

# NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol, 20 No. 5

May 2001

## President's Message

by Don Warthen

The time has come to plain for the summer months. Bill and Izzie are working some great field trips, a couple of one-day trips maybe to Michel Caverns or to GIS.

We would to start some one-day workshops and a one-day mine show, also Irene has some great programs lined up for us. This month Patrick McCarthy on Intarsia and next month will be a representative from the new park in La Habra.

Don't forget we will be having a pick nick in September the time a location will be announced in the June newsletter.

## Programs

by Irene Veloz

Our speaker for May is Patrick McCarthy. Patrick is a professional Astronomer working Carnegie Institution (Mt. Wilson) in Pasadena with frequent trips to Chilean Andes.

## Refreshments

by Oscar Veloz

Irene and Oscar Veloz are on the refreshment list to bring goodies for our May 8 meeting.

Thanks to Al and Verle Stadel for bringing the refreshments to the April meeting.

## NOC Club Activities

Cab Classes at Walt Messemer's — 7-10 p.m.  
every Tuesday Evening (except Wednesday on  
Regular Meeting night).

Board Meeting — To be announced

Regular Meeting — May 8, 7:30 p.m.

Field Trip — To be announced.

Deadline for NOC News — May 17.

## May Meeting

Date: May 8

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: La Habra Community Center  
101 W. La Habra Blvd

Program: Our speaker this month will be Patrick McCarthy. He has developed a fascinating style of Intarsia using a combination of varies rocks and exotic woods. He will be demonstrating some of the equipment that he has designed.

## Members in the News

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

*Lucille Howe - May 7*

*Isabella Burns - May 23*

*Mary Maneth - May 25*

*Bill Burns - May 28*

Your gemstone is Emerld

Your flower is Lily of the Valley or Hawthorn

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## Shows and Events

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*via CFMS Web Page*

**May 5-6** Anaheim, CA  
Searchers Gem & Mineral Society Inc.  
Brookhurst Community Center  
2271 W. Crescent Ave.  
Hours: Sat. 10-7 Sun. 10-4  
Connie Van Kampen (714) 993-2827

**May 19-20** Newbury Park, CA  
Conejo Gem & Mineral Club  
Borchard Park Community Center  
190 Reino Rd.  
Hours: Sat. 9-5 Sun. 10-5  
Don Bullard (805) 498-9399

**May 19-20** Yucaipa, CA  
Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
Schere Community Center  
First and Avenue B  
Hours: Sat. 10-6 Sun. 10-5  
Richard Crockett (909) 790-3958

**June 2-3** Glendora, CA  
Glendora Gems  
Goddard Middle School  
859 E. Sierra Madre  
Hours: Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4  
Mark Thompson (626) 335-3814

**June 11-17** Arlington, TX  
AFMS/SCFMS Convention & Show  
Hosted by Arlington G&M Club  
Arlington Convention Center  
Bill Wilson (817) 483-1555

**June 22-24** Paso Robles, CA  
CFMS Convention & Show  
Hosted by The Santa Lucia Rockhounds  
California Mid-State Fairgrounds  
Bea or Sherm Griselle (805) 238-4366 /  
thegriselles@tcsn.net

**July 7-8** Culver City, CA  
Culver City Rock & Mineral Club  
Culver City Veterans Memorial Complex  
4117 Overland Ave.  
Hours: Sat. 10-6 Sun. 10-5  
Gary Strickland (310) 676-4523  
/ g.strickland@prodigy.net  
Brad Smith (310) 472-6490 / brad@greenheart.com

**September 22-23** Downey, CA  
Delvers Gem & Mineral Society  
Woman's Club of Downey  
9813 Paramount Blvd.  
Hours: Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4

**October 3-7** Joshua Tree, CA  
Sportsmans Club  
Sportsmans Hall  
6225 Sunburst Avenue  
Hours: Sat. 8-5 Sun. 8-3  
Gary Pallmer (650) 366-3430

**October 13-14** Trona, CA  
Sears Lake Gem & Mineral Society  
13337 Main Street  
Hours: Sat. 8-5 Sun. 8-4  
Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356

**November 3-4** Oxnard, CA  
Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society  
800 Hobson Way, Oxnard  
Hours: Sat. 9-5 Sun. 9-4  
"Gems for the Holidays" (Jingle Bell Rock)  
e-mail webmaster@ogms.net

**November 3-4** Fontana, CA  
Kaiser Rock and Gem Club  
California Steel Ind. 9400 Cherry Ave.  
I-10 to Cherry Exit - then North about one mile on L  
Hours: 9-5 both days  
Jo Ann Watson (909) 355-7455

**December 1-2** San Bernardino, CA  
Orange Belt Mineralogical Society  
Corner of E. Street and 31st Street  
Hours: Sat. 10-6 Sun. 10-5  
Tony Gilham (909) 820-2122

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## General Meeting April 10, 2001

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by Susan Hansen

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by President Don Warthen.

