

# NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol, 18 No. 5

May 1999

## Prez's Message *by Don Ogden*

We had a small turnout at the new meeting place last month, only 12 members and 2 guests (one submitted her application). Also, there were not enough board members present to have a Quorum.

The meeting place is great - carpeted floors - two sinks for making coffee etc. - 40 chairs - 5 tables - 48-inch TV and a VCR. Parking was well lit.

However, we must be out of the building before 10 p.m. for "Maintenance". Then, our general meeting must be over by at least 9:30 p.m. This means no board meeting after the general meeting. A new meeting time and place for our board meeting will be decided on at the May general meeting.

We also need to (1) select a chairman and date for next years show, (2) plan new field trips, and (3) select two committees for expenditure requests on items over the budget.

## May Meeting

Date: May 11  
Time: 7:30 PM.  
Place: La Habra Community Center  
101 W. La Habra Blvd  
Program: Chain Making

## Refreshments *by Oscar Veloz*

Isabella Burns and Vicki Marks are on the Refreshment list to bring goodies for our 11 May meeting.

Thanks to Pat Maggs and Angie Harwood for the delicious refreshments we had at our April meeting.

## NOC Club Activities

Cab Classes at Walt Messemer's; 7-10 p.m.  
every Wednesday Evening.

Regular Meeting — May 11

Board Meeting — To be determined

Field Trip (1-day) Horse Canyon — May 8  
Cancelled

Deadline for NOC News — May 21

## Horse Canyon Field Trip Cancelled *by Don Ogden*

MAY 8 - Our 1-day field trip this month to Horse Canyon was cancelled because we could not get permission at this time. We will try to get permission and schedule it later on this year. In the meantime, we are working on another field trip through LA Rocks.

## Members in the News

HAPPY BIRTHDAY and have a wonderful day all of you who were born in May.

*Lucille Howe - May 7*

*David Anthony - May 8*

*Valerie Blais - May 10*

*Isabella Burns - May 23*

*Mary Maneth - May 25*

*Bill Burns - May 28*

*Joan Henry - May 30*

*Ed Rost - May 30*

*Jane Anthony - May 31*

Your gemstone is Emerald.  
Your flower is Lily of the Valley or Hawthorn.

**Shows and Events**  
*via CFMS Web Page*

MAY 1-2 ANAHEIM, CA  
Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.  
Brookhurst Community Center  
2271 W. Crescent Ave.  
Hours: Sat. 10-6 Sun 10-5  
Jim Williamson (714) 995-9080  
Larry Richey (714) 846-3573

MAY 15-16 Yucaipa, CA  
Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Scherer Community Center  
12202 First Street  
9th Avenue and Lincoln Way  
Hours: Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5  
Claire Teeters (909) 797-5635

MAY 15-16 NEWBURY PARK, CA  
Conejo Gem & Mineral Club  
Borchart Park Community Center  
190 Reino Rd., Newbury Park  
Hours: Sat 9-5 Sun 10-5  
Bob Stultz (805) 498-4220 or  
Don Pomeranke (805) 492-4276

JUNE 5-6 GLENDORA, CA  
Glendora Gems  
Goddard Middle School  
859 E. Sierra Madre  
Hours: Sat 10-7:30 Sun 10-4  
Mark Thompson; 11 W. Ghent  
Glendora, CA 91740

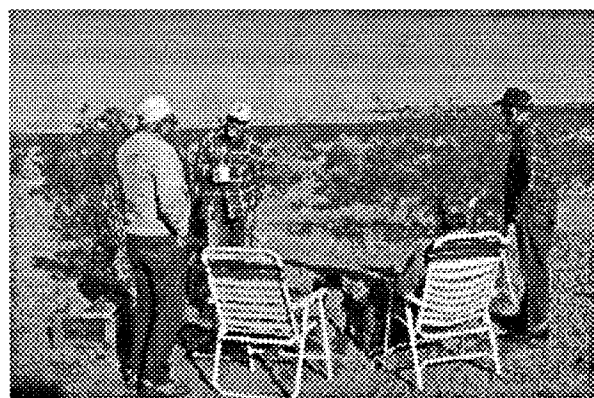
JUNE 5-6 WEST HILLS, CA  
Rockatomics Gem & Mineral  
Boeign recreation Center  
8500 Fallbrook Ave.  
Hours: 1-5 both days  
Louis Gerik (818) 347-1234

