

Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.



# Ore-Cutts



Volume LII, Issue 2

## THE PRES BOX—FEBRUARY 2018

Silvia Nasholm, OMS President

January's meeting attendance was light but those of us who were able to make it thoroughly enjoyed the extra donuts! Thank you to those who were not feeling well and stayed home. We appreciate your concern for members health. Our program on the Maldives Islands was very informative. Most significant on the business side of our meeting was a vote to join Facebook. Our site will contain information on meetings and events and a connection to our web site. It will not be an interactive social site the way your personal site is. I have requested that only first names with initial only for last name be used for adults and that first names only be used for children and ALL parents be contacted before any child's picture or name appears on the site. Our reason for joining is – "this is where it's at" if we want to increase our membership. Many clubs are already out there – the Ventura Gem club for instance. Elisabeth Nybo will be in charge of the site and all posts go thru the Board to her. Please check out our web posting rules (constructed by Wes) located on our omsinc.org site in the archives section. Any concerns or questions you have can be directed to me or any Board member.

I am still looking for a few good men and women to fill the following vacancies on our committees:  
Budget and Audit, Fieldtrip/Safety, and Historian.

Debbie Hood wants to get our phone tree up and running again to help with quick response items that come up for those of us not able to access the internet frequently or at all. She will be contacting members to set it up.

We also discussed changing the order of our meetings. On occasion we will need to start with

our program, followed by the refreshment break, next the business portion followed by the door prize. In order to do this, a vote must be taken at the beginning of each meeting due to our rules of order.

Our program for the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting is "All About Agates" so bring your favorites to talk about and display!

Our dessert is pie. February's breakfast is on the 24<sup>th</sup> at the Arroyo Grande Country Kitchen.

Happy Valentine Day everyone!!

*Sylvia*

## 2018 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Regular adult membership \$24.00,  
Two adult family members \$34.00,  
Each additional family member at  
the same address \$5.00.

Dues can be paid at the February General Meeting, but please bring exact change if paying by cash. Dues must be paid by the March General Meeting to be included in the 2018 Red Book.



## THANK YOU!!

Thank you everyone for the feedback on last month's edition; especially to those who pointed out errors. I have attempted to incorporate the suggested changes. Please let me know if there are other changes that would make Ore-Cutts easier for reading and home printing. **THANK YOU!!!** to those who have contributed articles and ideas for this month's edition!!! The article for this month's "From the Ore-Cutts' Archives" column is "How to Write an Article for Your Club's Bulletin". Author Stephen King is quoted in Step 11.

**VENTURA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**  
**Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Lapidary Show**

*FREE Admission* More info: [vgms.org](http://vgms.org)



*Holly Blue Agate*

**Sat. 10 AM - 5 PM**  
**Sun. 10 AM - 4 PM** **March 3&4, 2018**

Gems & Minerals • Fossils • Exhibits • Dealers  
 Kids' Activities • Demonstrations • Silent Auctions  
 Raffle Prizes • Jewelry • Country Store • Plant Sale

Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura CA 93001



**FOR SALE**

**24" Covington heavy-duty rock slab saw.**  
 Built in 2010. Almost new condition including blade. On wheeled pallet ready for pick-up.  
 Asking \$1,850 (New is \$5,300)  
 Call Wes Lingerfelt for details (805) 710-1983



## HIGHWAY HEROES BRAVE HAVOC ON HIGHWAY 166

Wayne Mills, Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator

After I made an appeal for help with our highway clean-up at our January 9 (2018) meeting, only 4 other folks showed up on Saturday Morning. That was disappointing in itself, but the highway traffic was horrible (due to the closure of Highway 101 through Santa Barbara), our meeting area was almost full of recreational vehicles, and the highway was really dirty! It again took more than 2 hours to do the job, but we got it done. Remarkable finds were a mud-flap plus hardware from a semi (big truck), ½ a tread from a steel-belted radial tire, two~10 pound lynch pins from a semi, and an iPhone (that Wes found). After an exhausting outing,

we met at Francisco's in Santa Maria for snacks and conversation. Many thanks go out to Wes and Marty Lingerfelt, Geary Sheffer, and Sally Griffith—you are true "Highway Heroes (and a Heroine)".

**Editor's Note:** I was curious as to why the Orcutt Mineral Society cleans up a portion of Highway 166. Wayne Mills and Wes Lingerfelt both had information on the history of OMS's participation.

Buck Strader, former OMS President, applied for the Adopt-A-Highway program in the 1980's. Caltran's gave the group two-miles to clean on the Highway 166 section, the only one available at the time.

