

Rocky Reader

The Monthly Newsletter Of The
Toledo Gem And Rockhound Club

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Alaska!

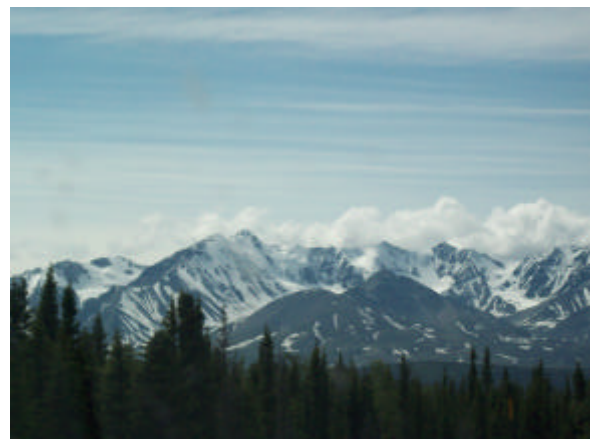
It took us seven long days to drive here, through Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and into Canada and the provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon. We put in 550 – 670 miles per day and saw untold numbers of animals, great scenery, spectacular mountains, rivers and more. They say that everyone should make the AI-Can drive once, and it was well worth it, but I wouldn't want to do it again!

Jeff has been fishing, and I of course have been searching the roadsides and creeks for neat rocks. I have quite a few which we will probably try to ship; as I won't be able to take too many in my luggage for the plane trip back.

When I join you again next for next month's meeting, it will be time to start our serious plans for the Show. Suzanne and I and the Show Committee will be counting on everyone to do their share to prepare for and put on our biggest event of the year. I encourage our many new members to step up and pitch in. This is a great way to get your feet wet, meet and work with our long time members for the benefit of this great organization. Deb Hoffmaster will be coordinating the Volunteer Sign-up Sheet, and you can always come to Suzanne or me to see where your talents can best fit in.

Take time this summer to clean out your sheds and garages of excess and unused rock specimens to donate for Kid's Games, Silent Auction, Club Sales and perhaps for the Scholarship Raffle if you have better grade items. This Show is what raises funds to keep the club operational each year.

See you in July!
Jerri Heer, President



TG&RC 2009 SHOW

Wow, the Show is approaching fast and is less than 3 months away!! The committee will hold its next show meeting on **July 15th at 6:00**. As we only have 2 meetings left before the show, please plan on attending if you're on the committee!! This Show is the club's main source of annual income and we need member support to be successful. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved. Here are some areas where we need your participation.

Show Exhibits: Nancy Grove is accepting exhibitor's applications. There will be public voting for the People's Choice Awards. The top three winners will receive certificates for **\$25 First Place, \$15 Second Place, and \$10 Third Place**. Exhibitor's rules and application forms will be **available from Nancy Grove** or you can download it from our website (www.rockyreader.com).

Library Displays: If you're entering a show exhibit, please consider entering it in a local library for all to see before the show. We always receive such positive feedback from the libraries and they look forward to our return every year. We currently need displays for **Sanger** and **Way Public** libraries. The display is for the month of August. For those members already signed up, Suzanne will have your library packet ready in July.

Volunteer: We can't run a show without the volunteers. Our club is blessed with some dedicated folk that start Thursday morning for setup and stay through Sunday takedown. As much as we appreciate their devotion, they just can't do it all and shouldn't be expected to. All we ask is to fill a 2-hour time slot during the show. **Contact Deb Hoffmaster** to find out where you're needed most. We also need help with setup on Thursday/Friday and takedown Sunday. If you're available, please let Deb know.

Hospitality: Simply put... Hungry workers aren't happy workers. We will have a hospitality area open during setup on Thursday and Friday until 2pm. Su Drake has a menu of food items/dishes we need for all the meals. Most of the dishes are fairly simple like sloppy joes, meatballs, or pasta salad. But if you feel you're not too handy in the kitchen (or just simply don't have the time) you can still help because we need a lot of store bought items like sandwich buns, pop, water, chips, cookies, etc. **Contact Su Drake** to sign-up.

