

NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol, 18 No. 6

June 1999

Prez's Message *by Don Ogden*

The June Meeting is the last before the summer break. No meetings in July or August. Our next meeting will be September 14. At the June Meeting we need to select a **show chairman** and **date for next year**. We also need to select a time and place for our **summer picnic**, and resolve the expenditure issue.

Loretta and I will be going to the CFMS Federation show in Turlock. We will be manning the CFMS web site table at the show. We also, will have the pleasure of visiting our 3 grandchildren than live in the area. Hope to see you there.

May Meeting

Date: June 8
Time: 7:30 PM.
Place: La Habra Community Center
101 W. La Habra Blvd
Program: Fire Agate (David Burton)

Program (Fire Agate) *by Jane Livezy*

Don't miss the June 8 meeting! Our speaker, will be David Burton, owner of Lapidary International. He will speak on several aspects of our hobby, principally gem limonite (fire agate) and fossils in this area.

David is a foremost authority in many areas of mineralogy and has done trade show and gem show circuits for the past 5 years. He has been cutting stones since the age of 10 and is an enthusiastic advocate for all gem and mineral societies. This well-known opal expert has been president of the American Opal Society.

As this will be our last meeting before the summer break, we hope you will make a sincere effort to attend.

NOC Club Activities

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

Board Meeting — June 8, 6:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting — June 8, 7:30 p.m.

Field Trip —

June 12-13 - Possible 1-day field trip to
Cerro Gordo Mine Dump.

June 18-20 - CFMS Show & Convention at
County Fairgrounds in Turlock, CA

Deadline for NOC News — Aug 21

Refreshments *by Oscar Veloz*

Linda Parker and Mary Maneth are on the refreshment list to bring goodies for our 8 June meeting.

Thanks to Isabella Burns and Vicki Marks for the delicious refreshments we had at our May meeting.

Members in the News

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

Jerry Connley - June 7

Janet Harvey - June 28

Harry Howe - June 12

Roger Loest - Jun 11

Ken Marks - Jun 8

Joe Reed - June 5

Your gemstone is Pearl or Moonstone or
Alexandrite or Agate.

Your flower is Rose or Honeysuckle.

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

Shows and Events
via CFMS Web Page

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 SAN DIEGO, CA

San Diego Lapidary Society, Inc.

Al Bahr Temple

5440 Kearny Mesa Rd.

(behind the Hampton Inn)

Hours: 10-5 both days

JUNE 5-6 WEST HILLS, CA

Rockatomics Gem & Mineral

Boeign Recreation Center

8500 Fallbrook Ave.

Hours: 10-5 both days

Louis Gerik (818) 347-1234

JULY 10-11 CULVER CITY, CA

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club

Veterans Memorial Auditorium

Culver Blvd. & Overland Ave.

Hours: Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5

Bradford Smith (310) 472-6490

brad@bigdiff.com

SEPTEMBER 25-26 DOWNEY, CA

Delters Gem & Mineral Society

Woman's Club of Downey

9813 Paramount Blvd.

Hours: Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4

Manfred Dexling (562) 425-0192

LAVIC SIDING CAMP-OUT

by Jane Livezy

The directions were perfect! Over the hill we went, and there was a perfect flat camping area littered with bright jasper-gold, red, brown and even some greenish--yellow pieces. Soon after we arrived, mid-afternoon on Friday, the Warthens showed up. Ask them why they were later than they had hoped to be? Quite a story! Anyway it wasn't much later when the Ogdens came over the hill with their trailer, and Irene and Oscar Veloz arrived. The Veloz's chose to "camp out" in a Barstow motel! All of us sat around noshing on goodies and admiring the incredible moon until well after 9 PM.

In the AM while the rockhounds stood around deciding where and when they would go out, two more cars arrived. Glen and Ann Radke joined us followed shortly by Dana Matula and Janet Deyden. The Radkes and Janet are from the Orange Coast Club. Loretta, Irene and I stayed in camp while everyone took off for a few hours in the brilliant sun. Fortunately it wasn't quite as hot as had been predicted, so they returned happily for a late lunch. Yes, there is a great deal of jasper in that area, so we will be very prepared for the spinning-wheel and the rock bags.

Our usual happy hour and potluck was quite successful, but the best came last! Loretta and Don celebrated their four-year anniversary with fresh strawberry shortcake and champagne for all. What a treat!