The Club has continued for over 30 years to clean the highway bi-monthly in honor of Buck Strader and as a way of giving back to the community which is part of the responsibility of a public benefit corporation, such as the Orcutt Mineral Society.



## THANK YOU

From Sir Paul Howard, KRO  
Golden Bear Awardee

Hello President Wayne and Club Members.

What a lovely surprise and Christmas present. I feel honored to receive such an award from my club that I don't visit very often. But rest assured my overseas club of wonderful peers that share a common interest with me is always in my heart. When I made the visit to my club this year to be with my fellow members to put together and participate in the anniversary of our clubs 50th gem show, I felt very proud to be there.



I feel very grateful that I was there to receive the wonderful hospitality from all members. That was very gratifying. I accept the award that has been bestowed upon me and will wear the badge with pride and the plaque will be displayed with the other one above my office door and the certificate will join the many that I have received over years from many clubs and organizations for my efforts to promote interest in our hobby. They will become another one of my treasures. I will be back again in the near future. I would like to add my congratulations to Sally and Sharon for being cited for awards also. I worked with both of them during and after the show and they certainly put their heart into the responsibility they accepted. It was a pleasure to work with them. It was pleasing to be part of a well run show and I hope it was profitable.

That's all the news till next time. I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous year in 2018.

Kindest regards. Sir Paul Howard. KRO.

## MONTHLY FUNNY

Why weren't the  
Geologists  
Hungry?

They'd lost  
their Apatite



## WHAT DO SNOWFLAKES, CHOCOLATE, DIAMONDS AND THE UNITED STATES CRYSTAL GROWING COMPETITION HAVE IN COMMON?

<https://www.sciencefriday.com/segments/how-to-grow-your-own-crystals/>

National Public Radio's Science Friday January 26, 2018 broadcast had an episode on crystals and the United States Crystal Growing Competition hosted by the Department of Chemistry at the University at Buffalo in Buffalo, New York. Snowflakes, chocolate and diamonds are all based on crystalline structures. Crystals are atoms or molecules that arrange themselves in a highly organized repeating pattern. Researchers are now able to force the formation of new crystal structures in existing materials, or polymorphs, by applying more pressure or heat. The structure of DNA was discovered by growing crystals of DNA and shining x-rays on the crystals to discover the structure of what made the crystals.

The United States Crystal Growing Competition is a scientific outreach activity designed to provide K-12 grade students and teachers a fun, hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) experience. The objective of the competition is to grow the biggest and highest quality single crystal. Associate Professor of Chemistry Jason Benedict and founder of the contest has produced videos on how to grow large single crystals at home using seed crystals.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyo1RxGLIRY>



The above glowing crystal, made by a teacher using highlighter ink, won first prize in the the "Cool Crystal" category. Credit: Gage Bateman and Jason Benedict

## NINE RIDICULOUSLY NAMED MINERALS AND ROCKS

From Australian Mining October 30, 2013  
Images from Wikipedia

<https://www.australianmining.com.au/features/nine-ridiculously-named-minerals-and-rocks/>

Here at Australian Mining we've gathered nine of the most ridiculous, yet real, names for minerals and rocks.

**9. Taconite:** No, it's not the greatest day of the week. This iron bearing sedimentary rock, interlaced with quartz, chert, or carbonate and named after similar looking rocks found in the Taconic Mountains of New



York. It's iron content, which is typically more magnetite than hematite, is between 25 to 30%.

**8. Carnallite:** Despite its presumptuous name, this evaporate mineral is named after its discoverer, Prussian mining engineer Rudolf von Carnall. A greasy red in colour, the mineral is a hydrated potassium magnesium chloride and fairly rare and only first described in 1856. It is found in saline marine deposits, such as the Dead Sea in Israel and Jordan, the Paradox Basin in the US, and the Perm Basin in Russia. It is an important source of potash, for fertilizers. Unsurprisingly, a mineral used for fertilizers apparently also has a bad taste.



**7. Moolooite:** This very rare mineral, that sounds as though it was named by a cow, is hydrated copper oxalate. It was discovered at the Mooloo Downs Station in Western Australia, in 1986.



Moolooite, in addition to having an odd name, is also formed in a strange way. It is formed by the interaction of bird guano (poo) and weathering copper sulphides. The mineral ranges in colour from blue to green, although it is typically turquoise green. A sec-

ond occurrence has also been reported in France, in the Sainte-Aux-Mines region.

