ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. SANTA MARIA, CA

Ore-Cutts

Volume XLV Number 5 May 2009

Come and join us on May 12, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Mussell Senior Center, 510 E. Park, Santa Maria for a program on **The Morrows by John McCabe**.

The **Display** theme will be "Stump the Ex-spurts", bring all of your unidentified rocks and we will try to get them named for you *(and I said named for you, not after you, unless it turns out to be a totally new species!)*

Desert will be Pies brought to us by Elaine Von Achen, Sandy Berthalot, Jeannie Lingerfelt & Jan Ferguson.

Swine Flu

By Debbie Hood

Everybody, please use common sense about this Flu epidemic, and here are the recommendations from CDC:

What You Can Do to Stay Healthy

- **Stay informed.** This website will be updated regularly as information becomes available.
- Influenza is thought to **spread mainly person-to-person** through coughing or sneezing of infected people.
- **Take everyday actions to stay healthy.**
  - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
  - Stay home if you get sick. CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- **Follow public health advice** regarding school closures, avoiding crowds and other social distancing measures.
- **Develop a family emergency plan** as a precaution. This should include storing a supply of food, medicines, facemasks, alcohol-based hand rubs and other essential supplies.
- Call 1-800-CDC-INFO for more information.

…and if you have a fever, or are coughing, please stay home.

March Program Review

By Debbie Hood

Steve Pavlak, a retired Geologist gave us a very well organized talk on nuclear energy. Energy is a very important topic now due to recent shortages of petroleum, high prices and environmental concerns, and we are not currently independent of other nations for our energy needs. The use of uranium can be controversial, but Steve was only there to give us facts so we could come to our own informed opinions.

World energy use is predominately for electricity, transportation, heating and cooling. The sources for energy are mainly coal, nuclear, oil, gas, hydroelectric, Geothermal, solar, wind, biomass and so on. The costs to produce hydrocarbon fuels are rising except for coal, and nuclear, which is the cheapest to produce.

Uranium is used to generate electricity, in medicine, for weapons, armor and radiometric age dating. The U S is the largest producer of uranium based energy with 104 plants currently working, but that will not last as there are many more plants being built in the near future worldwide.

The Nuclear Fuel Cycle consists of mining which yields "yellow cake" uranium oxide which then must

under go enrichment by being gasified and centrifuged to concentrate the element into fuel pellets that can be formed into fuel rods which can be used in a reactor to heat water which turns a turbine which generates electricity which can be fed into the grid and used to power our lives.

There is currently no permanent repository for spent fuel rods. Some can be reprocessed to concentrate radioactivity again, while some are vitrified and placed in repository awaiting a permanent solution. As a note, weapons grade uranium, much more concentrated than energy generating rods, can be reprocessed and diluted to use for energy generation. The Obama administration decided to stop the construction at Yucca Mountain, which was to be a permanent repository. After the government had spent Millions of dollars to develop it, the president ruled that they must look at other alternatives.

Properties of Uranium: elemental uranium is a silvery-gray, very heavy, and a weakly radioactive alpha particle emitter. 99.7% of all uranium is U238 which is unusable, while .07% is U 235 which can be concentrated in a substance called "yellowcake' and there is at least one other isotope which is too rare to be useful. U235 is naturally fissile and decays into lead (Pb 207), which is a gamma ray emitter. The abundance of uranium is about 2-4 parts per million in the crust of the earth, but is not evenly distributed., while seawater contains 3 parts per *billion.* Uranium is soluble in oxidative conditions, and will precipitate under reducing (anoxic) conditions.

Uranium minerals are produced in Canada, Australia, Kazakhstan, the U.S.A., South Africa, Namibia, Brazil and Nigeria predominantly.

The history of uranium use is a cyclic one. There was a big boom in the 1950's, as uranium was needed for weapons. Then surface sources were sought after and open pit mining was the rule.

Then in the late 1960's to the 1980's geologists concentrated on doing surface evaluations to find concentrations and open pit mining was still used, but *in situ* recovery began to be used to concentrate ores on site to provide fuel for nuclear power plants being built in many places. But the Three Mile Island accident ended that boom due to fears for public health and safety.

In 2004 geologists were mapping and extending known deposits using new technologies, and *In situ* recovery methods had been much improved, as well as underground mines being used. While open pit mines still exist, in this country they are being phased out due to environmental concerns. An even newer technique, Borehole mining, is now being used wherein water is pumped into a borehole to bring up uranium bearing sands which can be concentrated further on site. Most uranium mining today is to obtain fuel for new generations of nuclear power plants.

