

# The MOROKS NEWSLETTER

“Gems of the Foothills”

June 2017

The Monrovia Rockhound's, Calif. founded 1957

Volume 60, Issue 6

## Upcoming Meetings

**Board Meeting, June 6<sup>th</sup>**

2 pm at 224 Oak Ave.

Monrovia, Ca. 91016

**General Meeting, June 15<sup>th</sup> 2017**

@ 7:00 pm

United Methodist Church of Monrovia  
at 140 E. Palm Ave. Monrovia CA 91016.

We meet in the basement, use the west  
entrance in the alleyway.  
Guest are always welcome.

## Presidents Report

**No Report was Submitted**

## What is a Rockhound

1 : a specialist in geology

2 : an amateur rock and mineral collector

First, let's define what a rock hound is. A rock hound is someone that makes a hobby of collecting rocks and/or mineral specimens from the earth. This person usually researches the minerals and locations where they are found. This research will aid them in identifying the mineral they are looking for and where to dig for it. They will use every tool available to help them. Rock hounds will often explore for new undiscovered sources of minerals. You do not have to be a geologist to be a rock hound. With just a little planning and the right tools anyone can be a rock hound.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Vice Presidents Report

Greetings MoRoks, This Month our Guest Speaker is Dr. George Rossman. He has given several talks to Monrovia Rockhounds, so I know that everyone will enjoy this one. He will be talking about his trip to Burma to collect some lavender jade. He wants to do some research on the lavender color, and for that he needed a piece that has had nothing done to it. If you purchase a stone from a dealer, there is no guarantee that somewhere between the jade being collected and the dealer that the jade is totally untreated. He had a couple of challenges along the way before he got his jade.

## How to prepare your vehicle or 4×4 for rock collecting.

Rock collecting may be a popular, family oriented activity, but how often do you think of the safety of your family first when you go off the beaten track to hunt for that one, perfect example of a billion-year-old rock? How often have you heard of people being stranded without food and water for days, just because the driver did not check his vehicle before leaving home? Don't let this happen to you and yours! Simply follow the few easy-to-follow tips listed here to reduce the possibility of vehicle breakdowns when you could be hundreds of miles away from the nearest repair shop.

### **Check radiator hoses.**

This might appear to be self evident, but according to the AAA, engine overheating is the leading cause of vehicle breakdowns in America. Radiator hoses must be firm to the touch, and free of oil, and even oil residue. Oil degrades the rubber of radiator hoses, which makes it imperative that oil contaminated hoses be replaced before your next trip.

### **Check all the drive belts.**

You may think your belts are OK, but the most damage occurs when the pieces of a broken drive belt work themselves in under the other drive belts. This can cause all your belts to jump their pulleys, and because of their high rotational speed, the flying pieces can destroy the radiator, the battery, the radiator fan, and critically important wiring. When in doubt, don't procrastinate, replace all the belts, and observe the proper tensions on all.

### **Check the charge rate.**

The proper rate of charge on 12 V vehicles is 14.2 – 14.6 Volt. Anything above or below this value is indicative of a faulty alternator, or maybe worse, damage to wiring in places where you cannot repair it in the wilderness, so fix it now, while you can.

### **Check battery condition.**

Don't just look at the outside, and maybe clean off acid accumulations. A battery needs to be able to deliver specific currents at certain times, such as during starting. Have an authorized battery dealer perform a draw test, to determine the ability of the battery to deliver sufficient starting current. Also, compare the specific gravity of the electrolyte in each cell against the specs for your battery. Differences of one or two percent are normal, but differences or deviations that approach 5% are not, and you should replace the battery.

### **Check the suspension.**

Check the suspension and steering systems for excessive free play between related components such as ball joints, tie rod ends, steering dampers, draglinks and control arms. You may think that since the tie rod ends have been a little loose for the last two years, they are OK because they have not pulled from their sockets yet, but off-road driving places extreme loads on a vehicle, and the last thing you want to happen is to lose your steering while going down a steep, rocky hillside. Think of your family, and replace all worn components before you leave home.

### **Check the brake system.**

Check the entire system for signs of leaks, and do NOT forget to check the slave cylinders inside the brake drums. These cylinders can lose up to 60% of their effectiveness before they even start to show signs of leaking, which means you could be driving around with less than 50% of your braking capacity. Moreover, if you had been topping the brake fluid reservoir regularly, but cannot see a leak, remove the master cylinder from the brake booster to check if the brake fluid is not leaking into the booster. If this is the case, replace the entire master cylinder because you can never be sure the rubber seal kits available today will not fail you when you need them most; such as when you are going down a steep, very narrow mountain pass, with a 1000-foot drop off, and no safety barrier.