Advertise: Every year we work hard to make the show better than last year's. Help us **spread the word**. We have **yard signs** available again this year. If allowed, please take one for your house or neighborhood. We ask that you get permission before placing in front of businesses. The signs are reusable so please return them after the show. We also have **flyers and coupons** available. The flyers are intended for posting on bulletin boards or taking to other shows. The coupons provide a 50-cent discount for entry to the show and are good for up to 4 people. Please pass out the coupons to anyone who may be interested. Members will receive a mailing near the end of July. More are available upon request by contacting Jerri or Suzanne.

Donate: We are accepting donations for the **club sales & silent auction** area. Pretty much anything goes here, rocks, minerals, fossils, tools, supplies, etc. The **kids' area** needs prizes for the 25-cent games. They are accepting small toys or party favors or any type of tumbled stones, quartz, small rocks, or shells. The **scholarship raffle** is a great way to support local geology students. Prizes for the raffle may be jewelry, gem/mineral, carving, sphere, gift cards, etc. Please include your name, designation, & description (if needed).

Sign-up sheets & advertising materials will be available at the meetings, or by contacting the respective chair.

Co-Chairperson	Jerri Heer	419-344-9999	jheerx6@aol.com
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Hospitality	Su Drake	419-353-6401	su-realcreations@woh.rr.com
Advertising	Mike Mayers	419-885-5613	glassman@buckeye-express.com
Club Sales/Silent Auction	Harold Burlison	419-533-7341	hburle@msn.com
Scholarship Raffle	Linda Scharer	517-447-3954	mscharer@cass.net

TG&RC MEETING MINUTES – June 17, 2009

The meeting was called to order by VP Ruth Jacobs at 7:09 pm. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Ed Reynolds gave an illustrated talk about his digging trip to Kentucky in the spring.

Secretary's Report: Tim Marok made a motion to accept the minutes as published. John Kalinoski seconded. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Shimatzki said the club was doing well. There were four new members and checks from the vendors for the show had started coming in. There were no extraordinary expenses for the month. Tim Marok moved to accept the report as read. John Kalinoski seconded.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Group Reports:

Juniors: Jerri Heer was absent but it was reported that the next juniors meeting is tentatively set for July 5 at noon. Interested parties can check Rocky Reader for details.

TBG: Chet King said the Festival of the Arts is the end of June and people are needed to guard the gates and mind booths for vendors. Chet has time cards for the Open House and also for Art in the Park. The first Sundays will also count toward volunteer hours. In July the project will be boxes.

Gemcrafters: Chet said there is open cutting on Wednesday evenings. The Arts in the Garden festival is coming up in August and if people want sales booths, see Chet for forms.

Metalcrafters: Deb Hoffmaster said everything is going along normally. There will be a sterling bracelet class in November, the same Saturday as the Open House and the cost is \$85 which includes all materials.

Faceteers: no report. Steve Shimatzki said the faceteers meet once a month at a member's home.

Beaders: Nancy Grove reported that at the last meeting they finished the bracelet. In July the project is earrings. The group meets at 6:30 in the craft center. Kathy Peterson said there is a subgroup of beaders working on beaded fabric. Anyone interested should contact Lnda Markowiak. The group meets Wednesday mornings in the craft center.

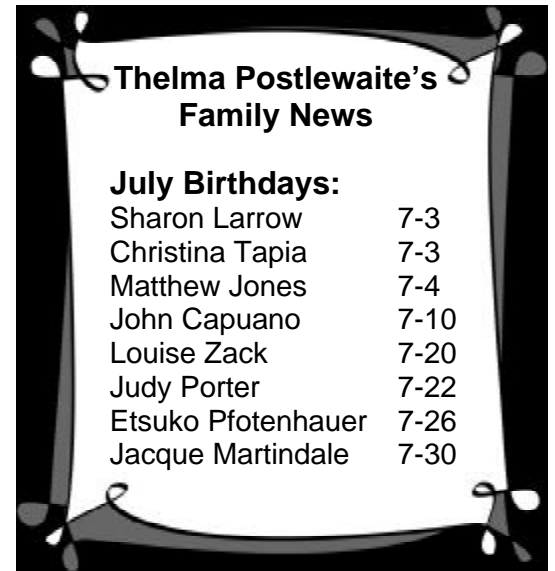
Rocky Reader: The deadline for the July issue is noon on Wednesday July 24th.

