

# NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol, 19 No. 8

October 2000

## President's Message

by Don Ogden

On Friday September 22, 2000 Betsy Messemer a good friend to many of us and a multi-talented member passes on. My favorite memory of her is serving the NOChos at our show. She will be missed by her many friends and family.

Members make your nomination of officers from the floor at the October meeting. The Nominating Committee considerations are on page 2. The election will be in November and installation at the Christmas/Installation dinner in December. Information about the Dinner is in the Library Report.

To have a show or not. The rent for the building in La Habra was increased.

## October Meeting

Date: October 10  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Place: La Habra Community Center  
101 W. La Habra Blvd  
Program: Natural History?

## Refreshments

by Oscar Veloz

Susan Hansen will bring the refreshments to the September meeting.

Thanks to Mike Maneth and Oscar Veloz for bringing the refreshments to the September meeting.

## NOC Club Activities

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

Board Meeting — October 24, 7:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting — October 10, 7:30 p.m.

Field Trip — TBD

Deadline for NOC News — Oct 24

### Board Meeting - October 24, 2000

**Meeting** – Due to Show in Moab, the Board Meeting for October 10, is postponed until 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday October 24 at Don/Loretta's Ogdens house in Diamond Bar. Loretta will have dinner for us.

## Program

by Loretta Ogden

Natural History? by Jane livezey.

## Members in the News

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

*Susan Hansen - October 11*  
*Ofelia Warthen - October 20*

Your birthstone is Opal or Tourmaline.  
Your flower is Calendula or Cosmos

## Shows and Events

---

via CFMS Web Page

### **October 7-8 Lancaster, CA**

Valley Gems  
9050 1/2 West Avenue J  
Hours: 9 - 5 both days  
Dean Westman (661) 256-3590 or 947-6460

### **October 12-15 Moab, UT**

Combined AFMS & RMF Show 2000  
**Izzie will be installed as AFMS President**  
Hosts: Points and Pebbles Club  
Headquarters: Moab Valley Inn  
Show Chairman: Dean Richardson;  
1223 North 1500 West; Moab UT 84532  
(801) 595-6750

### **October 14-15 Trona, CA**

Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society  
13337 Main St.  
Hours: Sat. 8-5 Sun 8-4  
Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356  
FAX: (760) 372-4977  
Web: [www1.iwvisp.com/tronagem.club](http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagem.club)

### **October 21-22 Whittier, CA**

Whittier Gem & Mineral Club  
Whittier Masonic Temple  
7604 Greenleaf Avenue  
Hours: Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5  
Jay Valle (626) 934-9764  
email: [jvalle@aqmd.gov](mailto:jvalle@aqmd.gov)

### **November 4-5 Anaheim, CA**

Americal Opal Society  
Quality Inn Hotel  
616 Convention Way  
Hours: Sat 10-7 Sun 10 - 5  
Stan McCall (714) 827-5680  
Website: [www.opalsociety.org](http://www.opalsociety.org)

### **November 4-5 Fontana, CA**

Kaiser Rock and Gem Club  
California Steel Industry  
9400 Cherry Ave.  
Hours: 9 - 5 both days  
Jean White (909) 822-7507

## Nominating Committee Meeting September 26, 2000

---

by Susan Hansen

President appointed Susan, Membership appointed Irene V., Ofelia W., Loretta O. The board appointed Don Warthen. Thanks to Don and Ofelia Warthen for hosting the meeting. Many members attended the funeral service for Betsy Messemer earlier in the day. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The nominating committee met and came up with the following slate for consideration:

President - Don Warthen  
1st VP - Irene Veloz  
2nd VP - Jane Livezey (to be contacted if OK)  
Treasurer - Don Livezey  
Secretary - Susan Hansen  
Federation Director - Loretta Ogden  
Director - G. Grafton  
Director - Don Ogden  
Director Ofelia Warthen  
Directors - Bill and Isabella Burns

## Big Auction Here in Nov.

---

by Loretta Ogden

We are planning a big auction with a real live auctioneer for the November meeting. We are in need of some great material for this event so start looking and planning now. It is the perfect time to make some space. After all Santa doesn't want to see the things he brought you last year still in the box under where the tree was (Oscar).