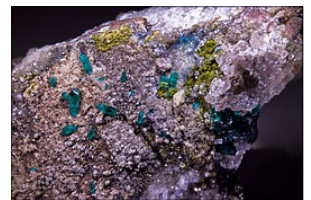
**6. Arsenolite:** Funny for the Australian and English readers out there, this arsenic mineral is forced as an oxidation product of arsenic sulphides. Typically white, it has been known to be a pink or yellow colour. It was first found in Lower Saxony, in Germany. Interestingly, it is also known to form as a result of mine fires or burning coal seams.



**5. Dickite:** Straight to the point. Dickite is a clay that has similar properties to kaolinite, nacrite, and halloysite, or the things that make paint super white. Dickite is an important alteration indicator in hydrothermal systems, and takes its name from Scottish metallurgical chemist Allan Dick, who first discovered it in 1888. The clay mineral is also found in what has been dubbed the "northerly dickite-bearing zone" in Jamaica, as well as throughout China, France, Germany, Canada, the US, Italy and the UK. It typically has a white, pearly streaky colour.



**4. Fornacite:** Sometimes it's best not to name something after people. Fornacite is a rare lead, copper chromate arsenate hydroxide mineral. It was named after Lucien Lewis Forneau, the governor of the French Congo, where the mineral was first discovered. Its colour ranges from green through to yellow.



**3. Fukalite:** In the grand tradition of names that haven't translated well, the Japanese again take the cake. Fukalite is named after the region where it was discovered – the Fuka mine, in the Fuka region of southern Japan. It is comprised mostly of calcium, oxygen and silicon and is apparently very rare. The colour of fukalite runs from white to pale brown.





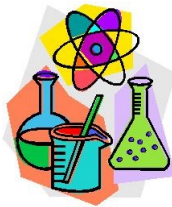
Kindergarten —12th Grade Students  
will present their science and technology  
experiments to the community

Friday, February 9, 2018  
10 am—12:30 pm

Abel Maldonado Community Center  
600 S McClelland Rd  
Santa Maria, CA



For more information  
[www.fpcharter.org](http://www.fpcharter.org)  
(805) 348-3333



**2. Goosecreekite:** This ridiculously named mineral has a more common nomenclature – zeolite. Part of the zeolite group, this mineral was named after where it was uncovered, in the New Goose Creek Quarry, in Virginia, USA. Zeolites such as Goosecreekite are typically used in water purification, as catalysts for hydrocracking, detergents, and concrete.



**1. Cummingtonite:** Surprisingly, despite its apparently innuendo heavy name, this rock has a very staid background. The mineral is a metamorphic amphibole, and is a magnesium iron silicate hydroxide. Similarly to Fukalite, it was named after where it was discovered – in this case the town of Cummington, Massachusetts, in the US.



## VISITING THE ORE-CUTTS ARCHIVES HOW TO WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR YOUR CLUB'S BULLETIN

From January 2008 Ore-Cutts

by Terry Yoschak, *Roseville Rock Rollers Bulletin* Editor  
Based on "Getting Your Club to Write," by Dennis Westman, *Minnesota Mineral Club*, in *S.C.R.L.B.E. Newsletter*, Oct-Dec 2004 and *On Writing*, by Stephen King, Simon & Schuster, 2000. This was written by Terry and used as a handout for the Editors' Breakfast at the 2005 CFMS Show which was hosted by her club in Roseville, CA. Taken from the *CFMS Newsletter* 9 / 2005 and *Rocky Mountain Federation News* 1 / 2007

**Step 1.** Pick a subject that interests you. It could be a story about something you've done (collecting agates, panning for gold), or it could be research about something you've never done (digging up dinosaur fossils in Antarctica).

**Step 2.** Map it out. Planning is everything. You have to figure out how to get from A to Z in your story. Outline with pencil & paper the bare bones of your story. Jot down important things you "must have" in the article (where the collecting took place, how many gold nuggets you found). Keep in mind the five W's of journalism: Who, What, Where, When, Why. Your outline should include all of them.

**Step 3.** Start writing. Don't worry about spelling, grammar, or punctuation. That's what editors are for. Refer back to your outline, use your own voice, and let the story flow naturally, as you would tell it to a friend. With your outline, you won't forget all those exciting tidbits you might have left out if you were just spouting off to your friends.

**Step 4.** Plot, characters, scenery, and dialogue. If you were submitting a movie script, you'd be kicked out of the producer's office for leaving any of these items out. A story can't be a story without them; it won't "sell" to the audience. Let's cover those four items in the next few steps.