### **Better safe than sorry.**

Performing basic vehicle maintenance procedures before heading into the wilderness is not a hassle: it is a vital precaution against being marooned hundreds of miles from the nearest repair facilities. It is also great way to prevent potentially fatal accidents caused by parts that failed because they should have been replaced months ago, but was not. Think of the safety of your family, if not your own, get your vehicle into great shape, and enjoy the rock hunting, which is what you go into the wilderness for, right? Only make sure that by taking care of your vehicle, you can safely make it out again!

### **EXTRAS**

When traveling out in the wilderness, it is a good idea to carry water not only for each person on the trip but also for your vehicle, your vehicle needs coolant. Carry extra motor oil, Duct Tape, a few Zip Ties, and a Tool Box with an assortment of tools. A Flashlight and some work gloves are also handy. Before leaving the pavement make sure you have a full tank of gas.

The May 2, 2017

Board Meeting of the Monrovia Rockhound's  
"No Report was submitted"

The May 18, 2017

General Meeting of the Monrovia Rockhound's  
"No Report was submitted"

## Collecting Zeolites around Marysvale, Utah

Posted on [May 5, 2015](#) by [rocky](#)



The noon sun hung in the sky with a dull yet irritating heat. It was early Spring, and I was traveling to a place nobody had any reason to be, an empty valley in Central Utah. I grabbed the canteen swaying from my hip, took a hearty swig, and wiped the small beads of sweat slowly forming on my brow. The dry earth crunched with each trod of my heel, one after another like a rhythmic drum, each thud forming a slow monotonous beat.

I took in my surroundings. At surface level there was not much to see, canyon walls and plateaus, little wildlife, and less trees. What little vegetation was found here often amounted to sagebrush. It peppered the dirt in various shades of chartreuse, flowing lightly with the sibilant hissing of the wind. I was two miles south of Marysvale, Utah, a small town with less than five hundred residents. On this particular expedition, I was alone.

The area I was headed to was the now abandoned Elbow Ranch. On my shoulders slung a backpack stuffed lightly with supplies: a fold up shovel, a pair of gloves, a chisel, a spray bottle of water, a rag, the morning newspaper, a loupe, and a geologists hammer. I also made sure to leave some empty space for any of the various specimens I hoped to collect.

I'd spent the earlier half of the day in the Durkee Creek area. Durkee Creek was much easier to reach than the hike to Dry Canyon had to offer. Most Rockhounds with already impressive collections probably wouldn't have bothered spending the time there. The red-brown earth of Durkee Creek offered an abundance of zeolite, but they were often small specimens that didn't equivocate to the effort involved.

It wasn't until one o'clock that I found an area that had seemingly been untouched. I unfolded the shovel, wedged it between the cracked earth, and began digging. With each downward stroke I hope for the sound of metal scraping rock. It was four feet down where I found it: mordenite, an orangeish pink rock like rusted iron. With my chisel and rock hammer I chipped at the rock, a tedious process requiring delicate precision. When I've made enough of the outline I wedge the pick in and remove the specimen like a loose brick.

A quick spray from the bottle and a wipe of the rag gave the rock a quick polish. The mordenite was about half a centimeter thick, forming a crust for the interior of crystalized white quartz. I held it over head where the light could reach, twisting it in hand, watching it blink and shimmer in the afternoon sun. I recall thinking a familiar thought, an image of this same area long ago. A memory strung together from vague recollections of scientific studies and my own personal imagination. It was a hostile world, fiery and volcanic, but one small pocket of that world had been preserved. A fracture of time lying dormant, imprisoned and pressurized for thousands of years, found by me after a series of seemingly coincidental happenstances.

I tore a page from the classified section of the day's paper and wrapped the mordenite with care, then I climbed my way out of the hole. The sun stood due west, glaring. My wrist watch read 4:00 pm. In Marysvale Utah many of the residents are returning from work, preparing for dinner and the days end. I grab the canteen, and wipe my brow. Then I gather my gear and continue on. I've yet to try my luck at the Blackbird Mine.