By noon on Sunday, everyone had enough and decided to beat the traffic back to town. As a gust of wind had caused some damage to the mechanism of our awning, we traveled very slowly in the right-hand lane all the way home.

The very same gust of wind caused problems with the Ogden's awning, too! Guess we have to accept this kind of adventure along with the pleasant kind! Hope we'll have some more good trips in the fall!

An Inspiring Show

by Loretta Ogden

In a time of crisis for many clubs it surely looks like the Yuciapa club has found a way to involve the next generation as the engine to carry them into the future.

We recently had the pleasure of attending their show. We were impressed with the amount of people there were working and the ages seemed to be a good mixture of the older and younger generation (we all know how hard it is to attract the latter). After observing the goings on for a while we asked to meet the President and enjoyed a long informative talk with her. I ask her what she attributed the success of their outstanding membership to and she said one of the most important reasons is because they have programs that relate to what they are searching for on the upcoming fieldtrip after which they have a class on using what they found. She stated that the younger families are all looking at the educational angle and the fun of the field trips as family affairs. This of course did not happen as easily as it sounds. Over time things tend to change and people tend not to. So in order to appeal to new blood (survival) many of the old ways had to be discarded and the new order was tried. With some ruffled feathers and a few hard feelings they stayed in the old game with a new board and mixed up the old and new gamepieces.

I understand many of those ruffled feathers are now sheltering and sharing their vast knowledge with the new generation of rockhounds. The feeling of family and mutual respect is apparent to all observers at this club function. This seems to have been a successful formula for this club and hopefully set some other clubs to thinking in this direction.

I am not trying to say that all the old ways are wrong but everything needs some revamping now and then. So lets be open to suggestion and do our best to interest people in the hobby, as it is today where we are seeing a different and definitely busy lifestyle. This may mean a need for more one-day field trips and some time given to teaching the lapidary arts in a workshop atmosphere. This may be one way of insuring our future as rockhounds.

General Meeting - May 11, 1999

by Loretta Ogden

Meeting – The meeting was called to order by President Don Ogden at 7:35 p.m.

Flag Salute – Oscar Veloz led the flag salute.

Birthdays – Isabella and Bill Burns were presented birthday cards.

Program – The program was a hands on lesson in spool crocheted chain by Verle Stadel.

Refreshments – Isabella Burns and Vicki Marks provided the refreshments.

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

Treasurer's Report – Bill Burns gave the report.

Hospitality Report – Irene gave the report There were 31 members and 1 guest (John Monaco) present at the meeting.

Drawings – Mike Maneth won the main prize, rose quartz giant teardrop.

Education Report - Ginny Grafton brought specimens she uses in teaching earth science.

Federation Report – Izzie Burns report was in the May newsletter.

Field Trip Report – The next trip is to Lavic Siding. We will have a field trip release form for each person to read and sign.

Refreshment Assignment – Linda Parker and Mary Maneth will bring refreshments to the June 8 meeting.

Old Business:

Committees were selected to investigate and advise the board and membership before the money is spent. Item 1 committee - Don Warthen (chair), Bill Burns, and Don Livezey. Item 2 committee - Jeff Parker (chair), Bill Burns, and Al Stadel.

New Business:

Board meeting at 6:30 p.m. prior to general meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:37 p.m.

Board Meeting - June 8, 1999

Meeting – There will be a board meeting prior to the general meeting on June 8 at 6:30 p.m.

HINTS

via Strata Data 4/99

To get a high polish on onyx and other stones that are difficult to polish, mix in a wide mouth jar three tablespoons of water with a half-tablespoon of oxalic acid. Dab your cab in this then polish.

From Gem Time via Quarry Quips 3/99

A good gadget to clean and polish silver can be purchased at the office supply store. Ask for a fiberglass eraser. It is sort of a brush and gets down into the smallest cracks and does a beautiful cleaning job. This is especially fine for intricate silver jewelry that you have hand cast.

From Gulfport Gems via Quarry Quips 3/99

Recycling Trim Saw Oil *By Dick Rathjen*

To recycle dirty oil from your trim saw, pour the used oil in a disposable container such as a coffee can, add hot water and stir. The hot water warms the oil and lowers its viscosity so that the trash can settle out more easily. The water, being denser than the oil on top. Put the whole works in the freezer. The water will freeze. Pour off the clean oil and throw away the dirt and water.

