



Los Alamos Geological Society
P.O. Box 762, Los Alamos, NM 87544-0762

May Meeting Open to the Public

Time: Tuesday, May 19, 2009, 7:30 pm

Place: Christian Church

92 East Road

Los Alamos, NM 87544

Table of Contents

Monthly Speaker	1
President's Message	5
Regular Meeting Minutes	5
Board Meeting Minutes	6
Field Trip	6
Show Calendar	8
Membership News	11
Club Calendar	11
Newsletter Deadlines	11

Workshop Programs Sponsored by the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies by Danny Griffin, Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Danny will discuss the Workshop programs sponsored by the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The first and last workshops of the year are held at William School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, Georgia. Our speaker will talk about the facility, classes offered, and instructors. The other two workshops, held in late summer and early fall, are at Wildacres Retreat in Little Switzerland, North Carolina. These workshops have been held annually for 20 years or more. Finally, Danny will also briefly discuss his classes held at the Fuller Art Center.

Danny Griffin is the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies Education Chairman. Among other things, the Education Chairman is in charge of selecting Directors, Registrars, and Instructors for the SFMS workshops. There are two workshops held at two locations each year. Danny has been a member of the SFMS for over 15 years as part of Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society. He was president of Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society in 2008 and Vice President in 2006 and 2007. Danny is Director of the Wildacres Retreat Workshops for 2008 and 2009. He has taught jewelry making at several schools and owns a custom jewelry store in Tennessee. Danny has recently taught chain making at the Fuller Art Center here in Los Alamos. A class was held in March and another in April.



Some of Danny Griffin's jewelry from his classes.



Wildacres Retreat showing some of the grounds and classrooms..

Geology of the Sawatch, Mosquito/Tenmile, and Front Ranges Underfoot by Paul Bradley

This is the fourth and final installment of my tall tales of climbing all of Colorado's 14,000+ foot mountains. For this installment, I will talk about the Sawatch, Tenmile/Mosquito, and Front Range Mountains of Colorado. Most of these peaks are easy and I will be relatively brief on my coverage, since there are 26 peaks in all.

The Sawatch Range contains the three highest fourteeners in Colorado and fifteen in all -- more than in California. In spite of their height, most are easy climbs. I cover these from South to North, starting with the high thirteener Mount Ouray, which is very prominent from Poncha Pass as you drive into Salida, which is the largest town in Chaffee County. Their slogan is "Now THIS is Colorado". Indeed it is for me. Mount Ouray is a short, but moderately difficult class 2 climb from Marshall Pass. The first fourteeners are Mount Shavano and Mount Tabguache, which are best climbed from the Blank Gulch trailhead. These are easy climbs, but you do have to go over Mount Shavano to get to Tabeguache. Mount Antero (Fig. 1) is the next peak and is a favorite with many people -- including me -- because of the aquamarines one can find above 13,000 feet. The aquamarines and smoky quartz are best found shortly after the snow melts and exposes a new



Fig. 1. Mount Antero from US 285 near Nathrop. This view is typical of the Sawatch Fourteeners in that they are much higher than the Arkansas Valley, but have gentle slopes.

crop that has eroded out. Of the four times I have been on Mount Antero, I have only summited once. This is an easy climb with a jeep road to 13,800 feet. Note that the first three fourteeners are all composed of a white granite, but only Mount Antero (and Mount White) have the aquamarines. Mount Princeton is the southernmost "Collegiate Peak", which are named after universities on the East coast. Mount Princeton is an easy climb, but there is a memorial plaque where a young woman was killed by lightning within 100 feet of the summit. Even easy peaks can be deadly. Next up is Mount Yale, which was my second fourteener and a relatively easy peak. Mount Harvard and Mount Columbia are best done as a pair, but it is a long day from the Horn Fork Basin. The final Collegiate Peaks are Missouri Mountain, Mount Belford, and Mount Oxford. I was energetic enough to do this trio in a long day as well. I also found a Ptarmigen on the slopes of Mount Belford that obliged for a picture by freezing in place. The ghost town of Vicksburg is across

the road from this trailhead and is worth a visit if there is time. Next to Missouri Mountain is Huron Peak, which I climbed the following morning. A rain shower kept me from exploring the Banker Mine on the lower flanks of Huron Peak. Then there is La Plata Peak. One can climb it from Colorado 82 or climb it from Winfield (next to the trailhead for Huron Peak). I opted for the latter in an afternoon climb with good weather.

