



**The Prez Box—
January 2021
Bill Brown, OMS President**

Hi all! Welcome to 2021.

This is my first attempt at a bulletin. I'll try to make it somewhat interesting, and let folks know what the outlook is for the next month.

Covid is still with us, but a vaccine has been released by two companies. I'll be getting vaccinated as soon as they'll let me. I hope everyone will get the vaccination so that we can get back to normal.

As I've mentioned before, the board has decided that we will hold the current slate of officers until after we have had two regular meetings (one for Officer nominations, and one for voting. I hope we'll be able to have a meeting in March, but that will be determined by the State deciding to open everything back up.

We will be having the scheduled board meeting on January 5, 2021. Since everything is still closed down, it will be held using FreeConferenceCalling.com. Instructions for joining the conference are as follows.

Call **1-612-746-7377**. When the machine answers, it will ask for a conference code. Enter **323428**

The general meeting for January is canceled due to Covid shutdown. While we can't be sure, it's suspected that the February meeting will also be canceled. I'm hoping for March.

We weren't able to have the awards BBQ at Betty's since the state locked down on gatherings of more than 3 households. We will plan on any business that needs to be done for 2021

on our first meeting.

We are still under the stay at home order for southern California. This means that there is no on-site dining at any restaurant. Until that is lifted, there will be no Breakfast.

Highway cleanup will be held on January 9 at the SE corner Route 101/166 East at 8:00 am. I am hoping that we can have a good turnout.

Everyone should think about what we want to do next year. Our club has taken a blow from Covid, and we weren't fully healthy before that. What can we do to revitalize the club.

Be healthy and take care of yourselves. We will make it through to a better 2021.

Bill

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Greetings go out to those folks who are having Birthdays and Anniversaries in

DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Jennie Beattie	1/2	Yb
Pat Nuernberg	1/11	Yb
Virginia Rogers	1/21	≡
Elisabeth Nybo	1/27	≡
Sir Paul Howard	1/28	≡
Elaine Von Achen	1/30	≡

ANNIVERSARIES

Don and Sylvia Nasholm	1/10
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***Congratulations!** If you don't see your name here when you should, then the information is not in **The Red Book**. Please write your important dates down and give them to **Wayne** so they will be included in the next edition (January 2021)*

BIRTHSTONE(S) FOR JANUARY GARNET

Story compiled from GIA.COM, Wikipedia,

Those born in January are lucky to have the beautiful and diverse garnet as their birthstone. Garnets are commonly red but also come in an extraordinary range of beautiful colors, including orange, yellow, purple and vibrant green. There are even garnets that change color from blue to purple in different lighting

Garnets have a hardness of 6.0 to 7.5 depending on species. Garnets may show a pick-up response to strong magnetic fields ([neodymium magnet](#)).

Garnets do not display cleavage (breaks on a plane), and have a vitreous (glassy) or may have resinous (like amber) luster.

Common garnet species include:

Pyrospite garnets

- Almandine
- Pyrope
- Spessartine

Ugrandite group

- Andradite
- Grossular
- Uvarovite

Garnet crystals are used as gemstones that can be red, green, yellow and orange.

Garnets are good abrasives in industrial settings. Sandpaper (garnet paper), sand blasting, and waterjet cutting are typical industrial uses of garnet.



Picture from [barrysjewellers.files.wordpress.com](#)

Did you KNOW?

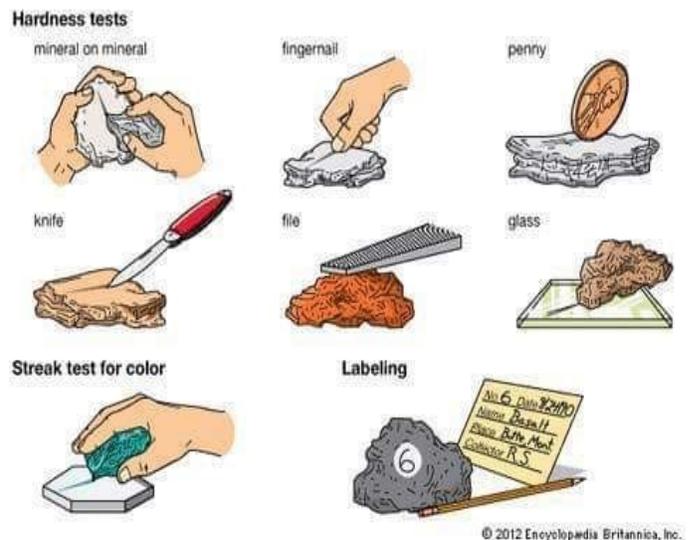
There is a Rock and Stone Identification group on facebook? <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RandS.IDs>.