**Step 5.** Plot. Writing is not rambling. The ideas of Beginning, Middle and End are universal to all stories. Usually a normal timeline is followed, where "what happened next" is the rule. The most common exception to this rule is a flashback ("The saber-toothed cat plunged into the sticky tar pit, unaware that his fossilized bones would be left for us to find 20,000 years later.")

(Continued on page 6)

## Ode to My Wife

By R.E. Frison Newcastle, Wyoming  
 The Mineralogist, June 1940  
 From the April 2002 Ore-Cutts

I'm dejected, sad and gloomy,  
 I'm a rock hound in distress,  
 I'm a rock hound in trouble,  
 I'm an outcast more or less

I have fossils in the kitchen,  
 I have minerals in the hall,  
 I have crystals in the bathtub,  
 I have relics on the wall.

I have tin oxide on carpets,  
 I have oil upon the floor,  
 I have black light in the parlor,  
 I have bones behind the door.

Wifey thinks I'm goofy-  
 I don't know, she may be right.  
 She insists I have silicosis  
 Or some form of -ite.

Says my head is lined with agate,  
 A freak pseudo of the bone.  
 Says my brain is just a nodule,  
 My heart has turned to stone.

Are you rated as a fossil?  
 Are you obliged to live alone?  
 How do you enjoy your hobby  
 And still have a happy home?



"I've changed my mind, Edgar  
 go ahead and buy the facet cutter!"

by Bill Mittlebeeler via Dust & Grit 2/00  
 via [www.Gem-N-i.org](http://www.Gem-N-i.org) 6/10

## BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSARIES

**Greetings & Congratulations** go out to our members who are having Birthdays and Anniversaries in February:

### BIRTHDAYS

Marshall Reeves	2/8	☺☺☺
Jan Ferguson	2/16	☺☺☺
Alexis Van Atta	2/20	II

### ANNIVERSARIES

Peggy W. Johnson	2/14
Allyn & Marilyn Goodall	2/16

*If you don't see your name listed when you should, then the information is not in **The Red Book**. Please email or write your important dates down and give them to Wayne Mills so they will be included in the next edition that will be distributed in April 2018.*

## HOW TO WRITE AN ARTICLE...

(Continued from page 5)

**Step 6. Characters.** The people who are in the story: it's your job to describe them, from height, age, hair color and clothing, to habits and attitude. Simply writing, "Jake drove us as far as Mesquite," is not the same as writing, "With Jake's spiky green hair and his crazy attitude towards other drivers on the road, we feared we'd never make it to Mesquite." Strictly, only people can be characters, but no one will complain if animals, plants and rocks have personalities in your story as well.

**Step 7. Scenery.** The setting of the story, including the natural landscape and the man-made objects in it (roads, tools, vehicles, buildings, etc.) This is where you can really get imaginative with descriptions, since no one wants to describe a yellow crystal as "lemony" or an empty desert as "filled with the promise of geological secrets," it's up to you.

**Step 8. Dialogue.** What the characters say in the story. Though many stories are written without dialogue, it's usually more interesting if you include some. Writing that "Julie was excited about her fossil find," is less interesting than writing, "We all heard Julie yell, 'I think I found a complete tooth!'" Internal dialogue – describing your thoughts and emotions –

(Continued on page 11)

## 2018 OMS OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
<b>President-Elect</b>	Vacant	
<b>Secretary</b>	Dyanna Cridelich	(805) 937-4347
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jeanne Watkins Brown	(805) 481-1811
<b>Imm. Past Pres.</b>	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495

## 2018 OMS BOARD MEMBERS

Dick Bazzell	(805) 736-5033
Bill Brown	(805) 481-1811
Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977
Sally Griffith	(805) 928-6848
Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860

## CFMS FEDERATION DIRECTOR

Wayne W. Mills	(805) 481-3495
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**OMS Membership:** \$24 for Individual, \$34 per couple, \$5 Each Additional Family Member, \$5 for Juniors under age of 18. One-time \$10 initiation fee for new members.

**OMS Membership Chairperson:** Dyanna Cridelich (805) 937-4347

**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](mailto:info@omsinc.org)

**Ore-Cutts Editor/Publisher:** Elisabeth Nybo (805) 406-0825  
[write4rocks@gmail.com](mailto:write4rocks@gmail.com)

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## FORGET DIAMONDS ON VALENTINE'S DAY—GIVE YOUR LOVE FINGERITE INSTEAD

[http://www.escapistmagazine.com/news/view/166417-Scientists-Discover-Minerals-Much-Rarer-Than-Diamonds-Rubies-and-Emeralds#&gid=gallery\\_5699&pid=6](http://www.escapistmagazine.com/news/view/166417-Scientists-Discover-Minerals-Much-Rarer-Than-Diamonds-Rubies-and-Emeralds#&gid=gallery_5699&pid=6)

Anyone can give diamonds, rubies or emeralds on Valentine's Day, but if you really want to impress, go for something really rare, like Fingerite, Cobaltomenite, or Ichnusaite; go for one of the more than 2,500 extremely rare minerals found in the Earth.