Sunshine: no report.

Membership: Carla Burlison handled the sign in and reported there were 37 members present with 3 juniors and 2 visitors from out of town.

Field Trips: Harold Burlison said the next trip is to Bancroft Ontario Sept 23 - Sept 27. He noted people now need a passport or passport card to re-enter the US. This is a Joel Vickery trip.

Show Report: Suzanne Shimatzki said in August club members will put exhibits in several area libraries as part of our advertising for the show. The exhibits will be there all month. She needs volunteers to prepare an exhibit for the Maumee, Sanger, and Way Public Libraries.



This year there will be prizes for the best exhibits at the shows. This will not be juried show but the vote will be a Peoples' Choice vote for best display.

Suzanne asked that people please signup to volunteer to work for the show. This year we will be allowed to have hospitality during set up on Thursday and through Friday morning until the doors open to the public. Su Drake is in charge of hospitality. There will be signup sheets at the next meeting.

Suzanne mentioned that the club needs donations for the scholarship raffle and for the kids' area.

This year the coupons will again be used to try and boost attendance. The coupons will have a code allowing the show chairs to track advertising.

Open House: Carla Burlison said Sunday was very good. Next month she will have signup forms for the next open house. She said anyone who wanted to cancel once they signed up for tables must call her directly. No email.

Midwest Federation: Steve Shimatzki said the latest newsletter mentioned that Toledo will host the 2011 convention in conjunction with our show.

There being no further business John Kalinoski moved for adjournment. The club adjourned at 8:05.

Tom Marok moved that the club extend privileges to the Christiansons while they are in town. The motion was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted, Lyn Kalinoski, Secretary

CLASSES

Kathy and Deb are working on next year's schedule. Let them know if there is a skill you would like to learn.

November 14, 2009 chainmaille class taught by Kathy Petersen. This is the Full Persian bracelet designed by Kathy and published in the February 2009 issue of Bead and Button Magazine. \$85 fee includes all materials, including a designer bead set from Hager Studios, designer clasp, and sterling silver jump rings. Call Kathy to register for the class. As you know, these classes fill up quickly, so be sure to register early.

METALCRAFTERS

The metalcrafters meet on the first and third Sunday at 1:30 and the second and fourth Thursday at 6:30. We ask that **those members who have never attended**, please call or e-mail Debby Hoffmaster to schedule a three meeting slot to complete their instructional pendant. When you do so, **please leave your full name and contact information**.

Debby Hoffmaster, moderator

GEMCRAFTERS

The gemcrafters meet on Wednesdays (except the third) at 7PM in the craft center. Chet can give classes on any lapidary topic. If there is something that you are interested in learning, contact him.

FACETEERS

The faceters are scheduled to meet the second Wednesday of the month. Contact Don Ault or Dick Bower for more information.

BEADERS

The beadners meet on the 3rd Monday of the month (July 20th) at 6:30 PM in the craft center. Nancy Grove will provide instruction and materials needed for the meeting. The meeting is open to all skill levels.

A Beadners subgroup is meeting weekly during summer months to work on extended bead embroidered projects. This is a weekday class, and days are chosen weekly by the group to best fit the schedules of the participants. Some basic beading skill, particularly with peyote stitching and cabochon beading, would be helpful. Call Linda Markowiak, for information related to meeting days and necessary materials to join in on the projects.



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JUNIORS

The next meeting will be Sunday, July 5th from noon-2pm. The activity this month will be flint knapping. Contact Jerri Heer for more details.

ROCKY READER

Submissions for the August Rocky Reader must be received by noon on **Monday, July 20th**. All groups should be submitting monthly updates unless prior arrangements have been made directly with Suzanne.