Uranium deposits are frequently found in sandstone, which accounts for about 18 % of production and most claims are leases on Federal Lands.

As of 2007, uranium was approximately $137.00/pound for yellow cake, but today it is $40.00/pound. There are many factors involved including the current recession, new and more efficient technologies and lower demand as environmentalists try to bar new plant development.

Methods of exploration include drilling, coring, surveying and the lowing of sensitive probes into existing hole to check radiation levels.

How did the uranium get into the sandstone and other concentrations? It begins as a very hot granitic ore body or as lava from acidic volcanoes. Over the millennia rain and surface waters oxidize and wash it down to an impermeable layer where it eventually becomes concentrated. Geologists look specifically for sandstone layers above non-permiable ones as good places to look for uranium concentrations.

At this point we ran out of time due to the Center's closing time, so we will invite Steve back to finish this wonderful overview of this important subject. Since it is human to fear what we don't understand, it is important that we have a basic idea of how this source of power works, and it's inherent benefits and potential dangers.

Prez Box

By Debbie Hood

Be sure to bring your unidentified rock "stumpers" to the meeting to be identified. I will have a very weird rock I found in the San Simeon creek bed recently on display.

Anyone who is trying for Wayne's prize for the most words formed from *Metamorphic* should bring their lists; remember he said there would be a prize.

Remember as you do your spring housecleaning to save items for the Country Store, and to start new plants when you do your gardening. We have had a slow start to donations for the Treasure Chest, so when

you are doing whatever you do, jewelry making, cab cutting etc., do some for the treasure chest, please. Remember that sales of tickets are a big part of how we make the money for the scholarships. Also take some flyers and put them wherever people go. Ask politely if you can leave some at the hairdressers, on the bulletin board at the grocery store or at work, in your Dr.'s office and so on. In this hesitant economy we will need to draw as many folks to our show as possible for it to be a success!

February Fieldtrip

By Debbie Hood

It was very dark when Bill dropped me off at Wes Lingerfelt's house on April 11 for the fieldtrip to Lucy Tunnel's swimming pool full of rocks. I haven't been up and about at that time of day since I quit working overnight shifts at the hospital.

It was beginning to get light as we started out in three cars with Bob Bullock leading. Bob had reconnoitered the valley portion of the trip beforehand and provided us with a lovely and fascinating trip through the back roads and the outskirts of Arvin. Very nice, Bob, you could have a second career as a tour guide.

We got to Mojave and stopped at Mike's Roadhouse restaurant to get breakfast before moving on to Lucy's. When we arrived she was awaiting us with her new dog, Bradley, (much to Ralph Bishop's relief,) and a small gaggle of surprisingly well-behaved geese, which ignored all of us except for Gloria Dana who seems to invariably attract way too much attention from the wildlife. We all scattered around a very large pile of rocks. I started out looking through all the old oil drums full of various types of rock, some are labeled, and some have had other materials added to them so it was quite a smorgasbord to pick from.

Wes, Ralph, Geary Sheffer, Lucky Virgin and Don Nasholm started digging out and going through rock from the "pool, " while Mike and Marge Hensen, Paulette Mireles, Silvia and I poked about at the fringes and picked at their finds, after we were warned that someone thought they'd seen a rattlesnake hanging about. I think they just wanted the first crack at all the good stuff! We saw the promised rhodonite, petrified palm root, various jaspers and agates, many copper minerals, psilomelanie, jade, and others too numerous to name. Paulette sweet-talked Lucy's friend, Bob Weikert into giving *us* a crack at the slabs that had never been available before, she is nice to have around, that lovely smile is worth a fortune! Everybody came away with a bucket of rock treasures, (or two, or three.) Lucy made some money, more than she had expected, so everybody left happy.

The trip back, at least in Wes's truck was a lot of fun, with Ralph and I keeping everybody entertained with our stories and byplay, and Jeannie Lingerfelt's homemade cookies made it even better! It was a good thing Paulette had on waterproof mascara, we had her laughing till she cried, and she would have looked like a raccoon by the time we rolled back into to Wes and Jeannie's place. It was another wonderful day with friends, a treasure that could never be bought or replaced!