From Backbender's Gazette 6/96 via Shop Notes and News of the San Diego Lapidary Society 2/99

Putting the Eye in Tigereye *By Carny Hound*

First the slab must be cut parallel to the fiber. A difference of 2 or 3 degrees will make a difference in a proper or improper cut. Look across the slab at a 60-degree angle. You should see half of the slice toward you, either dark or light, and see that the other half is the opposite in color. Mark the dividing line between dark and light areas, lightly with a pencil. Rotate the slice, end for end, and hold it in the same place. If the light side was near you before, it should still be near you after you rotate the slice. Mark the dividing line again and hope your lines are in the same place. Now turn

the slice so the top side becomes the bottom, and you see the reverse of the lighting effect. If the light side was near you before, the dark side should be near you now. When you see the dark side toward you, you are looking at what should be the top of the finished stone. Cut the stone with a high dome and you will have a floating eye.

From The Lithnics 1/99 via GI FS Newsletter 3/99

Federation Report

by Izzie Burns, Director

It's getting closer to the "count down" for the Federation show. The saying is Lets all Flock to Turlock June 18, 19, & 20 and see what they have to present. I have maps and information, just ask me.

As I read the June CFMS Newsletter an article that caught my eye was Practice Safety, Richard Pankey requested that as our safety chairman that he be advised of club accidents so that he can adequately address rules or other standards that we some times forget that lead to accidents. He, also, had concerns about question 6 on the Insurance survey, "What precautions will be taken and Mat safety guidelines will be followed to avoids accidents or injury at the field trip?" He refers to the AFMS code of ethics and the CFMS and AFMS Safety Manual for the answer to this complicated question.

Do we in NOC anticipate potential hazards and give warning to others. Do we follow safety rules in the shop and on field trips. Lets try to remember to follow safety-.

Earth Science Studies Classes will be offered at Camp Paradise on September 12 to 19 in Petrified Wood Identification, Faceting, Casting of Gold and Silver, Bead Stringing, Soft and Hard Rock Carving, and Wire wrapping. There will be field trips for rocks and minerals and for gold panning. Lectures will be presented on various phases of rocks, fossils, minerals and geology. You can attend this weeks camp for \$190.00 which includes all classes, food and room. RV's are welcome.

LAPIDARY SAFETY

via AFMS Safety Manual - Chapter 12

In Lapidary one may be subject to many conditions, some of which are potentially harmful. Some of the agents used are caustic or poisonous. The following safety rules, if followed, will lessen the risk of possible harm or injury.

1- Protect your eyes when chipping or grinding rocks. WEAR PROTECTIVE GLASSES.

2- Run your grinding wheels no faster than the speed recommended by the manufacturer.

3- Do not let your wheel become water logged. Keep it running until all water has been thrown out; otherwise, it will cause a heavy spot and make your wheel out of balance.

4- Keep your wheel true. It will wear longer and there will be less chance of its parting while in use.

5- Keep all belt pulleys and belts covered. It may save a finger.

6- Use dop sticks whenever possible. It may save a badly cut finger.

7— A word of warning to those individuals who use dry sanding of their cabochons. Silicosis is a serious disease, which is caused by the inhalation of fine silica dust. Use a dust mask or suction blower, or change to wet sanding. Silicosis cannot be cured!

8- Be careful with your alcohol lamp. It can cause a fire.

9- Keep all containers properly labeled. Putting polishing powders in baking powder cans, for instance, without a proper label, can be dangerous. (Had the Linde A Powder my hired lady used, been Tin Oxide, it could have been serious. As it was, she couldn't figure out why the cake didn't raise!)

10- The use of Oxalic Acid, when properly used, greatly facilitates the polishing of agates. Oxalic Acid is caustic to the skin, as well as a frank poison, if accidentally ingested or inhaled. Also, getting some in the eyes from the spray from the polishing wheels, may cause a burn of the cornea, resulting in impaired eyesight. When using this acid, proper precautions must be taken.

A- It is advisable to apply the polish to the wheel, with a brush.

B- Wear protective glasses.

C- It may be advisable, under certain circumstances, to wear protective gloves.

D- Immediately wash any contact areas of the skin, with soap and water. Medical attention may be advisable.

