

LAKE HAVASU GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

**P. O. Box 990
Lake Havasu City,
AZ 86405**

**Editor:
Barbara Wiggins
bartobra@gmail.com**

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**We are saddened by the
passing of our fellow
rockhound,
Rick Gilpin.**

**Our most sincere
sympathy goes out to
his wife and our fellow
rockhound, Gayle, and
to his family.**



Rocky Tales

Volume 48, Issue 6

September 2022

The Official Publication of The Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

GENERAL MEETING September 9, 2022

**Mount Olive Lutheran Church
2170 Havasupai Boulevard
(corner of Havasupai Blvd. and Acoma Blvd.)
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403**

**Visiting @ 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Begins @ 7:00 p.m.**



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CLUB INFORMATION

The Purpose of this Society shall be to:

- A. Increase our appreciation of the beauty and value of the land in which we live.
- B. Foster good fellowship among its members.
- C. Host an annual Gem and Mineral Show for the community.
- D. Foster awareness of the earth sciences by:
 - 1. Increasing knowledge pertaining to minerals, gems, and rocks.
 - 2. Disseminating knowledge of collecting and classification of minerals, fossils and rocks through collection and classification.
 - 3. Improving the practical knowledge of cutting, grinding and polishing materials to use in the design and creation of jewelry and other useful objects.
- E. Provide educational scholarships in the scientific fields.
- F. Procure and improve the Society's property.

The Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society meets the second Friday of each month from September through May.

The membership typically votes to eliminate the June, July, and August meetings.

Fiscal Year: February 1 – January 31.

Name badges are required for all members. One time or replacement badge cost is \$12.00

Annual Membership dues are payable on January 1 and are delinquent after the February meeting.

Single membership cost is \$20.00
Junior membership cost is \$10.00

Please remit payment to:

Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society
Attn: Membership Chairperson
P.O. Box 990
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405-0990

The Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society is a member of The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) and associated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS).

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Rick Kerber	President
Sherrill Mann	Vice President
Sandie Willis	Secretary
Duane Billedeaux	Treasurer
Don Wininger	Sgt at Arms
Joseph Scheyer	Director One Year
Linda Chandler	Director Two Year
Jim Wijnhamer	Director Three Year
Linda Harley	Past President
Kathy Padilla	Director of Operations Havasus Rocks
Al Yanity	Director of Operations
Mike Bamsch	Lapidary Shop

COMMITTEES

Communications	Jane Highness
Event	Open
Field Trip	Al Yanity
Gem Show	Sandie Willis
Hospitality	Open
Membership	Rose Mann
Lapidary Shop	Al Yanity / Mike Bamsch
Havasus Rocks	Kathy Padilla
Finance	Duane Billedeaux
By-Laws	Sandie Willis
Nominating	Sandie Willis
Scholarship	Sandie Willis

Rocky Tales is published monthly except for June, July and August. The submission deadline is the 3rd Friday of the month by email to: bartobra@gmail.com

Rocky Tales Editor: Barbara Wiggins

Website Moderator: Jane Highness
<http://www.lakehavasugms.com/>

Facebook Page: Jane Highness
<https://www.facebook.com/HavaRockShop2017>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



September is approaching fast and we will get back to General Membership Meeting on the second Friday of each month. Our next meeting will be on September 9th at Mount Olive Lutheran Church. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there.

Thanks to our Shop Monitors, the lapidary shop has been open most of the summer. It has been fairly busy and some of the grinding/polishing wheels have seen their last days so we just ordered some new ones. Using the lapidary shop is a big plus for members so come on down and turn your rocks into something beautiful.

The club retail store has been open all summer Tuesday through Saturday and has done a lot of great sales. The club has also partnered with the museum on several events over the summer which was great for both the club and the museum.

It is time to start planning/getting ready for the November Gem & Mineral Show. We ask all of our members to help out with this event, even if only for a few hours. We will need volunteers for setting up, taking it down and for numerous positions during the event. A sign-up sheet will be available soon so set aside the weekend of November 11th thru the 13th to help make this another great event.

In a couple of months we will start the election process for the board of directors for the year 2023. Please consider running for a board position and keeping this club successful. I don't know for sure how many openings need to be filled but I know that we need someone to step up and be club President (my 2-year term limit is ending) and to be our club Secretary (Sandie is probably moving away). A requirement in our by-laws is that a board member must be in the club for 2 years but if no-one steps up, we can waive that requirement. I automatically become "Past President" board member and my job will be to assist the new president and make sure they are successful.

