

AFTON CANYON TRIP

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

November 23rd through the 26th

Due to some medical issues the official November field trip to Owens Valley had to be cancelled. It will be rescheduled for a date next year. For those who are interested, there is a trip to Afton Canyon — a great collecting area. Jay Valle, Tony and Sandie Fender are leading this trip.

Afton Canyon is also known as the Grand Canyon of the Mohave Desert. It is a fascinating place to explore and there are virtually a thousand places to look for cutting material throughout the region. It is not often you can drive up and down the Mojave River to get from point A to point B.

This field trip is not suitable for passenger cars. High-clearance vehicles, trucks and SUV's are required. 4x4 travel is recommended. If the weather is clear the sand in the river bed will support traffic and stopping here and there you may find agates and jaspers in a multitude of colors. If it is raining or has rained, it's probably best not to try. There are alternate routes to get to the east end of the canyon to the quarry, this where camp is.

The camping area is at an area we call *The Quarry*. At the quarry there is what appears to be dolomite and hematite and, amongst other things, even a geocache.

Directions: It is about 2-1/2 hours from Pasadena. Drive I-15 north, toward Las Vegas. Pass Barstow and Afton Canyon Road, to the Basin Road exit. At the off-ramp turn right and drive east on Basin Road. Follow the dirt road and, at the fork - go left to the railroad tracks and bear right. The road will parallel the railroad tracks and then turn north-west to cross the normally dry river bed. You should plan to arrive at 8:00am at camp. Because weather and unforeseen conditions can affect any well-planned field trip, you are encouraged to call Tony Fender at (626) 807-5279 to register for the trip and to ask any questions.

This is a great fieldtrip and is interesting to both the novice and seasoned rockhound. The views will surprise and amaze you. Have fun and be safe — that way you can go on more fieldtrips in the future! This is not an official club fieldtrip therefore no signs will be out leading to camp. The Pasadena Lapidary Society web site will carry a status of this trip, but is not leading the trip.

Going Nowhere in Calif.
Joe Goetz