Mount Elbert is the highest peak in Colorado and the second highest peak in the lower 48 at 14,433 feet. It is also an easy climb; just don't do it the day they run the Leadville 100 mile ultramarathon. The last mile back to the car was a real drag with all the runners. The day before, I and two other people did the Mount Massive traverse. We left my car at the south trailhead and drove up to the north trailhead. This traverse shows the huge size of Mount Massive, and you climb all five summits that are over 14,000 feet. The highest is 14,421 feet, second highest in Colorado. We spent almost 5 hours above 14,000 feet. Wow. The northernmost fourteener of the Sawatch is Mount of the Holy Cross, with the distinctive Cross Coulior. This is a shy peak and not visible from a road. The morning I climbed it was not promising, as it had rained during the night and low clouds hung around. The trail goes over Halfmoon Pass and you lose 1000 feet of elevation that you have to climb out of on the way back. As I made it up along the ridge, the clouds parted and provided a nice view of the summit. Just

under four hours after starting, I stood on the summit. It was my last Sawatch Fourteener. Unfortunately, about this time a front came in and the snow was flying in a strong wind. Getting snow blown in your ear will send chills down your spine. Thank goodness for trekking poles. They made the descent over the rocks bearable. The drive south takes you by the ghost town of Gilman, perched on a cliffside.

The Tenmile/Mosquito Range contains five fourteeners and can be done in less than 48 hours with good weather and fitness. As you might expect, these are also easy climbs. Mount Sherman (Fig. 2) is the southernmost peak and is an easy climb from Leavick at 11,240 feet. This is an 8 mile roundtrip that I was able to climb in 4.5 hours. I then drove over Hoosier Pass to the trailhead, which is now at McCollough Road rather than Monte Cristo. Even though I was somewhat tired from climbing Mount Sherman, it still only took 4 hours to climb the 5.4 mile round trip of 3,370 feet. Two things were noteworthy about the climb.



Fig. 2. Ruins of Hilltop Mine with Mount Sherman in the background.

First was a pika sitting still long enough for a picture. They are in trouble. A constant temperature of 80 degrees or more will kill them. Thus, warming of the Rockies is forcing them to live higher. Hopefully they don't run out of mountain before they run out of cool weather. The second thing was running into a family of four heading up as I was heading down. They were woefully unprepared for climbing. They had two small water bottles and little or no extra clothing for bad weather. I talked them into turning around since it was clear they would not summit until at least 5 p.m. and it would be dark before they got down. Another climber lower down said I did them a favor by keeping them out of trouble. The other three fourteeners (Lincoln, Democrat, and Bross, see Fig. 3) are accessible from the Kite Lake trailhead at 12,000 feet. This campsite is wind tunnel. The wind started up at 4:30 AM and violently shook my tent. The climb is only 7 miles with 3600 feet of elevation gain. A steep trail took me right up Mount Democrat and there was an old mine near the top. The next hardest part was dropping into the saddle between the peaks and climbing up Mount Lincoln by way of Cameron Point. Mount Bross was an easy hike. The steep hike down was a drag without trekking poles. The five peaks have a total hiking distance of 20.4 miles and 9800 feet.

Finally there are the six peaks of the Front Range. Two of these peaks have roads to the summit; driving it does not count. Pike's Peak is of course the one most people see and is not a



Fig. 3. From left to right. Mount Bross, Mount Lincoln, Cameron Point, and Mount Democrat. This view is from the summit of Quandry Peak.

hard climb. I actually was on the summit during my honeymoon in 1987, but we drove up. It was 2005 before I did the climb on foot from the Craggs campground on the northwest side. This was only an 11.4 mile roundtrip rather than the 26 miles of the Barr Trail. Nothing difficult about the hike. I forgot to bring my credit card and just as well; the souvenirs are overpriced. I did the remaining five peaks in a three day jaunt. First up was Long's Peak. I camped at a nearby campground and parked about a half mile short of the Longs Peak trailhead. It was already that full by 5:30 AM on a Friday. I struck out on the trailhead and there I found two signs. The first informed me that the keyhole route was rated "Technical". Lovely. That meant I might have a long hike for no summit. The second told me that 56 people had died in the attempt up to that point. This is not quite as grim as it sounds, as people have attempted the climb since at least the late 1800's. The first part of the trail was a trivial climb to the Chasm Lake

junction with a spectacular view of Longs east face (see Fig. 4). I turned away to head for the Boulder Field. All of the landmarks on a popular peak like this have names. The keyhole is a rock window that looks like its namesake (Fig. 5). At this point, the route gets more serious, with a long series of ledges to the Trough. The route is marked (marred?) by paint spots. About halfway, the ledge disappears with a notch taken out of it. Two people in front of me froze with the sight. I waited for them to turn around and studied the spot. I had to step about 2 to 3 feet over the space and simultaneously reach for the handle on the adjoining rock. An 800 foot roll awaited if the move was wrong. I made the move and kept going. The Trough was the "Technical" part because there was ice in part of it. I and everyone else climbed up the rocks on the left side to avoid the ice. At the top was the Chockstone. I had to use my arms to lift myself over it, since people were block-



