

ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP AND OCTOBER ROCK PARTY

By Jim Marburger

The roadside clean-up takes a lot of preparation to make it come off without any hitches. Three to 4 days before a clean-up, the signs, vests, garbage bags, and paperwork from the Department of Roads need to be picked up and completed. For this last clean-up, I also needed to clean out my car so the items could be carried to the clean-up site. I had already done the cooking (which involved 8 hours of smoking the pork for sandwiches) for the Rock Party to be held after the clean-up.

At about noon on October 8, while scampering around the driveway cleaning the car, all of a sudden the world began to spin. I had stepped on a large rock in the driveway gravel. Yup, with the notion that a sudden stop was coming, I tried to tuck and roll.

As I laid stretched out full length under the kitchen window, I called to Sharon, saying that I was on the ground. After trying to get up, I decided that the big red fire truck would be needed for a lift assist. After the call went out, our neighbor, who is a fireman, sauntered over and asked what I was doing on the ground. Oh, just hangin' out! He and Sharon helped me stand up. I had a bump on the head, cut on the arm, and very sore knees, but was not in need of the medics (other than a quick patch-up by Sharon). As the fire truck left, so did Sharon, to meet up with clean-up gang waiting at the rest area for their assignments and gear.

I would like to thank all the adult members and Mineral Monkeys that worked the clean-up, Andrew Tiedje for sitting with me until everyone showed up for the food, and Sharon for jumping into action to do my work and for being a good nurse. It was wonderful to have so many show up this time. There were 19 people who worked this time, I think. I'm not really clear-headed about this.

The crew filled about 20 bags of trash in approximately an hour and a half of work. It goes fast when we have such a great turnout to do the work. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed friendship and good food afterwards.

Sharon set up two Genies for lapidary projects and they got a good workout. Many projects were completed and tips on polishing and cutting were shared.

With the sun setting, the cool night was upon us and the party shut down.

I returned the signs, vests, and leftover garbage bags to the Department of Roads the following week.

After many bandages and 2 weeks to heal, I am almost well and the bruises are gone. My hat, however, still has grass stains!

Please plan to join us for the spring clean-up and Rock Party, the dates to be announced later. Let us have some fun again.



A beautiful piece of Teepee Canyon Jasper, worked by Mineral Monkey, Logan. Nice job, Logan!



The "Nickies" making use of the inside Genie. Glad you were able to join us!



Andrew took the front porch Genie for a spin and ended up with some mighty fine cabochons.

**Have an idea for a field trip?
Let Jim Marburger know!**