



### Birthdays

Jan Ferguson  
February 16th

Glenda Reeves  
February 8th

Alexis Van Natta  
February 20th

### Anniversaries

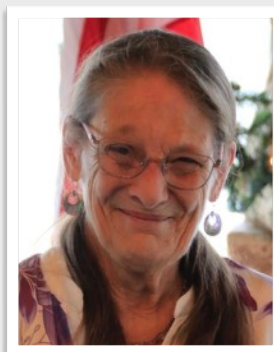
No anniversaries this month

### Who is Bringing Snacks?

Jeannie Lingerfelt and Jan Ferguson are bringing Pies to the February General Meeting.



### The Prez Box - February 2023



Not much to report the month. Our year is off to a pretty slow start. I think everyone fell asleep when the rains moved in. Although several roads were flooded out, we had a 1/2 decent turnout for the General meeting. I am afraid the Board meeting did not fare as well. We had a grand total of 3 members at our Board meeting. So, thank you Wayne and Tara!

We have 2 main goals for this year, the first is to amend the club Bylaws and second is to get a head start on planning our Rock and Gem show. With only 3 members at the board meeting, the Board couldn't do anything on the Bylaws. Therefore no progress there! As for an early start on preparation for the show, our hands are tied at present. The school is going to have construction work taking place this summer and as of yet, no one knows when that will be. That really messes up our early start plans! We will do our best to pin Lucia Mars School District's Powers That Be, down for a Year or Nay for our show the first weekend in August. We will keep you posted on our progress.

We are cancelling Highway clean up this month due to the condition of Rt 166. The trash we would collect would be unbelievably heavy. There is standing water around well after it rains and to top that off, we are expecting more rain on Friday and Saturday. To say the least, we are batting 1,000 so far in 2023!

Continued on page 2

## February 2023

**February 6** at 7:00 pm - Board Meeting in Wes Lingerfelt's garden.

**February 14** at 7:00 pm - OMS General Meeting at the Oasis Senior Center in Orcutt.

**February 18 - FIELD TRIP** to San Simeon. We will start at the cul-de-sac at Pico Avenue (just north of the Cavalier Hotel) on the West side of Highway 1. It's the second left when you come to the town of San Simeon. If members want to caravan or carpool, they can meet at Golden Donut in the Orcutt CVS parking lot. More details, including the time, will be given at the February 14th general meeting. You can also contact Joey Nichols or Sally Griffith for more information.

## March

**March 6** at 7:00 pm - Board Meeting in Wes Lingerfelt's garden.

**March 11** at 8:00 am - Highway Clean-up at the Southeast corner of Highway 101 and 166.

**March 14** at 7:00 pm - General Meeting at the Oasis Senior Center. MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE!

**March 18** - Field Trip - TBD

Prez Box Continued from page 1

Joey has a field trip scheduled for Jalama Beach on Saturday Jan. 21st. We are to meet at the Lompoc Home Depot parking lot at 10:00 AM to carpool in. There is not enough beach parking space available for all to drive in separately. It won't be low tide until around 12:00 PM so plan to bring a lunch or plan a stop at Jalama Burgers café. The burgers have a great reputation for being excellent! With the weather we've been having, I am assuming the ground will be fairly wet, you may want to bring a spare pair of shoes to change into for the ride home. Don't forget a jacket as well. Provided the weather will permit, the collecting should be great. With all the water rushing out of the hills for the last month, there should be a lot of new stuff washing down with it!

We had a nice program on agates, presented by Wes Lingerfelt and an excellent display of the various rocks that have been found at Jalama by Joey as well as Joe Goetz. They were wonderful and created even more excitement to go on the field trip. I have never been to Jalama so I am especially looking forward to going to a new place!

I haven't planned the program for February yet. I may have to lean on Wes once again to present either a recount of his trip to Quartzite this year or a selection of one of his vast and wonderful video collection. This newsletter is going out a little earlier than usual this month due to the end of the month absence of our bulletin editor. Therefore the month is not fully planned yet. It sure would be nice to have some suggestions or volunteers for programs, this year! It's only my second year and I've run out of ideas. Please, your input is severely needed!! If no suggestions come in we will be watching a lot of videos this year!

That's all I can think of for now, have an excellent month and hope to see you all on Valentines Day! Hopefully, for all you adventurous rockhound souls out there see you on January 21st for the field trip!

