



# Ore-Cutts

Volume XLIII Number 12

December 2006



## OMS 2006 Annual Business Meeting & Dinner

Join us on December 9 at 12 Noon, at Maria del Sol Retirement Home at 1405 E Main Street, Santa Maria. We will have some social time, a delicious buffet dinner that Bill Hood has arranged for us, a review of the year by our outgoing president, Bob Bullock, the installation of your new officers and their goals for the New Year, and a raffle for the centerpieces. Dinner is \$8.00 per person, and everyone is encouraged to bring a monetary donation for the Abused Children's Fund and canned goods for the Salvation Army Food Drive so we can share our good fortunes with those who need it most.

## The Gnarly Knapper

By Debbie Hood

At our November general meeting we were privileged to have Brian Schull with us to demonstrate the truly ancient art of flint knapping, the production of tools from stone.

While man is *not* the only tool using species (otters are frequently seen breaking open bivalves using rocks, and the apes commonly use sticks to snare food and bring it within reach) we do seem to be the

only species that creates tools to perform specific jobs.

Brian first discussed the best kinds of rock for tool making and where the local aboriginals found such stone. Locally, chert and jaspers were frequently used, and some flint was obtained from trade with tribes living in obsidian rich areas. Using obsidian, Brian demonstrated how to remove a blank from a core, a section of rock that is the correct thickness and size for use as a tool blank. From these blanks the needed tools could be fashioned, arrowheads, knives and scrapers, as well as charms and ornaments.

Brian proceeded to make first an arrowhead, and then a knife blade, all the while telling us about the extensive trading in obsidian, and other tool making stones, that went on in North America before the European discovery of this land.

At that time survival depended upon what could be found and what could be hunted. Stone tools such as arrowheads, spears, atlatls (a kind of thrown spear,) and axes made all the difference in the quality and variety as well as adequacy of the diet. And one who could make them well was a truly valuable resource to any group. The toolmaker became a very high status individual as befitted his strength and skill in making such important items.

Not only did stone tools revolutionize hunting, by making it much easier to kill large animals to provide meat, but also they made nearly every other aspect of life easier for our ancestors. Cutting plant stalks to gather food or fiber became easier, as well as preparing the fiber for basket making or weaving. Digging for roots and tubers was made more efficient. Preparation of hides for shelter and clothing was improved. Preparation of foods was improved. And, health care was also improved as it became possible to use these very sharp instruments to do life

saving surgeries. From the ancient use of knives to open the skull to relieve pressure to our current use of obsidian blades in scalpels for some eye surgeries we continue to use tools obtained from stone to make our lives easier...have you considered that we mine rock to separate needed components from it to make cars, and houses, and to make the growing, harvesting and storage of food stuffs possible? We are still dependant on the technology of "stone tools."

Our thanks go to Brian for his fascinating demonstration of this an ancient art form and technology!

## Raffle Thanks

Wayne Mills, Raffle Chair

The November raffle had a lot to offer our members. Prizes included a large chunk of Arizona wood donated by Lucky Virgin, a dino-bone heart donated by Ralph Bishop, faceted peridot and emerald won by Deborah Hood, a small snowflake obsidian sphere, tiger-eye bead strand, a gold specimen, chrysacolla, amethyst and citrine specimens, and many other neat prizes. We go into January with about \$700 for shopping at Quartzite. If you think this year was good (please let us hear about it). We hope next year will be even better. Many thanks to Ralph Bishop for his awesome year-long support of the raffle this year, and thanks are also due to Wes Lingerfelt, Rob Goodenough, and Lucky Virgin for their recent and generous contributions.

## Sunshine

Virginia Rogers fell and broke her left wrist in a number of places and will have to have surgery to repair it. Jeannie Lingerfelt continues to recover, slowly, from the blood clot in her left leg. Christine Clason is doing well after surgery and expects to be at the annual dinner meeting.

## Clear Creek, Clearly a blast

Wayne Mills, Ore Cutts man on the seat (mostly)

Ten intrepid adventurers left the Avila Beach park n' ride about 8:45 AM Saturday, October 22, headed for their first field trip of the year. The group included Bob Bullock, trip leader, Wes Lingerfelt, veteran of several trips to the area, Deb Hood, OMS president Elect, Don and Gloria Dana, Josh Simonson, Erica Erskine and Keith McKay, Dick Bazzel, and yours truly. Deb, Dick and I chose to accompany Wes in his F-250 "Cowboy Cadillac", and Josh rode shotgun with Bob in his Dodge Ram

truck. Don and Gloria drove their Toyota truck, and Keith and Erica drove in Keith's Saturn Vue sedan.

