you receive newsletter by email.) Dues are paid in January each year along with a completed application form. Memberships initiated in November or later in a given year are also good for the following year.

Meetings

We meet the first Sunday of the month (unless it falls on a holiday) at the VFW Post 9907, 381 North Central Avenue in Show Low. Turn north off the Deuce of Clubs at Burger King. Social half hour at 1:00 PM, meeting starts at 1:30 PM.

ELECTED OFFICERS

Office	Name	Phone	E-Mail
PRESIDENT	Sandra Angelo	(928)537-3726	sandra_angelo@hotmail.com
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Ursula Wilson	(928)532-5703
Carl Hickman	(928)536-3744

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Show Chairman	Cathy Cargile	(714)348-9162	skyranch5734@yahoo.com
Assistant Show Chairman	Ursula Wilson	(928)532-5703	
Sunshine	Donna Pollard	480-600-2714	tdpollard@msn.com
Education, Schools	Open		
Greeter/Door Prizes/Raffle	Thelma Gray/Diane Moten		
Auctioneer	Donna and Terry Pollard		
Highway Cleanup	Brookie/ Larry Embry	(928)537-0760	
Bonus Prizes	Sandra Angelo	(928)537-3726	
Historian	Donna Pollard	(480)600-2714	tdpollard@msn.com
Librarian	Rick Palmer	(928)333-5019	palmer57@frontiernet.net
Meeting Room Setup/cleanup	Shelly Applegate	(928)245-4300	shellylynn@gmail.com

Chamber of Commerce Liaisons

Show Low: B.G. Hogarth

Snowflake/Taylor: Karen Hickman

Springerville/Eager: Rick Palmer

Heber/Overgaard: Aimee Webster

WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

MEETING MINUTES MARCH 2, 2025

The meeting was opened at 1:30 PM by President Sandra Angelo who led with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed club members who have not been able to attend meetings for a while.

For Show and Tell, Shelly displayed a large piece of cinder collected from the Panorama Trail. Randy showed his "Heavenly Rock;" an agate, with markings that looked like the moon and stars. Darren brought a beautiful piece of petrified wood that he had adopted from a rock hounding trip with another friend. David not only showed us a few gorgeous rocks but was kind enough to donate them as door prizes for club members. Among his collection were two opals, one of them from Ethiopia. He also showed a beautiful piece of gypsum with crystals. He dug it out from the side of the road near the Bagdad mine. Lastly, Donna showed a "soda straw quartz" found in Lee Russell Canyon. The name comes from a perfect hole formed through the center of the quartz that sometimes has another mineral left inside; hence, the "straw." She also shared with us a recent rock hounding experience where she introduced some collecting places to two fellow rock hounds passing through from South Dakota and on their way to California. (See Page 10 in **Rock Talk**) Donna explained that anyone on the club email could have responded and offered to show them around, she just happened to be the one to answer the call. Carl added those interested in being included in the loop on club activities and spontaneous requests by receiving club emails to let him know. Our next trip is promising to be an exciting one as we are going to the Silver King Mine by Superior where quartz crystal can be found. (See Page 7 in **Rock Talk** for further details.)

The Let's Do Lunch Bunch is meeting at El Banditos which is off the Deuce of Clubs. (See Page 2 in **Rock Talk** for further details.)

Our club was asked for volunteers to be judges in the upcoming STEM Fair. Judging will be done virtually March 10-14. On Saturday March 15 the Club will have booth at the STEM Fair awards program at the NPC performing Arts Center in Snowflake.

Gila County is having a Show and Sell April 26 from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM on the Bullion Center lawn in Miami. (See Page 8 in **Rock Talk** for further information.)

Cathy Cargile gave an update on the club's mini-show in Concho on March 29. (See Page 7 in **Rock Talk** for further information.)

The program was presented by Rollo Pool. He shared "Four Trips to Go in Arizona." The places were: Four Peaks, a Peridot Mine, the Ray Copper Mine, and Jurassic Park.