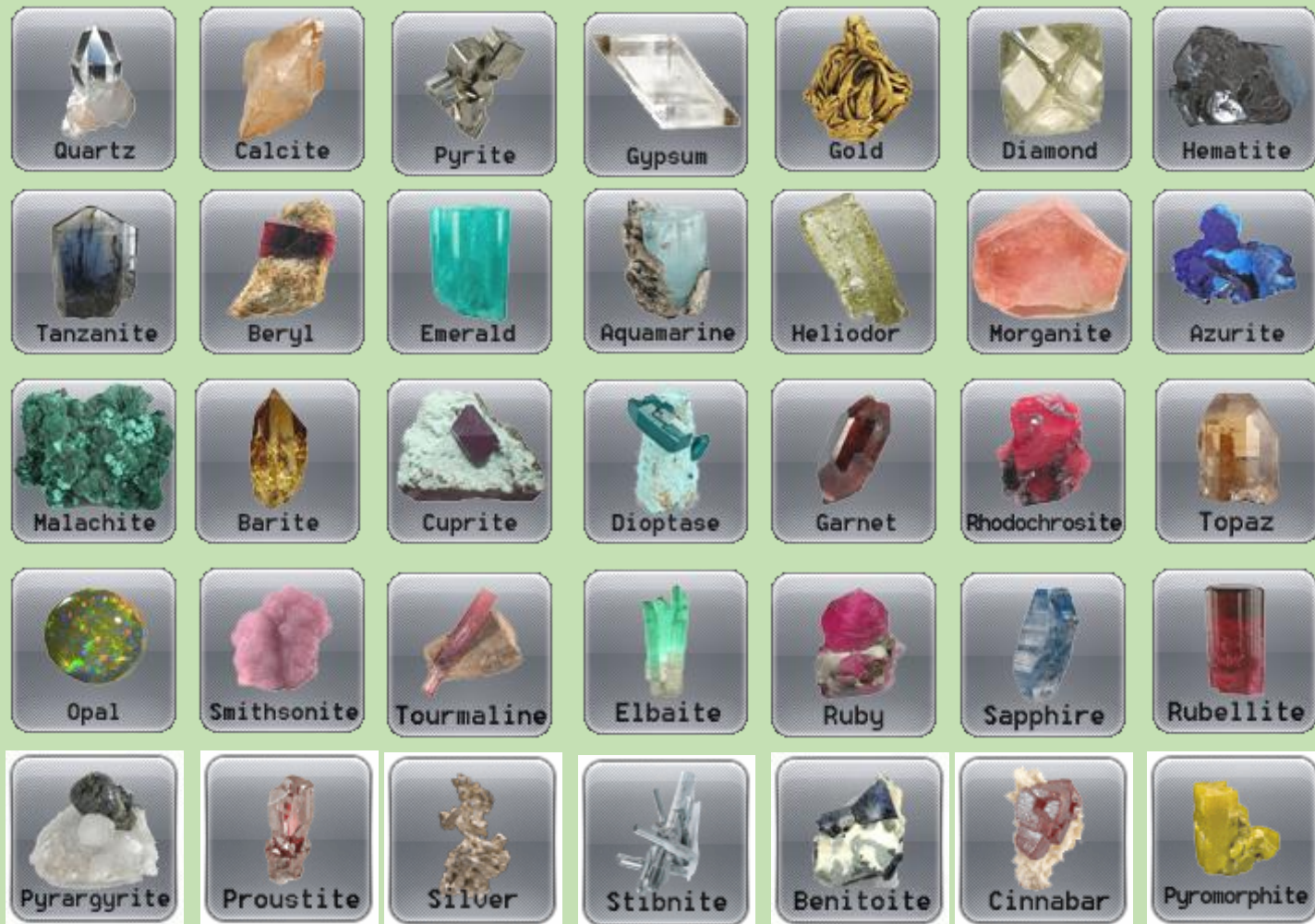
The Must Have, if nothing else than to have an IDEA about the collecting spots in your state, the gem trails books are a wealth of information at a low price. The perfect beginner guides that are referenced by serious field collectors!

## Mineral Searches

There are lots of subjects that people specialize in when collecting minerals.

Some people collect a specific mineral, like Rhodochrosite, or group of minerals, like Carbonates, which would include Rhodochrosite, among several other minerals. Some people collect based on a location, maybe geographically, like Minerals from New York, or based on a mine, like Minerals from the Tsumeb Mine in Namibia. Even still, some people just like to buy whatever strikes their fancy. Whatever it is that you like to look at, check out our easy to use list of searches online to stimulate your acquisitions, or to whet your researching desire. You can find great deals, sleeper minerals and maybe some things you want to easily search daily on eBay. Searching by state can sometimes help to pinpoint some possible collecting locations, when properly researched. Searches on eBay can tell you a great deal about the goings on around the mineral world, as many new minerals often come through dealers on eBay first!