After a brief stop for gas in King City, we had 44 miles to the Aurora Mine, our ultimate location. Near the entrance to the Clear Creek Management Area (BLM), we left the paved portion of Old Coalinga Road, and started the off-road portion of our trip.

The Clear Creek area is surprisingly green. Clear



Creek is a clear (looking) stream that flows year-round. *One is cautioned to **NOT** drink the water however,*

*because the area has been mined for mercury for years (as well as the presence of vast amounts of Asbestos, Ed.).* The discovery of Benitoite and other rare minerals about 1907 is incidental to the early discovery and extraction of mercury that began in 1856, and ended about 1970.

In fact, it is the presence of mercury and chrome (OK, titanium too), in the area that lend interest to the otherwise rather plain brown and green rocks that occur in this south east portion of San Benito County. With road names like Quicksilver (mercury) Road and Cinnabar Hill, you can make a good guess at what industry helped put this area on the map.

Knowing my interest in replicating Native American charm stones, Ralph Bishop, who had collected in the area before, gave me a piece of dark-



green serpentine with flecks of nearly chartreuse-colored, calcium-chrome-silicate (Uvarovite) garnets disseminated

throughout. When I finally shaped and polished my charm stone, I gained a whole new appreciation for how lovely serpentine can actually be. One can actually see the light flecks beneath the surface of the

serpentine, material like a raft of lemon leaves, disappearing into a dark pea-soup fog. (That may not sound so lovely, but it is!)

I was determined to get some more of this material.

Other prizes from this area include bright green chrysoprase, druzy quartz crystals and cathedrals, light-green Nephrite Jade, and plasma agate flecked with red Cinnabar.



That is what we were looking for at the Aurora Mine. Getting there was a challenge. Getting out of there proved even MORE of a challenge.

We stopped for a short time to hunt in Clear Creek. On the way there, we came across several members of the Salinas and Santa Rosa Clubs, and Wes exchanged

pleasantries with one of his acquaintances from the Santa Rosa Club. We were also sharing the area with a horde of off-road dirt bikers who were having a rally in the area. (Imagine the **rrrr-rrrr-rrr** of dirt-bike engines through-out this piece. At least we heard that throughout our adventure in Clear Creek Management Area.) Wes was constantly waving 3 fingers at them, ostensibly to let them know there were 3 cars following. During our stop, folks picked up a variety of rocks. Wes found a piece of **Actinolite** for me (but I said I wanted **Tremolite** (a white rock, also called California tiger-eye). They are both in the same series of metamorphic rocks that include jade, serpentine and soapstone, but I don't think the **Actinolite** polishes as well as the **Tremolite**. But we'll see.

The last 10 miles into the Aurora Mine from the west, takes an hour. Clear Creek Road here is unpaved, rutted, rocky, and even gullied in places.

Orcutt Mineral Society

The last 4 miles into the mine are the road to Hell. You do NOT want to try drinking anything while driving on this road-either way. Ask Debbie and Dick.

Thanks to the sturdy vehicles and off-road skills of Wes and Bob, we arrived in one piece at the mine. Then Wes pointed up the hill to the ledge where the mine tailings were concentrated. Bob and Josh took off up the hill to explore the area around the mine adit. When they came back, they said they have found nothing of note. Meanwhile, the rest of us carried our bags and buckets up the hill, and began to beat on, turn over, pry at, dig in, or otherwise explore the pile of rocks.

The pile ranged in size from mole size to man size, and in colors from bright blue to a mustard brown. Unfortunately, there was mustard brown (weathered calcite) in a lot of the plasma agate up there. Wes began to



dig in the pile to get below the surface that had already been explored by untold hundreds of rockhounds before us. He pulled up several nice sized rocks of good quality, and even a few sphere- sized ones. He shared some of the nice-sized ones with Deb Hood who had one fall on the pile to her credit, and was staying pretty still to avoid another one. She said that the talus pile did NOT make a very comfortable seat.



Around 4 PM, folks started to drift down the hill, and stash their treasures. Everyone seemed satisfied with the rocks they found. Then the fun began.