FALL OPEN HOUSE

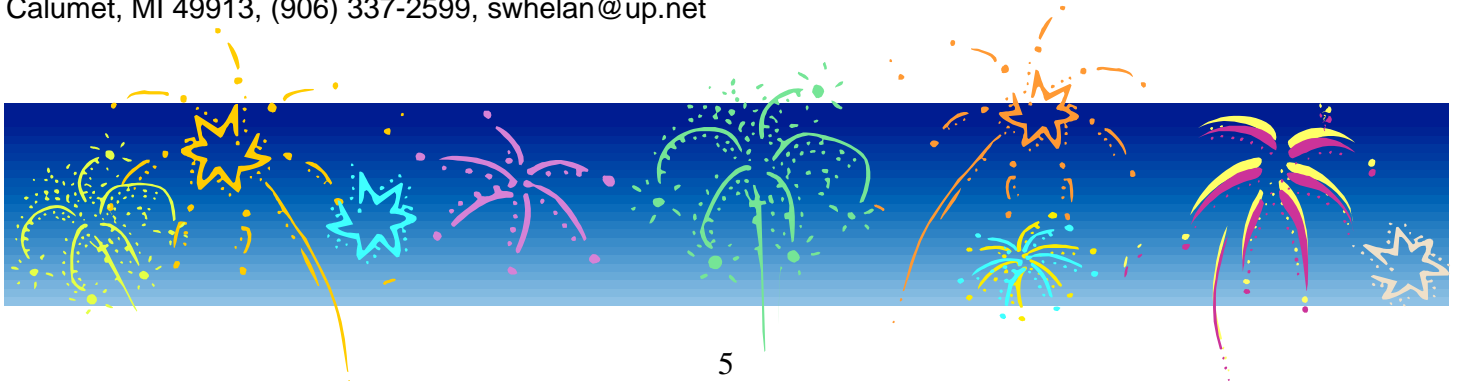
Table space is available to members on a first come first serve basis for anyone wanting to sell. Contact Carla Burleson (419-533-7341) to reserve tables or to volunteer. Anyone needing to cancel their table space must call Carla directly (no emails!).

COMING EVENTS from Chetty King's Flyer Table

July 20-26: Mansfield, OH. Richland Lithic & Lapidary Society's Annual Show-Sale; Kingwood Center Meeting & Exhibit Hall, 900 Park Ave. W.; 10-5 daily; CONTACT: Tom Kottyan, P.O. Box 308, Bucyrus, OH 44820, (419) 562-1152, mineralhouse@netzero.net.

Jul 31-Aug. 2: Ishpeming, MI. Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club's Annual Show w/Field Trips; Elks Club Hall, 597 Lake Shore Dr.; Sat. 9:30- 4:30; Field Trips Fri. and Sun.; CONTACT: Ernest Johnson, 1962 W. Fair, Marquette, MI 49855, (906) 228-9422, ejohnson@nmu.edu.

August 7-9: Houghton, MI. Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club's Show; Portage Township Elementary School, 203 Jacker Ave.; Fri. 1-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; CONTACT Steve Whelan, 59880 Dektrom Rd., Calumet, MI 49913, (906) 337-2599, swhelan@up.net



Popular Mineralogy

Interesting mineralogy and earth science for the amateur mineralogist and serious collector - #20

Dangerous Geology: Who Put the Quick in Quicksand?

by Andrew A. Sicree

Can quicksands kill?

In the final scene of many an old time movie, the bad guy met his end slowly sinking into quicksand along the bank of a jungle stream. After a minute or two, nothing remained of the villain but his hat, floating on the now-placid surface of the quicksand. Quicksand makes for Hollywood classics, but does it make scientific sense that a quicksand could kill a man?

The “quick” in quicksand implies “living” or “lively” (from the Anglo-Saxon *cwic*, “living”) – akin to the use of the term “quicksilver” for mercury. A quicksand is a “lively sand” – an apt name for a sand that moves and swallows up unfortunate bad guys.

Without a doubt, quicksands exist in many parts of the world. Reportedly, they are found in environments as disparate as Morecambe Bay, England; coastal regions of New Jersey, North Carolina, and Florida; the Lençóis Maranhenses of Maranhão, in northeast Brazil; in the Sahara Desert in the Qattara Depression in Egypt; and near Qom in Iran.

The critical question is whether or not one of these quicksands could entrap a man and suffocate or drown him. Experts point out that any mixture of sand and water would have a density greater than that of the human body; thus a human being should be able to float on top of a quicksand. This is, however, only part of the story.