## OMS CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY 2018

<b>Tuesday, February 6 7:00 to 8:00 pm</b>	<b>OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room.</b> 239 W Tefft St, Nipomo, CA  All members are welcome at this meeting
<b>Tuesday, February 13 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm</b>	<b>General Meeting:</b> Luis Oasis Senior Center 420 Soares Av, Santa Maria, CA  <b>Program:</b> All About Agates <b>Display:</b> Anything Rock or Mineral Related <b>Refreshments:</b> Pies
<b>Saturday, February 24 8:30 am</b>	<b>OMS Monthly Breakfast:</b> Country Kitchen, Arroyo Grande 775 El Camino Real, Arroyo Grande, CA

### MARCH 2018

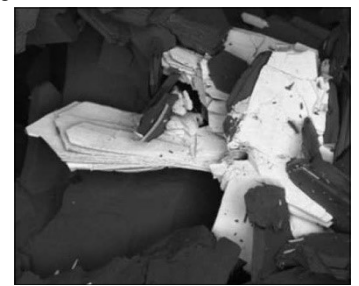
<b>Tuesday, March 6 7:00 to 8:00 pm</b>	<b>OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room.</b> 239 W Tefft St, Nipomo, CA  All members are welcome at this meeting
<b>Saturday, March 10 8:00 am</b>	<b>Highway Clean-up:</b> Southeast Corner Hwy 101/166 East
<b>Tuesday, March 13 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm</b>	<b>General Meeting:</b> Luis Oasis Senior Center 420 Soares Av, Santa Maria, CA  <b>Program:</b> Mystery Rocks <b>Display:</b> Bring you mystery rocks for ID <b>Refreshments:</b> Cakes
<b>Saturday, March 17 9:00 am</b>	<b>Fieldtrip to San Simeon Beach</b> Meet-up at 9 am in Kmart parking lot 1570 W Brach St, Arroyo Grande
<b>Saturday, March 24 8:30 am</b>	<b>OMS Monthly Breakfast:</b> Hometown Buffet, Santa Maria 1431 S. Bradley Rd, Santa Maria



Fingerite



Cobaltomenite



Ichnusaite

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY  
Board Meeting  
Nipomo Chamber of Commerce Office  
Nipomo, CA  
December 5, 2017**

President Wayne Mills called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Alexis Van Natta, Wayne Mills, Dyanna Cridelich, Jeannie Watkins, Bill Brown, Janis Ferguson, Sylvia Nasholm, Sally Griffith, Debbie Hood, and Dick Bazell. Sharon Duncan was absent.

**Minutes:** Minutes were approved as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report:** The report was accepted as given. We are above budget this year and in great shape. Jeanne Watkins will give the new budget at the Madonna Inn Luncheon. The board agreed to pay the QuickBooks upgrade and tax for \$240.00. and the PO Box fee of \$90.00.

**Correspondence:** PO Box renewal \$90., Santa Lucia Rock Hound newsletter, Letter for Wes Lingerfelt from IRS, Letter for QuickBooks renewal for Bill Brown, AFMS newsletter, Wild Cotton catalog, SBCC Foundation for Wayne Mills, Gem faire Ad.

**Committee Reports:**

**Abused Children:** There was a motion made to raise the Abused Children's Fund from \$610 to \$750. Jeannie Watkins made the motion, seconded by Debbie Hood. Motion carried. Jan Ferguson needs a check for \$750.00.

**Annual December Luncheon:** We have 31 members signed up for the luncheon at the Madonna Inn. At the November Board meeting, Debbie Hood questioned the legality of having different meal costs for the members and guests. This was mistakenly left out of the November Board meeting minutes. Everything is set and ready to go for the Luncheon meeting.

**Annual Gem Show:** Sylvia Nasholm said the paperwork is already in and Wayne Mills will call the school about the contract early in January.

**Breakfast:** Last breakfast of the year was November 23<sup>rd</sup> at Denny's in Santa Maria. Debbie Hood says nine people attended.

**Bulletin:** The Bulletin is out. Elisabeth Nybo said she would take over the bulletin. Wayne has sent her some files to get her started.