11- Sulfuric Acid and Nitric Acid are sometimes mixed with polishing compounds when faceting sapphire. They are also used in the polishing of sapphire cabochon on lead laps. These acids are severe caustics and will cause severe burns if they come in contact with the skin or eyes. In using the techniques above, one must use the utmost precautions. Any contaminated areas must immediately be washed with soap and water. If any gets in the eyes, thoroughly irrigate with water, and seek medical attention. The application of a baking-soda pack is often advisable, or the sponging with a solution of baking soda in water, to the burned area.

12- The polishing compounds we use today are, as a rule, relatively nontoxic, except to some individual. The use of detergents added to the polishing powders could cause dermatitis of the hands. This can be eliminated if the offending substance is eliminated.

13- The use of Epoxy Resins is very irritating to the skin, and severe cases of dermatitis have resulted. This can easily be prevented by not getting

the hands in actual contact with the resins. Acetone will remove this, if you should get some resin on the skin.

14- The various cutting oils used in the diamond saws, are primary irritants to the skin, and will, in many individuals, produce dermatitis. Also, the fire hazard, in the use of certain cutting oils, must be realized and proper precautions taken.

15- **WARNING TO SILVER-SOLDERING ENTHUSIASTS:** Silver brazing alloy, frequently called "silver solder," is an extremely valuable industrial material used for joining metals and alloys such as silver, copper, brass, bronze, stainless steel, carbon steel and dissimilar metal combinations where it is necessary to perform the joining of these metals at low temperatures. Fumes generated during brazing can be a serious hazard. Brazing fluxes generate fluoride fumes when heated. Cadmium in silver brazing alloys vaporizes when overheated and produces cadmium oxide, a highly toxic substance. If cadmium oxide fumes are inhaled into the respiratory tract, they can cause pulmonary distress, shortness of breath, and in cases of severe exposure, may cause death.

Silver brazing filler metals containing cadmium are: BAg-1, GAg-1a and BAg-2 and BAg-3. Since the boiling point of Cadmium is 1412 degrees F, brazing can be carried on safely using BAg-1 and BAg-1a classes of filler metal at temperatures below 1400 degrees F. BAg-2 and BAg-3 have recommended brazing temperatures of 1295 - 1550 degrees F., and 1270 to 1500 degrees F respectively. Brazing can be carried out — safely, using temperatures below 1400 degrees F. Since temperatures in the upper portion of these ranges can be reached, it is important to provide adequate local exhaust ventilation or, where this is not possible, individual air-supplied respirators. (This article taken from, "Working with Silver Solder", Public Health Service Publication No. 1518, U.S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare.

16- Do not overload electrical outlets. If in doubt, have the circuits checked by an electrician.

17- Keep switches and motors in a dry place, where the water from the grinding will not splash on them.

18- Be sure to have all motors and outlets grounded. In case of faulty wiring or short circuit, the ground will absorb the shock — you! Standing on a rubber mat will give some protection. Electric shocks can cause death!

19- Suspicious wires lying on the floor or ground, should be avoided at home, or on field trips. They may be harmless, but if they are not, beware!

20- When a person suffers electric shock, it is important to use a stick or other such object to separate him from the source before beginning resuscitation.

21 - **AN ELECTRICIAN'S FEE IS A SMALL PRICE FOR ONE'S OWN SAFETY!**

Preliminary NOC CALENDAR 1999

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

FIELD TRIPS

By Chuck McKie, Field Trip Chairman-North
via CFMS Newsletter 5/99

A field trip is a satisfying thing to do. But if you don't get to your destination, all your good intentions are lost and there is no satisfaction. A field trip leader should LEAD you on your trip. Therefore, I think it behooves me to say a few things about getting to your destination.

Of course, before you depart on a trip, you should make certain that your vehicle is serviced and ready to go. Very few people start out with an empty gas tank. But how many of you take time to check your air supply? The air supply in your tires! Under-inflated tires not only wear off the shoulders much faster but too soft a tire might cause you to lose control of your vehicle, resulting in an accident. But over-inflated tires are just about as bad. The center of the bulging tires wear out very fast because of the small area of contact with the road.

How about your water supply? An empty radiator or low water level can cause your engine to overheat, perhaps warping the engine head. VERY BAD! If you are driving an RV, you also need to fill your water supply tank, or maybe go thirsty.

