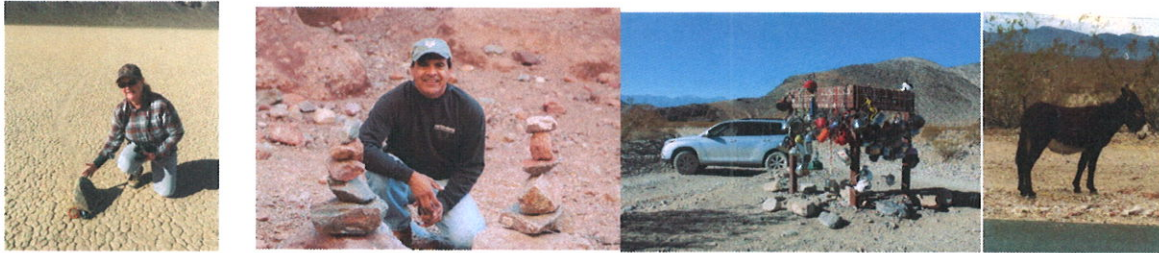


Hello From Arizona!

This has been a busy second year of retirement for our family. Getting to enjoy my Rocks & Race Cars. In January, we went to Death Valley National Park. We journeyed to all the “Along the Road” attractions (Bad Water, Natural Bridge, Artist’s Paint Pallet Drive, Devil’s Golf Course, Mosaic Canyon, Salt Creek Pup Fish, Stovepipe Wells, Ubehebe Crater, but also did some hiking and an off-road trip out to Tea Kettle Junction & Race Track Playa. My husband, Robert, has a hobby of stacking rocks, so he left stacks at several locations in the park. On our way home we went to the Ghost Town of Rhyolite. The old gold mines were grated off, but we did make a friend with a few carrot sticks; a gentle heard roams wild in the town.



The first week of February was “Test & Tune” for the Top Fuel Dragster Team my husband is part of. (I have been subsequently added as the team photographer.) This was at the Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park in Phoenix. Later in July, we ran the car at the NHRA MOPAR Mile High Nationals at Bandimere Raceway, near Denver Colorado. We qualified for the race, but lost to Doug Kalitta in the first round. Here are a few photos of that activity.



Later in February and March I went with my husband on a trip for his work to Nashville, Tennessee (Mobil Oil display at a big truck show.) This was a cross-country drive east on I-40. Got to see the changes in geology as we went. Limestone is the prominent deposit around Nashville. (I took some boring road cut photos for my tutoring activities.) What was not boring was my first “Tornado Warning” experience in Nashville on March 1<sup>st</sup>. It ended up touching down about 20 miles south of downtown where we were staying and produced some damage at a bank and knocked down many trees. Our task included a return route through Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas to Colorado and the team race shop. Lots of pretty farms, the Mississippi & Missouri Rivers, and an area in Kansas where fence posts were made of Limy-sandstone. At one time, many homes in the area were made from the same material. Probably kept the inhabitants well insulated from the cold winter and hot summers temperatures of the Great Plains region.



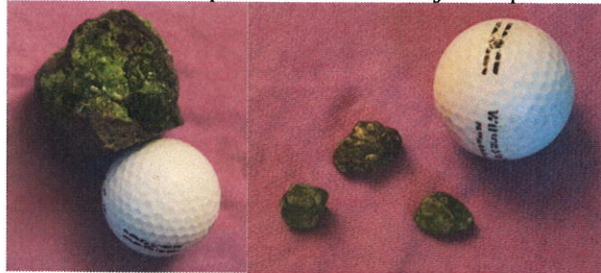
Mid-March saw my annual trip to the Deming Rock Hound's Round up in New Mexico. I found some nice specimens of Fluorite & one that was a mix of Fluorite with Chalcedony on one of the field trips. I teamed up with the Hatch New Mexico Rock Hounds Club and journeyed up to their Barite Claim. (The club put a claim on the abandoned mine so that Rock Hounds & Colleges would retain access to this BLM area which would have otherwise been lost to commercial dealers.) I helped members of the Hatch club collect and identify the late Paleozoic invertebrate fossils within their claim - Pennsylvanian Brachiopods, Gastropods, Bryozoans & Fusulinids).



In April, our local Tucson Rock Hounds club took a trip up to the Verde Valley Area of Arizona and collected Glauconitic pseudomorphs composed of Calcite and/or Aragonite.



Also in April, I went with some friends up to the San Carlos Indian Reservation near Globe, AZ. For a small \$20 fee, the Apaches will take you up to their Peridot mine to collect.