Fig. 4. The magnificent East Face of Longs Peak from the Chasm Lake turnoff. The "Diamond" face is the sheer face on the right side of Longs.



Fig. 5. The "Keyhole" of Longs Peak is a neat feature and a decision point for many climbers. The route gets much more difficult after this point.

ing the easy way. Next up was a ledge with spectacular exposure and the Narrows, where the trail is about 18 inches wide. After that point was a ramp called "Home-stretch" and I was on the summit. The summit is large enough for a game of soccer or football—just don't lose the ball. The involved route is the only weak spot in serious cliffs most of the way around. Although many people are attracted to this peak due to its proximity to Denver and it being the highest point in Rocky Mountain National Park, make no mistake. This is a serious climb of 5,000 vertical feet and 15 miles with lots of class 3 climbing and exposure.

After that excitement, I stopped in Lyons for a good German meal and got in the traffic jam out of Denver for Guanella Pass. This was the trailhead for Mount Bierstadt and Mount Evan via the "sawtooth". The willows of Guanella Pass used to be a real pill to get through. Boardwalks cut down on the difficulty and erosion. It's less than two hours from Guanella Pass to the summit of Bierstadt. Then the fun

begins. I had to rockhop down the northeast face of Bierstadt towards the sawtooth, which is a dramatic looking step in the Bierstadt-Evans (see Fig. 6). It looks worse than it is. After 90 minutes of rock scrambling, I got to the base of the sawtooth and climbed the exposed diagonal ledge to the top and hiked the 1.2 miles to Mount Evans crowded summit. Denver is very obvious from here and only 36 miles away as the crow flies. After a respite for lunch and pictures, I hiked back down to my



Fig. 6. The "Sawtooth" from Mount Bierstadt. One ascends the sawtooth via an exposed diagonal ledge facing the viewer. The peak in the background is an unofficial peak called Mount Spalding.

car. Fortified with an early dinner in Georgetown, I drove to a nice parking spot on the road to Grays and Torreys peaks (see Fig. 7). Once again, I was blasted awake about 5 a.m. by car headlights. In the Front Range, you are not alone. I grumbled as I got up and got started on the road to the trailhead and joined the crowds on the trail to Grays Peak, and it is a delightful class 1 climb. The trip over the saddle to Torreys

Peak is only slightly harder and the views are really neat from here. You can see Longs Peak, Bierstadt and Evans, along with the Tenmile/Mosquito Range. Even Mount of the Holy Cross is visible about 50 miles away. Some fellow Aggies gave me a lift from the trailhead back to my car, and soon I was enjoying the scenery on the drive home. Some people don't like mountains. Their loss. Some think only the Himalayas or Andes are worthy. The variety of climbs and easy access makes the Colorado Fourteeners my Shangri-La. Maybe it will be yours.



Fig. 7. A view of Grays Peak (left) and Torreys Peak (right) from the Stevens Gulch trail.

President's Message by Joyce Guzik, Co-President

Emily and Paul and Rick have lined up a great set of opportunities and activities for us to enjoy this spring and summer. I hope you will take advantage of the great northern NM weather and scenery to attend some field trips and enjoy learning from each other at club meetings.

Rick Kelly has established a Los Alamos Geological Society

Facebook group. He is posting club announcements and newsletters there, and we can use this place also as a forum for discussion. Facebook is free (so far), and the privacy has been excellent (so far). I encourage you to check it out.

I am looking forward to starting the next book discussion group now that Fraser Goff's book on the Valles Caldera is available. A number of us attended the book signing at Otowi Station and bought a copy--there should still be some for sale there. I would like to hold the first book discussion Thursday, May 21 from 8:00 am to 9:00 at Ruby K's bagels. I was trying to find a Tuesday morning, but the 26th is the day after Memorial Day weekend, and the previous Tuesday the 19th is our club meeting. Let's be ready to discuss Part 1 of the book (up to Page 27) by May 21. This is a shorter book than our previous selection of *Geology of the Southwest* by Scott Baldrige, so we should finish in perhaps four sessions.