Angie Harwood led the flag salute.

Jane Livezey introduced the 2 guests, Lynn Kruger, and Bob Cordero.

Irene Veloz introduced the speaker, James Klein, who presented a very interesting program on Gold Prospecting, history, equipment, and where to find gold in California.

After refreshments were served, Ofelia held the donation award drawings. Joe Reed won the grand prize, a book donated by our speaker, which he donated to the club library. (Thank you Joe).

Mike Maneth won the white elephant-a feather duster in a tuxedo cover.

The minutes were printed in the bulletin, thanks to Verle Staddell. The minutes stand as printed.

Don Livezey gave the Treasurer's report, also a preliminary Show report.

Federation report – given by Loretta Odgen. The CFMS show will be June 22-24 in Paso Robles.

We should try and have a good turnout. We will put in a club case. The past president's pins that we ordered came in.

Education – Ginny not present.

Library – Jane Livezey reported on new books: Geology in Utah and Nevada, Jewelry Making, and Jewelry.

Field Trips – Bill and Izzy not present-working on election. Easter trip will be Thursday through Sunday, at Basin Road off 15. Sign up sheets at front table. There is also a motel in Baker if you don't want to camp. Warthens, Burns, some BLM people are coming.

We are planning another Petrified Wood seminar in the mountains. Have to wait 'til Walt Wright gets back from Australia to set dates.

Show report – We took down the tables before we left. Theoretically, if we give them the layout, they

will set up the tables for us, (and take down?). We only had 3 people show up to load the truck at the warehouse, then got to the clubhouse and had to sit and wait for someone to open, as the city wouldn't give out the key.

Dates for next year March 23,24. Costs not set yet. There were some suggestions for future shows, schedules for people to work, Joan A didn't get a break on Saturday, the Veloz' daughter came to help them in the kitchen.

Discussion of other possible sites, bring in suggestions. Loretta suggested a "show and tell" day at the Explorer park. The park is in Whittier, we would need to check with that club and be sure we aren't intruding, or if they want to join us.

Members thought Bill Burn's set up out front was good, to show field trip information and bring in the kids.

The board meeting is tentatively a week from Thursday, Don W. will let us know.

Social Secretary reported that Jerry Conley is doing well.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

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## Board Meeting April 24, 2001

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by Don Warthen

**Show report** - We need a Show Chairman for the 2002 show. Names suggested were Don and Jane Livezey and Chalmer Steed.

The next show is March 23 and 24, 2002. The cost at this time is; Rental of the building \$870.00, Police Service \$432.00 and Cleaning Deposit \$500.00 for a total of \$1,802.00. This will have to be negated with the city. We will be looking into some mini shows maybe at Advancer Park (Gun Park).

**Field Trips** - Need some one-day trips, i.e., Trip to Carlsbad, and a trip to Michel Caverns, also some educational trips and we need to keep working on opening up the desert.

**Education** - Try to set-up some one-day workshops or seminars.

**What is a Phantom Crystal** - -A phantom crystal is actually a crystal within a crystal. The make-up of one phaeton must be the same as the one that encloses it. There may be more than one inside a single crystal. The usual explanation of phantoms is intermittent-growth growing for a while, and then stopping. For a period the crystal is exposed, and a very small amount of a foreign matter [dust, etc.] falls on the surface. The conditions then change, and the crystal starts to grow again with the possibility of this happening several times. The result is a crystal that appears to have one or more crystals enclosed within it.

Sometimes phantoms are oriented the same as the enclosing crystal; at other times they are not. In clear crystals, such as quartz, the enclosed crystal appears shadowy and faint, and therefore we have the name "phantom". The difference between a phantom and an inclusion is that the inclusion must be a different mineral species.

[from Grindings & et. al. [ Via Petrified Digest 10/2000]

**Ammonites** -- Ammonites were named after the Egyptian God Amon, who was often pictured as a man with a ram's head. Since this small sea animal looked like a coiled ram's horn, what better name could there be? Ammonites first appeared about 375 million years ago and were very common for about 200 million years. At that point they became extinct. These creatures moved about in the water in a way somewhat related to the way a modern jet plane moves about in the air. The ammonite squirted water through a tube in one direction, thus moving itself in the opposite direction. Equipped with octopus-like arms, they probably fed on the small sea animals that were an easy catch. Other features of the ammonite were its two large eyes and sharp beak. Although ammonites usually measured only a few inches across, some have been found that measure six feet across. Related to the squid and octopus, its closest living relative is the pearly nautilus. (Via Earth Science News- 2/01, Via The Gemrock 3/01]

**Tin Oxide, Acid, Give Rhodochrosite Polish** -- By Bob Daniel from Council Reporter, Jan. 2001

When cutting Rhodochrosite it is important that only water be used in the saw. An oil based product

will be absorbed and the stone's color deadened.