Sand and quicksand

Normal sand is mostly composed of well-rounded grains of quartz transported and sorted by the action of water and wind. Beach sands, for instance, are deposited by wave action and

blowing winds, while wind alone forms desert sand dunes. How does a natural bed of sand become a quicksand?

In a well-packed pile of quartz sand, gaps between the rounded sand grains make up about 25 to 30 percent of the total volume. These voids are filled with air or water. But not all sand grains are spherical, and elongate or irregular sand grains make loose packing possible. In loosely-packed sand, voids make up between 30 and 70 percent of the volume. A loosely-packed sand is metastable – it looks firm, but readily collapses and compacts to a stable, more densely packed bed. Pressure, vibration, or upwelling water serves to overcome the friction between grains and the sand re-sorts itself in a more stable configuration. Studying quicksands in recent years, scientists discovered that not all quicksands are identical.

Fluidized beds

The classical explanation of quicksand is that it is a “fluidized bed.” In a fluidized bed, the grains are partially supported by the pressure of the surrounding fluid. A flow of water upwelling through a bed of sand serves to create a quicksand because the water is effectively “floating” the sand enough that the entire bed of sand behaves like a fluid. Anyone walking onto such a sand would rapidly sink down into the quicksand just as though they had walked into the surface of a pond.

Quicksands created by upwelling water occur in many places where there are natural springs. This can be along riverbanks, at the bases of alluvial fans (fan-shaped masses of sand and gravel carried down from the mountains by erosion), or on beaches exposed at low tide.

The latter can be particularly treacherous because someone trapped in a beach quicksand might be drowned by the incoming tide before being freed.

Civil engineers watch for “quick-conditions” during construction of buildings, dams, and bridges because upwelling waters can fluidize any soil (not only sands) and cause catastrophic failures of structures built on them. You would never, of course, construct a building on a quicksand deliberately, but a soil or sand that appears firm today might, given sufficient rainfall, become “quick.” At that point, some stimulus such as a minor earthquake tremor might cause the underlying sediments to liquefy and undermine the foundations of your building.

The destruction of Port Royal

In the 1600’s the town of Port Royal, Jamaica, was “sin city,” home to buccaneers, cutthroats, slave traders, and prostitutes. Port Royal sat perched upon a spit of sand on the edge of the Caribbean Sea near Kingston, Jamaica. An earthquake struck on June 7th, 1692 at 11:43 a.m. (we know the exact time from a watch that was recovered from the destroyed city afterward). The city’s buildings didn’t collapse; they *sank* into the sand, and about 3000 people, half of the city’s residents, perished. It was as though the Earth “swallowed them up.” Survivors claimed the wrath of God was visited upon the city for its sinful ways. Certainly it must have seemed that way to those lucky enough to live through the disaster.

The 1692 earthquake served as the stimulus for the liquefaction of the sand upon which the town was built. Normally, at Port Royal the water table was only a few feet below the surface. Perhaps the spring of 1692 was wetter than usual and the water table had risen. The shaking of the ground during the earthquake caused the sand to become “quick” and the resulting quicksand swallowed whole streets of buildings. At the same time, the ground surface dropped downward (due to compaction and seaward slumping) and most of the town was

submerged. Tsunamis that hit the town after the earthquake did nothing to improve the situation. Today, the town lies at least 25 feet (8 m) below average sea level.

The semi-rigid trap

Quicksands are common in the Lençóis Maranhenses of Maranhão, in northeast Brazil. Here, sand dunes intermingle with rainwater-filled lagoons. As these lagoons dry up, a soft crust of brown or green algae and cyanobacteria remains, covering pits of water-saturated quicksand. People who have stood on the crust of these quicksands liken the experience to standing on a waterbed. As long as the crust remains intact, the quicksand bed quivers and vibrates underfoot. If you break through the crust (which is easy to do), you’ll quickly sink to the bottom of the sand pit. Upon being disturbed, the quicksand “collapses” to a much firmer sand in which the shear strength increases with depth. In other words, the deeper your legs are stuck in the sand, the harder it gets to pull them out. Most of these pits are only about a meter (3 feet) deep, so they don’t present an immediate threat to life, but it can be challenging to extricate oneself from them. By laying sheets of plywood on the surface, researchers found they were able to walk across these pits without perturbing the quicksands.