Door Prize winners were Blue, Evie, and Debbie. 50/50 drawing winners were Debbie, Cathy, Mike, and Malcolm.

One correction was noted for the February Minutes. "Smoke Show Barbeque" is the food truck.

Treasurer's Report-Everything looks good. The down payment has been made on the Elks Lodge and vendors are submitting their fees.

Show Update- Sixty-one tables confirmed; we are completely booked. Anyone who volunteered last year, please plan on doing the same again this year. We will have an ad in the White Mountain Symphony Orchestra program promoting our July show.

If you ordered a name badge, please pick them up. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Applegate, Secretary



ROCK OF THE MONTH

THE STORY BEHIND THE SILVER KING MINE

By
Donna Pollard

This month our club has the permission to visit the old Silver King Mine in Superior, Arizona. The historical story of the Silver King is interesting. Below are two accounts of that history.

ACCOUNT NO. 1: Arizona Daily Independent History of the Silver King Mine, Pinal County, Arizona. Copyright © (2015) by David F. Briggs

The Silver King Mine is an inactive silver mine located near Superior, Arizona. The richest silver mine in Arizona produced an estimated US\$42 million worth of silver ore between 1875 and 1901. The mine was acquired by the Silver King of Arizona Mining Company in 1916 and briefly resumed limited production at the end of World War I before its final closure in 1923. The town of Park City, the mine's location, flourished with newfound wealth but faced challenges due to declining silver prices throughout World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II.

In November 1870, General George Stoneman, military commander of the Arizona Territory, erected a small military camp near the base of Picket Post Mountain and began construction of a road to the proposed site of Camp Pinal, a second military post in the Pinal Mountains. Completed in April 1871, this road meandered north from Camp Picket Post on Queen Creek and eventually ended up near the present-day community of Top of the World.

General Stoneman was eventually relieved of command and replaced by General George Crook, who abandoned Camp Pinal in July 1871. Over the next few years, resistance from most of the tribes ceased by the spring of 1873 and the Indians began to settle on their reservations.

In 1873 a soldier named Sullivan returned to camp one evening and found several heavy, black nuggets of metallic material near the base of Stoneman's Grade. Knowing little of minerals, he figured that he must have found something unusual. He kept the black nuggets and returned to camp, saying nothing about his discovery.

After his enlistment expired he worked for Charles Mason, a Florence rancher. He showed Mason several of the black nuggets, who recognized native silver. But Sullivan left the Florence area without following up on his discovery.

In 1874 Mason organized a prospecting party to search for the silver source. Failing to locate the source, they found a manganese-stained vein outcrop, later becoming the Silver Queen mine.

Later on, four prospectors returning home from a trip camped out near the base of Stoneman's Grade. They found black silver nuggets similar to those Sullivan had shown Mason. They traced the nuggets to their source, where they staked the Silver King claim on March 22, 1875.

Within six months, 50 miners were working the site, producing rich, hand-sorted silver ore which assayed as much as \$2,000 per ton (about 1,600 ounces of silver per ton or 5.5% silver) that could be shipped directly to a smelter without additional treatment. This direct-smelting ore was hauled by wagon to Florence, where it was treated in a small cupel-type furnace. In June 1876 a stamp mill and amalgamation plant, designed to treat lower grade ores from the Silver King mine, was erected near the former military camp at Picket Post along Queen Creek approximately five miles southwest of mine site.

The Silver King was sold to Comstock Nevada interests in December 1876 and the Silver King Mining Company was organized in May 1877.

(Continued on next page)

(Silver King, Continued from Page 5)

Picket Post was renamed Pinal City in 1879 and served as the site of Silver King's milling operation until 1888, when the mill relocated to the Silver King mine site to reduce costs. Mining activities declined significantly, only achieving sporadic production until operations finally ceased in 1896.

The Silver King was acquired by the Silver King of Arizona Mining Company in 1916. It briefly resumed limited production at end of World War I prior its final closure in 1920. Over its life this mining operation saw about 6.2 million ounces of silver recovered.

ACCOUNT NO. 2: <https://westernmininghistory.com/towns/arizona/silver-king/>.