In May, our local club went to Pearce, Arizona to collect Banded Agate with the permission of the rancher that owns the property. There is also an old mine tunnel you could walk into, where we found some Apatite crystals.



June saw us at home. It was too hot for Rock Hounding, so I worked on cataloging and photographing mineral, rock, fossil and meteorite specimens. Fortunately, some of my Red Granite, rich in Feldspar will be going into the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum as part of a Fluorescent Mineral display (2018 - 2019 time frame). Here are photos under normal sunlight and Short Wave Ultra Violet light (SWUV). Even with a tripod, the UV photo is a little blurry due to the low light conditions.



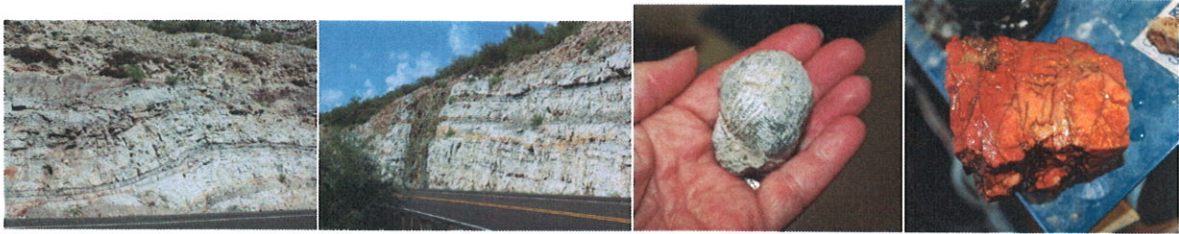
On my way back from the Races in Denver in July, I made a side trip to Ghost Ranch, New Mexico. This is the home of the Triassic Dinosaur –Coelophysis, collected in 1947. Other species were/are also collected here. There is a nice little museum for the casual visitor and the Ranch offers longer term stays for various geological activities: something for me to look into for 2018. The area is spectacular. In the first of the photos below you can see Cretaceous Dakota & Burro Canyon Formations perched on Jurassic Morrison, Summerville, Todilto and Entrada Sandstone formations. Under these, the Triassic Chinle Formation bearing the fossils appears. The Bandera Volcano/Ice Caves was also a great stop!



Nothing much went on in August. My Hubby put up new cabinets in our garage, so I obtained more space for samples of minerals and fossils I hand out to children during Elementary School presentations. For example, at a school there may be 900 students, so that means 900 small pieces of something gets handed out. I supplement what I find with bags of small quartz crystals or red, green and yellow calcite obtained at the Tucson Gem show. Working with children helps them build an interest in geology and science in general and may lead to future Geologists, Paleontologists, Seismologists, Volcanologists or Engineers. Often neighborhood kids show up at my door so we end up rock hounding in the desert behind my house or when traveling, in the driveway of the race shop in Colorado as shown below.



In September, our club went to Winkleman & Dudleyville, Arizona to collect fossils, jasper, calcite and heulandite. The Winkleman site also provides some textbook examples of folds and dikes cutting through the Pennsylvanian limestone. Within the limestone is a thin layer of red jasper that weathers out along U.S. 60 at the base of the road cut.



At the Dudleyville site, are easily collected calcite crystal coated rocks and light greenish-white heulandite crystals and bubbles within “vuggy” yellowish volcanics. In the abandoned railroad cut, there was a unique circular volcanic formation. Have any of the Cal Poly faculty seen this before? Almost looks like a lava tube that was buried by the lighter colored pyroclastic debris and cooled in ever-smaller circles from the outside in or vice-versa. Am I right, or out in left field on this?



October has been busy. We ran the little alcohol car at the Tucson track with the funny car body replaced with an “Altered” body which has yet to be painted. It ran well and we got the performance information on handling we needed. So now, just some weight enhancements and some color to spice things up.



Early in November, my husband and I worked in the Mobil 1 booth at SEMA in Las Vegas. This is a huge yearly automotive industry show of new cars, old cars, parts, paint products, tires, customization, etc. I got to run the NASCAR driving simulator while my hubby ran the tire-changing simulator. I actually got paid to have fun in Las Vegas! Magnus Walker, founder of Serious Clothing and Porsche collector had one of his cars in our booth. He gave us an autographed copy of his new book, “Magnus Walker: Urban Outlaw....Dirt Don’t Slow You Down.” The title has a geologic truth to it, at least in my life. Dirt and rocks have provided years of enjoyment in my life. So here’s to another great year and the continued success of Cal Poly Geology Department Students, Alumni and Staff.



Pattie Rose Gonzales  
(Pattie Stephens when at Cal Poly - 1982/1983)