Sunshine

Sandy Berthelot got the bad news that her lump was a slow growing malignancy. Sandy, we ALL wish you well! She will likely be having a little more surgery and radiation therapy in the near future.

Elaine Von Achen and Jan Ferguson are both fighting off colds…feel better, and we all hope it is only the common cold!

April Breakfast

By Jan Ferguson

On Saturday, April 26, 2009 the monthly Breakfast was held at the Creek Side Café in Nipomo at 9:00 am. In attendance were: Bill and Debbie Hood, Erica Erskine and Keith McKay with guest Pat McKay, Stan, Jan and Brenna Ferguson with guest Jim Colvin, Wes and Jeannie Lingerfelt, Paulette Mireles, Don and Sylvia Nasholm, Steve Riegel and Geary Sheffer.

A Blue Goldstone wire wrapped pendant was donated by Jeanie Lingerfelt and won by Sylvia Nasholm. And there was an anonymous donation of wire wrapped earrings won by Geary Sheffer. All had a Good breakfast.

Submitted by Janis Ferguson sitting in for Gloria Dana who was on vacation.

Locker Clean-up 25 April 2009

Story & Pictures By Wes Lingerfelt

After a much-delayed breakfast at the Creekside Café in Nipomo several members gathered at the storage locker for the annual locker clean up. Those participating included Geary Sheffer, Don & Sylvia Nasholm, Wes & Jeannie Lingerfelt, Keith McKay and

his Mom Pat, Erica Erskine, Paulette Mireles, and Steve Riegel. A better crew couldn't have been found anywhere and best of all they all worked for free. We started the task at 10:30 a.m. and finished at 11:45 a.m.

This is the starting picture.

It became apparent early on that most of the area in the center would have to be unloaded. A few tables were set up to use as work tables for the ladies to sort the Country Store items and repack them. A lot of heavy cases were moved out of the way to make room in the rear to sort, clean and repack everything. It was decided to leave 3 of the old 8' x 10' signs out behind the locker for later disposal, as they haven't been needed for many years. The old Television set was donated to the thrift store in Santa Maria along with a large suitcase. Two boxes of old records were carted over to Wes' house for sorting and disposal if necessary. *After clean up picture.*

The floor was swept clean and the locker methodically and efficiently repacked.

Thanks go to those who gave of their time and sweat to get the job done! OMS appreciates you very much.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthday greetings go out to Helen Dobler, Stan Ferguson, Kelly Tapper, Christine Clason, Kay Vollmer, Ken Kreh, & Ralph Larson who are having birthdays this month. Happy Birthday & Many more!

Celebrating an anniversary in May are Wes & Jeannie Lingerfelt and Kathy Collison & her husband. Congratulations!

All the Way to San Jose

Story & Pictures by Wayne Mills, OMS

The day after my last day on the job, Betty Kern and I headed for San Jose and the CFMS Show. The drive was a pretty easy 3 hours, almost exactly to the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. We paid our admission, and joined the visitors. I think it was scout day, because there were girl scouts and boy scouts everywhere! The show was housed in two large fair buildings. Exhibits were located in one building, and the dealers in the other. There were a lot of dealers with dazzling wares from around the world.

Soon after entering the dealers' area, we came across this exhibit of a "new" material from southwestern China (Yunnan Province). Called "Peacock Jasper", it is actually calcium carbonate. But it is pretty!

One of the first exhibits that struck us was this lovely case of fish carved from different gemstones. The fish were carved in Peru, and showed a notably higher level of craftsmanship than the little stone birds we had in our raffle a few years ago. The display was by Barb Biewer of CVGMS (Carmel Valley Gem and Mineral Society?). Man, would I love to see the rest of HER collection! These fish were striking.

By happy accident, we ran into Jim and Beth Mills and Gene and Barbara Bilyeu from the Santa Lucia Club. We learned that Jim was making a presentation on Collecting Scottish Agates at their next club meeting, so I made plans to attend. (See **Searching Highland and Low** to follow). The Santa Lucia Club meets on the third Monday of the month in the Historical Society wing at Pioneer Park.

But I digress. We saw many other wonderful cases in both competition and non-competition areas, and I hope that some of them might inspire our members to display in our upcoming show.

This case by Barbara Matz of the San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society showed off the best of her collected materials along with pictures of each collecting location.

Note that attention to labels REALLY enhances the displayed materials.

The Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club had a very striking case of turquoise from different parts of the southwest, (though typed labels would have made it even better).