With Wes in the lead, we headed back up the steep, narrow, rocky, rutted and gullied road. After Dick and Deb learned their lessons

about trying to drink while Wes was driving (at least on this stretch), we made it to the top of the first hill. And waited for the rest of the group to catch up. Soon, Gloria and Don pulled up, then we got a walkie-talkie message from Bob that he had to try to get Keith and Erica out of a gully in the middle of the road. So we waited a bit more, enjoying the view from the top. After about 20 minutes, the last two vehicles appeared. Thank heaven for big trucks and winches, I mean winches (well, winches too, but that's another story).

The rest of the trip out of the management area was slow, but relatively uneventful. We pulled into Denny's in King City about 6 for dinner, and surprisingly, had great service and good food accompanied about a lively discussion of our day's adventure. From there we went our separate ways, and Wes pulled into the Avila Park and Ride about 8:45 PM, almost exactly 10-hours from when we departed on our excellent Clear Creek Adventure.

***Did that sound like a lot of fun to you? Well, then join us on a field trip, on Dec.16<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, to Big Sandy to hunt for Jasper and whatever else we can find. We will leave from Mussel Center at 8 AM, go to the Avila ride share pull out on Ontario Rd., then to San Miguel and pull over next to the Fire Dept. and meet up with the Paso folks. Then wind our way up to the Big Sandy.***

## **OMS Monthly Breakfast**

By Wes Lingerfelt

Jeannie, Marty and myself along with Jan & Brenna Ferguson, Don, Gloria and Shelly all had a wonderful time today talking rocks and even more weird things like eating fresh caught fish raw right on the boat. Gloria can be so graphic and entertaining at times (She described how she went chomp! chomp! while the tail was still wiggling). Too bad you all missed that discussion! I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

## ***Some of Murphy's Other Laws***

*Original source unknown, via A F M S Newsletter, Dec. 2006*

*Light travels faster than sound. That is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.*

*Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.*

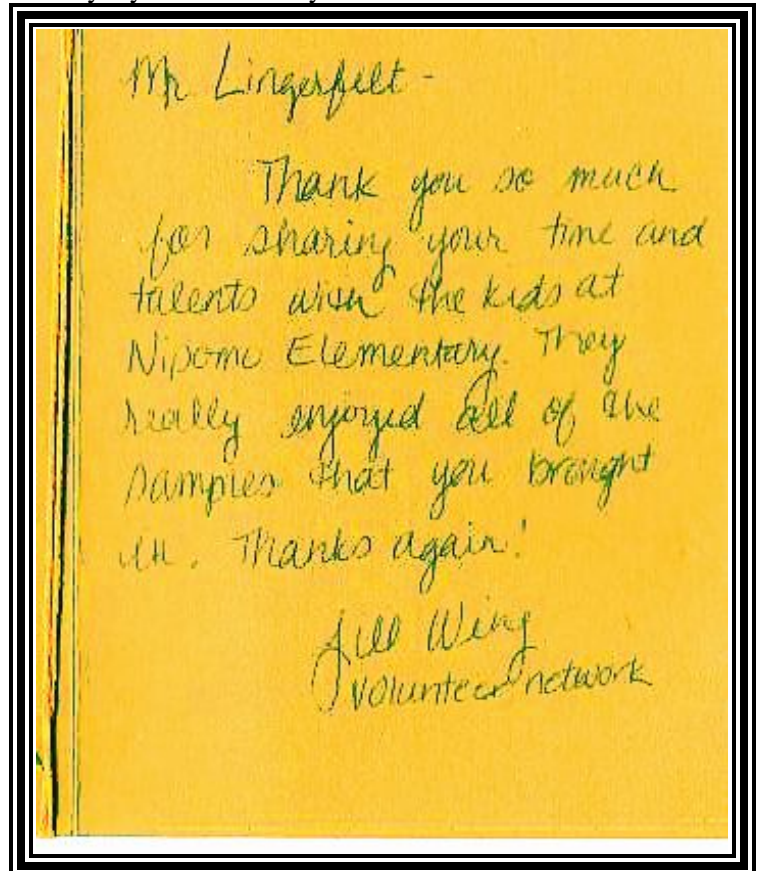
*If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them, five or six at a time, on a hill, in the fog.*

*A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.*

*The 50-50-90 Rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.*

## **School Talks Continue**

Wes is still managing to find time to go to the schools and get kids interested in our use of rocks and minerals in our everyday lives. Attaboy Wes!