LAGS Regular Meeting Tuesday, 21st April, 2009 by Mary Burns, Co-Secretary

Paul Bradley, co-VP for field trips, opened the meeting at 7:35pm at the Christian Church. There were 27 members present. Paul announced that the problems with our insurance coverage, which is part of the Rocky Mountain Federation's insurance coverage, have been resolved and that LAGS will end up paying slightly less for coverage. The problem was originally caused after the

financial melt-down, when large insurance companies made changes in their coverage.

The field trip to Orogrande was lightly attended, with 7 members taking part. But despite the wind everyone enjoyed the trip and some great specimens of green garnet were collected. Falk Burger bought some very nice specimens of garnet to the meeting.

The April field trip will be to the Quebradas area, east of Socorro. Charlie Thorn will lead a strenuous expedition to some old uranium mines to collect uranium minerals and see some of the spectacular faulting up close. Members, who prefer, can opt for a less strenuous trip to collect fossils near the highway. Also the NMGS Spring Meeting is on the Friday before this trip at Socorro.

The May trip will be to Carlsbad on Memorial weekend. There are a number of tours of the caverns that can be booked and there is also the possibility of visiting places such as McKittrick Canyon and viewing the bats' evening flights. Louise, Paul and Rick have sent out detailed emails to members about how to take part.

Emily Schultz-Fellenz, VP for programs, reported that the speaker for the May meeting will be Danny Griffin, who is a member of the Federation of Eastern Mineralogical Societies and runs a gemology school. Danny will talk about gemology and describe the courses he runs. The June meeting will be the silent auction.

Emily then introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr. Paul Bradley, who gave his final presentation on climbing the mountains over 14,000 feet in Colorado. Paul has been a very active member of the club for a number of years and has held a number of positions on the board, including five years as president. Paul received his BS in Chemical Engineering and his MS in Physics from Texas A&M University, during which time he became interested in geology. He received his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. He then moved to Los Alamos to work at LANL.

Paul's talk was about some of Colorado's 14,000 foot mountains, including the Sawatch Range, the Tenmile/Mosquito Range and the Front Range. Paul first gave a brief description of the geology of the area and then described his trip up each peak. In some areas there were old mines and Paul had some beautiful slides of the mountains and the wild flowers.

LAGS Board Meeting Wed., 25th March, 2009 by Barbara Carlos, Co-Secretary

Joyce Guzik, co-president opened the meeting at 7:43am at Ruby K's café in Los Alamos. Other attendees were Emily Schultz-Fellenz, Paul Bradley, Rick Kelley, Mary Burns and Barbara Carlos.

Emily discussed some of the upcoming programs. On May 19, Danny Griffin from the Southeastern Federation of

Mineralogical Societies will talk to us about lapidary classes offered at Fuller Lodge and a summer gemology school in the south. The June 16 meeting will be the silent auction. There was some discussion on how to increase attendance at the auction and also how to make sure there was a good balance of contributions for the potluck dinner. It was suggested that we order a tray of enchiladas from El Parasol and board members bring salad, the rest of the membership to bring whatever they wanted.

A raffle was suggested. An ongoing slide show of field trip pictures was another suggestion. Joyce suggested a trivia challenge. Emily thought we might do that at a later date and have elementary children form teams to compete. Most felt we don't want to do too much to distract from the auction. July 21

Elaine Jacobs will discuss her work in the Jemez Mountains in the Cerro Toledo interval.

Emily mentioned the Lortone trim saw and arbor donated to the club. It was decided it will be offered for sale to members at \$100 as it needs some (unspecified) work. Barbara suggested it be advertised at the May meeting, as the speaker will be talking about lapidary classes.

Paul Bradley, co-VP for field trips told us about the trip last month east of Socorro. Not many went, but all had a good time and saw some impressive geology. There was some discussion between Paul and Rick Kelley about the yellow uranium mineral(s) found. The May field trip is to Carlsbad

with four separate ranger guided tours. There is still room on at least one of these in addition to the main cavern. The June trip is planned to the Eureka mine and San Pedro Park and San Gregorio Lake. July is to be determined and sometime this year we will try for Guadalupe Box again. That one is weather dependent. The Great Sand Dunes in Colorado is another possibility for later in the year.

