



APACHE JUNCTION ROCK AND GEM CLUB

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President's Message – by Ed Lindsey

Looking back over the last 9 months, AJR&G Club has had some great successes and great losses. Membership has remained steady at about 400 members while shop usage has increased by about 30-40%. During the peak of our rock trip season participation was off the charts. At more than one trip attendance was large enough to create logistics problems, the likes of which we have never experienced before. This tells me we are seeing a dramatic increase in member engagement. I for one see this as a great success and proof that we are doing some things right.

Rock-hounding trips continue through May with a couple more trips planned over the next couple of weeks. On the 16th of May, a dozen of us went out for Globe Onyx with varying success. There was plenty of material, though some of the specific color varieties were less readily available. Don't miss Dan Jarvis's trip report in the newsletter of the Jerome trip. Our Trip Coordinator, Allan Koberna and Ginger Donahue are in the planning stages of a June trip for Luna Agate. This is a 2-day trip, which you don't want to miss, the details are below. The prize is a beautiful blue-grey agate with the occasional crystal filled vug.

I am happy to report that we have a very strong candidate this year for an Earth Sciences Scholarship. Since the scholarship process is not sync'd with Skyline High School's process, due to lack of a Scholarship Chairperson, we are making appropriate adjustments to ensure a deserving student does not go unrewarded. Your board is working to make a late announcement of the award after our June Board meeting. On another note, Board Meetings are held every first Tuesday of the month. Members are always welcome to attend.

The next general meeting will start the annual officer election cycle. John Philpot has graciously agreed to fill the role of Election Committee Chair again this year. Nominations should be sent to John by email at lujlp1@gmail.com. With the exception of two Trustee positions, all positions are open for nominations. In order to make John's job easier please ensure that the nominee is willing to accept their nomination before sending a nomination. From me to all of our members, please consider running for a position on the board. Our club only works if our members contribute their time and talents.

Speaking of contribution, committed volunteers is never more critical than in the fall. AJR&G Club's continued existence is based on having sufficient member involvement to run the Shows and fill the Operations and Administrative positions

required to keep the doors open. From late Fall through early Spring the Shop averaged 40 hours/week open to members. This was only possible through the efforts of our Monitors and Shop Manager, Richard Holle. If you have the time, please consider volunteering. There are job descriptions available at the shop for those interested in filling a specific position.

Now, it is with a heavy heart that I share news of the passing of Jerry Gervais, a long-time member and constant contributor, who passed after a short stay in the hospital. Those of you that know Jerry will remember him as the “go to person” for information on how to work Turquoise and as someone that always had time for others. Jerry will be sorely missed at the shop. There is a Mass planned for Jerry and his Rock Club family is invited. I will make sure details are sent when they become available. Rest in peace my friend, you will be missed.

Finally, the Summer Shop hours are now in effect. The Shop is open Monday through Friday from 7am to noon and Monday evenings Thanks to Mike Binion.

General meeting minutes for May 10, 2018 – by Nancy Suthann

Ed Lindsey, President: Called meeting to order at 6:35pm

Led Pledge of Allegiance

Introduced Officers

Welcomed new Members and Guests

Announced rocks for sale

Announced 50/50

Announced Silent Auction

Announced We have a face book page

Announced last general meeting until September

Board will continue to meet through Summer Months

Karen Moschinger, Treasurer:

Working on taxes and balancing the books

May ask for an extension for taxes

Nancy Suthann, Secretary:

Minutes approved for last General meeting approved

working on shop rules to be amended and posted to Web Site

Making a 3 ring Binder of all Job descriptions for all Volunteer positions

Daniel Lines, Youth Coordinator:

Went to 4 Peaks Elementary School, Gave presentation of Fossils

Black Water School scheduled for presentation

Jerry Fellenz, Trustee:

Still investigating A/C unit

A/C needs parts and may be too small to cool sufficiently

Sharon Koberna, Membership:

386 Members; 11 Junior

Cox Network does not work well with clubs E mails, if having problems, notify Sharon and she will send out individual E mails

Alan Koberna, Field Trip Leader:

Field trips posted on Bulletin Board

Reminded Everyone, to be prepared for warmer weather

Need more Field Trip Leaders

Due to increase of gas prices, Field trip cost will be up to \$3.00

Dave Promack, from Promack Treasure Hunters

All are invited to visit and or Join Club

10702 East Apache Trail, Apache Junction, Az. 480-983-3484

Gave Presentation on what The Club entails

will teach about metal detecting

Panning

Dry washing

Club does rent out Metal Detectors

Ed Lindsey, President:

Gave door prizes out

50/50

Reminded Members about silent Auction, due to close in 15 minutes

Adjourned meeting at 8:45

**Summer Hours: Monday-Friday 7:00 AM till 12:00 PM;
Most Monday Nights 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Closed all
holidays.**

Next General Meeting: September 13, 2018 6:30 PM

REPORT ON A GHOST TOWN ADVENTURE IN JEROME

A large team of unfriendly ghosts must have been roaming Highway 17 north of Phoenix looking for members of our club who were headed north to enjoy the day in and around Jerome. Only seven club members made it through the ghost blockade to arrive at the meeting place in Camp Verde. What other explanation could there be for the lucky few who made it?

From Camp Verde the “Luck Seven” jumped in their vehicles and headed west. The group passed through the towns of Cottonwood and Clarkdale while in route to Jerome. We could not believe all the new round-a-bouts in and near Cottonwood. We must have passed through about ten of them.

About 10:00 a.m. the group arrived in Jerome, and we all headed directly to the Jerome State Park Museum. There waiting for us near the entrance to the museum was a famous ghost who regularly roams the halls of the Jerome Public Library. She spoke to us and said her name was Kathleen Jarvis, and she said she had a brother named Dan. But, we all know that ghosts seem to stretch the truth on occasion. Before allowing us to enter the museum Kathleen told us stories of the old days in Jerome, gave us a visual tour of the town, and she told us that buying property or homes in Jerome is now only for the rich and famous.

The Library Ghost suddenly disappeared, and we all quickly entered the museum. Inside the museum, which used to be the private residence of a very rich man, we roamed the halls looking at all the antiques, history, photos, and beautiful rocks. The dark room with all the fluorescent rocks was well worth the trip to the museum.

Shortly before noon we all jumped back into our vehicles, drove through downtown Jerome, made a brief stop very close to the open pit mine, and then we headed north-west on Perkinsville Rd. toward our rock collecting site.

A little over 10 miles from Jerome we finally pulled into a parking area on the side of the road, and after brief instructions from Alan Koberna we began collecting rocks. The specimens we picked up included fossils and lots of agates. Time flew much too fast, and before we knew it the time arrived for us to head home. We all knew that one more time we had to pass through the ghost-infested town of Jerome, but such is the life of rock collectors like us. It is just amazing what things we have to put up with just to collect rocks.

Reported by Dan Jarvis

Report on The Globe Onyx trip

On May 16, 2018, a very warm hazy Arizona day, was one not to be remember in history books. Still, the story must be told, one of brave individuals in a search of rock. Not any rock, but the famous onyx rumored to be in the mountains north of

Globe and south of the great Salt River Canyon. On this day a gathering was held at the infamous McDonald's of Globe, an eatery for travelers of the southwest deserts. As our caravan grew, it was clear that the expedition was not a secret, a president and two experience guides were among the several adventurers. We gathered our mighty steeds, six trucks in all and headed north. As we exited the gathering spot and cleared the dreaded intersection we were able to relax a little. We traveled without incidents to the secret turn to the dreaded dirt road that would take us to the onyx site.

We arrived at the site with a small pullout with a hidden road sign that was the start of the last section or road leading up the hill. Not a hill for the faint of heart. A road of stories told around campfire at night of explorers who had to leave their truck balancing half off the side of the road overnight.

As we prepared to board the faithful vehicle that was to climb the last section of the journey tragedy happened, the mighty vehicle was dead. Bad Luck, a curse, sabotage? After reconnecting the battery cable that had vibrated loose the expedition continued.

With a couple of trips up and back down the rutted trail (not good enough to call a road) and all the people and gear was to the top. We attacked the hillside with hammer and chisels and it fought back, but after a few hours in about seventy-degree weather we came away with our reward, the fabled onyx from above Globe.

Reported by Alan Koberna

Upcoming Field Trips:

Luna Agate Weekend

TRIP LEADERS: Alan Koberna 602-579-0228 akoberna@cox.net,
Ginger Donahue 480-215-4991 stginger@gmail.com

WHEN: June 9 and 10, 2018

WHERE: Alpine AZ. and Luna NM.