## **Thank you from Jeannie!**

What a bunch of Sweethearts! The OMS members are the greatest! I've been enduring a lot of idle time with my foot and leg elevated due to a massive blood clot extending from my foot up my leg as far as the Ultrasound machine could see. Almost a month after it first appeared I found myself in the hospital for two and a half days. Thankfully I received treatment that appears to be working but I'm not out of the woods just yet. It takes about 14 days for the clot to dissolve. I want to thank all of those who have prayed for me and those that have come by to visit and help me fight the long boring hours of immobility. I especially want to thank Helen Bishop (Ralph's Mom) for adding me to her church prayer chain. It seems to be working. Also, Jan & Stan Ferguson for the beautiful Orchid, Gloria & Don Dana for the flowers and little Ducky, Wayne Mills for the cut flowers, DeeDee Magri who dropped off the Amaryllis plant and

Debbie Hood who has me supplied with reading material for the next year, Elaine & John Von Achen for the loaf of Banana Bread. Thanks to Sharon Duncan and Christine Clason who brought me a balloon showing a teddy bear with a broken foot (very cute!). In the hospital the nurses all loved the aroma of the flowers sent by my relatives back east. Visits by Ralph Bishop, Bob Bullock, Don & Sylvia Nasholm and brother Nick all made for a better time while just laying there in the bed. Especially thanks to Gloria Dana who spent most of Friday morning with me in the hospital. I'm still recovering and it's really nice to know of all the concern for me out there. With such support the day of total recovery will come much sooner. Thanks again!  
I love every one of you! Jeannie Lingerfelt

## MEMBER PROFILES

### Dick Bazzel—Rocket Man

Wayne Mills, Ore cutts Reporter

Dick classifies himself as a “military brat”. He was born in Illinois, and moved to Elgin Air Force Base (AFB) in the Florida Panhandle at a young age. After high school graduation, Dick joined the Air Force, and after technical school, was stationed at Vandenberg AFB. There he worked in the missile launch facility, and finished out his 4-year term in the Air Force. As a civilian, Dick stayed on at Vandenberg working with Martin-Marietta, Lockheed, ITT and other contractors.

During our interview that took place in Wes’s truck on the way to Clear Creek, it became clear that Dick and Wes shared many of the same work experiences and friends at the Air Force base. In fact, Dick knows Wes’s brother who still works out at the base, and sees him more than Wes does!

Dick’s work in recording missile launch data in support of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) continues work begun by Wes at the start of the treaty in 1991.

Dick has been married for 25 years to another “G.I. Brat”, Donna, who is a long-time resident of Santa Maria. Donna is a day-care provider, and Dick gets to help as his schedule permits. Together, they



have a son, Alex who is 19, and attending classes at Alan Hancock College.

His interest in rocks was stimulated during his tech school training in Denver, Colorado. When he found a lapidary shop at the nearby Army base, and began polishing rocks, he began collecting agate, Jasper and Jade in Colorado and neighboring Wyoming. These were relatively fancy-free trips, except for the occasions where folks would materialize from the Wyoming tablelands (with guns) to encourage Dick to leave their land. Dick never argued. He did however (occasionally) find some beautiful Jade.

At Vandenberg, Dick continued to do lapidary until the base shut their shop down. He has only recently started back into the hobby.

His favorite field trip is one he took near Blythe, to collect jelly opal in basalt. (I said that sounded like Opal Mountain.) He also hopes to return to Last Chance Canyon in the El Paso Mountains for petrified wood and Jasper.

Dick’s other hobbies include robotics, electronics, and computers. Now if he could just train one of his little bots to go find some really good rock

Something you might not suspect about Dick is that he enjoys playing Texas Hold’Em on Base. (Remind me NOT to make any bets with him!) We wish Dick many happy returns, from his card playing, and to our meetings.

### Abused Children’s Fund

This year we have raised enough money to donate to the Department of Children’s Services \$500. 00 in Wal-Mart gift cards. They were purchased and delivered on November 27, to the Department of Children’s Services of Santa Barbara County. The cards are used to purchase needed clothing and toiletries for children being taken into the system, as well as to insure that each child receives at least one gift at Christmas and Birthdays, and to reward children for improved behavior such as showing up for school, or improving their grades. This is a good investment in the future. Right now they are running a very heavy caseload, which continues to grow every year. The work they do is very important, not only to the individual children being cared for, but because one important measure of a society is how it treats its children. You can feel good for helping, and here’s hoping you will continue to support the raffles and collections for this worthy cause!