Also, in just a couple of months, when the temperatures drop into the 80's, we can start our field trips again. If you want to lead us to your favorite rock hounding location, let us know and we will set everything up.

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our friend and longtime member Rick Gilpin on June 12th. Our condolences to his wife and longtime member Gayle, and to his family.

Rick Kerber - President



LAKE HAVASU GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MINUTES

May 13, 2022

Board members present:

Sandra Willis, Secretary
Duane Billedeaux, Treasurer
Don Wininger, Sargent at Arms
Mike Bamsch, Lapidary Shop Co-Director
Kathy Padilla, Havasu Rocks Director
Rose Mann, Havasu Rocks Assistant Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, by Sandra Willis, Secretary.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Don Wininger, Sargent at Arms. The minutes document from the previous meeting, sent in the Rocky Tales, was unanimously approved after a motion by Debbie Murray and second by David Derisio.

The Treasurer's Report, delivered by Duane Billedeaux, was approved unanimously after a motion by a member and second by Carrie Monkert*. The report is available upon request.

Membership Chairman, Rose Mann, reported that there were 281 members. New members* and guests* were given polished rocks by Don Wininger.

Gem Show Chairman, Sandra Willis, presented "Flinty Frank, the Wanna-be-Boulder". This will be the rock character for the Gem Show. He is taken around to the businesses that contribute to raffle baskets/scholarship fund at the show and is used in the advertising. He is then auctioned off. Thank you to Carol Jose, who created this wonderful rock. Michelle Smedley has created the post card that will be out next month. We will be going full speed starting in September.

Scholarship Chairman, Sandra Willis, presented \$1000 scholarships to 2 graduating seniors, Samantha Durbin and Arianne Macready. She thanked Chris Muse and Leslie Rosario for their assistance with choosing these candidates. The money for these annual scholarships is funded through the raffle baskets at the Gem Show.

Havasus Rocks, per Kathy Padilla, is doing wonderfully. There have been good sales and donations. She thanked the volunteers for their time and efforts in keeping the store staffed. There is always need for more volunteers, especially since many of the club's winter visitors have left, and the museum needs staffing for the summer.

Lapidary Shop: Mike Bamsch reported that the shop is ready for summer, with machines in good working order, and the air conditioning keeps working conditions comfortable. He gave recognition to Steve Prather for his time and diligence in the lapidary shop.

A short break was taken. Thank you to those who provided goodies.

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The cabochon prize went to Mike Muse, with Duane Billedeaux a close second. They were given first choice at the door prize table.

Winners of the 50/50 were Kathy Padilla and one other member*. Door prizes were given out.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55. Everyone was encouraged to stay around and share some of the projects they are working on.

*Please accept apologies from your secretary for not getting the names of the members who moved or seconded documents, as she was somewhat discombobulated by trying to do the notes and run the meeting. She apologizes for having omitted names of new members and guests for the same reason.

Following the meeting members shared some of their projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Willis, Secretary



Getting the Best Gem Yield from a Crystal

by Jeff R. Graham

Cutting rough crystals for the best gem yield is a critical skill for faceters. Not surprisingly, novices often ask me how they can figure this out. I'm going to walk you through my decision making process using a very nice aquamarine crystal.

So, let's say I've bought this aquamarine rough. How do I cut it for the best gem yield?

Take Your Time

Examine the crystal very closely and take your time. Don't make any fast decisions. If you're not sure, just give it as long as it takes. Sometimes, I think about a piece of rough for a long time. Once, I mulled over a piece of [spinel](#) for a year before I cut it. I finally found the design it needed.

This quality piece of aquamarine will yield very high in about any shape(s) you want. However, you still face a lot of choices. While some depend on [the best mass yields](#), others depend more on what you want to get out of the crystal, particularly what shapes.