They accept a post of pictures or a short movie of the stone. Post other information about the stone such as hardness, luster, or streak. They will try to identify the rock. You can find instructions on how to take pictures and what you can do to help them identify the rock or stone on the site.

We could also contribute, as some of us are pretty good at identifying rocks! (even I can get some of them).

Remember that you can help them with more than pictures. Hardness, Luster, Streak, and where it came from are all important information in identifying a mineral

The picture below is from their site:



Tips to make working with rocks easier:

"CANDLE" your MONTANA AGATES as you would eggs . Punch a small hole in the bottom of a 2 pound coffee can — turn it upside down and place a light inside. It is surprising how the light coming through the hole will show dendrites. This saves cutting time.Rockhound's Rag...via Rocks and Gems

REMEMBER THIS! Do Not Put water filled stones, such as opals in the freezer to remove the cab from the dopstick. The water will freeze and crack the stone.The Tumble Rumble

TO KEEP OPALS, put a few drops of rubbing alcohol in the bottles of water in which they are kept. It will keep them from turning black and the water from getting stagnant.Alaska Pebble Patte

BLACK PETRIFIED WOOD can be soaked in a household bleach, such as Clorox. Avoid metal containers. Cover and let stand for several weeks. Once a week add bleach and check results. This brings out the growth rings in a plain black slab. The slab should be ground and shaped before soaking, as the bleach does not penetrate too deeply.Pegmatite

To **STRAIGHTEN KINKS IN SILVER**, place silver between two strips of Masonite (smooth sides together) lay on a smooth solid surface and tap sharply with a rubber mallet, turn over and repeat tapping.Gems

TO CLEAN SILVER — rub it with lemon, wash and dry. It will stay bright longer.Rockhound's Rag

Selected **SHOP SUGGESTIONS** Compiled by Bernice D. Schilling - 1975 San Fernando Valley Mineral and Gem Society

"SLAB and TRIM SAWS"

For a **LUBRICANT** in SLAB AND TRIM SAWS, radiator

antifreeze can be used as a COOLING AGENT. It has no odor, and will not rust your saw or evaporate. In addition, it lubricates well and being very soluble in water, is easier to clean from the rocks and your hands.

Add a couple of tablespoons of **liquid detergent** to your GUTTING OIL, — if your saw has a plastic lid, this will be the first time you have been able to see through the top after cutting your slab.The Tumble Rumble

CUTTING FOR "SHEEN" ON OBSIDIAN! Cut at an angle of about 50 degrees to degrees to the stripe of flow lines to insure a good sheen in the finished product.Rockhound's Rag

TRIM SAWING: Instead of pushing the slab into the blade and letting the oil spatter all over you — turn the whole unit around so that the saw blade rotates AWAY FROM YOU. Then stand to the back side of it and PULL THE SLAB INTO THE BLADE. You can see what you are doing better and your goggles do not get all oil splattered. The Agatizer

In **SAWING GEODES or AGATE-FILLED NODULES**, first look for the largest dome on the specimen. This dome was in the upright position when the specimen was forming. Saw through this largest dome, and it is likely you will expose the best "picture" or surface. If the specimen is elongated or eggshaped, saw length wise in order to obtain the best exposure. Rocks and Gems

All of the above are from ROCKHOUND SOAP BOX in the various CFMS newsletters.

BITS AND BYTES

QUARTZITE GEM SWAPMEET TO BE OPEN FOR 2021...maybe. Follow link below for possible show schedule:.

<https://www.desertusa.com/cities/az/quartzsite.html>

CFMS SHOWS THAT ALL SHOWS CANCELED UNTIL AT LEAST APRIL For updated California Show information check out the CFMS website.

<https://www.cfmsinc.org/shows-2/>

Jade Cove Trail (Big Sur, California)



Jade Cove in Big Sur, California, is a popular destination for jade hunters. (Tim Fitzharris/Minden Pictures/Corbis)

Don't let the breathtaking ocean views that surround this central California trail distract you from something just as spectacular: the ground. The one-and-a-half mile [Jade Cove Trail](#) is a popular spot for [jade](#) hunters searching for the greenish-hued gemstone, which forms due to [subduction](#) or when oceanic and continental plates collide. Because the trail is part of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has released strict [guidelines](#) for jade hunting, but as long as specimens are in plain sight,

