

FEBRUARY ROCK PARTY

By Sharon Marburger

The February Rock Party was hosted by Vera Lyman on Sunday the 18th. Tacos was the theme of the party. A magnificent array of items to build your own tacos and burritos was spread on the counter of Vera's basement kitchen. In addition to taco/burrito fixings, there was chicken tortilla soup, salad, chips, and several dessert items. As always, everything was delicious!

After talking and eating, and more talking and eating, Sharon and Corey set up a Genie lapidary machine to work on cabochons and stone face polishing.

Those who attended had a great time of eating, visiting, and working on lapidary. Taking into account that there are several activities going on in Arizona in February, and the club has several snowbirds, it is still somewhat sad that more members do not take advantage of the monthly rock parties. Everyone is welcome to participate. Addresses are not necessarily published, however, they are announced at the club meetings. As club members you have a directory of active memberships, including names, addresses, and phone numbers. It is a quarter-page sized booklet called the Who's Who. If you don't know the address of a Rock Party, you can always contact someone in the club who can provide that information, or direct you to someone who can.

These gatherings are fun! Join us at the next Rock Party, hosted by Jackie and Wooly, March 17 at 5:00 p.m.



Front and back of a piece of petrified wood. Corey plans to make it a pendant, mounting it so both sides can be seen.



Photo by Jayne Beer

Corey's gems (left) and Sharon's Mexican agate (bottom)



THE SPIT AND WHITTLE CLUB

By James Marburger

Are you ready to join the Spit and Whittle Club in the world of lapidary? How many times have you been to a museum, gem and mineral show, art show, or even looking on the internet, and have seen gem stone carvings of birds, animals, lamps, bookends, chess sets, or any other type of stone carvings? Let's start the process of carving.

If you work in lapidary, you have already started to carve. Making a cabochon in either standard sizes or free form, is carving of stone. Carving can be as simple as shaping stone into another shape to be admired. Using your eye, you use the stone patterns to bring out pleasing features that are hidden in the stone. By doing lapidary, the

knowledge of stone and how to polish it is a big part of this journey. Each stone material has little hints of how to work it and what polish techniques to use.

Carving tools vary from a pocket knife, metal files, rasps, and wood sticks to diamond power tools, depending on the material and the speed at which removal of material is to be done. Most lapidaries have tools that will work for carving. These tools can be used in many ways.

Let's start with a simple and easy material to carve. Soap stone is available in many colors. Simple things like a hack saw for metal cutting can be used to cut or block

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