## Minerals by Popularity



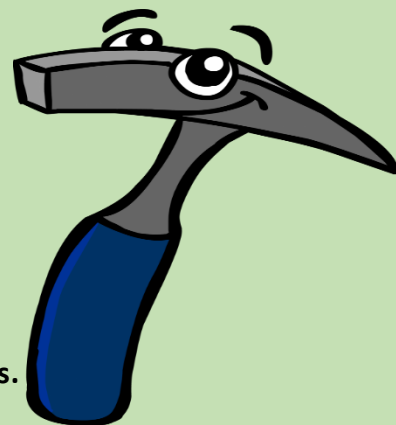
## Why should you collect rocks and minerals?

There are many different reasons. Everyone has their own.

For exercise. To see nature. Because rocks are pretty.

For jewelry making. For spiritual reasons. For the science. To help educate children.

There are so many reasons. What are your reasons? Different reasons, different rocks.



## Upcoming Events

June 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>

### **CFMS-AFMS SHOW & CONVENTION**

**hosted by the Ventura County Gem & Mineral Society**

**at the Ventura County Fairgrounds**

**10 West Harbor Blvd, Ventura, CA**

**2-4—BIG BEAR LAKE, CALIFORNIA:** Annual show; Minerals in the Mountains, Big Bear Lake Convention; 42900 Big Bear Blvd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; Admission \$7, Seniors/Students/Children free; "Minerals in the Mountains" is the first Mineral show at Big Bear Lake for 20 years. This is an opportunity to attend a mineral show in the surroundings of beautiful Big Bear Lake in Southern California. Dealers selling a wide variety of minerals, jewelry, faceted stones, gemstones, fossils, healing crystals, rough rocks, slabs, lapidary, also demonstrations and much more. Rockhounds and locals dealers selling their own specimens. Hourly door prize throughout the weekend. Kid's show with prizes for display and knowledge of minerals. ; contact Janet Roberts, 2129 First Lane , Big Bear City, CA 92314, (909)-547-0010; e-mail: janet@gemsofthewest.co; Web site: gemsofthewest.co

**2-4—LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA:** Annual show; North Orange County Gem and Mineral, La Habra Senior Center ; 101 W La Habra Blvd; Fri. 5-8, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission ; Exhibits, raffle prizes. Unique gems/rocks/jewelry, supplies & tools. Geode cutting. Food and grab bags. Supporting the Youth Committee and Scholarship Program.; contact Armando Pedroza , (909)-455-6800; e-mail: foresrandsun@yahoo.com

**3-4—GLEN DORA, CALIFORNIA:** Annual show; Glendora GEMS, Goddard Middle School; 859 E. Sierra Madre; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission; Displays, vendors, food, door prizes, demonstrations, silent auction; contact Bonnie Bidwell, 1010 E. Mountain View Ave., Glendora, CA 91741, (626)-963-4638; e-mail: ybidwell2@aol.com

**3-4—ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA:** Annual show; Palomar Gem and Mineral Club, California Center for the Arts, Escondido; 340 N. Escondido Blvd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Admission \$5; Demonstrators will be showing their skills to attendees and giving them the opportunity to learn about some of the lapidary arts promoted through our club including faceting, silversmithing and other arts. There will also be Gem Identification. Find out what gem is in the ring your grandmother gave you. There will even be a rock treasure dig for kids. Beautiful mineral specimens, cut gems, gem rough, fossils and eye catching jewelry made from gems and minerals may be purchased.; contact Dawn Vickers; e-mail: 2017pgmcsow@palomargem.org; Web site: <http://palomargem.org/Documents/GemShow2017.pdf>

**9-11—VENTURA, CALIFORNIA:** Show; Ventura Gem & Mineral Society on behalf of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Ventura County Fairgrounds; 10 W. Harbor Blvd.; Fri. 10-5; Adults \$7, Seniors \$6, Students \$4 (age 13-17), Children free (under age 12); Exhibits of gems, minerals, fossils, lapidary arts & hand-crafted jewelry, including exhibits entered into competition & displays by UCLA & the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County; on-going demos of lapidary arts; a raffle & hourly silent auctions; 50+ dealers; children's activities; speakers & programs nearly every hour. The entire nation of "rockhounds" will converge on Ventura for this special nationwide event, which is open to the general public.; contact Diane Cook, P.O. Box 1573, Ventura, CA 93002, (805)-312-8467; e-mail: info@VGMS.org; Web site: [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org)