**CFMS:** There is a new President of CFMS. There is a California State Dinosaur-Augustinapolis, a California fossil: Hadrastore type fossil. There is a new safety guide on CFMS.ink.org

**Education:** Alexis Van Natta is interested in getting the junior program going again so the junior members have

something fun to do.

**Field Trip:** Sylvia Nasholm is helping to fill the spots.

**Highway Cleanup:** Wayne Mills says our next cleanup will be on January 13, 2018 at 8:00am. Meet at the South East corner of Highways 101 and 166.

**Library:** Alexis Van Natta and Wes Lingerfelt will be working on the library after the first of the year so members will find it easier to check things out.

**Membership:** We have 50 members. We sadly lost two members this past year, Lucky Virgin and Sandy Berthelot.

**Refreshments:** Sally Griffith said that we would have apple fritters in January.

**Scholarship:** Nothing now.

**Sunshine:** Please call Margaret Henson if you know of anyone who is ill. John and Elaine Von Achen have both been under the weather with the flu.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Wayne Mills made up an agenda for the Annual Meeting at Madonna Inn. A few items were added and it is good to go.

President Wayne Mills adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Dyanna Cridelich, Secretary OMS

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY  
General Meeting  
Madonna Inn, San Luis Obispo, CA  
December 9, 2017**

We began the festivities at 12:00 noon at the Madonna Inn Round Room. We had a meet and greet and enjoyed each other's company.

President Wayne Mills officially called the meeting to order at 12:20 pm.

Mike Henson gave the invocation.

Wayne Mills gave the flag salute and introduced our guests, Velvadean Elder, Roseann Marquez, Bruce Nybo and Michelle Patino.

Our Dinner Buffet began at 12:30pm.

**President's Annual Report:**

At 1:00 pm, Wayne Mills gave his President's Annual Report. You can read it in full in the January bulletin.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Jeanne Watkins gave the treasurer's report. She had the report on hand and available to all. Report was accepted



as read. She then read the proposed 2018 budget. Copies of the proposed budget were also on hand. Jeanne Watkins is proposing the same amounts as last year with just slight increases in the budget in most categories. Debbie Hood made the motion that we accept the proposed 2018 Budget and Dyanna Cridelich seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **Old Business:**

**Sunshine:** Bob Bullock is having surgery on his foot on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December. John and Elaine Von Achen are suffering from the flu, Katherine Nybo is having surgery on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December and Lisa Azevedo is having surgery on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December.

**Awards and Recognitions:** At 2:00pm, we began the Awards and Recognitions part of the program. Wayne Mills gave out three Golden Bear Awards. One went to Sally Griffith, one to Sharon Duncan and one to Sir Paul Howard who is an honorary member. Wayne Mills also gave the Member of the Year award to Sylvia Nasholm.

Wayne Mills acknowledged his outgoing board. The 2017 Board was given a gift from Wayne Mills of a gorgeous amethyst sphere from Rio Do Sol, Brazil on his own hand crafted wooden base. He gave out their achievement pins and a nice red rose to each of them. The 2017 Board consisted of Sharon Duncan, Dyanna Cridelich, Jeanne Watkins, Alexis Van Natta, Sylvia Nasholm, Jan Ferguson, Sally Griffith, Debbie Hood, and Renea Sutcliffe.

**Installation of Officers:** At 2:15, we had the installation of officers. Once again, Wes Lingerfelt swore in the new board. Our new board consists of Sylvia Nasholm, Dyanna Cridelich, Jeanne Watkins, Wayne Mills, Jan Ferguson, Sally Griffith, Debbie Hood, Bill Brown and Dick Bazzell.

Wayne Mills turned over the ceremonial gavel and the Presidents collection of agates from New Zealand and the Roberts Rules of Order to our new President, Sylvia Nasholm.

Sylvia Nasholm then gave the new President's Pep talk.

The Gift exchange followed and all had a good time.

Festivities concluded at 3:00pm and ended another year of friendship and appreciation of our craft.

Respectfully submitted:  
Dyanna Cridelich, Secretary, OMS

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY  
Board Meeting  
Nipomo Chamber of Commerce  
January 2, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 6:57 p.m. by President Sylvia Nasholm.

Members present were Sylvia, Wayne Mills, Debbie Hood and Jeannie and Bill Brown. Guests included Elaine Von Achen, Elisabeth and Kathryn Nybo.

Sylvia thanked Elisabeth for taking over the bulletin and for her great first newsletter. (January)

Minutes for the December Board and General Meetings will hopefully be ready by the January General Meeting.