Another display that I really admired was this rough and finished case of jewelry by Kathy Peverini (no affiliation given).

The competition cases were excellent, and I was pleased to see Cheri and Don George there. Cheri was fuming a little that the judges thought her skirt was too short…the one in her case. But she still got a first place in the Master Category for her intricate and lovely beadwork.

We could have stayed another day, but decided to head back to SLO in advance of the rush hour. After a little more coffee, music and conversation we were back in Arroyo Grande after a lovely day in San Jose.

Searching Highlands and Low

Wayne Mills, OMS from a talk by Jim Mills

When I heard that my brother in rocks ("twin sons of different mothers" as he puts it), Jim Mills, was talking about Scottish Agates on Monday, April 20, I immediately planned to attend. Even if it meant driving to Paso Robles on a day where temperatures were 100 ° F –in San Luis Obispo!

The Santa Lucia Club meets at 7 PM on the 3rd Monday of the month in the Historical Society wing of the Pioneer Park Museum near 21st and Riverside Drive in Paso Robles.

Jim, who will make a presentation to OMS in July, went to Scotland with his charming and energetic wife Beth in September 2008.

The Mills' trip covered Northern England and Southern Scotland. Jim's sprightly chronological account was a real geography lesson. He began in Chatsworth, south of Manchester, England, home to the first lady rockhound in England if not all Europe. The 5th Duchess of Devonshire amassed a huge collection of minerals and fossils back in the late 1700's as at that time, only the nobility had the time and money to do so.

A uniquely English stone is "Blue John Fluorite from the lead and zinc mines of the Duke of Devonshire near Buxton. The rare form of fluorite formed from dripping water into stalactitic patterns in the lead and zinc deposits there, and fetches a high price. The travelogue then moved to the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the town of Hawes that is the home of Wensleydale cheese; a now world-famous cheese (from both goats and cows) popularized by the cartoon Wallace and Grommet. Apparently, the limestone-nurtured grass produces near-perfect cream, and the limestone caverns (Butter tubs) have been ideal cool places to cure the cheese since long-before the advent of electricity.

Jim's pictures of the North York Moors (natural, un-forested uplands) with the heather in full bloom (September) were breathtaking. (Moors, photos from http://www.thescian.com)

Too bad the pictures weren't scratch and sniff… The moors are underlain by highly tortured, metamorphosed sediments of Jurassic age, that were

uplifted and eroded in the Oligocene (about 35 million years ago), and were scraped smooth by the four glacial advances that have occurred in the last million years.

Robin Hood's Bay north of Scarborough is a source for gem quality jet, a hard, dense material formed from the fossil resin of the Araucaria tree that proliferated during the Mesozoic Age (about 240 million years ago), but which still has modern species (Norfolk Island Pine, Monkey Puzzle Tree). Scientists do not know how jet (origin of the term "jet black") was formed, but, but it makes lovely, expensive jewelry. Jet is supposedly found on the beach at Robin Hood's Bay after large storms however there were no storms during the Mills' journey.

To enter Scotland, Jim and Beth had to cross Hadrian's Wall, begun in 122 AD by the Roman Emperor Hadrian to keep the Picts (fierce Scottish warriors) out of England. The wall is dry-laid stone about 74-miles long, and extends from the east coast to the west coast of England. Interestingly, it does NOT separate the country from Scotland, but is entirely inside England.

One of the Mills' first stops in Scotland was Coldstream, home of the famous Scottish Cold Stream Guards, a highly decorated division of the Household Brigade of the British Army. Near Coldstream, lies Charlie's Brae (woods), the first place where petrified wood was collected and described (1831). To Jim's chagrin, there were no woods at the Brae, and no *petrified* wood to be found either.

Near Edinburgh, the Scottish capital, Jim and Beth explored the Scottish National Mining Museum, made in the old Lady Victoria Colliery (coal mine), and quite well laid-out.

Jim, a geology enthusiast, had to travel to Siccar Point, where James Hutton, the Father of Modern Geology first began to form his ideas about the incredible age of the earth. Here, the horizontally bedded, Devonian age (345 million years before present-BP) Old Red Sandstone unconformably overlies vertically dipping, Silurian Age (425 million years BP) greywacke. Hutton was not a very good writer, and thus was not widely read, but he did accurately predict a great age for the earth in a time when it was thought to be only 6,000 years old, and he did accurately predict the evolution of species 50-years before Charles Darwin (1), (2).