The next board meeting will be May 27, 7:30am at Ruby K's.

Field Trips by Paul Bradley and Rick Kelley

For May, we will explore the Carlsbad Caverns area over the Memorial Day Weekend, which will be from Friday, May 22, through probably Monday, May 25. Besides visiting the main cave, we will be taking several ranger-guided tours. They require advance reservations and may not be available now if you are interested. The tours we have scheduled include the Lower Cave Thursday, May 21, at 1 p.m. and Slaughter Canyon Cave at 10 a.m. on Saturday (which requires a half-mile hike with 500 feet elevation gain). We will also visit the Left-Hand Tunnel on Friday, May 22, at 9 a.m. and King's Palace at 2 p.m. We will visit the cave proper around the other tours, probably on Saturday afternoon. There are other things to see and do, such as the bat flight one evening. If you have changed your mind and decide to go, let Rick or I know and check out www.nps.gov/cave for more details.

Orogrande Field Trip by Paul Bradley and Rick Kelley

Our March field trip took us to the Orogrande mining district in the Jarilla mountains south of Alamogordo on the weekend of March 27-29. Rick Kelley and Sherry Miller chose to camp in the desert near the mines, while others stayed in motels in Alamogordo.

The Spring snowstorm on Thursday night/Friday morning made an interesting day of travel. Fortunately, most of the interest lay in checking the weather and road condition information. The drive (I went through Socorro) was uneventful. The weather in Alamogordo was beautiful on Saturday as we drove to Orogrande to meet with the campers. Seven of us drove over to the north side of the Ohaysi valley to our first location, which mostly featured garnet (var. andradite, a calcium-iron garnet). Figure 1 shows the club members digging and banging away. Falk Burger and some others got their exercise swinging a 10-lb sledgehammer at promising looking rocks.

Several people were interested in finding their own turquoise, so we went to the southeast side of the valley to a cut that had a pale color from hydrothermal alteration. We knew there would be turquoise from past experience; the challenge was finding veins and not just surface color. We did find a little of the decent material. Some of us chose to explore the ground near where

the vehicles were parked and were having luck finding reddish garnet and even magnetite.

Our desire for turquoise was whetted by this experience, so we went to a second location that I knew had occasional nuggets. Figure 2 shows our explorers checking out the slope for turquoise and gypsum. I showed the others a promising area and I took off for the Iron Duke/Cinco de Mayo mine that forms a prominent notch on the western skyline (see Fig. 3). The road I was on soon ended and I was faced with nasty bushwhacking on a steep slope. I was reminded of the old quote about rock hunting in the desert. "If it doesn't bite, scratch, or sting, it's a rock." After about 20 minutes, I finally stood at the mine opening. This was the largest mine in the district and produced over 150,000 tons of iron ore, mostly from 1916 to 1921. One can still see the banded iron ore in the rock face and the scattered rocks have garnet, hematite, and magnetite. I opted to return via the ridge crest so I would not have to cross



Fig. 1. LAGS members looking for garnet and other minerals.



Fig. 2. LAGS members at the second turquoise site, looking for turquoises and gypsum.

all the ravines and steep slopes. This worked out well and I soon rejoined the others. Rick called for me to climb up to where he had found some nice garnets, including larger ones up to 0.5 cm across. I found a few pieces with this, and one really sparkly specimen with sharp faces. If you have not guessed, there is a lot of garnet here. You have to be picky. At about 4:30 PM, we called it a day.

Rick and Sherry again camped and spent a quiet night in the desert watching jack rabbits and quail. The rest of us went to Alamogordo to clean up and eat dinner.

On Sunday morning, Rick and Sherry decided to drive up to the area above camp where we found the larger garnets on Saturday. On the way up, they spotted a new road cut composed almost entirely of nice crystals, so we spent the rest of the morning exploring the cut and the slopes above with great success. They found many nice clusters and a few larger (up to 2.5 cm) single crystals of brown to red



Fig. 3. Cinco de Mayo iron mine cut from a ridge.



Fig. 4. Close-up of a nice garnet found by Sherry Miller..

andradite (Fig. 4). By about noon, they decided they had all the specimens they needed, and headed out to the highway for a very windy drive north and home.

