



NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol. 14, No. 9

November 1995

President's Column by Don Warthen

We have come to the last meeting of 1995. I hope to see everyone at the Christmas party next month, December 12 at Days Inn. Then we will be ready to get started on the show. I think we are going to have a great show this year.

One thing we know is that as time goes on things change. Virginia has been our Bulletin Editor as long as I have been in the club but now she has informed me that she will not be able to go on and if we want to keep receiving a bulletin of the quality that we have grown accustomed to, we need someone to volunteer to learn and take over. Please call me or one of the officers as soon as possible so we can keep these great bulletins coming.

Program Column by Loretta Ogden

November Meeting

Date: Nov. 14
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: La Habra St. Center, Assy. Rm.
Speaker: Ruth Forrest
Topic: Chinese Jade



Our speaker for the November meeting will be Ruth Forrest giving us a slide presentation on Chinese Jade. Ruth will also give us lapidary tips for working with Jade

Our October program on solder-less jewelry by Sue Pastel was interesting to all and inspiring to many. Sue will be teaching a class for us in January. The class was full by the end of the meeting. If you are interested, call Loretta to get on the stand by list.

Also, we still have two spaces open on November 12 for our carving class. If you are interested, call Loretta to get on the list.

Our trip to Mariposa is really under way. Shirley Mitchell is planing some great things for us to do. We will have a gold panning lesson and then on the Merced river to practice our technique. Shirley has arranged a Bar-B-Que for us (\$5 -\$8 each). On Sunday we will go for Mariposite and on our own we can do some collecting. I would like to try for Serpentine (California state stone) to use for carving.

Dates of Coming Attractions by Virginia Page

NOC Club Activities

Wed. 7 - 10 p.m. -- Cab Classes at Walt Messemer's
Nov. 4 -5 -- Field Trip to California Museum of Minerals at Mariposa (see Loretta for details)
Nov. 12 -- Carving Class (Loretta's house)
Nov. 14 -- Regular Meeting
Nov. 22 - 26 -- Field Trip to Wiley Wells
Nov. 28 -- Board Meeting
Dec. 12 -- Christmas Party and Installation of Club Officers

Shows and Events

- Nov. 17-18 -- Mineralogical Society of Southern California show at Pomona Fairplex
Nov. 18-19 -- Bear Gulch and Pomona Rockhound Show, 1005 N. Vine, Ontario
Jan. 15 - Feb. 15, 1996 -- Clouds Jamboree at Quartzsite
Feb. 7 - 11, 1996 -- POW-WOW QIA at Quartzsite
Aug. 9 -11 -- AFMS/CFMS Show and Convention at Riverside

Members in the News by Virginia Page

Happy Birthday to those born in November. Your birthstone is *Topaz*. Your flower is *Chrysanthemum*. Have a wonderful day!

- Nov. 1 Jane Livezey
- Nov. 8 Jeff Parker
- Nov. 15 Lillie Dew
- Nov. 17 Marius Bowen
- Nov. 19 Jerry Grafton
- Nov. 23 Matt Anthony



NOC SHOW NEWS

by Virginia Grafton (*I will get the bags*)

Grab Bags

I would like to try a different system for making up our grab bags for our show this year. No one wants to give away all their good rocks. So, if each person or family would make up 10 bags with 8 rocks the job would not be too hard on any one person.

I know some have more rocks than others so if you have some rocks but not enough for 10 bags bring them to a meeting and we will make up bags.

I would still like to see the rocks identified

and if possible where they came from. Remember the children who buy the bags probably have no way to cut, polish, or tumble the rocks. They do not need exotic specimens, just pretty ones. Crystals are great. Think like a kid in identifying; clear, can see through it, shiny, sparsely, pointed end, scratch with a penny or fingernail, and color of course. Kids love mica and geodes (cut).

If you don't know what it is but it is pretty bring it to a meeting and we will try to identify it. Just make a list and put it in the bag with the rocks. If the rock will break by rubbing against others wrap it.

Field Trips by Bill Burns

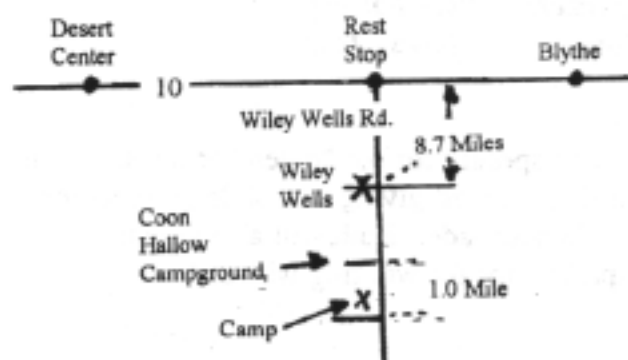


Wiley Wells

The 1995 Thanksgiving field trip will be to the famous Wiley Wells Area. Go past Palm Springs and Desert Center to the Wiley Wells turnoff - turn south and follow the NOC signs to the Camp area south of Wiley Wells BLM Campground and Coon Hollow Campground.

We will go out Wednesday November 22 and have Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday. Campfire every night.

If you plan on going on this trip call me (818-288-2896) or sign up at the November meeting. We need to know who will be there Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.