Sally



## Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting - January 2, 2023

No board meeting in January.

## Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting - January 10, 2023

**Called to Order:** 7:08 pm by Sally Griffith

**Invocation:** Debbie Hood

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Sally Griffith

**Members Present:** 13 members and 1 guest

**Correspondence:** Santa Lucia Rockhounds newsletter, a December flier for the Gem Show that was super late, and a post office due letter for our mailbox

**Previous Minutes:** No board meeting notes

**Treasurer's Report:** No report

### Committee Reports:

1. **Bulletin-** Kathy Holst's name was misspelled under the birthday section of the newsletter. Last name is Holst, not Holtz. The Volume number was listed as LVII, number 11 instead of number 1. February bulletin will go out about 2 weeks early.
2. **CFMS/AFMS-** Got a notice that there WILL be a Camp Paradise this year. Should be in August. Renea will bring the fliers to the next meeting, but information is up on the CFMS website. <https://cfmsinc.org/camp-paradise/>
3. **Membership-** Collecting dues for memberships soon. Due date is the March general meeting

4. **Field Trip-** January 21st. Meet at the Home Depot in Lompoc at 10 am. We need to carpool since parking is a problem down at Jalama beach. Bring your own lunch or eat a Jalama burger.
5. **Adopt-a-Highway-** January clean-up has been cancelled due to severe rain conditions. Next one is March 11th,
6. **Annual Awards Banquet-** No update
7. **Education-** No update
8. **Library-** No update
9. **Sunshine-** Jeanne fell and will missed the budget update
10. **Scholarship-** No update

**Show (2023):** No updates

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** We need more than one key for the Oasis. Wayne and Sally both need keys in order to set up for our general meetings. We need someone to help organize the refreshments

**Program:** Amazing Agates by Wes Lingerfelt / Mini program about Jalama Rocks by Joey Nichols and Joe Goetz.

Adjourned at 8:35 pm

Respectfully submitted by Tara Machin, OMS Secretary





## Photos from the January General Meeting

Wes Lingerfelt presented one of his famous "Amazing Agates" presentations. Joey Nichols, Joe Goetz, and Wayne Mills brought some fun displays. Joey even brought a UV light and we had a fun time in the dark looking at rocks.



SILICIFIED CORAL  
Oligocene-Miocene age  
(38-25 mva)



## Interesting Internet

### **Large Tibia and Fibula of a Longneck Sauropod Dinosaur Found in Royal Gorge, Colorado**

<https://krdo.com/top-stories/2023/01/13/two-dinosaur-fossils-found-in-royal-gorge-area-by-a-citizen/>

### **Maryland girl finds ancient tooth from a 50-foot-long megalodon in the Chesapeake Bay**

<https://www.npr.org/2023/01/12/1148441701/ancient-shark-tooth-megalodon-fossil-maryland-christmas>

### **NASA Rover Discovers Gemstone On Mars**

[https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidbressan/2023/01/07/nasa-rover-discovers-gemstone-on-mars/?fbclid=IwAR1c5B\\_SgG41ME1o42ikluoVmuT3AnLB0CQFp3gVeb\\_GzcOWR3srhlrhODA&sh=15e4ccfd2335](https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidbressan/2023/01/07/nasa-rover-discovers-gemstone-on-mars/?fbclid=IwAR1c5B_SgG41ME1o42ikluoVmuT3AnLB0CQFp3gVeb_GzcOWR3srhlrhODA&sh=15e4ccfd2335)

### **Low tides reveal trove of fossils on California's Central Coast**

[https://www.ksbw.com/article/low-tides-reveal-trove-of-fossils-on-californias-central-coast/42349324?utm\\_campaign=snd-autopilot&fbclid=IwAR2PqIBi3Dav9UgghppRerF14QTSyQnc1poicSUcXX3bSL4bAKJ3YGCaqkI](https://www.ksbw.com/article/low-tides-reveal-trove-of-fossils-on-californias-central-coast/42349324?utm_campaign=snd-autopilot&fbclid=IwAR2PqIBi3Dav9UgghppRerF14QTSyQnc1poicSUcXX3bSL4bAKJ3YGCaqkI)