I will be shopping and hunting for a few special items in Moab Utah while we are there. In case I don't find them there I still have a chance to find the perfect thing in Colorado or New Mexico. Time will fly because we are on vacation but remember I will be thinking of you and your needs and desires.

Lets all get behind this event and make sure it is fun and lucrative for all.

# Board Meeting

## September 26, 2000

---

by Susan Hansen

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Don Ogden.

**Minutes** were handed out and approved as written. (comment "make the print larger so easier to see").

Don Ogden had the **treasurer's report** from Don Livezey, with reports on the Geology trip, the Petrified Wood Seminar in the mountains, and the bus trip to San Diego Museum. We broke even on the expenses and income for them.

Loretta made the motion to make up a map hanger/stand for Walt Wright, up to a cost of \$150.00. The motion was seconded by Izzie and passed unanimously.

**Hospitality & Membership** – Hansen-Graftons to bring refreshments in October.

**Program** for the October meeting will be Jane Livezey on Natural History. For November, there will be an auction with Don Warthen as auctioneer. Bring donations to auction, no raffle that month. We have some budget for the raffles, can buy something neat for the auction. If we get some good stuff, we could invite members from other clubs in the area to participate.

**Education** - Ginny reported on a bead stringing class held at Ofelias'. Also the Youth Science workshop date has been changed to the second weekend in January, a week later than usual- Jan 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Federation** – Izzie reported on the field trip to area including Last Chance Canyon in November, the area in the M.O.U. we have with BLM. They will go out on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, the weekend is 11-18 - 19. We will camp and travel to the different areas. Walt Wright will lead to the petrified wood areas. We have to decide where to put the kiosk. There is a motel in Mojave, if you don't want to camp. Izzie will try and make a map before she leaves for Utah. We should have maps and info at the Nov. meeting, Burns' have a sample of wood from L.C.C.

Izzie gave information on insurance coverage for

different activities, doesn't cover property, storage area, workshop areas. Need to send in form for additional insurance for some activities, like something at another site. They are working on a form to be filled out by people on field trips, releases, that should be signed before we go, and send them in. We need it for the show, they want a record of what is scheduled. CFMS and AFMS are each working on a safety manual.

Election of officers for CFMS in November, President elect nominee is Bob Stoltz, for Treasurer is Muriel Berg.

**Field Trip** – Don W. gave report, the only trips planned in Oct are same weekend. Moab, Utah for the AFMS show/Installation, Trona show and field trip both Oct. 14-15. Izzie will be in Utah the Sunday before that for meetings. If want to sign up for a field trip she can get your reservation in. HQ will be at the Valley Moab Motel.

**Show** -When Don O went to La Habra the regular weekend was booked. The week before would overlap Stoddard Wells. So, Don O signed up for the next week, 3/30-4/1, which overlaps Zzyzx. Don L paid the \$100 deposit, they wrote out a preliminary contract. Don O received the contract that raised the rent above our budget. After discussion, it was decided Don and Oscar will go in and try and negotiate. Possible alternatives and alternate sites were discussed. It was suggested we could have a one day show where members do demonstrations and sell items. Any ideas are welcome.

**All American Club** - The AFMS will decide at the their meetings at Moab what the new rules will be, and if it will continue. We would still like to keep a record on what members have done for the year.

**New Business** - Ginny made a motion that the club buy 3 tapes on wire wrapping at \$85.00. Izzie seconded and the motion passed. Information was given on Class at the Brookhurst Community Center that meets Tuesdays at Noon, different groups do different things and can sit in on whatever you want to do. They do bead stringing, wire wrap, etc. There is a new Wire Wrap magazine – Ginny ordered it so can see what it is like. The Board Meeting for October will be at Ogdens on 10/24. Loretta will have dinner for us.

Meeting Adjourned – 8:30 p.m.

# General Meeting

## September 12, 2000

by Susan Hansen

**Meeting** – The meeting was called to order by President Don Ogden at 7:46 p.m.

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

**Guests** – Bob Cordero.

**Program** – Loretta Ogden introduced the program, an Instructional Video Tape on the Wire Wizard Jig and tools, equipment and process of wire bending to make jewelry. Loretta also had samples of wire and some of the different patterns that can be done.