What about agates you ask? Well, the best collection of Scottish agates was reputed to be in the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. However, when Jim and Beth looked for it, it had been moved to storage pending construction of a new wing (check back for the agates in 2011). North of Edinburgh in Fife, the Mills found Matt Forno who has a unique collecting style. He has a box with 50 spaces, and when he acquires a new agate, he has to choose one of the 50 in his box to get rid of. Good news for the folks he sells to.

In Montrose, Lord Gray assembled a collection of 700 Scottish Agates. Inmates at a local mental institution polished these rocks on sandstone grinding wheels. Though all called Scottish agate, they were collected from several areas noted for the material. These include: Mull, Ardowny, Dunure, Montrose, and Saint Cyrus. Examples of these and other agates are found at this address: http://www.scottishagates.co.uk/14.html. Unfortunately, many of the local rock shops that the Mills visited in Scotland did not carry local materials. In fact the owner of one such shop was at the gem show in Denver when the Mills visited.

The Rhynie Chert beds in Aberdeen shire in the north of Scotland are important fossil sites that reveal much about the evolution of life from the Early Devonian, about 400 million years BP (3). These rocks contain evidence of the earliest land plants.

Yes, the Mills went to Loch Ness, and did not see the fabled monster, but they did see evidence of the plate boundary that is offsetting the northern half of Scotland from the southern half. The loch is actually a (large) sag pond located astride the Great Glen strike slip fault.

The Mills also searched for agate in the tide pools at Dunure, with no success, but saved the best location until last. In Girvan, southwest of Glasgow, the Mills met David Anderson, who is in possession of the best private collection of Scottish Agates. David has been collecting at many of the famous agate sites for years, and has assembled a remarkable collection. After Jim and Beth spent much of a entertaining and educational day examining David's agates, he pulled some agates from his reserves so the Mills could have a sample of Scottish agate and perhaps to entice other agate enthusiasts to search highlands and low for this elusive but beautiful material.

The Mills' Montrose Agates, photo by Jim Mills

(1) http://www.strangescience.net/hutton.htm
(2) http://www.amnh.org/education/resources/rfl/web/essaybooks/earth/p_hutton.html
(3) http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/devonian/rhynie.html

OMS Minutes

Due to advances in technology, (Elaine Von Achen's fried motherboard,) we do not have minutes to publish this month. They will be read at the General Meeting, as we did in the bad old days, and Elaine is working on a solution to her computing problem

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES: Making Shows Fun for Kids

By Jim Brace-Thompson

From the CFMS Newsletter April 2009

By the time you read this, preparations for the 2009 CFMS Show will be well advanced, and the Santa Clara Valley society promises to have a superb line-up of kids' activities. I've heard wonderful things about the efforts June Harris and her fellow club members put forth to make their annual local show the best, most educational it can be for kids, including school and scouting groups. In addition, this year as they sponsor the CFMS Show, some of the activities will be tied to the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program, so kids in CFMS-affiliated clubs can work toward earning a badge right at the show. I encourage everyone who can to journey to San Jose and check it out!

This is also a good time for everyone to take stock of what we do for kids at our own, local shows. Most shows I visit have at least a kids' table with a spinning wheel for prizes and grab bags, but I've also been to a couple shows where I saw nothing at all for kids. This is a missed opportunity in that having something to attract kids to a show attracts a whole family along with that child, and you stand a better chance of getting a nice write-up in the local paper if you emphasize a family orientation.

In addition to having activities to attract and entertain kids from the community (grab bags, spinning wheel, sand sifting, "fishing" for crystals, etc.), consider things to actively engage and involve the kids within your club. This might be a combined exhibit case where all the kids in the club provide a couple specimens each and take responsibility for setting it up, or it might be a table of their own for kids to show off their collections and lapidary work or to hold a fund-raiser of some sort to earn funds toward some fun kids event (a picnic trip to the beach) or toward purchase of minerals for the kids' collections.

If your annual show hasn't included kids activities, start the ball rolling today by appointing a Kids Activities Chair. If you're already including kids activities, thank you, and consider adding even more! To help, I'm working with Terry McMillen, Susan Chaisson-Walblom, Ismael Sanchez, and June Harris on our Juniors Activities Committee to construct a "menu" of show ideas for kids that we hope to post to the CFMS web site sometime this summer. Kids bring enthusiasm, curiosity, and unbounded energy that are contagious that our local shows can help to channel, while having fun!