**CFMS Show & Convention**  
**County Fairgrounds**  
**Turlock, CA**  
**June 18-20, 1999**  
*Mother Lode Mineral Society*  
Al Troglin & Dennis Stuart  
<http://www.bell21.com/motherload/>

**Paul Bunyon Field Trip**  
*by Don Ogden*

We were joined by by four other clubs (Culver City, VIP, Woodland Hills, and Delvers) at the Paul Bunyon campground. There were over 30 adults, 3 children, and 3 dogs. A lot of good Paul Bunyon agate was found. Also florsent chalcedony roses were found at the camp ground.

It rained on and off Saturday, but it stopped and we had a great potluck dinner and campfire. A great time was had by all.



## **Water Plays** *by Virginia Grafton*

Water plays an important part in the formation of gem deposits at or near the surface of the earth.

Over millions of years, rocks exposed on the earth's surface crumble under the destructive forces of wind, rain, ice and snow which all contribute to weathering. Weathering is the slow steady disintegration of rocks. Minerals that make up the rocks break down over time to different degrees and in different ways.

The physical properties of the mineral, such as cleavage and hardness, determine the ability of any given mineral to withstand such breakdown. Many minerals fracture into smaller and smaller fragments until they become sand size granules. Other minerals dissolve completely and are swept away in streams and rivers.

Over millennia, billions of tons of rock weather and erode. Some gemstones are hard and tough enough to withstand mechanical breakdown. They are chemically resistant to attack by natural acids and bases. They are dense enough to be concentrated when carried down a slope to the nearest stream and further carried along by river current and/or wave action. The moving water sweeps away the lighter minerals and the heavier minerals sink to the bottom or are moved a relatively short distance downstream.

From thousands of tons of debris, only a few heavy mineral grains in each ton of rock are gradually concentrated in the stream or beach gravels until they accumulate in a sufficient amount to be worth mining. This rapid settling of heavy minerals is typical of gold and platinum and is called placer deposits. A few other gemstones that may form placer deposits in this way include diamonds, rubies, sapphires, jades, tourmalines, topazes, spinels, aquamarines, and chrysoberyls.

Because of the rough treatment endured, gems found in concentrated placer deposits are of much finer quality than those found in primary deposits of parent rock. The pounding along the stream bed eliminates flawed or weak stones. Only about 10 percent of diamonds recovered from kimberlite

pipes are of gem quality. In placer deposits almost 60 percent of the diamonds are of gem quality. Today more gemstones are mined from ancient riverbeds than from any other type of deposit.

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## **Orange County Fair** *by Jane Livezey*

Have you thought about exhibiting at the Orange County Fair? There were a lot of beautiful cases at our March show. How about setting them up again The fair is July 9-25, and the entry forms **MUST** be in the office of the Orange County Fairgrounds by 4 PM on Wednesday, MAY 26.

We will have the rules and the entry forms at our May 11 meeting. You will need to fill these out right away and get them mailed. Then you will have plenty of time to spruce up and fine-tune your display before July 7, which is when entries must be brought to the fairgrounds.

Don entered last year and won a beautiful division trophy. He'll be the first to tell you he had very little competition! This is a good way to display what we do **AND** get some publicity for our club. It's fun too!

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## **Chain Making** *By Susan Hansen*

Our program this month will be a hands on lesson in spool crocheted chain. Verle Stadel has volunteered to take on the task of teaching us this beautiful craft. Al Stadel is making the spools we need and they will put together kits including enough craft wire to learn with. The kits will cost \$5.00 and you will have the spool and hook for years to come.

Since these kits have to be assembled we ask you to call Verle or Al to request one for yourself. They will have a few extra in case we have guests who want to participate so if they you do not let them know (by Friday May 7) there may not be enough to go around .

Call Verle at **(562) 696-1677** (name and how many kits) - leave message on answering machine if need be.

## General Meeting - April 13, 1999

by Loretta

**Meeting** – The meeting was called to order by President Don Ogden at 7:45 p.m.

**Flag Salute** – Pat Maggs led the flag salute.

**Birthdays** – Barbara Steed was presented a birthday card.

**Program** – The program was a video on Russian Gem Treasures hosted by Bob Jones of Rock and Gem magazine fame. The video was shown on a 48-inch television provided by the La Habra Community Center.