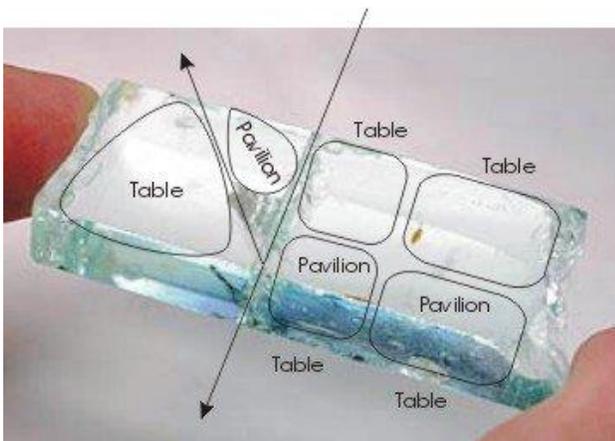
Consider the Gem Shapes

I say shapes because I often opt for a lower yield to get a shape or design I want or that I know will work especially well for the rough. Some shapes just sell better than others, too. Always consider this factor. I usually try for shapes such as [trillions](#), [square cushions](#), and [cushions](#). I also try for matched sets of about any type.

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In the photo, I've marked a basic set of outlines I would cut from this aquamarine. Keep reading. You might find some of my approaches to this crystal surprising.

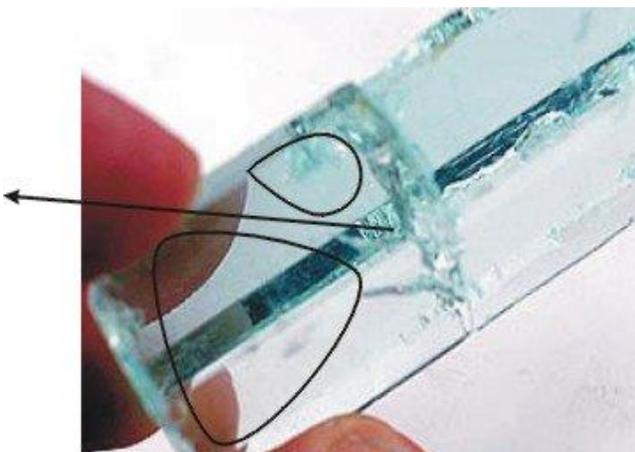


Choosing the Direction of Your Cuts

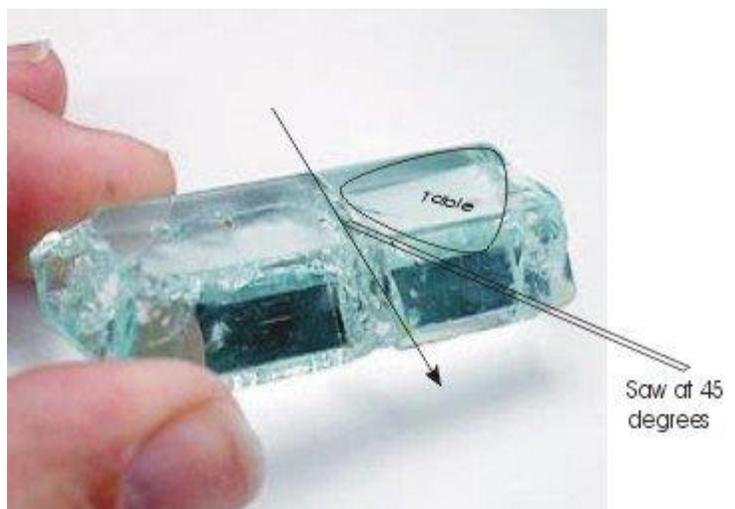
For this rough, the first cut is obvious. Cut the crystal along the growth line. You'll get two pieces: one a little over a 1/3 of the length of the rough (left), the other a little under 2/3 of the length (right).

The main stone outlined on the left side section is a trillion. (For this gem, I'd use my [Signature #4](#) design, one of my favorites for aquamarine).

Take a look at the following close-up photo of the left side section. Notice the flaw in the middle of the crystal, where the arrowed line starts. (The larger right section is clean, without flaws). Now, notice what looks like a flaw beneath the arrowed line? That's only a reflection of the actual flaw, which is oriented and running at about 45° towards the crystal's edge. The point of the pear outline also happens to point to the crystal edge that way.



If you look at the next photo, you'll see that cutting at a 45° angle with a saw blade will just about preform the pear pavilion (on one side) and, of course, help point up the trillion bottom. *Note: I rotated the trillion a bit to get a long side along the saw cut.* Due to the 45° cut, you'll get a pear quite a bit bigger than if you'd just cut at 90°.



Sawing at 45° basically solves two problems at once. It creates pavilion points for the trillion and pear and removes a flaw.