ROCKHOUNDING

by Edna F. Pauli

Rockhounding is our hobby, and it takes us far and wide,
Away out on the desert and up the mountainside,
Along the sandy beaches and down the canyons deep,
Wherever there are pretty rocks in reach of truck or jeep.
It takes us out to many shows, which Rockhounds everywhere
Prepare and put together with such artistic care.
With pride and patience proving that "Sermons are in Stones"
And that we prize each precious piece "The Maker" to us loans.
It helps us meet so many folks whose interests are the same
And soon we add to friendship's list another rockhound's name.
With friends and trips and rocks and shows and room for everyone,'
It's great to go Rockhounding; it's such a lot of fun.

May 2009 Calendar	
Tuesday May 5, 2009 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Tuesday May 12, 2009 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. • Program-"The Morros" by John McCabe • Display: Unidentified Rocks • Refreshments Pie
Saturday May 9, 2009 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.	Roadside Clean up After the cleanup, coffee and pastry at "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria.
Saturday May 16, 2009 8:00 am to?	Field Trip To Be Announced- For information cal Bob Bullock at 929-6372.
Saturday May 27, 2009 8:15 to 9:15 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast- to be announced. For Info call Gloria Dana at 929-6429.
June 2009 Calendar	
Tuesday June 2, 2009 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting-At Elaine Von Achen's house, see your Redbook for address, call Elaine at 929-1488 for directions. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday June 6, 2009 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.	**Semi-Annual Meeting & BBQ at Pioneer Park bring a dish to share and rocks for the silent auction.**
Saturday June 20, 2009 8:00 am to?	Field Trip to be announced. For information cal Bob Bullock at 929-6372.
Saturday June 27, 2009 8:15 to 9:15 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast-

CFMS Show Schedule 2009

May 1-3 2009, Bishop, CA
Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society
Tri County Fairgrounds Bishop
Corner of Sierra St. & Fair Drive
Hours: Fri. 6p.m.-10p.m.; Sat. 9:30-4; Sun. 10-3
Jeff Lines (760) 872-6597
Email: franceem@qnet.com

May 2-3 2009, Anaheim, CA
Searchers Gem & Mineral Society
Brookhurst Community Center
2271 West Crescent Ave.
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4:30
James Williamson (714) 995-9080
Email: showchair@searchersrocks.org
Website: http://www.searchersrocks.org

May 9-10 2009, Reno, NV
Reno Gem and Mineral Society
Reno Livestock Events Center Exhibit Hall
1350 N. Wells Ave., Reno, NV
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4

May 15, 16, 17 2009, Anderson, CA
Superior California Gem & Mineral Society
Shasta District Fairgrounds
Near Redding off hwy 273
Hours: Fri. & Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5
Manuel Garcia (530) 877-7324
Email: mmpg@earthlink.net
Website: www.superiorcal.com

May 16-17 2009, Newbury Park, CA
Conejo Gem & Mineral Club
Borchard Park
190 Reno Road
Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4:30
Robert Sankovich (805) 494-7734
Email: rmsora@adelphia.net
Website: www.cgamc.org

May 16-17 2009, Yucaipa, CA
Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Yucaipa Community Center
34900mOaknglen Road
Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4
Bill Jochimsen (909) 790-1475
Email: webmaster@yvgms.org
Website: www.yvgms.org

May 30 -31 2009, Glendora, CA
Glendora Gems
859 E. Sierra Madre Ave. Glendora
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4
Bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638
Email: Ybidwell2@aol.com

June 5-7 2009, Woodland Hills, CA
Rockatomics Gem & Mineral Society
Pierce College
Pierce College - Victory & Mason
Hours: 10-5 Daily
Contact: Gary Levitt, Show Chair (818) 993-3802
Email: Show@Rockatomics.org
Website: www.Rockatomics.org
Show Flyer: click here.

June 6-7 2009, La Habra, CA
North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society
La Habra Community Center
101 W. La Habra Blvd.
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
Don Warthen (626) 330-8974
Email: warthen@earthlink.net
Website: nocgms.com

June 13-14 2009, Cayucos, CA
San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club
Cayucos Vets Hall
10 Cayucos Drive
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
Kim Patrick Noyes (805) 610-0603
Email: kimnoyes@gmail.com , Website: slogem.org

HELPFUL HINTS & TIPS...