In other parts of the world, such as Iran and Egypt, salt rather than bacteria and algae appears to play a role in holding the quicksand in a metastable condition.

These semi-rigid trap-type quicksands differ from the fluidized bed-type of quicksand in two important ways. First, the semi-rigid traps have stationary water – there is no continuous up flow of spring water. Second, the semi-rigid traps change drastically after they have been disturbed: they switch from a fluid state to an almost solid state.

Death of the bad guy

While it is true that you should be able to float on (and presumably swim out of) a fluidized bed-type of quicksand, the semi-rigid trap-type quicksands present a different challenge. When you walk onto one of these quicksands, you rapidly sink into the sand. Upon being disturbed, the morass changes from a quicksand to a tightly compacted, almost solid, mass, effectively “cementing” you in place. The force required to pull your legs out of the compacted sand can be much greater than that which a single man can exert. If you don’t have friends nearby with a rope to pull you out, you’ll have to slowly wiggle about and dig to free your legs. If you have the misfortune to fall into a quicksand that is deeper than your height, you might not live to write home about the experience.

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*Dr. Andrew A. Sicree is a professional mineralogist and geochemist residing in Boalsburg, PA. This **Popular Mineralogy** newsletter supplement may not be copied in part or full without express permission of Andrew Sicree. **Popular Mineralogy** newsletter supplements are available on a subscription basis to help mineral clubs produce better newsletters. Write to Andrew A. Sicree, Ph.D., P. O. Box 10664, State College PA 16805, or call (814) 867-6263 or email sicree@verizon.net for more information.*

How to Escape from Quicksand

The danger of quicksand is perhaps more present in the imagination than in reality. Most of the quicksand pits in Brazil extend only about three feet downward, so they are unlikely to prove fatal to the entrapped explorer. Quicksand deaths are more likely to occur in quicksands located out on tidal flats. Tourists exploring the sea floor at low tide have sometimes become mired – not much fun when the tide is rising. An alert buddy with a rope to lasso you makes escaping from quicksand much more likely, but what can you do without a rope?

When in quicksand country, carry a long sturdy pole. Walking across boards or large logs placed on top of a quicksand bog greatly decreases your chances of breaking through the matted upper surface, and logs, poles, or boards

give you something to hang onto if you do start to sink.

If you start to sink, jettison your backpack or any other heavy cargo you’re carrying. The density of quicksand exceeds that of water so you are more buoyant on quicksand than in water. An unladen person will float on the surface of a quicksand.

The key problem is that, once you’ve started to sink, it is difficult to extract your legs from the morass. Thrashing about doesn’t improve matters. Lay on your back with your arms spread to stop sinking.

If you’re carrying a pole or board, try to slide it under your hips. Using the pole to support your hips, slowly work your legs upward. Patiently working your legs back and forth can loosen the sand around your legs and allow you to slowly pull yourself out.

Once you are on top of the quicksand, try to “swim” toward more solid ground. Move slowly. If possible, your buddy can toss you a rope or extend a tree branch to you. Once you are out, use a pole to try to retrieve your pack.

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GEO-JOKES:

THE CANNIBAL RESTAURANT

Upon entering a restaurant, a cannibal sits down in a booth and is given a menu. He reads:

Boiled Biologist	\$6.95
Creamed Chemist	\$4.95
Fried Physicist	\$9.95
Minced Mathematician	\$12.95
Grilled Geologist	\$29.95