MEETING LOCATION: Luna Lake parking lot outside of Alpine

MEETING TIME: 8:00 am both days

MILAGE: 250 plus

MATERIAL: Luna agate blue and gold, crystals quartz and possible amethyst, chalcedony. Most material weathered out of ground in pine needles and surface, may want to dig for larger material

VEHICLE TYPE: High clearance is best, road is good to one area and rutted to other and could be muddy, as always, we find ways to get people to site who do not have high clearance vehicles.

TERRAIN: Hillside covered with pine needles slope varies not hard climbing, small washes and along roads.

TOOLS NEEDED: rock hammer buckets, shovel and rake.

DIRECTIONS: Apache junction to Show Low via US60 143 miles (2hours 45 minutes), continue on US60 to Springerville 47 miles (50 minutes). From Springerville continue to Alpine via US191 (30 minutes). In Alpine turn left onto US180, Luna Lake is next to the road on left side, Luna Lake campground is around the back side of lake about one mile on dirt road.

ACCOMIDATIONS: Camp sites are available at Luna Lake Campground (just outside Alpine). Motels are also an option in Alpine and larger ones (a Best Western) in Springerville/Eager.

MEMBER COST: \$3.00 – **Bring ID Badge – Youth free**

GUEST COST: \$10.00 The member sponsoring the guest are responsible for the guest and must ensure the they follow all rules and procedures of the club.

COMMENTS: Could have afternoon rains with monsoon season.

Other field trips for the summer are being developed, flyers will be sent when confirmed.

38th Annual Gem and Mineral Show
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center
Barnett Arena in Rapid City, SD

Field Trips for the 2018 Show - Here are four planned trips. There should be more forthcoming as we move closer to the show date.

Wednesday July 18, 2018 – Antelope Ridge

This is an easy walking area and is very accessible from the road. You will find sponge coral on this field trip. Departure time to be determined.

Thursday July 19, 2018 – Black Hills National Forest / Hill City area

This field trip is centered around the Hill City region. It consists of two parts where each part explores distinct geological activity all within several mile radius. The region is in close proximity to Mount Rushmore National Park; the trip locations, however, are located with the Black Hills National Forest.

The first stop will be Blackberry Trail. This is a contact metamorphic region where most of the Cambrian rock has been upthrust and metamorphosed through heat and pressure. One should expect to find pyrite, feldspar, mica schist, mica and biotite as well as some other metamorphic materials along a stream bed. The trails are somewhat rugged. Hiking boots and jeans suggested.

The second stop will be sand caves. Aptly, no formal name for the spot, but a favorite where trilobites of Cambrian origin can be found. This was a site intended to mine fracking sand, however, the sand particles did not meet the specifications and tunneling was discontinued. Several short, interconnected caves are present and some rough terrain hiking can be had. Hiking boots and jeans suggested; bring a high intensity flashlight for photography.

The rally point will be the Civic Center parking lot 0800. Expect to depart by 0830. Maps will be handed out prior to departing.

Monday July 23, 2018– Railroad Butte/Farmingdale

Farmingdale is about 25 minutes east of Rapid City and is part of the National Grasslands recreation areas. You will be able to find agates (prairie agates and possibly one of those illusive Fairburn agates), coral, petrified wood, chalcedony and other treasures. The area is accessible by car, but if the weather has been on the wet side, you will want to make sure that you keep your vehicle on the trails or in the gravel parking areas. Since this area is prairie and our summers can be quite warm, remember to bring water for drinking and a spray bottle with sufficient water to bring out the ‘color’ in your finds. Sturdy shoes and jeans are also recommended because there can be knee high grass and the slithery creatures that reside in the grasslands. We will meet at the Civic Center at 8am and depart at 8:30am. Maps will be provided at the Civic Center on the day of the field trip.

If you have a smart phone and would like to download a map of the National Grasslands area, download the “Avenza” app and download the Buffalo Gap NG – Fall River Ranger District MVUM map.

Tuesday July 24, 2018 – Conata

Some of the things you will be able to find on the field trip to Conata Basin are prairie agates, petrified wood, Fairburn agates, coral and a lot of other beautiful rocks. Meeting time has not been determined. More information forthcoming.

Be safe and Be kind to the land

Bring water to drink, food to eat, chairs to rest, sunscreen to not burn, tools, buckets and anything else you might need.