### **To peer into Earth's deep time, meet a hardy mineral known as the Time Lord**

<https://www.npr.org/2022/12/29/1139782011/to-peer-into-earths-deep-time-meet-a-hardy-mineral-known-as-the-time-lord>

### **Tiny Bubbles of an Ancient Ocean Found Trapped Inside Rocks in New York**

<https://www.sciencealert.com/tiny-bubbles-of-an-ancient-ocean-found-trapped-inside-rocks-in-new-york>

## Terminology - Haloids

Haloids, haloid salts, or halides are minerals that are simple compounds of halogens and metals. Halogens are a group comprised of the elements chlorine, bromine, iodine, and fluoride. These halogens combine with a metal to form a type of salt or a halite which can give beautiful crystal structures. Haloids are a small group of minerals, but they are very important.

Some examples of a halide minerals are Fluorite (Calcium Fluoride), Atacamite (Copper Chloride Hydroxide), Embolite (Silver Chloride Bromide), and even table salt (Sodium Chloride).



## All About Fluorite

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By Tara Machin

I picked up a geology book at an estate sale a few years back. The book was Getting Acquainted with Minerals by George Letchworth English. It was published in 1934. My original intention was to do a presentation showing how geology has changed over time. This was an effort in futility as the basic science of geology has changed little in last 90 years. However, as I read through this text book, I found that it was a really enjoyable book. It was written for teenaged children and provides simple, easy to understand explanations on how to start rock hounding, how to identify and classify minerals, and how to understand basic chemical components of minerals. As an amateur geologist, I need this book to start at the very beginning. I hope that it will spark me to continue understanding the world around me. Wherever possible, I will validate the 90 year old instruction with modern geology. If I come across differences, I will let you know.

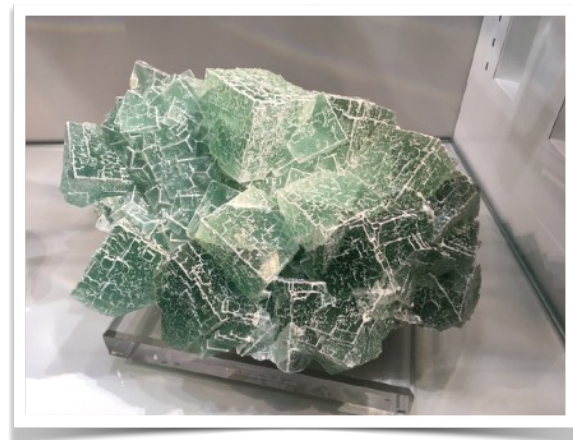
Since we started the year learning the terminology, haloid, I thought it would be fitting to spend some time talking about one of the most easily identified one, Fluorite. Fluorite is Calcium fluoride ( $\text{CaF}_2$ ). It has a hardness of 4. In fact, it is the very definition of what hardness 4 is on Mohs hardness scale. Fluorite also has octahedral cleavage which allows the crystals to take on geometrical shapes. The most recognizable shape is an octahedron, but fluorite can take other forms as well, like a tetrahedron or even a sphere.

Fluorite has fluorescence properties and some even phosphorescence. Fluorescence means that the mineral glows under UV light and phosphorescence means that the mineral will continue to glow for some time after the light is removed. We have all had a look into the UV light box at a rock and mineral show. Most people have seen the spectacular fluorescence of fluorite under the black light.

In 1934 Fluorite was used mainly as flux in the manufacture of open hearth steel. It makes the metal flow more easily. In 2023, that is still the case. It is also still used to make hydrofluoric acid, used to refine lead and antimony, and is sometimes even used as an optical lens.

A place to find Fluorite in 1934 was the iron mines in Northern England where green, purple, and wine colored crystals were found. Pink octahedron crystals were found in Switzerland and many crystals were found in Illinois, Kentucky, Colorado, and New Mexico. In 2023, you can still find amazing specimens of Fluorite in those places, but Mexico and China have become the largest producers of Fluorite in the world. The largest of these deposits is in Las Cuevas, Mexico which was discovered in the 1950s.

Fluorite can be easy to identify and it is one of the most beautiful minerals. It is also inexpensive and easy to collect if you are a rockhound beginner. I hope that you have learned some interesting information on this humble mineral and continue your rockhounding collections.