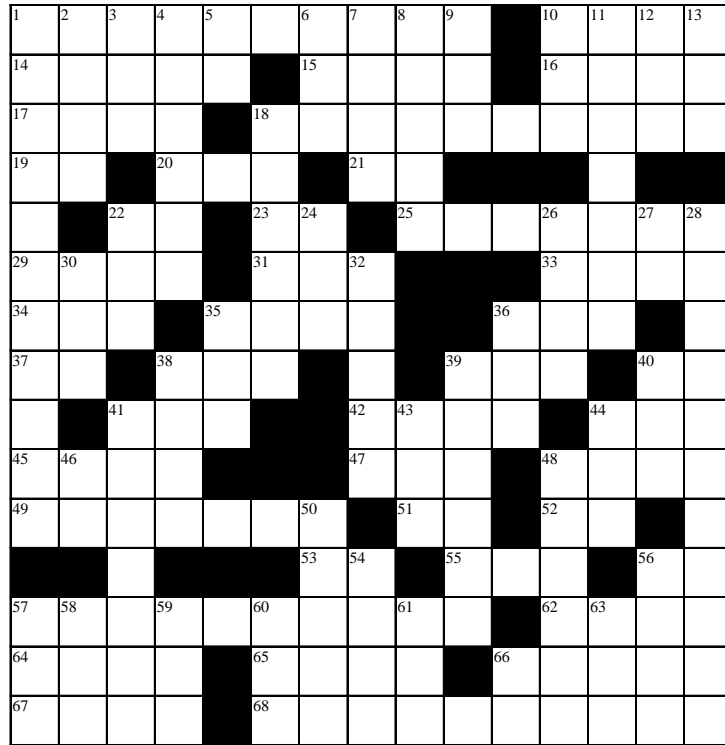
He beckons for the waiter and queries him, “Why are these Grilled Geologists so much more expensive than the other scientists? Are they out of season?”

The waiter replies, “Naw, they’re still in season, but have you ever tried to clean one?”

Dangerous Sands

ACROSS

- 1 kills movie villains
- 10 spaces between sand grains
- 14 what a raw diamond is
- 15 goddess of the Earth
- 16 Spanish water
- 17 on the menu
- 18 sinking into quicksand
- 19 cobalt
- 20 barrel (ab)
- 21 Technical Sergeant (ab)
- 22 iron
- 23 Unitarian Universalist
- 25 to pull from quicksand
- 29 burns hydrogen
- 31 Infernal tax guys
- 33 needs a scratch
- 34 charged atom
- 35 horizontal mine entrance
- 36 horror story writer
- 37 lane (ab)
- 38 feet per second
- 39 left on top of quicksand
- 40 chops trees down
- 41 long-tailed rodent
- 42 survived a flood
- 44 living
- 45 having ___ you see not
- 47 favorite of Athena
- 48 forms some quicksands
- 49 aluminum sulfate mineral
- 51 nickel
- 52 Triassic (ab)
- 53 aluminum
- 55 ___ Pits trap animals
- 56 opposite of hi
- 57 zeolite named for Pauling
- 62 not below surface
- 64 length times width
- 65 Rhodochrosite town
- 66 more than one uterus
- 67 neat as a pin
- 68 volcanic clay traps cars



DOWN

- 1 mercury
- 2 do ___ others
- 3 water mineral
- 4 to hinder, to slow down
- 5 Cretaceous/Tertiary line
- 6 long ___
- 7 nautical (ab)
- 8 disturbed sand becomes
- 9 not happy at all
- 10 toothy fish
- 11 stir up quicksand
- 12 bad joke
- 13 to bow in the middle
- 18 needed for quicksand
- 22 blows air
- 24 man's name
- 26 violent activity
- 27 cubic centimeter
- 28 shaking makes it fluid
- 30 a force - 2000 pounds
- 32 founder of stratigraphy
- 35 to the point
- 36 said with disdain
- 38 how one sinks in sand
- 39 salt mineral in quicksand
- 40 to be sick
- 41 needed from quicksand

- 43 to possess
- 44 a sand ___; body of sand
- 46 Spanish I
- 48 layered
- 50 rare bird
- 54 related to lakes
- 56 girls' name
- 57 to touch lightly
- 58 man's name "lion"
- 59 to go horizontal
- 60 to catch
- 61 tit for ___
- 63 in Vietnam
- 66 United Nations

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION: Radio-Min



July

2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Gemcraft 7:00p	2	3	4
5 Metalcraft 1:30p	6	7	8 Gemcraft 7:00p Faceteers 7:00p	9 Metalcraft 6:30p	10	11
12	13	14	15 Show Mtg 6:00p Meeting 7:00p	16	17	18
19 Metalcraft 1:30p	20 Beaders 6:30p	21	22 Gemcraft 7:00p	23 Metalcraft 6:30p	24	25
26	27	28	29 Gemcraft 7:00p	30	31	

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