Jeannie passed out copies of the year end profit and loss statement and balance sheet. She also mentioned that she had paid Wayne \$77.00 twice and he needs to reimburse the club. He agreed he would. She said she has checks going out to Nipomo Chamber of Commerce for \$125 and to Luis Oasis Center for \$500. Wayne said we had \$360 for table rentals from San Luis Obispo High School.

**Correspondence:** Wayne received a card from Sir Paul Howard thanking the club for honoring him with the Golden Bear award. Wayne said they will put it in the February bulletin.

**Refreshments:** The refreshment for January's general meeting will be donuts donated by the club. Sally wasn't at the meeting so Sylvia said that if Sally was unable to pick them up she would be happy to do so.

**CFMS:** In the CFMS January newsletter new President, Jennifer Haley, listed a few ideas she hopes to institute. One of them is to create a National Rockhound Day. She states that National Awareness Days are given by presidential proclamations and beginning research looks like we might be able to have our day. Renea Sutcliffe has agreed to be our new CFMS representative.

**Field Trip:** Sylvia reported that Wes Lingerfelt suggested our field trips could be suggested from the membership and then everyone meet at the chosen site. That would alleviate someone waiting in a designated place because members raised their hands at the meeting saying they were going on the field trip and then no one showing up.

**Adopt-A-Highway:** Next highway cleanup is January 13 at 8:00 a.m. with members meeting on the corner of Highways 101 and 166 East.

**Breakfast:** January's breakfast will be held at the Santa Maria Country Kitchen on the 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

**Sunshine:** Margaret Henson has agreed to chair the Sunshine Committee again so if anyone knows of someone who is ill, please let Margaret know.

**Scholarship:** Wayne said the check should go out in April.

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**Show:** Wayne turned an application into the high school for the 2018 show. Sharon Duncan is going to purchase two 40-pound containers of geodes when she is in Quartzsite for a new kids booth. Sylvia brought up sewing table clothes for the inside tables. We will check to see if we have enough material or if we will have to order more.

**Abused Children:** We were able to donate \$750 for the abused children this December.

**Old Business:** Wayne said the OMS yearly calendar should be on the website very soon. He had a couple of corrections to make and then Bill will have it posted.

Debbie Hood would like to start up the phone tree again. It was suggested that members update their information at the January meeting.

Wayne has been working on a prototype of a new, and hopefully, light weight show case. He hopes to have it available for viewing at the January meeting.

**New Business:** Elisabeth Nybo had a few suggestions for increasing membership and making the club more accessible. (1) possibly having the club on Facebook, (2) making flyers for each of our meetings giving the time, place and program and posting them around town in stores with bulletin boards, (3) group business cards members can hand out for people interested in our club, (4) change the order of our monthly meetings so people can leave after the program to get home earlier.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Von Achen,  
Secretary Pro Tem for Dyanna Cridelich

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY  
General Meeting  
Luis Oasis Senior Center, Orcutt, CA  
January 9, 2018**

President Sylvia Nasholm called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Mike Henson gave the invocation.

Wayne Mills gave the flag salute.

**Minutes:** Sylvia Nasholm said the minutes from the January 2<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting will be in the next Bulletin due to a malfunctioning printer.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Club has paid the annual donation to Oasis of \$500.00 and Jeanne Watkins has

been attempting to pay the Nipomo Chamber. We have a net profit of \$3600.00 for the year, which is very good. Treasurer's report accepted as given.

**Guests:** We had 2 guests: John Pope and Sharon Willis, We had 20 members in attendance.

**Correspondence:** We received a newsletter from the Ventura Gem and Mineral Club. Jim Brace Thompson sent a letter to the editor about sharing information. There was a receipt from the Post Office for the \$90.00 box renewal and a Cuesta College Annual Report. Sylvia Nasholm cautioned that there was a new consumer alert sent out to people who have Hotmail accounts. An email is supposedly sent from the IRS, but is in reality, a fishing expedition. Don't open this.

**Committee Reports:**

**Annual December Luncheon Meeting:** Everyone enjoyed themselves. The deposit was handed back to the Madonna Inn for next year's luncheon. They will send a contract sometime in January.