On the way home, I decided to stop at a campground near Bonito Lake, which in turn is a few miles northwest of Ruidoso off NM 37. An old mine there produced corundum of all things. This was too interesting to pass up since it was only a short diversion. The directions in the Rock and Gem magazine article (December 2003, page 80) were good enough to get me to the campground which was still closed and gated for the winter. Good, that saved me a \$10 parking fee. The trailhead was easy enough to find and the trail was good. There was still some snow from the Thursday night storm, but my boots made short work of it. After about a mile of hiking, I found the rock pile (see Fig. 5) and sure enough, one could make out the blue color of corundum as streaks and blobs in some of the rock. I broke up a few pieces and selected some

samples. Given that the campsite was closed and it not being tourist season, I pretty much had the place to myself; I only saw one other person on the way out. The site is what I expected in that the material is worth a side trip if you are in the are, but it is not worth a special trip.



Fig. 5. The unobtrusive dumps of the former corundum deposit near Ruidoso.

Show Calendar

May 13--McCLELLAN (SACRAMENTO), CALIFORNIA: Wholesale show; Rings & Things; Lion's Gate Hotel Sacramento (Garden Pavilion), 3410 Wover St.; Wed. 12-4; contact Dave Robertson, (800) 366-2156; Web site: www.rings-things.com/Show/

May 14--SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA: Wholesale show; Rings & Things; San Mateo Co. Expo Center Meeting Pavilion, 2495 S. Delaware St.; Thu. 1-5; contact Dave Robertson, (800) 366-2156; Web site: www.rings-things.com/Show/

May 15-17--ANDERSON, CALIFORNIA: Show; Superior California Gem & Mineral Association; Shasta Fairgrounds, 1890 Briggs; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; tailgaters, indoor dealers, demonstrators, gold panning, wire wrapping, soapstone carving, cabochon making, flint knapping, raffle, displays, free door prize drawings, dealers, gems, gold and silver jewelry, fossils, minerals, beads, supplies; contact Bill Seward, (530) 365-8641; e-mail: kstoltz13@frontiernet.net

May 15-17--COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA: Show, "West Coast Gem & Mineral Show - Spring"; Martin Zinn Expositions; Holiday Inn - Bristol Plaza, 3131 S. Bristol; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; 120 wholesale and retail dealers, open to the public; contact Martin Zinn Expositions, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665, fax (505) 867-0073; e-mail:

mz0955@aol.com; Web site:
www.mzexpos.com

May 15-17--GRAPEVINE, TEXAS: Retail and wholesale show; Bead Renaissance Shows; Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-5; free admission; bead artists, dealers, ancient, vintage, contemporary and designer beads, jewelry, tools, books; contact J&J Promotions LLC, P.O. Box 420, Williamsburg, NM 87942, (575) 894-1293; e-mail: beadshow@aol.com; Web site: www.beadshow.com

May 15-17--SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA: Show; Gem Faire Inc.; Cal Expo/Bldg. A, 1600 Exposition Blvd.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

May 16--BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA: Wholesale show; Rings & Things; Holiday Inn Buena Park, 7000 Beach Blvd.; Sat. 10-2; contact Dave Robertson, (800) 366-2156; Web site: www.rings-things.com/Show/

May 16-17--CHEYENNE, WYOMING: Show; Cheyenne Gem & Mineral Society; American Legion Post 6, 2001 E. Lincoln Way; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; contact George Durako, (307) 634-4229; e-mail: bluebarite1@bresnan.net

May 16-17--HERMISTON, OREGON: Annual show; Hatrockhounds Gem & Mineral Society; Hermiston Conference Center, Hwy. 395 S.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Mike Filarski, (541) 922-5091; e-mail: stonemor-

lin1@netscape.net

May 16-17--LUBBOCK, TEXAS: 51st show; Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society; Lubbock Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Ln.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; displays, dealers, demonstrations, silent auction, special exhibit "The Rock Food Table"; contact Archie Scott, (806) 894-1584; e-mail: asscott3@windstream.net

May 16-17--NEWBURY PARK, CALIFORNIA: 35th annual show, "Pageant of a Thousand Gems"; Conejo Gem & Mineral Club; Borchard Park, 190 Reino Rd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4:30; free admission; minerals, rocks, fossils, exhibits, demonstrations, dealers, youth activities, door prizes, silent auctions, plant sales; contact Robert Sankovich, (805) 494-7734; e-mail: rmsorca@adelphia.net; Web site: www.cgamc.org

May 16-17--YUCAIPA, CALIFORNIA: Show; Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society; Yucaipa Community Center, 34900 Oak Glen Rd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; 16 dealers, gems, rocks, children's rock Bingo, Spin the Wheel, demonstrations, wire wrapping, beading, sphere making, rock polishing, silent auction; contact William P. Jochimsen, 35525 Ivy Ave., Yucaipa, CA 92399, (909) 790-1475; e-mail: bjm2285@aol.com; Web site: http://mysite.verizon.net/yucaipagem