**Refreshments** – Angie Harwood and Pat Maggs provided the refreshments.

**Minutes of Last Meeting.** – Minutes of last meeting that appeared in the newsletter were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Bill Burns was not present (at ZZYZX). Pat Maggs received a check from the City of La Habra that returned our show deposit.

**Hospitality Report** – Irene was not present (still in Hospital). There were 12 members and two guests present at the meeting.

**Drawings** – Joe Reed won the main prize—a Rose Quartz candle holder.

**Education Report** - Ginny Grafton was not present (at ZZYZX). Verle Stadel to give a class at the next meeting on woven chain. Will need to buy supplies for meeting. Add a notice in community center to invite the public to attend?

**Federation Report** – Izzie Burns was not present (at ZZYZX). Loretta said that she or Izzie has forms for entering Displays at the Federation show in Turlock

**Field Trip Report** – The next trip is to Paul Bunyon near Barstow. We will have a field trip release form for each person to read and sign.

**Refreshment Assignment** – Isabella Burns and Vicki Marks will bring refreshments to the May 11 meeting.

**Old Business:** Need plan for classes - need chairman to set it up. Virginia? or Verle? or both. Schedule of class title, place, time, cost, and sign up

## New Business:

1. Received an invoice for repair of the Cabbng machines used in our class that was more than \$200 over the budget.
2. Jeff Parker requested that we get our own Web Site URL and provider. The cost was also more than \$200 over the budget.
3. A motion was presented by the board and passed by the membership at the Febuary 9, 1999 meeting - that for any expenditure of major items over \$200 that are not budgeted, a committee of three will be appointed to investigate and advise before the money is spent.
4. Since – only 12 members were present at the meeting – and the board meeting was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum; – Items 1 and 2 were shelved until enough members and board members are present to select a committee as defined in Item 3.

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## Board Meeting - April 13, 1999

by Loretta

**No Meeting** – There was not a quorum of Board Members, so the meeting was cancelled.

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## A New Rock on The Block

from Rock Rattler 7/97 via Amador Nugget 3/99

The “white beat”, a new synthetic diamond, is so like the real thing that even experts have a hard time telling the difference. Manufactured in Russia, white bears may soon be coming to the U.S. At least one hopeful entrepreneur plans to market them here as gems.

“Like natural diamonds”, writes Bill Gifford in The New Republic, “These are crystals of pure carbon, glinting with -fight, not that cubic zirconia junk sold on QVC. They equal natural diamonds in hardness and refractivity, the two qualities that mark the stone; you need a laboratory to tell the difference. They’re just a few thousand years younger and about one-tenth as expensive as mined diamonds.”

## **PRACTICE RV FIRE SAFETY**

*By Richard Pankey, CFMS Safety Chairman*

Fires in recreational vehicles are rare but the danger is always there on the highway and in camp. By being aware and prepared, you will be ready if fire does strike. There is great potential for fire in a RV and many from little known fire hazards: fuel accidents, electrical malfunction, cooking carelessness, hot tires and brakes, faulty and damaged fuel lines, faulty and damaged propane appliances, just to mention a few.

Modern technology and high-tech electronic sensors are a marvel for RVer's. Every RV should (must) have a smoke detector for the obvious reasons. In addition to the essential smoke detector consider adding: Carbon Monoxide Detector, Propane Leak Detector and Temperature Detector for engine and generator compartments.

I hope you all have a fire plan and fire drills at home. You also need one for your RV when traveling and in camp. Take into account your specific situation - your family members (age, handicaps, pets, size and design of your RV) and camping situation. Develop a plan and practice the plan.

1. Make sure everyone knows what the smoke detector (and other detectors) sound like and what to do when they hear it. Test detectors regularly.
2. Re-emphasize to everyone that objects can be replaced but people can't. Never re-enter a burning RV to retrieve any thing.
3. All family members need to know the Stop, Drop, and Roll rule if clothing is on fire.
4. Make sure everyone knows the location of every exit and how to use the emergency window exits (practice this one).
5. Chose a meeting point for everyone to meet at immediately after escaping, so everyone can be accounted for.
6. Everyone needs to know the location of all fire extinguishers and how to use them (practice this one).