## Adopt-A-Highway

By Wes Lingerfelt & Wayne Mills, AAH Coordinator

November 18, a crew of 8 hardy adventurers showed up for another successful clean up of our patch of CA Route 166. November's "highway heroes" include: Wes and Marty Lingerfelt, John Von Achen, Ralph Bishop, Don Nasholm, Geary Scheffer, Wayne and Todd Mills. Since we had a good turnout it was all done by 9:45 a.m. Wayne brought in some new gloves and picker-uppers. They were sorely needed. Wayne also agreed to find out if there is a schedule for the Caltrans mower as they mowed just before the pickup occurred. Of course that made the job much tougher. Many strange items were found including a couple of nice ladies underwear (lightly used). Upon completion, Ralph and John headed for Santa Maria while the rest of us gathered at the restaurant for refreshments. Another activity reflecting well on our Gem & Mineral Society

One of these fine gentlemen will walk away with a thank-you prize at our next meeting.

Our next CA166 highway clean up is January 20, 2007. Put it on your calendar so you don't miss out on the fun.

## President Bob's Farewell Address

Dear fellow Rockhounds,

As your outgoing fearless leader, who slipped into the position by raising my hand at the wrong time (*Ed.: Guess what he really raised his hand for?*) I would like to say that this year, as President has been a joy for me, and a distraction from the cancer surgery and chemotherapy. I want to thank everyone who filled in when I was otherwise engaged with the medical stuff. I hope the new officers will have as good a time as I did running the show. Thanks to everyone's efforts this year we again had a very successful Rainbow of Gems show. And, despite continuous rainouts we had some great fieldtrips.

I want to express deepest gratitude to all who helped to make this year as great as it was. There is always room for improvement, but it takes the concerted efforts of all to improve the club by embracing new ideas like the new page on our website to sell member's donations to increase income for the club. I encourage new members to volunteer for offices;- it's painless and fun! And encourage all your friends and relatives to join the club...bring in those new members!

I'll still be around as Past President, between sojourns to reconnect with family. I will continue to be active in the club and look forward to the next annual rock show! And since we'll be running into each other through out the year, a great big bear hug from Bushy Bob, a kiss on the cheek, and a Merry Harley Christmas!

## Report from the OMS Webmaster

By Wes Lingerfelt, Webmaster, OMS

As promised I've made a few changes to the website in an effort to make it more useful and hopefully generate a little income for the Society in furtherance of its' mission. First off, there have been a lot of corrections and improvements to errors in the code as I find them. However, since I do my updates late at night for the most part, I sincerely hope I will receive constructive input for any errors I have installed due to lack of sleep.

The biggest and most useful change is the addition of a page that allows for items donated to the Society to be sold on the Internet. In order to accomplish this I first had to develop a PayPal account

<https://www.paypal.com/> in the name of the Society in order to accept payment via the Internet. Next I had to establish on-line access to OMS Mid-State checking account in order to transfer funds from Paypal to the account. Once all that was set up then I had to develop the code to allow items to be displayed on the web page. **Piece of Cake!** With the right tools you can do anything! I tested the end result by placing a couple of items up on the website for sale. I called a few friends to see if they could see it as well. So here's the drill: *Anyone wanting to donate saleable goods (something that can be easily shipped) they can bring it to a meeting; ship it to me via USPS or simply drop it off at my house. I will take a digital picture of it and place it up on the site. I will need a good description and history of the item if possible and it should be accompanied by a card or written name of the donor. One of the things I worry about is we do not want to be selling stolen merchandise on the website. We much prefer handmade items in the lapidary or jewelry trade.*

So how do you access the new page you ask?

**Another piece of cake!** First you must access the OMS website master page as follows:

<http://www.omsinc.org/>

Next you look for the following link near the bottom of that page: To shop for DONATED goodies [Click Here](#) That will get you to the donated items page and all the goodies soon to be there. If you have

a PayPal account just follow the “add to cart” button instructions and your purchase will be mailed to you. If you do not want to use PayPal with a credit card or your PayPal account over the Internet then you can call the webmaster @ 805-929-3788. I have used Paypal for many years now and there hasn’t been a single problem encountered to date (Knock on wood).

So there you have it. The OMS is now able to sell donated items via the web page. As I said before, **Constructive Comments** are welcome!

### **Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria, CA November 7, 2006**

President Bob Bullock called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Board members present were: Wes Lingerfelt, Elaine Von Achen, Bob Bullock, Dee Dee Magri, Lucky Virgin, Debbie Hood and Bill Hood.