An article from an August 1875 edition of the Weekly Journal-Miner (Prescott, Arizona) gives a detailed account of the mine, used as the source for the discovery portion of this article.

The Silver King Mine was first discovered in the early 1870s, at a time when conflicts with the Apache were frequent and few people dared prospecting or settling in the area. General George Stoneman set up camp near the site of frequent Apache raids and ordered a road construction into the Pinal Mountains. The road was known as the Stoneman Grade.

A soldier working on the road discovered the Silver King vein. He told a friend "If I live to be discharged I shall be one of the richest men in Arizona," and gave him its location. Before the man was discharged, he was killed by a mule.

Around this time four local farmers made random trips into the Pinal Mountains. They discovered a copper vein that would later be the Globe mine. In March 1875, the men were getting ready for a return trip to their Globe

mine when they met the discharged soldier who had been told of the silver vein. The man then told them his dead comrade's story and how to find the silver. After concluding, he said, "You will see a small brown hill rising up all by itself, and in that hill, if what my old comrade said is true, you will find the richest mine in the world. You are going right by the mine anyhow, and you may just as well stop and look for it."

The men weren't impressed by the story—after all didn't they have a rich copper mine already located? On their journey they noted the general location of the silver vein, but did not stop to investigate.

On the return trip they stopped to deliberate at the site of the supposed silver vein. Three of them continued back to Florence while one stayed to investigate. He found the silver outcrop at once and collected ore samples. In Florence, the samples were taken to a blacksmith's forge and melted out a "fine bar of pure silver."

With a wagon and a few mining tools they returned to the hill, broke off 1,500 pounds of rock from the surface, and took it to Tucson. The Tucson people admired the ore, so much so that one of them offered \$800 for the 1,500 pounds, which was immediately accepted.

By the fall of 1875 fifty men were working the Silver King mine, shipping thirty tons of silver ore to San Francisco each month. Newspaper articles reported that in the spring of 1877 the best ore being taken from the mine assayed at up to \$20,000/ton. Investors acquired the mine and established the Silver King Mining Company.

During the next nine years over \$6,000,000 in silver was produced here. It all ended as ore grade decreased and silver prices dropped.



COLLECTING TREASURES AT THE HISTORIC SILVER KING

For our March field trip, we are fortunate enough to be able to journey to the historic Silver King Mine outside of the town of Superior. Co-owner Ron Deen will be our guide, and we will meet him at Los Hermanos Restaurant parking lot located at 835 US60. From there we will caravan out to the mine. Four-wheel drive and high clearance are a necessity. Ron will bring waivers of liability for us to sign. He prefers that everybody **MUST** stay together and not wander off. He also prefers no children on the site.

Remember, it is a mine site, so appropriate footwear is necessary. Bring gloves, rock hammers, and bags for samples. We will be collecting silver, azurite, malachite, and chrysocolla. We must leave the site by 3:00. (Note: Los Hermanos has some of the BEST Mexican food!!!) Some photos of the fun we had the last time we went there:



YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED

Our Mini Gem Show at the Mellon Center in Concho Valley is coming soon - Saturday March 29 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, free admission.

Many White Mountain Gem and Mineral Club members have gone all out to plan for excellent displays, great things to offer for sale and many educational activities and displays to interest and educate people about geology.

Some of the displays and activities include copper ore, fluorescent rocks, spinning wheel, Arizona rock bingo, gold panning and so much more!

There will be food trucks for great lunch opportunities.

Donations of tumbled rocks for use at the spinning wheel and as parting gifts for our guests are still needed. Please reach out to Cathy to make donation.

Directions to Mellon Center, Concho Valley:

From Show Low take the Deuce of Clubs east and continue to the Y and take the left onto Hwy 61. Continue straight into Concho Valley where you will pass the Concho School on the right. Mellon Center is on the left side of Hwy 61 at 97 Frontage Road.

See the photo below of our sign in front of Mellon Center. Sign created courtesy of Ron Cargile for the plywood and white coat of paint, Greg Wyman for doing the wonderful red lettering and to Donna and Terry Pollard for installing it! Great team work to our awesome members.