Trimming Scraps Can Also Yield Gems

I'd use an ultra-thin saw blade and trim the trillion on all three sides of the pavilion (and the pear on the second side). The trimming won't leave large scraps. However, they could yield several [carats](#) of cut stones. Depending on the gem design you use, the scraps from the trillion pavilion could cut a couple of carats each.

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Cutting for the Tables and Pavilions

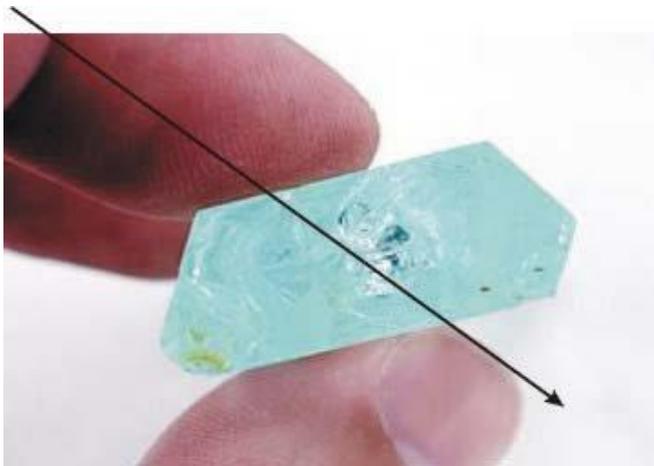
The pear's [table](#) is actually on the bottom of the crystal, as it appears in the photos. The trillion's table is on the opposite, top side.

Now, the next cut may surprise you. Go back and look at the photo with the shape outlines. Note that on the larger right section of the aquamarine I've marked two square cushions and two rectangles. What you may not have guessed is how I'd trim the crystal and exactly where the stones' [pavilions](#) will be. In this photo of the end of the crystal, I've marked where I'd cut. With a trim saw, I'd cut at about 45° through the middle of the length of the right section of the crystal.

Cutting for the Tables and Pavilions

The pear's [table](#) is actually on the bottom of the crystal, as it appears in the photos. The trillion's table is on the opposite, top side.

Now, the next cut may surprise you. Go back and look at the photo with the shape outlines. Note that on the larger right section of the aquamarine, I've marked two square cushions and two rectangles. What you may not have guessed is how I'd trim the crystal and exactly where the stones' [pavilions](#) will be. In this photo of the end of the crystal, I've marked where I'd cut. With a trim saw, I'd cut at about 45° through the middle of the length of the right section of the crystal.



The tables of these stones will be at 4 o'clock and 10 o'clock, respectively. (The top of your computer screen marks 12 o'clock). This cut will yield much larger stones. However, inexperienced faceters may not even think of taking this approach.

For the two rectangles, I'd consider my [Aqua Cisir](#) cut. For the square cushions, I'd probably use my [Nigerian Cushion](#). The Aqua Cisir design has a [keel](#) and would really yield well in this material. The cushion is just a classic cut.

Conclusion

I think cutting the way I've outlined would give you the best gem yield for this crystal. The gem designs I've recommended will help yields and also improve colors.

Remember, take your time. Think about the rough before doing any cutting.

Source: The International Gem Society (IGS)

Household Products that can be used as Rock Cleaners

by Betsy Martin

Safety Note: Always use plastic containers, rubber or nitrile gloves, eye protection, good ventilation, and great care when handling these products.



1. Zud® or Barkeeper's Friend® cleansers. Both contain oxalic acid. Warm or hot solutions will remove iron stains and are helpful with clay deposits. These cleaners can be used with a toothbrush on sturdy surfaces.
2. Toilet Cleaner (the hydrochloric acid type) dissolves calcite rapidly. After treating anything in acid, rinse very carefully and soak in ample fresh or distilled water for awhile to leach out any acid remaining in crystals seams and fractures. You can then follow up with a final soak in dilute Windex® to neutralize remaining traces of acid.
3. Lime Away (dilute hydrochloric acid) - dissolves calcite more slowly. Rinse as you would for other acid treatments. See above.
4. Calgon® - Dissolve this powdered water softener in water. Use for clay removal.
5. Vinegar (Acetic acid), soda water, colas (carbonic and phosphoric acids) - will slowly etch out very delicate fossils in limestone. Rinse as you would for other acids (see above).
6. Iron Out® (iron stain and clay remover) - Mix with warm water and use with good ventilation. It will lose strength if stored. Rinse with plain water.
7. Bleach - Dilute solutions of bleach can remove organic deposits and disinfect minerals collected in area used by livestock. Rinse with plain water.
8. Hydrogen peroxide - Use to remove manganese stains. Rinse with plain water.
9. Citric acid - Use to remove manganese stains. Rinse as above for acids.
10. Windex® (with ammonia) - A good clay deposit remover and final surface cleanup. Works well in ultrasonic cleaners. Rinse with plain water.
11. Distilled water - Use to clean sensitive species and as a final soak after acid treatment.