**23-25—SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA:** Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc, Scottish Rite Center; 1895 Camino del Rio S; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$7 weekend pass, Children free (ages 0-11); Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, minerals & much more at manufacturer's prices. Exhibitors from around the world. Jewelry repair & cleaning while you shop. Free hourly door prizes.; contact Yooy Nelson, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: <http://www.gemfaire.com>

#### **July 2017**

**8-9—CULVER CITY , CALIFORNIA:** Annual show; Culver City Rock and Mineral Club, Veterans Memorial Auditorium; 4117 Overland Ave.; Sat. 10-6; Free Admission; Our Fiesta of Gems Show offers over 35 gem and mineral dealers from California, New Mexico, and Arizona who will sell minerals, gems, slabs, cabochons, beads, and jewelry findings. The Culver City Rock and Mineral Club members will exhibit gem and mineral works of art, jewelry pieces, and private collections of gems and minerals. There will be classes throughout the weekend introducing various techniques of jewelry making.; contact Janice Metz, 4117 Overland Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230, (310)-850-4398; e-mail: janicemtz@yahoo.com; Web site: <http://www.culvercityrocks.org/fiesta.htm>

**14-16—SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA:** Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc, Marin Center; 10 Avenue of the Flags; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; Free Admission; Fine jewelry, crystals, gems, beads, gold & silver, minerals & much more at manufacturer's prices. Exhibitors from all over the world will be on site. Jewelry repair & ring sizing while you shop. Free hourly door prizes. ; contact Allen Van, (503)-252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: <http://www.gemfaire.com>



## JUNE Birthdays

Linda Doran	6/10
Becky Fregoso	6/21
Michael Machilis	6/14
Aynn Freeman	6/2



## Junes Birthstone's



Alexandrite



Pearl



Moonstone

June is one of only two months that has three birthstones associated with it, giving the lucky people born in June a choice of gemstones between pearl, alexandrite and moonstone.

June's birthstones range from creamy-colored opalescent pearl and moonstone to the rare color-changing alexandrite—one of the most valuable gems on earth. With this spectrum of price points and color options, people with June birthdays can choose a beautiful gemstone to fit any mood or budget. A relatively modern gem, alexandrite was discovered in Russian emerald mines located in the Ural Mountains. Legends claim that it was discovered in 1834 on the same day that future Russian Czar Alexander II came of age, hence the name honoring him. Because this unique gemstone changed colors from green to red—the national colors of Russia—alexandrite became Imperial Russia's official gemstone.

Often described as "emerald by day, ruby by night," alexandrite is a rare variety of the mineral chrysoberyl that changes color from bluish green in daylight to purplish red under incandescent light. This chameleon-like behavior is the result of its uncommon chemical composition—which includes traces of chromium, the same coloring agent found in emerald. The unlikelihood of these elements combining under the right conditions makes alexandrite one of the rarest, costliest gems.

The alexandrite mined from Russia's famed deposits set the quality standard for this stone. Today, most alexandrite comes from Sri Lanka, Brazil and East Africa—generally paling in comparison to the vivid colors of Russian gems.

With a hardness of 8.5 on the Mohs scale, alexandrite is softer than [sapphire](#) and harder than [garnet](#)—the other gemstones that can change color. However, due to its scarcity, alexandrite is more valuable than most gems, even [rubies](#) and [diamonds](#).

Associated with concentration and learning, alexandrite is believed to strengthen intuition, aid creativity and inspire imagination—bringing good omens to anyone who wears it.

## Rockhounding around Las Vegas



Heading northeast out of Las Vegas and turning off at the Valley of Fire exit. You can find a gravel road called the [Bitter Springs Back Country Byway](#) and head across country following the directions in a book . The first stop was for blue chalcedony. You can find little caves, then a series of ledges where people had chipped away rock. We did some collecting and headed on down the road. At one point we found an old mining area and almost lost the road, but eventually we found another site along the road known for purple chalcedony. We hiked up the ridge and begin chipping away at a ledge. We discovered a beautiful seam of colorful rock. It looked like purple amethyst. Annette set out the lawn chairs and enjoyed watching Larry work up a sweat with his hammer. After a nice picnic, we headed back to the main highway.

### **Valley of Fire State Park**

After our rock hounding expedition, we did some sightseeing at Valley of Fire. We drove the loop roads and explored the petroglyphs. We also stopped and walked around the petrified wood trail. Next, we headed out toward Lake Mead. We stopped to photograph wild burros along the roadside. Our loop trip was complete as we entered Las Vegas from the southeast.