Gila County Gem & Mineral Society

Spring Show & Sell

Saturday, April 26, 2025

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum Lawn

150 Plaza Circle, Miami, AZ 85539

Vendors selling a variety of Gems, Minerals, Jewelry, Rocks and More!

Raffle, games and visit with rockhounds and jewelry makers!

Hear about our **Field Trips** and **Workshop Nights!**

Interested in being a vendor?

We offer 8-foot table spaces for \$10 each.

Must be rock and mineral related items.

(Tables will be provided. You need to bring chairs, canopies and table cover if wanted).

The deadline to reserve a table is **April 22, 2025**.

For more information or to reserve a table contact

Beverly Hawkins at **928-363-0345**

or gilagem.shows@gmail.com

**Gila Hogs
Food Truck
will be on site!**





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PO BOX 3504
SHOW LOW, AZ 85902

DATE: _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

Printed Name(s): _____

Phone(s): _____ Brass Name Badges (\$5 each) _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address(s): _____

Type of Membership: Single (\$20) _____ Couple/Family (\$25) _____
(\$5 deduction if getting newsletter by E-mail)

Please send club newsletter by: E-mail _____ US Mail _____

May we have birthdays? (Month Only) _____

List any junior members you would like to sponsor (No added fee):

1. _____ Age: _____ 2. _____ Age: _____

3. _____ Age: _____ 4. _____ Age: _____

Signatures: _____ Date: _____

Seasonal members, please list alternate address and months of residency:

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Months: _____ Phone: _____

SHARING A LOVE OF NATURE

By Donna Pollard



Over the Valentine's Day weekend, two South Dakota rock hounds came to Show Low. Paul and Sandy Sylie got in touch with WMGMC a couple of months back about searching for treasures in our area.

They were going to be at a convention in California, and on the way home planned to stop here. Carl Hickman passed their request on to me. Over the Valentine's Day weekend, I took them on a local tour. We went to the club property in St Johns, my rock "museum" in Concho, searched for agate and jasper on the BLM land on CR 8221, and searched for fossils and agates in Woodruff. A great time was had by all, and our club now has friends in South Dakota, should anyone go there.



OUR TRIP TO THE BULLION PLAZA CULTURAL CENTER AND MUSEUM

By
Sandra Angelo

What do we do when it is too cold to play on the mountain? We head to Miami! Okay, so it was Miami, Arizona. The Bullion Plaza Cultural Center and Museum gets better every year. The Rose Mofford Exhibit including the Slavic Cultural Exhibit has reopened after renovation. The mineral and geology exhibit is awesome. Always so much to see!

It was pleasant enough to walk to the restaurant. Guayo's El Rey does not disappoint. Then off to the very touristy Pickle Barrel Trading Post. Some of the group found things they couldn't live without, while others just enjoyed the atmosphere. Last official stop was the Copper City Rock Shop. It is almost impossible to leave there without purchasing some treasure.

Then it was time to head back up the hill. Two of us stopped at the bottom of the canyon and walked down to the river. That's an adventure for another time.



WORKING WITH BUMBLEBEE JASPER

By
Carl Hickman

Bumblebee Jasper is not jasper at all. It is a volcanic calcite mined in Indonesia. It foams profusely when placed in strong acid and essentially all dissolves. The yellow bands are Arsenic Trisulfide (As_2S_3). Arsenic is present throughout the formation, as even the dark parts produce a yellow Arsenic Sulfide solution.

When cutting or polishing, the soft formation crumbles easily. The yellow bands are softer than the surrounding matrix, and even wet handling produces finely divided yellow powder. Samples should be stabilized with epoxy or sodium silicate prior to shaping and polishing. Nitrile gloves, a good quality dust mask, an effective exhaust fan close to the work space and continuous water flow to tools and workpieces should be used to prevent work area contamination. Thorough cleanup is also required.

Approach this mineral with caution!



AROUND AND ABOUT IN THE MEETING ROOM