Removing Thin Coatings:

On moderately hard minerals use toothpaste (a feldspar abrasive) and a toothbrush.

On hard minerals use a toothbrush with pumice powder and water.

On Calcite (including bruised places) - quickly dip in vinegar or Lime Away® and rinse thoroughly. Repeat. Soak in plain water afterwards to leach any acids from cracks.

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Thermal: Thermal testers will show whether the stone is a diamond or CZ, however they will not separate Moissanite from diamond, so be careful. Also, I have heard of (but never seen) diamond CZ doublets and diamond garnet doublets wherein a very thin layer of diamond is bonded to the table of stone. If the thermal tester is only tried on the table, this doublet will register diamond.

Ultra Violet: UV fluorescence varies with the color of the stone, with colorless CZ showing greenish yellow to yellowish orange under LW UV and yellow under SW UV. I have seen the exact same colors from a diamond, however I have never seen a CZ show the very strong blue that sometimes is displayed by a diamond. I would not suggest using UV as a definitive test, only as another bit of evidence.

Cut and Polish: Probably the most common separation of diamond from CZ is by visual inspection of the girdle of the stone under 10X magnification. I have heard so many different ways of describing this that I won't try to be specific, however I have heard the diamond girdles described as "waxy" or "melted wax" and the CZ girdle described as "shiny, metallic-looking, or granular" Take your pick, but experience is the best teacher. Here again, there is no hard and fast single rule. I one time saw a CZ that had been cut with a variable thickness girdle that had been faceted and polished. The facet junctions of the upper girdle and crown facets also did not align. The stone had been cut that way intentionally for one purpose only: to deceive; one poor jeweler was so used to seeing perfectly cut CZ's that he bought it.

Weight: CZ has a specific gravity of 5.80 (+/.20) vs. diamond 3.52 (+/.01). CZ will feel unusually heavy when hefted in the hand. Even very small stones will feel this way.

Other: there are other methods of sorting CZ from diamond, absorption spectrometer, dispersion, etc., but they require specialized equipment and are seldom diagnostic by themselves.

There is no one foolproof way to separate diamond from CZ. That's why it (cubic zirconia) is such a good imitation, however using a 10X loupe and making careful observations, an experienced individual can be fairly confident they have properly identified the stone. Unless you are one hundred percent sure of your experience and abilities, get some expert help before you buy. As always, if the deal sounds too good to be true, it usually is!

Source: Beacon, 3/2004, via The Rockcollector, Dec 2006/Jan 2007

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Graphite
By Dave Jacobson

This month we will look at graphite, C, elemental carbon. Graphite and diamond are both polymorphs of the element carbon. Both are carbon but have completely different forms and structure. Some interesting facts about both follow:

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Graphite

One of the softest minerals
Good conductor of electricity
Good lubricant
Opaque
Hexagonal crystal system

Diamond

Hardest mineral
Insulator
Ultimate abrasive
Usually transparent
Isometric crystal system

The differences between diamond and graphite are due to the atomic structure of each mineral. In graphite the atoms are closely spaced in planes with wide spacing between the adjacent planes. There is a tight bond between the planes of atoms but a weak bond between the adjacent planes. In a diamond the atoms are equally spaced. Each atom is at the center of a tetrahedron of four other carbon creating an extremely strong frame-work.

Graphite primarily occurs in metamorphic rocks such as marbles, schists and gneisses. It is the result of the metamorphism of organic material in rocks. It is sometimes also found in igneous rock. Some associated minerals are quartz, calcite, micas and tourmalines. There are large deposits in Sri Lanka, Malagasy Republic, Russia, South Korea, Mexico and Czechoslovakia. There are large economic deposits at Val Chisone, Italy. Small hexagonal crystals are found in the marbles in Sussex County, New Jersey. Graphite is mined for use in refractories, electrodes, dry lubricants, pencil leads and dyes.