May 17--SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA: Wholesale show; Rings & Things; Hilton San Bernardino (The Inland Ballroom), 285 E. Hospitality Ln.; Sun. 10-2; contact Dave Robertson, (800) 366-2156; Web site: www.rings-

things.com/Show/

May 19--MESA, ARIZONA: Wholesale show; Rings & Things; Holiday Inn & Suites (Superstition Ballroom), 1600 S. Country Club Dr.; Tue. 12-4; contact Dave Robertson, (800) 366-2156; Web site: www.rings-things.com/Show/

May 22-24--CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS: Show; ; Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz International Center, 402 Harbor Dr.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; free admission; \$100 shopping spree drawing each day; contact Kateri Rose, (509) 690-7644; Web site: www.myspace.com/beadjamboree

May 22-25--SCOTTSBUFF, NEBRASKA: Rock swap; Panhandle Rock & Gem Club; Riverside Zoo and Campground, 1600 S. Beltline Hwy. W; Fri. 8-5, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 8-5, Mon. 8-5; free admission; contact Dale Tikalsky, 523 W. 20th St., Scottsbluff, NE 69361, (308) 632-5547; e-mail: tikalsky21@charter.net

May 23-24--FORT WORTH, TEXAS: Show, "Jumpin' for Godes"; Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club; Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W. Lancaster; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, seniors \$4, children 12 and under free; jewelry, gems, beads, minerals, fossils, more than 25 dealers, demonstrations, displays, silent auction, kids' Wheel of Chance and rock/fossil dig, door prizes; contact Steve Hilliard, P.O. Box 418, Decatur, TX 76234, (817) 925-5760; e-mail: fwgmc@embarqmail.com; Web site: www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.com

May 23-24--HAMILTON, MONTANA: Show, "Montana State Rock & Gem Show"; Bitterroot Gem & Mineral Society; Bitterroot River Inn Convention Center, 139 Bitterroot Plaza Dr.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children under 10 free with adult; 17 dealers, gems, minerals, fossils, beads, jewelry, displays, wire wrapping demonstrations, flint knapping demonstrations; contact Steve Vieth, 309 Bailey Ave., Hamilton, MT 59840, (406) 363-2632; e-mail: STEVEVIETH@gmail.com; Web site: <http://bitterrootgms.org>

May 29-31--LAS VEGAS, NEVADA: Retail and wholesale show; Bead Renaissance Shows; Palace Station Hotel/Casino, 2411 W. Sahara Ave.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; bead artists, dealers, ancient, vintage, contemporary and designer beads, jewelry, tools, books; contact J&J Promotions LLC, P.O. Box 420, Williamsburg, NM 87942, (575) 894-1293; e-mail: beadshow@aol.com; Web site: www.beadshow.com

May 29-31--SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA: Show; Gem Faire Inc.; Earl Warren Showgrounds/Exhibit Hall, 3400 Calle Real; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

May 30-31--GLEN DORA, CALIFORNIA: Show; Glendora GEMS; 859 E. Sierra Madre Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; contact Bonnie Bidwell, (626)

963-4638; e-mail: Ybidwell2@aol.com

June 5-6--PRICE, UTAH: Show; Castle Country Rock, Fossil & Mineral Club; J. Leavitt Student Center - C.E.U, 526 North 300 East; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7; free admission; rocks, fossils, minerals, jewelry, metal detectors, equipment, displays, demonstrations, door prizes; contact Patrick Braun, P.O. Box 236, Ferron, UT 84523, (435) 384-2211; e-mail: pbraun@etv.net

June 5-7--PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Puyallup Valley Rock & Mineral Club; Fruitland Grange, 112th St. and 86th Ave. E; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; contact Brett Lawrence, 10413 Delwood Dr. SW, Lakewood, WA 98498; e-mail: bandslawrence@comcast.net

June 5-7--RENO, NEVADA: Retail and wholesale show; Bead Renaissance Shows; Holiday Inn, 1000 E. Sixth St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; bead artists, dealers, ancient, vintage, contemporary and designer beads, jewelry, tools, books; contact J&J Promotions LLC, P.O. Box 420, Williamsburg, NM 87942, (575) 894-1293; e-mail: beadshow@aol.com; Web site: www.beadshow.com