**Minutes** of the previous board meeting were approved as published in the November 2006 newsletter.

**Treasurer’s report** was given by Wes Lingerfelt and accepted as read.

**Correspondence:** Elaine Von Achen read a letter from Lois Harr who sent a picture in memory of Jerry Harr. There was a thank you letter from Jill Wing of the Nipomo Elementary School where Wes gave a program and passed out rock samples. A newsletter was received from the San Geronio Mineral and Gem Society and a postcard for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Riverside Resort International Gem & Mineral Show, January 12 through 21, 2007.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Sunshine:** Jeannie Lingerfelt has been laid up with phlebitis for the last few weeks.

**Newsletter:** Debbie Hood reported that the newsletter was going to go out the 8<sup>th</sup> of November.

**Abused Children:** Debbie Hood will check with social services regarding gift cards from OMS.

**CFMS:** None

**Field Trips:** Bob Bullock said that the field trip to Avila Beach might not be a go as there is supposed to be a high tide and it is also supposed to rain on Saturday.

**Raffle:** There was discussion on setting a budget for raffle item purchases for the next year including raffle items for the abused children fund.

**Library:** None

#### **Old Business:**

Wes Lingerfelt brought up the idea of selling donated items for fund raising on the OMS web site. It was noted that we would need to set up a PayPal bank account. After some discussion Debbie Hood made a motion that we get set up to sell donated items for fund raising for the

benefit of the society. Bob Bullock seconded the motion. Motion carried. Wes has agreed to get started on this.

Bill Hood announced that we have 29 people to date signed up for the Christmas luncheon and awards banquet.

#### **New Business:**

None

President Bob Bullock adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary OMS

### **Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria, CA November 14, 2006**

President Bob Bullock called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Mike Henson gave the invocation.

Shelly Dana let the flag salute.

We had 25 members and 4 guests. Guests included Georgelyn Van Note, Hans Borm, Roger Lehman and Brian Shull.

**Minutes:** Elaine Von Achen read the minutes of the November 7<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Minutes were approved as read.

**Treasurer’s Report** was given by Wes Lingerfelt and accepted as read.

**Correspondence:** Elaine Von Achen reported a newsletter from the San Geronio Mineral and Gem Society and a postcard for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Riverside Resort International Gem and Mineral show, January 12 through 21, 2007. Lois Harr sent a picture in memory of Jerry Harr. There was a thank you letter from Jill Wing of Nipomo Elementary School where Wes gave a program and passed out rock samples. In addition, Wes brought a couple of cards from Barbara Bilyeu of the Paso Robles Gem Club thanking he and Jeannie for their participation in their Rock Show in September. They also contained a picture of each of their displays. It was mentioned that this is something to think about next August for our Gem Show.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Hospitality:** Dee Dee Magri announced the dessert for the night would be cookies provided by Don Nasholm, Gary Sheffer, Margaret Henson, Dee Dee Magri, Truman Burgess and Debbie Hood.

**Sunshine:** Jeannie Lingerfelt is home from the hospital and reported to be doing pretty well.

**Abused Children:** Debbie Hood reported that the raffle items for the night’s raffle would be a tangerine quartz crystal as well as 5 mineral specimens. She also reported that she had purchased \$500.00 in \$5.00 gift cards to be given to Social Services for children for clothing and Christmas gifts.

**Adopt-a-Highway:** Wayne Mills said that we were to have a clean-up Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting at 8:00 a.m. at CA166 and US101.

**Library:** Gary Sheffer reported that members are bringing back borrowed items.

**CFMS:** Wes Lingerfelt was unable to attend the Visalia meeting, as Jeannie was ill. He said he would report when he receives the meeting packet.

**Raffle:** Wayne Mills reported a Hugh raffle for the evening. There is a rule that we can only have a maximum of 20 items due to time constraints so some of the items will be held over for next month. Included in this evening's raffle are a spear point donated by Brian Shull, a surprise donation from Ralph Bishop, a heart shaped dinosaur bone polished by Wayne, some Mary Ellen jasper and so much more. Wayne also asked members to be sure to vote for their favorite 1x1 display. We have 6 displays shown by Joseph Martinez, Elaine Von Achen, Wayne Mills, Margaret Henson, Mike Henson and Debbie Hood.

**Old Business:**

Bob Bullock passed out certificates for the annual bulletin awards. They went to Ralph Bishop, Sir Paul Howard, Wayne Mills, Dick Shields and Bess Shields.

Debbie Hood asked for articles for the newsletter.

Bill Hood reminded members of the annual banquet and business meeting on December 11, 2006 to be held at Maria Del Sol. He also reminded members to bring canned goods.