Graphite is in the hexagonal crystal system. Diamond like striations are sometime observed on the small hexagonal graphite crystals. I have a specimen I collected in a limestone quarry showing these markings. Graphite is also found in the massive form. Economic deposits are in the massive form. It's color is black, silver or grey. It has a metallic to dull luster. A hardness of 1 to 2, with a specific gravity of 2.2. Streak is black grey to brownish grey.

Graphite takes its name from the Greek "graphein," meaning to write.

I used the following reference materials in preparing this article.

Field Guide To Rocks And Minerals by Frederick H. Pough, Mineralogy For Amateurs by John Sinkankus, Simon & Schusters Guide to Rocks And Minerals, Amethyst Galleries Mineral Gallery on the internet at <http://mineral.galleries.com>.

Source: Canaveral Moonstone, 3/2020

Rockhounding by Geology

by C.E. Johnson

This article is to introduce rockhounds to a new dimension to their usual practices and hopefully enhance their discoveries and enjoyment by making their own discoveries.

This can be accomplished simply by understanding how to choose the most favorable areas to explore by using geologic maps, and learning some simple basic facts about the nature of mineral occurrences. These articles will tell you how to do that.

The maps are easily available to anyone, as shown below; and this article explains the basic premise on which all minerals ORIGINATE (many things happen to them once they are "born," creating new and different minerals under different circumstances).

Minerals actually occur everywhere simply because minerals come from rocks and rocks are everywhere; but of course, not every rock formation contains valuable minerals. But the kinds of minerals that occur and where they occur, depends very much on the kinds of rock formations, and Geologic maps show rock formations.

My best advice to rockhounds, in a few words, is to explore the areas shown on the maps as "intrusive igneous rocks", or more specifically shown as Granite, Granodiorite, Monzonite, Diorite, Syenite, or Pegmatite. This group of "intrusive" formations is loosely referred to as the "granite-family." Any collectible minerals there will be in the rocks that have been intruded into, around the edges of the intrusive igneous rock exposures and sometimes also actually in those "intrusive igneous" rock formations themselves.

All those types of rock formations were formed directly from a molten condition ("magmas") underground, accompanied by hot solutions and gasses, as they intruded into pre-existing overlying formations. Here they slowly cooled off & solidified underground, where they remained until exposed by erosion or earth disturbances.

These magmas produce mineral deposits by expelling their mineralizing solutions and gasses into the overlying rock formations; and by their heat and great pressure on the intruded formations, and by segregating one or more masses of certain characteristic minerals with themselves in deeper levels, etc.

These are the main "first choice" rock formations to locate on the geologic maps, unless you are more interested in some minerals associated more specifically with Sedimentary or Metamorphic rocks. The maps are the devoted rockhounds greatest asset, just as they are for exploration Geologists. So use those geologic maps to choose the areas that are most appealing.

The maps can be ordered from U. S. Geological Survey Offices, Canadian Geological Survey, or departments of Geology & Mineral Resources of States or Provinces, and you can even get some very helpful information from places like Bureaus of Land Management, and Bureaus of Mines, etc. Many of the latest maps include additional details and reports which are very pertinent to even beginner rockhounds. They cover any part of the U.S.

Source: S.C.R.I.B.E., Vol 28, Vol 3, Jul - Sep 2004

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Kelly Adamski
 Erin Bakke
 Jeff Boylan
 Cindy Botello
 Steve Bryson
 Linda Chandler
 Bill Cohrt
 Bruce Davies
 Chuck Davis
 Scott Dilly
 Jim Helgeson
 Kylee Hope
 Joni McKenna
 Richard Phillips
 Debbie Ross
 Mark Shoal
 Veronica Survilla

JULY BIRTHDAYS

David Breeden
 Mike Berglund
 John Carter
 Curt Clark
 Lanae Spellman-Douglas
 Elizabeth Giacomi
 Gayle Gilpin
 Niki Hahn
 Dave Herman
 LeAnne Hermance
 Kim Horne
 Michelle Horne
 Kelly Jarvis
 Mark Johnson
 Cheryl Kerber
 Bob Litz
 Deanne Lundln

JULY BIRTHDAYS Cont'd

Marj Purdy
 Earl Reynolds
 Jen Salsberry
 Cathy Sivoli
 Brenda Sniderhan
 Sue Stievo
 Roger Storm
 Jim Tetlie
 Edith Walden
 Allen Yanity