## VARIATIONS IN OBSIDIAN

By Wayne Mills, OMS, SLR  
(Pictures from Bing images)

At the November meeting of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds, a young man asked what the white spots in Snowflake Obsidian were. How did they get there? They exist in an extremely fine grained material which suggests that the white spots were formed at the same time that the lava formed the Obsidian glass. Snowflake Obsidian is volcanic glass that was formed as an igneous rock.



The white spots in the "Snowflake" variety of obsidian are composed of **Cristobalite**, a polymorph (one of many forms) of quartz (Silicon dioxide). Another mineral, **Fayalite** (a black or brown, iron-rich form of Olivene) is often present in Snowflake Obsidian as well.

Two locations where you can find this material in the United States are in Oregon near Bend, and in Southwestern Utah.

**Cristobalite** can also occur as large spherules in obsidian as in this specimen from Canyon Butte, Siskiyou County, California



Obsidian and several other extrusive igneous rocks including basalt, andesite, rhyolite, pumice, tuff and volcanic ash (among others) are produced from lava (liquid rock outside the earth). The type of rocks formed from lava, depends on the materials present in the melt, and the temperature and pressures under which the rocks are formed.

Here is an interesting article on some different varieties of obsidian. [Obsidian types, their descriptions and photos \(olypen.com\)](http://olypen.com)



## Upcoming Rock and Mineral Shows

**February 18-19, 2023** - Antioch, CA  
Antioch Lapidary Club  
Contact: (925) 301-6957,  
[edysnyder@gmail.com](mailto:edysnyder@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://www.antiochlapidaryclub.com>

**February 25-26, 2023** - Vallejo, CA  
Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society  
Contact: (415) 254-1506,  
[ddahonvgms@gmail.com](mailto:ddahonvgms@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://vjgems.co/>

**March 4-5, 2023** - Ventura, CA  
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
Contact: (805) 312-8467, [info@vgms.org](mailto:info@vgms.org)  
Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

**March 3, 4 & 5, 2023** - Newark, CA  
Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley  
Contact: [showchair@mgscv.org](mailto:showchair@mgscv.org)  
Website: <http://MGSCV.org>

**March 10-12, 2023** - Stoddard Wells  
Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club  
Contact: (909) 657-7200,  
[marklantz53@gmail.com](mailto:marklantz53@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://vvgmc.org>

**March 11-12, 2023** -Turlock, CA  
Mother Lode Mineral Society  
Website: <http://www.turlockgemshow.com>

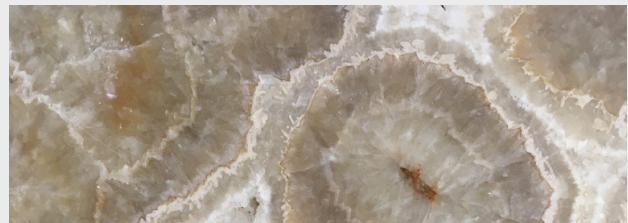
**March 18-19, 2023** - Lemoore, CA  
Lemoore Gem & Mineral Club  
Website: <https://facebook.com/AndLemoore>

**March 18-19, 2023** - San Jose, CA  
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Contact: [info@scvgms.org](mailto:info@scvgms.org)  
Website: <https://www.scvgms.org/>

**March 24, 25 & 26, 2023** - Clovis, CA  
Fresno Gem and Mineral Society  
Contact: [danielblom096@gmail.com](mailto:danielblom096@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://www.fgms.online>

**March 25-26, 2023** - Angeles Camp, CA  
Calaveras Gem and Mineral Show  
Contact: [clairemathison1@gmail.com](mailto:clairemathison1@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://calaverasgemandmineral.net/>

More information can be found on the CFMS website at [cfmsinc.org](http://cfmsinc.org)



## CFMS / AFMS News

Notes by Wayne Mills SLR CFMS Rep

Notes are not available due to the early publishing of the newsletter. However, the CFMS and AFMS newsletters are available online.

**CFMS Website** - [cfmsinc.org](http://cfmsinc.org)

**AFMS Website**- [amfed.org](http://amfed.org)



<b>Orcutt Mineral Society Officers</b>		
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Immediate Past President	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
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	Betty Campbell	(805) 929-5344
	Renea Sutcliffe	(805) 929-2783
	Joe Goetz	(407-707-8005
	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
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Membership	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Membership is \$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.		
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*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.