**Refreshments** – Refreshments were provided by Mike Maneth (and Mary) – chocolate cake, and Irene and Oscar Veloz – lemon cake – both excellent, (thank you).

**Drawings** – Loretta did the drawings in Ginny's absence (at Camp Paradise), prizes included "dinosaur" éclairs - won by Mike Maneth and Ofelia Warthen.

**Displays** – Chalmer Steed brought some geodes he collected at the geode beds and some other specimens, a nice assortment of material, some he thought "ordinary", some were very nice with combinations of drusy quartz and chalcedony. Susan Hansen brought a variety of pieces – quartz in combination and with inclusions, rhodochrosite crystals, and a variety of different colored thumbnail specimens.

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

**Treasurer's Report** – Don Livezey gave the treasurer's report. He had printed reports for June, July and August, and a printed 1999-2000 show budget/expenses/income comparison.

## General Meeting (Continued)

**Hospitality Report** – Irene Veloz reported that there were 13 members and one guest - Bob Cordero. There was a card for Betsy Messemer who is just out of the hospital, and a card for Al Hermosillo, who just had surgery. Walt got Betsy a microscope that connects to TV video input so she can see things better.

**Education Report** – Nothing to report.

**Federation Report** – Federation Report-The AFMS show is in October in Moab, Utah. CFMS Camp Paradise is going on now.

**Field Trip Report** – Field trips – Don Warthen reported on the "dino" trip -the bus trip to San Diego Museum on Natural History to see the Dinosaur exhibit on August 26<sup>th</sup> was attended by NOC members, members from the La Puente club, 1 from Delver's. Don also went to the Optimist Club, "Friends of Youth" in Whittier, and they and the Pico Rivera Club donated money to send 11 children from the Salvation Army Shelter and a chaperone. NOC bought them lunch at the Museum. Some members also brought grandchildren for a total of 17 children. The exhibit was outstanding. The hall of minerals was nice, too.

August 20<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) was the summer picnic at Ralph Clark Park. Don and Loretta Ogden got there early to get us a good (shady) place. The weather cooperated and was very nice. Those who attended also had the opportunity to visit the on-site center to see the geologic and fossil displays. The park ranger gave us a presentation explaining the displays.

Next: September is the Delver's show Sept 23-24, in Downey. In October there are 2 trips, both the same weekend. Trona is Oct. 14 & 15, AFMS show at Moab, Utah, is Oct 12-15. Izzie will be installed as President of AFMS. Nov 17-18-19 To Last Chance Canyon, led by Walt Wright for petrified wood.

We are in process of sponsoring part of this area. We don't know if Holtville will have their show over Thanksgiving this year, we'll try and find out.

## General Meeting (Continued)

**Library Report** – Library – Jane Livezey reported that the “old” things are listed in a book – archived. If anyone wants something on the list, let her know and she’ll bring it in. Loretta brought in some new things, Ginny sent some information on Volcanoes.

Jane also reported on the Christmas Party – it will be at the 4 points Sheraton, same as last year. We have to send in \$100 to reserve it. We are asking for the regular Tuesday meeting date. It will be \$22/person. If the club pays ½ it would be \$11/person. We get choice of 3 entrees again.

There was some discussions as to whether we want to participate in the I Love La Habra days again. Last year it rained. It will be Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, 2001, the weekend after Quartzsite. It is a good place to give out flyers and advertise the show (if the weather is good).

**Show 2001** – We couldn’t get the clubhouse for the dates we wanted, so show will be March 30-April 1, a week later. Oscar agreed to chair the kitchen again. Loretta will do the award donations.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** – We need a Nominating committee for new officers. The board appoints 1 (one), will do so at the 9/26 meeting. The president appointed 1 (one) – **Susan Hansen**, and the membership appointed 3 (three), **Irene Veloz, Ofelia Warthen, and Loretta Ogden**. The Board meeting will be 9/26 at Don and Loretta Ogdens. Hopefully we can have the nominating meeting the same night.

