



## We're head'en to "AGATE RENDEZVOUS 2009"

The "Chaparral Rockhounds" of Roswell, NM, would like to cordially invite all Rockhounds of all ages to "AGATE RENDEZVOUS 2009", our annual ten-day, nine-night fieldtrip campout through the Labor Day weekend held at Apache Creek, New Mexico, from August 29<sup>th</sup> to September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009. This is an "Inter-Federation Campout & Fieldtrip Event" for the whole family with the Rocky Mountain, California and the South Central Federations (and all other Federation who wish to attend).

We have very adventurous and interesting fieldtrips every day from 50 to 200 miles roundtrip from our base camp. Each day we leave at 8:30 AM with a picnic lunch to different areas in the region to collect a very wide variety of rocks, minerals and/or crystals that can include: Agate, Banded Agate, Blood Stone, Chalcedony, Crystalline, Flat Band Agate, Geodes, Golden Luna Agate, Hematite, Jasper, Lava's, Luna Blue Agate, Obsidian, Plume Agate, Quartz Crystals, Red Luna Agate, Snowflake Agate and Thunder Eggs just to name only a few. A couple of our fieldtrips might be into the eastern portion Arizona along the state line. Several of the areas that we travel into, one will need a high-clearance or 4WD type vehicle. If you do not have this type of vehicle, don't worry, someone would be happy to carpool with a little "\$\$\$\$" help for gas.

The very small town of Apache Creek is located in the central-western part of the state about 117 miles west of Socorro, NM, on NM-12 southwest of the small town of Datil, NM. Apache Creek campground, used as our base camp, was once a CCC Camp back in the 1930's. It is a beautiful and tranquil camping area with tall majestic pine trees towering over the entire camp area for plenty of cool shade during the warm days of August. The area is large and spacious enough for the largest of RV's to the smallest of pup tents and everything in between. Being a rustic camp area, there are no facilities, water or electricity, just one coed chemical toilet, so you must come prepared. There is no cost or camping fees at Apache Creek campground. The town of Apache Creek has one main structure in town, a small country store where one can buy the "very basics" and is where we get our spring water and take showers. The small town of Reserve is eleven miles to the southwest and has a grocery store, bank/ATM, garage/gas station and a small motel for anyone who does not want to campout. The majority of the time, Mother Nature cooperates. The weather in August has warm days in the upper 70's to 80's and cool nights in the 50's with some possible 40's and even 30's. Occasionally, late summer thundershowers may wonder through the area to put a damper on things, so come prepared for the unexpected. The elevation of our base camp is about 6400 feet with day outings that can be up to 8500 to 9000 feet.

Every afternoon about 4:30 or 5:00 PM after a day of collecting, most of the rockhounds get together and have a happy hour to socialize and talk about the day's findings. Then everyone has supper on their own around 6:00 PM. Afterwards, we sit around the campfire and tell TALL stories of old mining, prospecting and Rockhounding glory days. The nighttime skies at Apache Creek are breathtaking. With no light pollution, one can see millions of stars. So, if you have a good pair of binoculars or a telescope, be sure to bring them too for some spectacular stargazing. On both Saturday afternoons after returning from our outing, we all get together for our traditional "Apache Creek Group Photo" at 5:30 PM. Afterwards, we all get ready for our traditional potluck supper at 6:00 PM. Everyone makes their favorite camp dish and we share them while telling more stories around the campfire. On each Sunday morning at 8:00 AM, we will have a Rollin' Rock Club meeting if we have enough folks interested.

Rockhounds that show up can camp-out anywhere from a couple of nights to the entire campout. Some just come for the last weekend to visit and see old friends. Some Rockhounds camp out for over two weeks. Everyone that comes always has a great time with all the camaraderie and collecting, and everyone **ALWAYS** goes home several pounds heavier. Each year, it only gets better. We really hope that your club members can join us this year to make some new friends and really have some good

old "Rockhounding Fun and Adventure." For the last 10 years, we have averaged about 40 Rockhounds that have attended the campout from at least half a dozen states. Just the right size for a Rockhound get together. And folks, if you have any good unique swapping/trading material from your area, be sure to bring it. And in addition, if you have a CB Radio, be sure to bring it along. We use CB Channel 7 on all our fieldtrips. When you arrive at the campground, just look for the "White Framed Canopy", that's our HQ.

Saturday and Sunday on the last weekend are open days. For those not interested in going out rock collecting, there are several other things to see and do in the area:

New Mexico Bureau of Mines Mineral Museum is located in Socorro, NM on the campus of the New Mexico Bureau of Mines. The museum is one of the "Top Five Mineral Museums" in all of North America and well worth the trip.

Very Large Array (VLA) Radio Astronomy Telescope is where the movie "Contact" with Jodie Foster was filmed. If you are interested in Astronomy, you defiantly want to check this place out. They have a very interesting, informative and education Visitors Center.

Apache Creek South Mesa has some unique 600-year-old Petroglyphs located on the south side of the mesa. The site is only a two-mile roundtrip hike from the campground.

Catron County Fair in Reserve, NM is the place to be on the first weekend of the campout. On 25 August, the town will be having their County Fair with a Livestock Show, Arts & Crafts and a Rodeo.

Catron County Rock Show during the Labor Day weekend will be at the Reserve Fair Grounds. The local rock club will be having their Rock Show with an Open-Tailgate Rock Swap on Saturday. Bring your Rocks to buy, sale or trade.

Mogollon, NM is an old historic and famous ghost town in the Mogollon Mountains, Gila National Forest. There are Antique Shops, a very interesting Mining Museum, the "Mogollon Rock Shop", the Old Theater and have lunch in the Old Town Café.

The Catwalk is a very beautiful, tranquil and scenic canyon for hiking. Therefore, if you love hiking, the Catwalk is for you. In addition, there are numerous places to go hiking throughout the Gila and Apache National Forests.

Silver City Gem and Mineral Show in Silver City, NM. The local club will be having their 24<sup>th</sup> annual 3-day show during the Labor Day weekend. It is only a two-hour drive south and the very beautiful and scenic landscape will make the trip a memorable one.

**Lodging:** For those folks who do not wish to camp out, or need electricity and water for their RV, there are the following alternatives. Be sure to make any reservations as early as possible due to Bow Hunting season for Elk, which starts on Monday the 1<sup>st</sup>. The rooms and RV spaces fill up fast.

The Bunk House Bed & Breakfast in Apache Creek is 505-533-6949.

Apache Creek RV located in nearby Cruzville is 505-533-6166. They have a Dump Station, Laundry, Propane & Showers.

Rode Inn Motel on Main Street in Reserve is 505-533-6661. They have Cable TV, Direct Dial Phones, Queen Beds and a Laundromat.

**Dining:** For those folks who wish to have a change of diet from camp food, there are the following alternatives.

BBQ Restaurant in Reserve

Ella's Café in Reserve

Little Adobe Café in Rancho Grande

The host for AGATE RENDEZVOUS is the Chaparral Rockhounds and is co-sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Rockhounds. If you are planning on coming to AGATE RENDEZVOUS, please try to RSVP NLT the 24<sup>th</sup> of August. For any additional information about the Rendezvous, please contact Yonis Lone Eagle, RMFMS Vice President at 505-860-2455 or via e-mail at: rockymountainrockhounds at yahoo dot com. All rockhounds that attend will abide by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies "Code of Conduct".