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Nadine Armitage
 Henry Beitelspacher
 Duanne Billedeaux
 Manda Davis
 Frank Delach
 Douglas Frisch
 Duane Gauthun
 Charlotte Good
 Ed Guzman
 Robin Watkins
 Roxanne Helesgon
 Leslie Kolaitis
 Pam Lidel
 Jill Lynch
 Gary Mortimer
 Kathy Padilla
 Lou Porter
 Joe Romero
 Susan Sease
 Heather Shoal
 Judy Thorne
 Judy Zarda
 Cathy Viney
 Cathy Sivoli

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Frank Allen
Trixie Anders
Roger Armitage
Lily Betts
Tracy Corral
Jude Galbraith
Renee Good
Josh Gottlieb
Rachel Gottlieb
Jen Loranger
Bailey Hope

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS Cont'd

Carol Lasater
Darlene Moore
Carrie Morkert
Cheri Mortimer
Julie Pouget
Leslie Rosario
Jan Santacroce
Michelle Schilling
Kristin Witt
Brandon Hayden

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Frank and Peggy Delach
Patti Glumack
Mary Hasselbring
Charlie Jessen
Gary and Anne Morris
Howard Wicks

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Duane & Debby Billedeaux
Chuck & Doreen Davis
Gayle Gilpin
Hadasah Goldin
Josh & Rachel Gottlieb
Annie & Nic Hope
Jim & Shelley Wijnhamer
Joseph Scheyer
Cathy Viney
Hank & Michelle Smedley
Ed Tillotson
Matt & Michelle Schilling
James & Judy Thorne

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Colleen Klatt
Frank & Priscilla Allen
Richard & Cheryl Kerber
Tom & Trica Lucas
Debbie McPherson
Bryle & Bri Sampson
Mark Sears
Janet Sheppard
Fred & Dawn Marie Turk

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Kim & Michelle Horne
Deanna Lundin
Mike & Chris Muse
Richard & Jeanne Phillips
John & Veronica Survilla
Roger & Kathryn Storm
Ray & Jane Highness

Hints n' Such

These hints were gathered primarily from the bulletins and web sites of other clubs. You should always use them with caution because some are untried and others may not be tried and true. Just ideas!

If you are cutting a star stone and are looking for the star, white Karo syrup works better than anything. A single drop on the stone, under a strong light, will show you where the star is.

Source Don Ashbury in Gemrock, 4/1999, via Breccia, 2/2002

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Is it citrine or topaz? Clean the stone, then using a toothpick and put a drop of water on the table of the stone. The water will form a high bubble on real topaz. On quartz, the water flattens out.

Source: Don Ashbury in Gemrock, 4/1999, via Breccia, 2/2002

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The fabric softener, Bounce, wipes up sawdust created during drilling or sandpapering. A used sheet of Bounce will collect sawdust like a tack cloth.

Source: Leslie Neff in the Agatizer, 1/2000, via Breccia, 2/2002

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Rubbing alcohol removes most ink marks from slabs, cab blanks, or gem material. If that doesn't work, try denatured alcohol (alcohol lamp fuel). Clean up well afterwards so you and your materials don't catch on fire

Source: Tumbler, 4/2001, via Breccia, 3/2002

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To clean nonplastic metal costume jewelry, immerse it in rubbing alcohol for five minutes. Rinse it in warm water and dry with a lint-free cloth. To prevent metal costume jewelry from tarnishing, store it with a piece of white chalk.

Source: Breccia, 2/2002

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It was late one night when I ran out of the chemical (\$23.00 per gallon wholesale) that I use in the ultrasonic bath to remove the investment from fresh castings. Believing something else had to work, I tried everything around the shop. If it weren't for the fact that I like cider vinegar on my sardines, I never would have found out that vinegar not only works, but it also works better than the stuff I had. It also leaves gold castings almost shiny. And it's also a lot less expensive.

Source: Don Ashbury in Gemrock, 4/1999, via Breccia, 2/2002

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Use Easy-Off oven cleaner (fume free is okay) to clean Druzy Specimens. Spray the specimen and leave it overnight in a closed container or bag before rinsing. This also works on iron-stained quartz crystals.

Source: Breccia, 3/2003, via Rockchippings 2/2004

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Soak your pyrite specimen overnight in a solution of oxalic acid, using two ounces of the acid to a quart of water. You can also soak them for an hour in hydrochloric acid. Be sure to read the safety notes regarding the use of acids.

Source: Breccia, 3/2003, via Rockchippings 2/2004

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