**Meeting Adjourned** – 9:25 p.m.

---

## Flourescent Rocks

*via Breccia, 3/99*

**Flourescent Rocks** have to be viewed in the dark. To make labels, mix quinine and water to use for ink. It glows a bright bluish white under the black light.

---

## Senate Bill 639 - Raffles

*By Mike Kokinos, Tax Advisor*

The bill was amended and now includes organizations exempt from tax under California Revenue and Taxation Code Section 23701f (social welfare). It also includes social clubs exempt under section 23701g.

The bill still requires that 90% of gross receipts be set aside for charitable purposes. My analysis of the bill in its present form would allow the 90% to be spent on regular activities as they all further education in the earth sciences and lapidary arts.

The bill does require an accounting of gross receipts and expenses. It also requires annual registration with the Department of Justice. The bill authorizes an annual registration fee at the discretion of the Department.

Once the governor signs the bill, efforts will be made to have any registration fee to be based on gross receipts. It does not seem reasonable to charge a group grossing \$1,000 from a raffle to pay the same fee as one grossing \$10,000.

There are some restrictions that I will address when the bill is signed. One of the restrictions prohibits the sale of raffle tickets over the Internet.

---

## Using Soapstone Meal

*From Creating with Soapstone by Kurt Haberstick, Via Petrified Digest 2/0*

**Using Soapstone Meal** --A great quantity of soapstone dust, or meal, can be produced during the process of carving. This waste is an excellent natural garden fertilizer. Simply sprinkle the meal around the plants and work it into the soil, It also helps keep snails and slugs away - they cannot glide over the dust since it sticks to their undersides.

**Use Floral Tape Adhesive** to mount mineral specimens, cabs, and other opaque material for display. [*The Nugget 6/99, Via The Rock Bag 10/99*]

# How to Shape and Polish Opals without Machinery

*From Petrograph and others via CHIPS Jan. 2000*

Opal is a hydrated silica with varying amounts of moisture. Its hardness varies from 5.5 to 6.5. This method of cutting and polishing opal practically eliminates fracturing from heat. There are four basic steps in shaping and polishing:

1. Sanding off the matrix on both sides to locate the best fire.
2. Rough shaping the stone.
3. Sanding and prepolishing, which results in the final shaping and size.
4. Final polishing the gemstone.

## Supplies Needed:

1. A carborundum stone, double grit [sold by most hardwares].
2. Wet or Dry Sandpaper, 400 and 600 grit.
3. A piece of inner tube, 6" square.
4. Two pieces of corduroy or velvet material, 6" square.
5. Polishing agent, Tripoli or Tin Oxide.
6. Aluminum pie pan.
7. Dop stick and household glue or cement.

## Instructions:

Place carborundum stone on the inner tube in the pan, coarse side up. Pour water on the stone until some stands on top. Always work opal on a very wet stone. With a circular motion, grind off matrix on both sides to reveal the best fire. Mark size of desired stone on the back of the opal and grind down to size. When size has been obtained, wash opal, carborundum stone, inner tube and pan. **Do this between each process.**

Now the opal is ready to be dopped. Use a cold dop of household cement. Coat the end of the dopstick. Also coat the back of the opal. Let it set a minute, then press together. Stand in modeling clay or other support to dry, about eight hours.

When the opal is set on the dopstick, use the coarse side of the carborundum stone to shape the opal. Wash all equipment. Then, this time, using the fine side of the stone, sand out all the scratches, wash

and proceed. Go through this process first using the 400, then the 600 sanding paper. The opal should have a prepolish on it.

For the final polish, use the same process with the tin oxide. A little Linde A may be added to the tin oxide if you wish. To remove the stone when finished, soak overnight in water and the stone will come loose. Good luck and may you have a beautiful stone.

Malachite, Turquoise, Chrysocola, as well as many other stones under 6.5 hardness may be polished with this method.