Christmas Party and Officer' Installation

Date: Dec. 12
Time: 6:00 p.m. cocktails
7:00 p.m. Dinner
Place: Day's Inn Fullerton
Entertainment: Cody Bryant Western Band
Cost: \$10 per person
Bring: Food and gifts for the needy

Our Christmas party will include dinner, NOC club officer's installation ceremonies and entertainment by the Cody Bryant Western Band.



Pyrite

*from Gem & Mineral via Chip's Splinters
Oct. 95*

Pyrite can be cleaned by using a commercial radiator cleaner. Place about 2 tablespoons of cleaner in an aluminum pan with about 2 quarts of water. Results are rapid. To rinse, use a diluted ammonia solution to neutralize the acid on the specimen. Follow by rinsing in cold water.

Poets Corner

*from Marin Tumbler & East Bay Nodule via The Rockatier
1995*

Flow gently sweet solder,
among these fluxed points.
Flow gently and give me,
some good solid joints.
My metal is clean,
and the pieces fit tight.
Flow gently sweet solder,
I must finish this tonight.

Refreshments

by Adele Huber



Thank you to Ginny Grafton and Susan Hanson for our deserts last month. What a team!

In November Sandy Mogan and Bob Lauterio will be bringing our refreshments.

Nominating Committee on the Prowl

from Calgary Lapidary Journal, via the agatizer 10/95

Who? Me? Run for office? No thanks!
The President's job - that should be Frank's.
But listen now, I've some suggestions to make.
How about a display case - 'twill only take
a couple of evenings for someone to make.

Program chairman? I don't see how
I can manage that position just now.
But let's keep up the good speakers this year,
have a demonstration on cab making here?
You bet I'll attend every one, never fear.

Bulletin Editor? O, I can't write
a decent article - mine sound so trite.
But can't we have more rock cutting tips,
a column for news, and some humorous tips,
and something about our rock hunting trips.

Display table? I like it fine.
Oh, no, that selenite isn't mine
My minerals and gems are all packed away.
Anyway, I was much too tired today.
Don't you realize how much rocks can weigh?

I'm in good standing. I've paid my dues.
I never fail to give you my views.
Meeting night comes and there I will be.
I'm present, please note, for all to see.
Gee, don't you wish there were more members
like ME?

NOC Gem & Mineral Society Officers

Slate of officers for the November election:

President - Loretta Ogden
First Vice President - Ken Marks
Second Vice President - Linda and Jeff Parker
Treasurer - Bill Burns
Federation Director - Izzie Burns
Three directors: Mike Maneth
Pat Maggs
Stephanie Shea
DonWarthen

EDUCATION



Opal, The "Queen of Gems"

By Jeff Parker

Opal, the Birthstone for October and a semiprecious Gemstone, highly regarded for its play of colors and milky-to-pearly opalescence, is commonly rounded and polished to display this stones finest properties.

Opal is composed of hydrated silica and has a hardness of 5 to 6; its specific gravity varies from 1.9 to 2.2, depending on the water content. White and black opals gain their color from iridescence on, respectively, milky opalescent stones and dark green, black or gray stones.

Fire opals gain theirs from reddish orange flashes on a clear stone. The water, or hyaline, opal is an iridescent clear stone.

Opals are porous; they may lose their color and crack if they dry out, or they may absorb body oils or other liquids. The finest opals, black opals, come from Australia.

Well, if Australia is a bit far to travel to find opals, as it would be for most

of us, there is a place in the Mojave Desert, Kern County called Opal Canyon. This is the home of two opal mines, Barnett and Nowak, that will allow visitors to come in and hunt for the gemstones. At the Barnett Mine, for \$2 a day you can hunt for opals till your hearts content. And even if you don't find that "Prize Opal" I'm sure you will come up with a few of the more common opals found there.

Mixed in and around the basalt rock on the 80 acre claim you can find a transparent red-orange (honies) or blue and white (jellies). But you never know, you just might if you're real lucky and try hard, you could unearth an opal like the one called the Mojave Flame. This opal, is owned by Richard and Shirley Barnett, who also own the mine where this \$50,000 gemstone, that was appraised by the Opal Miners Assn. in 1975 was found.

The opals formed thousands of years ago in the El Paso Mountains during the last Ice Age as hot geyser water and silica mud percolated throughout porous volcanic rock, and the mud and water accumulated in gas pockets in the rock, then over time leached out leaving behind layer after layer of silicates.

EDUCATION (Continued)

Linda and I went to the mine a few months ago and did a little searching for the fire spiting gemstones, but only found their friends, honey & jelly.

But at any rate it was a lot of fun just looking and talking with Richard and his wife Shirley. And by the way, we did get to see, in my opinion one of the most brilliant colored opals I've ever seen, the Mojave Flame.

The opal mines are located about 120 miles north of Los Angeles as if going to Last Chance Canyon. I think we should plan a trip to the mines in the near future and see if we can find that, Lucky-Strike. How about you?

Jeff Parker,
NOC Club Member/Writer



CFMS





Christmas Party
NOC Christmas Party

Days Inn
Fullerton

Dec. 12
1995

Angels

6:00 p.m.
Cocktails

7:00 p.m.
Dinner

Good
Will

\$10.00
Per Person

Fun

91
Freeway
&
Raymond

Cody Bryant
Western
Band

Children's
Gifts

Friends

Joy

Canned
Goods