Clean obsidian needles by washing in Castile soap using a toothbrush to get the clay off. Never put obsidian in detergent, as it leaves a white film that is difficult to remove. To remove stains, soak in oxalic acid and then wash well '

Trouble polishing peridot? Try a drop or two of lemon juice or vinegar - it will speed things up. Wash and rinse your laps and other tools with plain water when finished polishing.

(Both hints above from Breccia 6/97, via T-Town 9/97

If you drop a stone on the floor and can't see it, put some pantyhose on the end of a vacuum hose, and turn it on.

(Linda Felker, Conglomerate 7/97 via Nodule Nocker 9/'97)

One of the least known methods of finding mineral specimens is also on of the easiest and many times one of the most Productive. It consists of inspecting and testing the materials which ants, gophers, prairie dogs, moles, etc. bring to the surface.

Some ants tunnel down to 15 feet and spread over more than an acre. Excellent gemstones, especially red gemstones, have been found in anthills.

(From Staurolite 6/97 via Rock Chips 9/97)

A gram of gold can be beaten into a leaf .0000033" thick that will cover six square feet.

(From Gem & Mineral 9/59 via Green Valley Rocker 9/97)

via The Burro Express 10/97

***Repairing Crystals*:** If you are looking for a cement to repair quartz crystals, check the hardware store for a product called Crystal Clear. It is made by DURO and comes in a small red plastic syringe. It has the same refractive index as glass; is crystal clear, and cured with UV light. As it is somewhat thick, only a small amount is needed and the cement dries in a few seconds under bright sunlight or long-wave ultraviolet light. Under a short-wave lamp, it takes longer. On a broken crystal, the repair almost disappears. The package says it can be used to fill holes and to repair glass. It should also be good for repairing many translucent materials, especially those having a refractive index close to quartz.

from Tumbler via Amador Nugget 1/01
via RockCollector 3/01

Wonders Of A Crystal

A crystal is one of the strangest objects of nature. It is not alive, yet it grows. A crystal attracts the same kind of materials of which it is composed, arranges them with great accuracy in geometrical *forms,* cements the parts together and holds them. Place a crystal in a liquid, or vapor composed of the same ingredients as the crystal and the process of accumulation immediately begins. If a crystal was broke in two parts and placed in a bath of liquefied crystal, the broken surface will be repaired and each part will grow into another crystal, providing the other conditions favorable for crystal growth are present.

Even after a crystal has been worn until it is but a rounded grain of sand, it will speedily become a crystal again if placed in a solution containing the ingredients of which it is composed. There is no known limit to the ability of a crystal thus to repair itself and resume its growth.

Under a microscope a crystalline solution can be seen forming into crystals, and it is a wonderful sight. First, innumerable dark spots form in the fluid; they stand still and then begin to move. It is soon seen that the movement arranges the spots in straight lines, like beads. The beads speedily coalesce into rods, and the rods arrange themselves into layers until a crystal is created. The process proceeds so rapidly that it is almost impossible to follow closely.

Rock Scoop 2\01 via Dusty Rocks 7/01
via Golden Spike News 8/01

Daffynitions: Field trip: an impossible trek to an inaccessible place for non-existent specimens.
Field Polish: Spit

Tumbler: Piece of equipment costing at least $25 that makes $250 worth of stones salable at 25 cents.
Rock Show: Bunch of people displaying their best specimens and another bunch selling their worst.
from Sooner Rockologist vi Nodule Nocker News 2/97

What do you call three rabbits in a row, hopping backwards simultaneously? A receding hareline.

Some tasks you have to put off dozens of times before they'll slip your mind completely.

The San Andras Fault is a topographical error.

Definition of a Lapidary: Someone who grinds their fingernails and their knuckles and polishes their vocabulary while trying to do the same thing to a piece of agate.

from Sooner Rockologyst via Deming Rock Chips 12/96.

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Check out our OMS web site at http://omsinc.org or send e-mail to info @omsinc.org.

OMS Membership (dues) is $24 per year. Junior memberships (under 18) are $10 per year. Membership dues are due January 1, and are prorated for new members for each month thereafter. Membership Chairperson is Elaine Von Achen (805) 929-1488

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2009 OMS Officers

President	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
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Secretary	Elaine Von Achen	(805) 929-1488
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
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ORE-CUTTS (named after William Orcutt) was 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 1889 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 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 the 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. Affiliates of the OMS include the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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