### **If fire should strike**

1. The first rule of RV firefighting is to save lives and the RV second. Get yourself and your family (and pets) to safety.
2. Get help. When in town or at a campgrounds call 911 or 0 to get emergency help. Know your location so you can tell the firefighters. If you are in the "boonies", sound the alarm to other campers in the area. Know how to use a CB or a cell phone to summon help.
3. If you can do so without endangering yourself or others, use any firefighting aids on hand. You should have at least 2 fire extinguishers, one in the kitchen/living area of the motorhome/trailer, and one in the tow vehicle or near the driver. Every family member should practice using the fire extinguisher and know what fires it can and can't be used on.
4. Keep a box of baking soda handy for minor galley fires. NEVER use flour, starch or sugar; they are all extremely flammable.
5. Show all family members how to unhook the electricity and how to turn off the propane valves.
6. Use a quick disconnect fitting on your water hook-up. The water can be instantly un-hooked to fight a fire on or near your RV.

### **PRACTICE RV fire SAFETY when traveling and when camped.**



**Federation Report**  
by Izzie Burns, Director

The saying is "April Showers bring May Flowers" but on the desert last week Warren Forgey, a life time desert dweller said that he had his doubts about the desert flowers this year due to the late rains and cold preventing the seed from germinating. But I have faith so I hope everyone gets out to enjoy our lovely desert. After the rain on Monday the rest of the week on the desert was beautiful. The participants at Zzyzx enjoyed the week.

The big news of CFMS is the insurance problems. Most clubs have great concern in liability insurance. They raised our fees and cut the liability insurance for field trips. They have new forms to be completed for field trip insurance and now say the fees will be \$50.00 to \$150.00 per club trip. Other Federations have liability for their meetings, functions, shows and field trips. I feel that there are other companies that would offer us better coverage. These issues will be brought up at the CFMS Meeting in Turlock on June 19. I would like any options or suggestions that any of our members might have, including name of a insurance knowledgeable member, Company suggestions, and what we want in insurance for our club activities. Any member is welcome to attend this meeting, but only directors may vote. I would like the clubs permission to vote as I feel would be best for our club. This would prevent this problem from lingering on until November or an expensive vote by mail.

April was busy after our week on the desert, Bill & I attended the opening of the Desert Discovery Center in Barstow, This is a cooperative adventure of the Barstow Unified School District, Barstow College and the BLM. It is located at the old BLM Information Center Building. It is mainly directed at youth, but we young at heart can have fun and learn there, also. Even though we rockhounds didn't have an input, it still contains some interesting information for all. Maybe someday an interested person will identify some of the rocks for them. Incidentally the real Old Woman Meteor is there.

The BLM Public Hearing on Mining Rules at the Doubletree Inn in Ontario was well attended. We went to the 6:00 p.m. meeting and it was mostly prospecting club members; the 1:00 PM meeting, I heard was mostly large mine operators. There was only one speaker who was in favor of the rules as stated. Most flatly opposed the rules. Two comments that I was happy to hear were: 1) Congress established the original 1872 law and even though it has been amended many times, it has always been by the Congress or by a court case so why are these rules being established by the BLM. 2) The other was why not drop the Casual Use Miner from these regulations as there has been no known time when the government has had an expenditure to clean up areas that were caused by Casual Use Miner.

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**Preliminary NOC CALENDAR 1999**

May	01	Club case in Searchers show
	<del>08</del> or	<del>One-day field trip to Horse</del>
	09	<del>Ganyon</del> Cancelled
	11	General Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
	28-31	Field Trip (Memorial Day) ??
Jun	08	General Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
	12-13	Cerro Gordo Mine Dump ??
	18-20	CFMS Show & Convention (Turlock, CA)
	??	Field Trip?
Jul		No Meetings
	09-11	AFMS/Southeast Federation Show - Nashville, TN
Aug		No Meetings
Sep	14	General Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
	17-19	Field Trip
Oct	12	General Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
	15-17	Field Trip
Nov	09	General Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
	25-28	Field Trip (Thanksgiving)
Dec	14	Annual Christmas Dinner and Officer's Installation

## **Important Information about CFMS Insurance**

*From May 1999 CFMS Newsletter*

Here are some guidelines regarding the coverage from our insurance agency --- CAPAX GIDDINGS, CORBY, HYNES on club sponsored field trips.