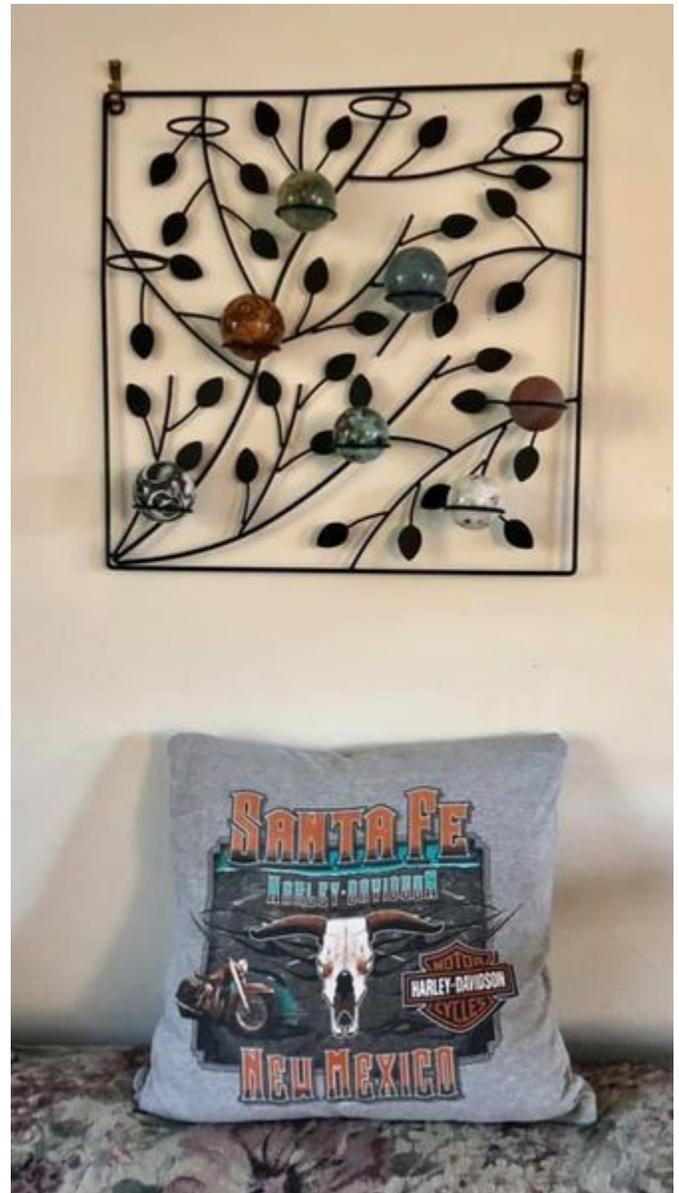
rockhounds are welcome to pocket them. The region is also home to the annual [Big Sur Jade Festival](#). This year, due to the Soberanes forest fire, the event has been rescheduled for the spring.

Smithsonian Magazine 9/28/16 —Excerpts from Finders, Keepers: Five of the Best Places to Go Gem Hunting in the U.S. by Jennifer Nalewicki

Sphere Display

Kind of a cool way to display spheres.

ontributed by Wayne Mills from Rockhound Connection 12/28/2020.



ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY

BOARD MEETING

Teleconference

Dec 1, 2020 (7:00 p.m.)

Call to Order at 7:02 p.m.

Present—Bill, Jeanne, Wayne, Betty, Renea, Jan,

Absent— Dick, Sally and Debbie

MINUTES: (Wayne) Published in December Bulletin, no corrections.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Betty/Jeanne-- We are still solvent. Our estimated reserves are 4 years with no show.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Wayne) AFMS Bulletin, Domain Fee from Las Vegas, P.O. Box fee, Invoice from Nipomo C of C for room usage (or non-usage).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bulletin- Wayne has submitted his last bulletin. I would like to thank him for a great series of bulletins this year! Bill will take-over the bulletin for the January Edition.

CFMS- (Renea) Elisabeth got Honorable Mention in AFMS for her article on Scotland. Santa Lucia Rockhounds got #1 Club in America based on Mark Nelson's submission. Wayne Mills was unable to join the November CFMS Director's meeting because he did not receive the correct call-in number.

Membership – The Board voted to not request dues from current members in 2021 until face to face meetings start.

Field Trip – (Sally) Pending field trip to look at a fossil fireplace at Santa Rita Ranch. (Short) notice would be by phone or e-mail. (Field trip was tentatively scheduled for mid-December, but fell through due to heightened COVID restriction. Land Conservancy plans to buy the ranch in December, so it may be available to us sometime in 2021.

Adopt-a-Highway – Next Clean-up is January 9, 2020.

Annual Awards Banquet: With the Coronavirus surge, there will be no Awards Banquet this year. Thanks to Betty for offering her place

since Madonna was unavailable, but with the current surge, it would be a violation. No more than three households can gather for a meeting.