**Bulletin:** It's a great start, Elisabeth! Please submit any rock related items to Elisabeth Nybo. The article deadline is on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Elisabeth would like to make a Facebook page for the club. She thinks it could be effective to have Facebook events. There are rules for posting. The club questioned putting the last name of members on the Facebook page and agreed it wasn't a good idea to do so. Bill Hood would like to have 2 or 3 copies of the Bulletin available to guests at each general meeting. Sylvia Nasholm made a motion to have a Facebook page for the OMS. Jeanne Watkins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Refreshments:** Sally Griffith has provided the donuts for tonight's general meeting. She is sending a list around for everyone to sign up for the 2018 refreshments.

**CFMS:** The new representative for CFMS is Renae Sutcliff. Wayne has the form needed to change names. They have designated an Annual Rockhound Day. They are planning a Lavic Sighting trip on Feb 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Membership:** Dyanna Cridelich announced that we have 50 members (both paid and life members).

**Sunshine:** Margaret Henson is sending cards around for Truman Burgess and Jean Beattie. Several members are ailing with the colds and flu. Get well everyone.

**Field Trips:** Wayne Mills asked to let him know if anyone has a place that they want to go.

**Highway Clean Up:** Wayne Mills says the next highway

cleanup is Saturday; January 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am. at the intersection of Highways 101 and 166. It is always the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of odd numbered months.

**Scholarship:** Wayne Mills says the checks will go out in March or April.

**Library:** Alexis Van Natta said that she and Wes Lingerfelt have not had the time to work on the tapes yet.  
**Door Prizes:** Renae Sutcliffe facilitated the door prizes tonight. Wes Lingerfelt, Wayne Mills and Sandy Berthelot's estate contributed to tonight's prizes.

**Breakfast:** Bill Hood says that the January Breakfast will be at the Country Kitchen in Santa Maria on January 27 at 8:30 am. There was an error on the Breakfast location. It is not at Denny's on January 27, it is at the Country Kitchen in Santa Maria.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

We need to fill Committees from the Red Book. We need someone to take over Budget and Audit, Historian, and someone to take over the field trips.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The next Board meeting is on Feb 6<sup>th</sup> at the Chamber of Commerce in Nipomo.

Debbie Hood is setting up a phone tree. She is sending a sheet around for you to print your name and phone number. She requests that you let her know if you are willing to be a caller.

Sylvia Nasholm discussed having a change of order for our general meetings. The entertainment and refreshments would go first and then we would have the business part of the meeting. This is so guests, presenters and children can leave early if they need to. To change this in the bylaws is complicated, so it seems better to make a motion each evening that we need to change the order of events. Debbie Hood motioned that we will make a motion each time that we want to change the order of the meeting. Renae Sutcliff seconded the motion, motion carried.

Wayne Mills got some plans from Tony Fender for a fold-up case. We need to figure out how to get lights into it and how to close up a gap at the bottom of the case. He needs some input about whether we should use glass or Lexan, which is \$189 at home depot. It could get pricey. Alexis Van Natta thought that maybe members would like to sponsor a club case. This is a work in progress.

Wes Lingerfelt talked to us about the website: omsinc.org He said that is complicated because you need both a domain name and a hosting service. If you want to change the hosting service, there's no guarantee you can get your domain name. He has had it for 5 years and

suggests we leave it alone.

President Sylvia Nasholm adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Dyanna Cridelich, Secretary, OMS

## **HOW TO WRITE AN ARTICLE...**

*(Continued from page 6)*

also adds to a story, making it more compelling than a "just the facts, ma'am" report.

**Step 9.** Go back and revise. You've written your story by now, following Steps 1 through 8. But it's pretty rough; it could be better. Go back over it, maybe read it out loud to a friend, add a few things you forgot, or cut out some unnecessary sentences. Substitute a better word or phrase for the ones you wrote originally. Polish it. Rockhounds all know that most everything looks better with a good polish on it.

**Step 10.** Give your story a title. A catchy title is always a plus, and will draw readers to your story. "Titanic" is a better title than "An Interrupted Ocean Voyage." But don't go overboard! A simple, appropriate title is still better than a contrived, overly cute one.

**Step 11.** Space is a consideration. Everyone who writes for publication in print (bulletins, newspapers, magazines) must deal with space limitations. Cutting your work is often necessary. Writer Stephen King says that you should always cut out or condense at least one third of everything you've written. It's like over packing for a trip: when you return home, you realize that you didn't need to cart around all that extra baggage. In the real world, an editor will have to cut your story if you don't do it yourself.

**Step 12.** Prepare for next time. If you weren't entirely happy with your first story, think about future possibilities. Carry a small notebook with you and jot down observations about people, scenery, conversations, etc. You'll be surprised how easily this will guide you in completing Steps 1 through 8.





# Ore-Cutts



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.

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



**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**