**New Business:**

Wes brought a sphere to share made from some rock he collected from the Aurora Mine at Clear Creek, our October field trip. The sphere contained cinnabar, plasma agate, Marcasite, Calcite and Chrysophase. Wayne Mills said that he had polished a piece of Chrysophase and Don and Gloria Dana made a cabochon and wire wrapped it.

The program for the evening is a demonstration on making arrowheads and spear points given by Flint Knapper, Brian Shull.

There was a tie for first place for the 1x1 displays. Elaine Von Achen won a faceted crystal and Wayne Mills took home a geode.

President Bob Bullock adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary

**Ruby The Bright Red Gemstone  
(To the tune of Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer)**

**You know Diamond & Sapphire, Emerald &  
Garnet**

**Citrine and Topaz, Opal and Onyx,**

**But do you recall...the brightest gemstone of all?**

**Ruby, the bright red gemstone,  
Moh's gives it a number (  
After you cut and polish it,  
You can really see it shine!**

**Very few other gemstones,  
Can say that they are quite as hard,  
Oh, if I could only find one  
Maybe in my own backyard.**

**Then I joined this group in town,  
The gem and Mineral club  
Ruby with your shine so bright,  
You are closer in my sights.**

**Field trips and monthly workshops,  
Collecting and sorting rocks-yip ee  
Ruby the bright red gemstone,  
Someday you'll belong to me!**

*By Natalie Darling*

*From Gem & Mineral Journal, Dec. 2005*

## **Man Finds 5.47-Carat Diamond in Park**

*Associated Press, Oct 21, 2006 6:25 PM*

**MURFREESBORO, Ark.**—A man visiting a state park took home the ultimate souvenir: a 5.47-carat canary diamond. Bob Wehle of Ripon, Wis. found the diamond at the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Murfreesboro Oct. 14. The park is the world's only publicly operated diamond site where visitors are allowed to search and keep any gems they find.

Wehle's 5.47-carat diamond is bright yellow and has no visible flaws, said Tom Stolarz, park superintendent. It is the second-largest gem unearthed this year at the park. "At first glance, it makes you think of lemon drop candy," Stolarz said.

The largest diamond this year was found by a Texas couple. Donald and Brenda Roden of Point, Texas, found a 6.35-carat brown diamond in September.

Bill Henderson, assistant park superintendent, said park officials don't estimate values of the stones found by visitors. But he said Wehle's gem was identical in quality to - but larger than - a 4.21-carat flawless canary diamond found in the park in March that was valued by a New York diamond expert at \$15,000 to \$60,000.

The largest diamond ever discovered in the United States was unearthed in Arkansas in 1924. Named the Uncle Sam, the white diamond weighed 40.23 carats.



## Carats-Not just for Rabbits

Compiled by Wayne Mills, Ore-Cutts

A carat weighs 0.00643 troy oz. This is the standard measure of rough or cut stones. One carat =200 milligrams. There are 100 points in a carat (so a 25 point stone weighs .25 (1/4) of a carat).

It is important to note that different stones of the same carat weight are not necessarily the same size, because some are denser (more molecules in the same space) than others.



1-carat diamond—starting at \$1001 at Adiamond.com

The larger a diamond is, assuming the same cut, color and clarity, the more expensive it is per carat. So a one-carat stone is generally pricier than several stones totaling one carat in weight. One tip in buying stones is that a 1.9-carat stone would register a significant savings over a 2-carat stone, yet appear to be similar in size.



Chart of relative diamond sizes from www.Yehunda.com



A saw cutting a piece of stone was selected when the first bulletin, ORE-CUTTS (namesake, William Orcutt) was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor.

*Orcutt Mineral Society was founded in 1958, and was named after William Orcutt, a geologist and Civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a District manager for Union oil Company in 1888. In 1989, William Orcutt discovered the mineral and fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits on the property of Captain Alan Hancock. The La Brea Tar Pits are one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history. The OMS is a non-profit club 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 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.*

### 2006 OMS Officers

Pres	Robert Bullock	(805) 928-6372
Pres. Elect	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860

Orcutt Mineral Society

Secretary	Elaine Von Achen	(805) 929-1488
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immed. Past Pres	Lucky Virgin	(805) 929-4525
CFMS. Rep.	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

### 2006 OMS Board Members

Geary Scheffer	(805) 925-8009
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Dee-Dee Magri	(805) 595-2755
Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Bill Hood	(805) 481-6860

### Ore-Cutts Editors

Deborah Hood	debilhood1@sbcglobal.net	(805)481-6860
Wayne Mills	wwmills50@hotmail.com	(805)481-3495
Snail Mail	P.O. Box 106 Santa Maria	Ca. 93456-0106

**OMS Membership** (dues) is \$18 per year. Junior memberships (under 18) are \$9 per year. Membership dues are due January 1, and are prorated for each month thereafter. Membership Chairperson is Elaine Von Achen (805) 929-1488

### December 2006 Calendar

Tuesday  
Dec. 5, 2006  
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
OMS Board Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.