And your oil needs to be checked. An engine may let you down short of your destination if you let it down on giving it a sufficient supply of lubricant.

Now to get to your field trip site. If you resist the temptation to exceed the speed limit, you will not have the stress on your nervous system nor the worry of receiving a traffic ticket. And if you are traveling in a convoy (even two vehicles is a convoy), the law is to leave a distance between your vehicles that other drivers may pass and pull in between your RV's and safely work their way past you.

When you approach an intersection where you will change highways, watch for the highway signs directing where you will turn and get into the ap-

propriate lane as soon as you safely can. Don't wait until the last minute to change lanes. And don't try to "get ahead of one more vehicle"! At 60 miles an hour, a distance of 100 feet (one car and two empty spaces) will only save you less than two seconds. IS THAT WORTH RISKING YOUR LIFE OR MAYBE ONLY NOT ARRIVING AS EARLY AT YOUR DESTINATION BECAUSE SOMEONE DECIDES YOU ARE NOT GOING TO CUT HIM OFF and you have an "accident?" As far as I'm concerned, that "accident" was not an accident but a deliberate lack of good sense.

Just like if you are following some "jerk" traveling at only 40 or 50 mph about a mile from the turn. If you could magically jump ahead of him (clear to the exit) and you are going at the 55 limit, how much time have you saved? Less than a minute, but since you are not magical, the time saved would be almost nil. But suppose you did save 10 minutes on your trip by taking unnecessary chances, what would you do with all that time? Get out and stretch your legs? Light up a cigarette? - I hope not. Look around, call hello to a friend and the other guy just might drive in before you shut your door.

You might be a rockhound if rocks speak to you and say, "Take me home with you".

By Don Lichtenfelt, *ROCK WRITINGS* 8/97
via *THE GOLDEN FROG* 4/99

Did You Know

via *Drywasher's Gazette*/1/99
via *Nodule Knockers News* 5/99

When the Owens Lake bed located near Death Valley National Park was full, the water contained so much borax and soda that neither fish nor mammal could survive there.

Miners and teamsters the area washed their clothes by dousing them quickly in the lake and leaving them to dry. The strange chemical content of the lake made it one of the most inexpensive and thoroughly efficient laundries the world has known.

CFMS EARTH SCIENCE STUDIES

SEPTEMBER 12 - 19, 1999

CAMP PARADISE



A CFMS Earth Science Seminar will be held at Camp Paradise, about 45 miles northeast of Marysville on Highway E-21. A map to the area will be provided. There will be lectures on flora and fauna of the area and other subjects of interest, field trips for sightseeing, and some collecting. Our primary goal is to provide a place to learn and have fellowship with other rockhounds.

The facilities are a rustic church camp with rooms with double beds and/or cots and with bathrooms and shower inside. Each person is required to furnish a mattress cover (sheet or blanket) to put over the mattress under your other sheets or sleeping bag. Each person is responsible for cleaning his/her own room before leaving.

To register for this fun-filled and interesting seven days, complete this form and mail with payment of \$190.00 per person by August 1, 1999, no cancellation after that date unless there is a replacement. This fee included instructions, workshops, field trips, rooms, and three meals a day. There may be small additional fees for materials used in the workshops.

Send form and payment made out to CFMS to:
Florence Meisenheimer
101 N. Wake Forest Ave.
Ventura, CA. 93003-2246
(805) 642-3155

Isabella & Bill Burns
Chair Persons

NO PETS - NO FIREARMS

KEEP PART ABOVE THIS LINE

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____
STREET CITY ZIP

I belong to _____ Society, a CFMS Member

Do you use a cane ___ or walker ___?

Are you a diabetic ___ vegetarian ___?

PLEASE CHECK THE ACTIVITIES THAT INTEREST YOU:

___ FIELD TRIPS

___ LECTURES

WORKSHOPS

___ Wire Wrap

___ Faceting

___ Casting

___ Stone carving

___ Cabbing

___ Petrified wood Identification

___ Bead Stringing

___ Other

FEES: Room assignments will be on a first payment basis. Fees include instructions, workshops, field trips, rooms, and three meals a day. There may be small additional fees for materials used in the workshops.

Name and phone number of person to contact in case of emergency _____

Dormitory

\$190.00 per person ___

Double occupancy

\$190.00 per person ___

RV parking

\$190.00 per person ___