## Rules and Regulation for Rockhounding in the Desert of California

Some of the vital rules and regulations laid by the government in the interest of the public and natural preservation which rockhounders need to follow while rockhounding in the desert of California are:

- As stated the Code of Federal Regulations laid by the government of California, only reasonable quantities of rocks, minerals, semiprecious gemstones can be taken by a rockhounder as the source has to be available for all rockhounders without any disturbance.
- In the above, the reasonable quantity as stated by field Office of California refers to not more than that can be easily held in a daypack by any rockhounder.
- California government has also laid rules which do not allow rockhounding on developed recreation sites and areas.
- Collection of petrified wood during rockhounding is allowed only if it is for non-commercial purposes and that also is allowed only from public lands with a limit of 25 pounds allowed for each rockhounder.
- Rockhounders must get paleontological permit if they want to collect vertebrate fossils at the desert of California which otherwise would be considered as illegal and may result in a fine and imprisonment.
- The collection of ovate bifaces, cores, flakes, and all other material worked by prehistoric cultures present in public lands is not allowed as stated by the Antiquities Act of 1906.
- A separate publication named "Discovery, Location, Recordation, and Assessment Work for Mining Claims in California" gives useful guidance for mining claims while rockhounding in the desert of California.
- Rockhounders can collect rocks for decorative rocks in reasonable quantity which means quantity that can be taken away in the trunk of any car is allowed for each rockhounder.

So it is vital that rockhounders, before making their rockhounding trip to the desert of California must make essential study and gather information on whether the rockhounding site is open for collection.

Now with the new National Monument designation, there are some new rules in effect. More on that to come.

## Vital Places for Rockhounding in the desert of California

There are various places for rockhounding in the desert of California for rockhounders as per their preferences for collecting minerals and precious gemstones. Some of the popular and most visited rockhounding sites in the desert of California are:

### **Amboy Crater National Natural Landmark (BLM Public Land):**

This place is best suited for rock collecting rockhounders. This is 250 feet high and 1,500 feet in diameter which is located in the Barstow-Bristol trough. This rockhounding site in California is a public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

### **Clipper Mountain Wilderness (BLM Public Land):**

This is a small cluster of volcanic mountains which covers a wide area from northeast to southwest.

### **Turtle Mountains Wilderness (BLM Public Land):**

This is the most visited place for quartz rockhounding which is technically termed as a best place for [chalcedony](#) and also for rockhounders who rockhound as a hobby.

### **Wiley's Well Rockhounding District:**

Wiley's Well Rockhounding District is located in the northeastern part of the Colorado Desert in southern California. This rockhounding site is the most popularly visited site by many rockhounders for rock-collecting. Here, some of the important rockhounding sites to mention are Hauser Geode Beds and Opal Hill Mine. Wiley's Well District in the Colorado Desert at southern California is rich in [jasper](#), [agate](#), and geodes.

The desert of California is the most visited place by rockhounders as it is abundant with minerals, rocks and rare and precious stones. Rockhounders must take care to travel in a group and also carry vital essential things in hand like drinking water while rockhounding. Some rockhounding sites require hiking and so proper care must be taken while rockhounding to these sites. All these steps will ensure that the rockhounding trip to desert of California is a remarkable and profitable one.

## Chalcedony Facts



Chemical Composition	The chemical composition is Silicon dioxide and the chemical formula is SiO <sub>2</sub> .
Colours	Varied colors.
Hardness	Varies between 6.5 – 7 Mohs.
Refractive Index	1.543 – 1.554
Specific Gravity	2.65 – 2.67
Luster	Waxy to dull.
Solid State	Opaque to translucent. Few varieties can be transparent too.
Crystal System	Tetrahedral crystal system.
Cleavage	None
Heat Sensitive	No
Fractures	Conchoidal
Bi-refringence	0.009
Pleochroism	None
Source	Worldwide occurrence. Main producers are United States and Brazil.
Enhancement	Not enhanced.
Precautions	Only general gemstone precautions required.





## JUNE 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 National Doughnut Day	3
4 Pentecost	5	6 Board Meeting 2 PM	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15 General Meeting 7 PM	16	17
18 Fathers Day	19	20	21 Summer Solstice	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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## Advertising in the Moroks Newsletter

Business Card Size for 6 months: \$25  
Quarter Page for 6 months: \$35  
Half Page for 6 months: \$45  
Full Page for 6 months: \$75

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