1. There should be a statement confirming there will be no exposure to the following hazards: Caves, fissures, excavation/digging more than 3 feet into the ground or into hillsides/cliffs, rope climbing, or slidepits, etc.
2. The pricing for a one day trip would be \$15 for 1 to 20 people and \$25 for 21 to 50 people. Refer parties larger than 50 people to the agency. Fill out application and send check.
3. Price for two-day trips, subject to the above-mentioned exclusions, would be \$23 for 1 to 20 people and \$38 for 21 to 50 people. Refer parties larger than 50 people to the agency. Fill out application and send check.
4. Any trips longer than 2 days of collecting must be referred to the agency. Travel time to and from the collection area does not count as collecting time. For example: Travel on Friday, collecting on Saturday and Sunday, traveling home on Monday, is still a 2 day collecting trip.
5. We would require you still send in the information you gather for the request. Confirmation that the above-mentioned exposures will not be allowed should be documented.
6. Please list the State on the desert trip requests, as we do not know if the trip is to an area outside of California.
7. The Underwriter may request a more detailed description of your trip at any time. They are trying to work with us on handling these requests and they are expecting that these guidelines will allow coverage for 80% to 90% of the field trip forms filed.
8. Fill out your application, include your check, and send a copy of your "Hold Harmless" form, if you use one, to G.C.H. Insurance Agency, Attn: Shirley Poulter.

***Attention Club Presidents, Editors, and Federation Directors:***

**Please pass this information on to your club members .... don't keep it a secret**

## CFMS Field Trip Questionnaire

**Field trips are not automatically included under the CFMS policy.** Field trips must be reported prior to the trip for liability coverage to apply. The following guidelines can be used for premium determination, providing the trip falls within the scope described. Activities not meeting these conditions must be submitted for underwriting approval and pricing.

Check the box that describes your scheduled event:

Field trips with NO exposure involving caves, mineshafts, fissures, rope climbing, slidepits, excavations or digging more than 3 feet into the ground or hillsides, cliffs, etc.

	<u>One Day Trips</u>	<u>Two Day Trips</u>
1 to 20 people	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23.00
21 to 50 people	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$38.00
50+ people (Submit for Underwriting pricing)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Note:** Any trips longer than 2 days must be submitted for underwriter consideration.

1.	Club Name:	Contact Person:
2.	Address:	Phone No.
3.	Date of Field Trip:	
	Location (Include City, State):	
	Description of Activities	
4.	Estimated number of members attending:	
	Estimated number of guests (if any) attending:	
5.	Will a fee be charged?      Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	If so, how much per attendee?	
6.	What precautions will be taken and what safety guidelines will be followed to avoid accident or injury at the field trip?	
7.	Do you obtain a signed waiver or release of liability from each member prior to the field trip? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	If so, please attach a copy of the form used.	
8.	Please confirm that this field trip <i>does not</i> include exposure to any caves, mineshafts, fissures rope climbing, slidepits, or excavation/digging more than 3 feet into ground, hillside or cliffs.	
	No Exposure <input type="checkbox"/>	

Mail completed questionnaire to:

Capax - Giddings, Corby, Hynes  
 Attn: Shirley Poulter  
 P.O. Box 3231  
 Modesto CA 95353

Fax completed questionnaire to:

Capax - Giddings, Corby, Hynes  
 Attn: Shirley Poulter (209) 550-3742

Company Use Only		
Approved	Yes	No
By:		
Date:		
Premium:		
Policy No.	PAC124233803	



# LAVIC SIDING

## Lavic Moss and Jasper

Lavic Moss and Jasper is of high quality - and in great abundance after a rain.

Approximately 40 miles east of Barstow, take Hector Rd. off ramp at stop sign. Turn right, go 200 feet to another stop sign, then turn left. Go until you cross railroad tracks, continue on to a tee in road (Lavic Road), turn right about 1/4 mile, then turn left. Go to bottom of hill park or camp there.

This is a dry camp. Take your needs with you. If traveling from Needles, turn off at Ludlow get on the old highway and stay until you make a left turn over the overpass then continue to hunting grounds. This is desert country and very hot in summer. Best in spring or fall or even winter.

Not all the jasper is moss - you have to look for the moss, but it is plentiful. Cabs out beautifully. In addition, there is evidence of Indian camping because there are broken arrowheads, chipped scraping stones, and other evidences. There are other kinds of material in the area including chalcedony roses.