## Is It Hard or Tough?

*SMS Matrix, -- Via The Golden Frog, 1/00, -- VIA CHIPS 1/00*

The term "hardness" and "toughness" are sometimes confused when comparing the qualities of gemstones, and there is a great deal of difference. Diamond is by far the hardest of gemstones, for it will scratch, cut or polish any other stone. But, for toughness, [resistance to chipping and breaking], jade has it beat by a country mile. A diamond will scratch and easily cut a jade, but a jade hammer can in turn crush a diamond to powder. If it breaks, better check, as it probably is not jade. The Chinese used jade for anvils, just as we use steel, and sometimes they used the same anvil for generations. Jade for axes and hammer like tools, centuries ago, was a practical and useful, highly valued material.

## When You Get a Splinter!

*Original source ?, via The Agatizer 11/9*

When you get a splinter, try Scotch tape before tweezers or a needle. Put the scotch tape over the splinter, then pull it off. Scotch tape removes most splinters painlessly and easily. This also works with glass fiber and cactus needles.



---

## Jet

---

By Mae Williams \*\*' Member of GINKO MINERAL SOCIETY, Wenatchee. WA.

There is evidence that jet was mined many hundred years before the birth of Christ. That jet was known to the ancients, both in England and elsewhere, is proved by the fact that ornaments of jet have been found with Paleolithic remains in Switzerland, in Celtic barrows, and Roman coffins. Jet was thought to have protective powers and was used as a talisman like amber. The Greeks used powdered jet as a remedy for toothache and believed it to be a preventative of evil influences.

The Greeks and Romans knew jet under the name of "gagates". The derivation seems to come from the river Gagges where, Pliny wrote, the material was originally found. In early times, jet was collected in the same way that Baltic amber was obtained, that is, by picking up drift pieces from the sea shore. The chief supply no doubt originated from deposits at Whitby, Yorkshire, England.

In the 1870's there were 200 workshops employing hundreds of workers in the Whitby area where some of the finest material was mined. Although its use is of antiquity, its popularity gradually declined. The lack of good material and skilled labor did little to encourage the industry, only a few work the mines today.

Jet is really a kind of fossilized coal, or brown lignite, which has formed over thousands of years. It usually occurs in shale, often as compact masses. A bad conductor of heat, jet feels warm to the touch. Friction develops electricity, and heat will cause it to burn. Rough jet is covered by rind that is removed by chipping with a large chisel. The pieces are then ground or carved into the desired shape. Jet can be turned on a lathe when freshly mined. The qualities required in jet are a hardness of 3 to 4, a homogeneous material with a conchoidal fracture, a uniform black color, and there must be no foreign material present such as iron pyrite

Many articles were made of jet, - rings, bracelets, beads, rosaries, crucifixes, candlesticks and inkstands are a few. A demand for old jewelry of the Victorian

age has brought out of hiding fine pieces of jet where it has been hidden for years. Perhaps, it was unwanted and discarded, but today it is regaining its place in the jewelry trade, [Petrified Digest 11/96]

---

## Are You Sure It's Jade?

---

*Osage Hills Gems 10/98, - et al -- Via Chips 6/00*

1. If a chip is knocked off the end of the rock, the freshly broken surface should not sparkle in the sun. If it does, it isn't jade.
2. If you can scratch it with a knife point, it isn't jade.
3. It should be much heavier than a common rock of similar size.
4. Tap specimen lightly with a hammer. If a moon-shaped fracture appears, it is agate or jasper, but not Jade.
5. If it is jade, it will have a smooth, waxy, almost greasy look.
6. The only positive test for jade is x-ray analysis and specific gravity tests. [From Amador Nugget, et al, via Carny Hound, 5/00]

----- To cut jade, first grind and polish the jade chunk on 6 sides as if it were a cube. One of the faces will polish better than the others. Cut slabs parallel to the best face.

---

## Large Diamond Saw

---

*Pick & Shovel, El Monte Gem Scoop 12/83, Via Burro Express 1988*

LARGE DIAMOND SAW -- What may be the world's largest diamond saw is a circular saw used in the granite quarries in Scotland. The saw is about 11 and a half feet in diameter and one inch thick. The diamond charge costs thousands of dollars. The diamonds are set in 300 rectangular pockets on the circumference of the saw. Many of the diamonds average about one carat each. The saw is operated at 10,000 feet per minute around the periphery. The diamond saw leaves a smoother surface than the old wire rope and abrasive method and requires less labor for lapping.