APACHE TEARS NEEDED

To All Members of the Apache Junction Rock and Gem Club

Over the last few months the word has been spread around the country about our access to Apache Tears (obsidian). So far I have received calls from people located in California and Ohio who are looking for both natural and polished Apache Tears. Today (May 14) I received a telephone call from a man near Akron, Ohio who owns a rock shop called Fantasia Mining. He would like to buy as many natural Apache Tears as I can send him. The ones he is looking for are 1" diameter or larger. He said he would be willing to pay \$4-\$5 per pound, but the final price has not yet been agreed on. The stones that are 2 inches or larger would certainly be worth more, but you may want to keep them due to their rarity. The stones still embedded in perlite may also be of interest to the man in Ohio, but we did not talk about that on the telephone.

As many of you already know we have access to the perlite quarry in Superior once every 3 months, and this usually yields a total of 3000-4000 Apache Tears of all sizes each time we go. There are about 10-12 1" Apache Tears in 1 pound, so you can estimate the value of the ones you currently have. You may want to look at the prices people are asking on the internet for natural and polished Apache Tears. Some of the prices are shockingly high, but there are people who will pay those high prices.

If you are interested in selling your Apache Tears I would like to know where they are from. I personally believe the ones from Superior could have a higher value because they are from the birthplace of the name "Apache Tear".

I know that many of you have collected Apache Tears over the years, and some of you may or may not have any plans for them. If any of you are willing to sell your 1" or larger Apache Tears please contact me as soon as you can.

Sincerely
Dan Jarvis
1104 W. 9th Place, Mesa, AZ 85201
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(480) 221-3642 Cell
danjar1947@gmail.com



American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Subscribe to the Arizona Rockhound website

Our webmaster, Ron Ginn, has created a fantastic website with tons of information for Arizona rockhounds. Check it out at www.ArizonaRockHound.com



Amazon Donations for Apache Junction Rock & Gem Club - by Linn Mlstrot

We're always looking for a new way to generate donations to the club. We have a new opportunity through an Amazon program called AmazonSmile. If you shop at amazon.com go to **smile.amazon.com** instead, register with our club and start shopping. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to our club.

Even easier. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7057821> . It automatically asks if you want to support Apache Junction Rock and Gem Club, Inc.

I pulled the following information from their website. Feel free to check it out and then sign up and start shopping!

AmazonSmile has the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as Amazon.com, including Amazon Prime member benefits.

You can manage your purchases and other account information on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile using a single account. You can use your existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile if you have one, or create a new account if you don't.

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There is no cost to charitable organizations or to AmazonSmile customers. **Customers will have access to the same products, features, services, and great low prices as on Amazon.com.** The shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com with the added benefit that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from eligible AmazonSmile purchases to charitable organizations selected by customers.

The amount that the AmazonSmile Foundation donates as a result of your AmazonSmile purchase is not tax deductible by you. If you have any questions about your tax situation, you should contact your tax advisor.

All payment methods available on Amazon.com, including Shop with Points, are available for use on AmazonSmile. Note that if you choose to Shop with Points, we will calculate donation amounts based on the price of the item (not the amount of points redeemed).

Remember, if you shop on Amazon.com the club does not benefit. Only purchases made on **smile.amazon.com** will generate donations to the club. Use your existing Amazon account or create a new one at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7057821>

Compass For Your Cause Program - by Linn Mistrot

Are you considering changing banks? Are you thinking about opening a new checking account? If you are please consider BBVA Compass Bank. Apache Junction Rock and Gem Club, Inc. uses Compass Bank and we've been very happy with them.

We are a member of the bank's Compass For Your Cause Program. Every time any of our members (or any other supporter) opens a new BBVA Compass Bank Checking Account the Club receives a \$50 royalty. There is **no** cost or charge to you. All you have to do is give Compass Bank the Club's code when you open the account. And if you use the Visa Check card that comes with many of the accounts, the Club will get 0.25% of the purchase amount. Still no cost to you!

The Apache Junction Rock and Gem Club code number is 114303.

Compass has several checking account options available. One that is particularly attractive is the Clear Choice Free Checking account. Features include:

- Minimum opening amount of only \$25.00
- No monthly service charge
- One complimentary Visa Check Card
- Unlimited check writing

There are other benefits and other accounts. Ask a bank representative to explain them to you.

They have several locations but the one closest to the Club is on Baseline just east of Signal Butte Road. Be sure to give them **the Club's code: 114303**.

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