Breakfast- (Bill Hood) No breakfast this month

Education (Wayne) No report.

Library- (Alexis) No report

Sunshine- Ain't no sunshine

Scholarship (Jeanne) No report until 2021

Show. None in 2020. We are hoping for one in 2021 to encourage more new members. Board voted to hold SB Abused Children Donations until 2021.

OLD BUSINESS- Current Board will serve same positions until we have 2 consecutive face-to-face meetings.

NEW BUSINESS- Both San Luis and Santa Barbara Counties have had a COVID surge and have returned to purple status. Stay home and stay healthy!

Renea has three AFMS or CFMS awards at home. She will take these to the appropriate residences and photograph the presentation for the bulletin. Wayne will mail out the pins and bars to the current Board.

Wayne will transfer to Bill papers for renewing our P.O. Box. Former signatories (except for D. Nasholm) are all out of the area (two have passed away). Wayne may have a small article in the January Rock & Gem Magazine.

Adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne W. Mills, OMS Secretary

ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY

General Meeting December 8, 2020

The December General Meeting was cancelled due to the Coronavirus shutdown.

Respectfully Submitted
Wayne Mills, OMS Secretary



OMS CALENDAR	
Check August Bulletin for COVID Updates	
JANUARY 2021	
Tuesday, January 5 7:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Teleconference. See Prez Box.
Saturday, January 9 8:00 a.m. South east corner of Highways 101/166	Highway Clean-up
Tuesday, January 12	General meeting (Canceled due to COVID)
Saturday, January 23 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast (Probably Canceled unless covid status changes).
February 2021	
Tuesday, February 2 7:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room or Teleconference.
Tuesday, February 9 7:00 p.m. Oasis Senior Center	General Meeting. I'm putting this here because I'm Optimistic. May be Canceled
Saturday, February 27 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast (TBD)

2020 / Interim 2021-OMS OFFICERS		
President	Bill Brown	(805) 481-1811
President-Elect	Jeanne Brown	(805) 481-1811
Secretary	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Treasurer	Betty Campbell	(805) 929-5344
Imm. Past Pres.	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
2020 / Interim 2021 -OMS BOARD MEMBERS		
	Dick Bazzell	(805-757-9123
	Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977
	Sally Griffith	(805) 928-6848
	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
	Renea Suttcliffe	805) 929-2783
CFMS FEDERATION DIRECTOR		
	Renea Suttcliffe	805) 929-2783
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OMS Membership \$24.00 for Individual, \$34.00 per couple, \$5.00 Each Additional Family Member, \$5 for Juniors under age of 18. One time initiation fee for new members is \$10.00. OMS Membership Chairperson is: Jeanne Brown		
OMS Webmaster –Bill Brown– (805) 481-1811 Check out our OMS web site at: http://www.omsinc.org or send e-mail to: info@omsinc.org .		
Ore-Cutts Editor/Publisher		
Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495	wwmills50@hotmail.com

This is my first bulletin and I'm hoping that it is OK. Please remember that I would be happy if anyone wanted to take a shot at it. Until then, I'll try to keep up something that we can at least use.

Note: If you want to contribute to the Abused Children's fund, I'm sure Jan would appreciate you sending donations via US Mail!

Check-out the OMS Web page at: omsinc.org for our old bulletins (since 2002) and a wealth of other information We have a Bibliography to help your bulletin search.. Our bulletins look much better in COLOR!

Check-out our Facebook page. Elisabeth does a great job keeping that up. (Search for Orcutt Mineral Society in Facebook Search.



[miscellaneous-granite-rock-quartz-geologist-take for granted-cszn35_low.jpg \(800x797\)](#)



Niel chose the wrong time to make another "Geology Rocks" pun

[geologyrocks2760.gif \(760x897\) \(egu.eu\)](#)

**Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 106
Santa Maria, CA 93456-0106**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



The ORE-CUTTS (named after William Orcutt) was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor. The Orcutt Mineral Society was founded in 1958, and was also named after Orcutt who was a geologist and civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a District Manager for Union Oil Company in 1888. In 1889, William Orcutt discovered the mineral and fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits on the property of Captain Alan Hancock in Los Angeles. The La Brea Tar Pits are one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history.

OMS is a non-profit organization dedicated to stimulating an interest in the earth sciences. The club offers educational programs, field trips, scholarships, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in the collecting and treatment of lapidary materials, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of the Earth Sciences. In addition, another goal of this Society is to promote good fellowship and proper ethics in pursuit of the Society's endeavors. Operating Rules have been set forth to guide the officers and members of the Society in accomplishing these aims. Affiliations of the OMS include American Federation of Mineral Societies, and California Federation of Mineral Societies.