June 5-7--WOODLAND HILLS, CALIFORNIA: Show, "Rockatomics Rockhound Roundup"; The Foundation of Pierce College, Rockatomics Gem & Mineral Society; Pierce College, Victory Blvd. and Mason St.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; gems, jewelry, tailgate selling, dealers; contact Linda Ralph, (818) 887-9791; e-mail: show@

Rockatomics.org; Web site: www.Rockatomics.org

June 6--DELTA, COLORADO: Show; Delta County Rock Wranglers; Heddles Recreation Center, 530 Gunnison River Dr.; Sat. 9-5; free admission; dealers, exhibits, door prizes, family activities; contact Harry W. Masinton, (970) 856-3861

June 6-7--LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA: Show, "Jubilee of Gems"; North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society, City of La Habra; La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; dealers, demonstrators, exhibits, youth activities, gold panning, geode cutting; contact Richard Schirer, 14602 Calpella St., La Mirada, CA 90638, (562) 944-9445; e-mail: rich477@ca.rr.com

June 6-7--SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA: Show, "The Great San Francisco Crystal Fair"; Pacific Crystal Guild; Fort Mason Center, Bldg. A, Laguna and Marina Blvd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$6, children under 12 free; gems, jewelry, crystals, beads, psychics; contact Jerry Tomlinson, (415) 383-7837; e-mail: sfxtl@earthlink.net; Web site: www.crystalfair.com



Test Your Knowledge

Test your knowledge and see if you can guess where on Earth (or off) this image is from. Answer will be in next month's issue.

Test Your Knowledge — Last Month's Answer



Mount Redoubt Erupts

Crater showing rapidly melting glacier and enlarged "ice piston" feature on March 21st, 2009. Image courtesy of AVO/USGS and Cyrus Read. An eruption of Mt. Redoubt began at approximately 22:38 AKDT, March 22, 2009 (0638 UTC). AVO raised the aviation color code to Red and the alert level to Warning. Initial height of the eruption cloud was estimated at less than 20,000 ft above sea level at present.

Field Trip VP Rick Kelley guessed the answer!

Membership News

LAGS Book Group

Book Discussion of Valles Caldera: A Geologic History by Fraser Goff, pages 1-27, Thursday, May 21 at 8:00 am at Ruby K's.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, May 27, 7:30 a.m. at Ruby K's.

Club Calendar 2009

May 19—LAGS Regular meeting at the Christian Church at 7:30 p.m. Speaker will be Danny Griffin of the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

May 23-25—Field trip to Carlsbad Caverns.

May 27—LAGS Board Meeting at 7:30 a.m. at Ruby K's.

June 16—LAGS Regular meeting at the Christian Church at 7:30 p.m. This meeting will be our silent auction and potluck.

June—Field trip to the Eureka mine, San Pedro Park, and San Gregorio Lake.

July 21—LAGS Regular meeting at the Christian Church at 7:30 p.m. Elaine Jacobs will discuss her work in the Jemez Mountains in the Cerro Toledo interval.

Newsletter Deadlines

email: lmendius@hotmail.com

If you have items that you would like to see in the newsletter, please contact Louise Mendius on or before the last Thursday of the month. The deadlines for each newsletter issue are:

June 2009 issue: May 29, 2009

July 2009 issue: June 26, 2009

August 2009 issue: July 30, 2009

September 2009 issue: August 28, 2009

October 2009 issue: September 28, 2009

November 2009 issue: October 29, 2009

December 2009 issue: November 27, 2009

January 2010 issue: December 23, 2009



LOS ALAMOS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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Our organization is devoted to studying and promoting interest in geology, mineralogy, archeology, paleontology, and the lapidary arts. Membership is available to any person, family, or institution in sympathy with the objectives of the Society.

General meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at the Christian Church, 92 East Road, Los Alamos at 7:30 p.m. The Executive Board meets the fourth Wednesday of the month. Field trips are held the Saturday following the general meeting. Exceptions to the schedules for field trips are published in the Obsidian Observer.

All activities and field trips of the Society are open to the public; reservations may be required for some events. All memberships are family memberships with annual dues of \$20. The dues entitle a family to participate in LAGS activities until the end of the calendar year. Any officer of the Society may be contacted for additional information.

The Society is a member of the RMFMS and an affiliate member of the AFMS, and is a sponsor of the New Mexico Symposium at Socorro, NM. Articles may be printed from the Obsidian Observer if credit is given to authors and their publications.

FIRST CLASS