Saturday Dec 9, 2006  
12:00 Noon to 3:00p.m.  
• OMS Annual Business Meeting All Members should attend.

Saturday Dec. 16, 2006  
8:00 a.m. to ?? p.m..  
Field Trip to Big Sandy Creek We will leave from Mussel Center, go to the Avila ride share pull out on Ontario Rd., then to San Miguel and pull over next to the Fire Dept. there and meet up with the Paso folks. Then wind our way up to the Big Sandy. Bring water, a lunch ,heavy shoes and gloves. Rain will cause cancellation.

Saturday Dec. 23, 2006  
8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.  
OMS Monthly Breakfast-Francisco's Country Kitchen in Santa Maria. For details, call Ken Kreh at 343-7749.

### Show Calendar 2007

**January 20-21 2007, Exeter, CA**  
Tule Gem & Mineral Society  
Exeter Veteran's Memorial Bldg. Hwy 65  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4  
Steve Hayward (559) 734-3843  
Email: [smhay734@aol.com](mailto:smhay734@aol.com)

**January 20-28 2007, Redlands, CA**  
The Mineralogical Society of Southern CA  
42nd. Pacific Micromount Conference  
San Bernardino County Museum

2024 Orange Tree Lane (exit North on California St. from I-10)

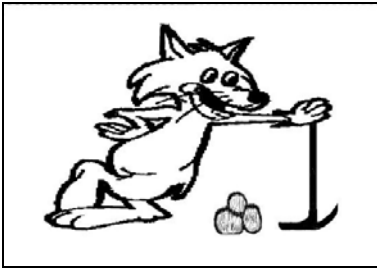
Hours: Fri. 7 - 10; Sat. 10 - 10; Sun. 9 - 12

**February 16 - 25, 2007, Indio, CA**

San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society  
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival  
Gem amp; Mineral Building Bldg #1  
46-350 Arabia Street  
Hours: 10 am - 10 pm  
Bert Grisham: (915) 849-1674

Check out our OMS web site at <http://omsinc.org> or  
send mail to [info @omsinc.org](mailto:info@omsinc.org).

Copyright © 2006 Orcutt Mineral Society Material  
in this Newsletter may be duplicated for non-  
commercial purposes provided credit is given this  
publication and the author. For commercial use, the  
individual author(s) must be contacted for approval.



ADDRESS:  
Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.  
PO Box 106  
Santa Maria, CA. 93456-0106

CORRECTION REQUESTED

**March 2-4 2007, Hayward, CA**

Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley  
Centennial Hall 22292 Foothill Blvd.  
Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5  
Larry Ham (510) 887-9007  
Email: [info@mgscv.org](mailto:info@mgscv.org)

**March 2-11 2007, Imperial, CA**

Imperial Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
"60th Annual Gem & Mineral Show"  
California Mid-Winter Fairgrounds  
Hours: Fri, Sat, Sun. Noon - 10 p.m.  
Mon. Thru Fri. 4 - 10 p.m.  
Paul Steward (760) 355-1888

**March 3-4 2007, Arcadia, CA**

Monrovia Rockhounds  
Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanical Garden  
301 N. Baldwin Ave.  
Hours: 9 - 4:30 both days  
Jo Anna Ritchey  
Email: [j.ritchey@verizon.net](mailto:j.ritchey@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.moroks.com](http://www.moroks.com)

**March 3-4 2007, Ventura, CA**

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
The Ventura Gem Show: Gems; Minerals, Lapidary Arts, &  
Fossils  
Seaside Park- Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor  
Blvd.  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4  
Ed Clark (805) 983-0028  
Email: [clarkoe@adelphia.net](mailto:clarkoe@adelphia.net)  
Website: [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org)

**March 10-11 2007, Escondido, CA**

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club  
Army National Guard Armory  
304 Park Avenue  
Escondido, CA  
Hours: Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-4  
Matt Boeck (760) 216-8971