After the material is ground to form, sand first on 220 grit, wet, then on 400 grit, wet. For best results use worn sanding cloths.

Tin oxide is perhaps the best polishing agent for rhodochrosite. Some lapidaries report good results from tin oxide that has been mixed with a small amount of vinegar and used on a felt wheel.

Another method is to mix two teaspoons of tin oxide and one level teaspoon of oxalic acid in half a pint of water and use on a leather buff. In this formula, be sure that not more than a third by volume of acid to tin oxide is used or the stone will be damaged. This also works well on marble. [ViaThe Stonecutter 3/01]

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## Prayer Rock

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I'm your little prayer rock  
and this is what I'll do.  
Just put me on your pillow  
till the day is through.  
Then turn back the covers  
and climb into your bed.  
and WHACK! Your little prayer rock  
will hit you on the head.  
Then you will remember  
as the day is through,  
to kneel and say your prayers  
as you wanted to.  
Then when you are finished  
just dump me on the floor.  
I'll stay there through the night  
to give you help once more.  
When you get up the next morning  
CLUNK! I'll stub your toe,  
so you will remember  
your morning prayers before you go.  
Put me back upon your pillow  
when your bed is made,  
and your clever little prayer rock  
will continue in your aid.  
Because your Heavenly Father  
cares and loves you so,  
He wants you to remember  
to talk to Him you know.

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## NOC Field Trip

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*by Field Trip Leader Bill and Izzie Burns*

Field Trips, Opportunities for our members to collect rock and minerals, and learn about geology.

The April trip to South. Afton Canyon was a nice outing. We arrived at Basin Road, where we found Don and Ofelia. When Bob had not shown, I insisted that we go to Afton Canyon to find him. He had brought some delicious bread to share. . That night we had a roaring campfire under the stars and looked for the new space station.

Friday we went to the pink hills and the fluorite area and found a few good rocks. That night we were joined by Sandy and Tony Fender of the Pasadena Club. After dinner again we assembled at the campfire for a lovely evening. Bill and I shared a bottle of home made plum liquor that was made and given to us by Vicki Marks for our silver anniversary.

Saturday morning we took the long route into the North. Cady Mountains and enjoyed the sites and driving challenges, stopping often to look for special rocks. When we returned to camp hot and dirty, we enjoyed frozen Margaritas provided by our guests, Tony. He even ran his electric cord from his rig to ours; so we were not disturbed by a noise generator. Ofelia had brought a turkey and I had a honey cured ham: so we really had a big Easter Pot Luck.

Now for suggested next trips. We have tried two sell-a-rama type trips and two field collecting trips. None have been very well attended: so we will try another type, one day trips.

One will be to Jurupa Cultural Center at Jurupa, near Riverside. This will be a bus trip for the children to join us.

Another will be sight seeing to Mitchells' Caverns . .... Another the trip to Stone Canyon June 23, which is apart of the CFMS Show in Paso Robles.

Other trips for those who are interested. Since Ofelia behaved herself so well on the last trip - all NOC members are invited to join the Pasadena Club on their trips. No. 1 is back to Afton Canyon April 28 and 29. The next one is to Monti Cristo Montains

May 26,27, and 28 for Monti Cristo agate. They are up past Bishop on Highway 6.

In September or October we may have a CFMS clean up trip to the Cady Mountains. Bring hoes, shovels, work gloves, etc. In October we will have a trip to the Pinto Mountains for petrified wood if my permit is approved by the National Preserve. That will be a limited number that are previously approved.

If you have suggestions, Please let us know. Izzie and Bill.

Field trip Cell phone (818) 512-4253.

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## NOC Case for CFMS Show

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*by Loretta Ogden*

Lets all get together and figure out something to do for a case at the CFMS show in Paso Robles.

We must have the application in by May 15. So lets get on the ball and decide what each of us would like to contribute to the display. Think about a theme and we can discuss it at the May meeting. You may bring things to the meeting if you like.

If no one else volunteers, I will put the case in.

Lets be a presence at the show and remind people the NOC is alive and well in Orange County.

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The Santa Lucia Rockhounds club is hosting the show and CFMS convention. It will be June 22-24 at the California Mid-State Fairgrounds in Paso Robles.

The show will feature over 150 beautiful exhibits cases displaying a vast variety of rare rocks, magnificent minerals, gorgeous gems and jewelry, fossils and petrified wood. There will be over 40 dealers offering an assortment of attractive items for sale.

Youth activities will be present with opportunities for young people to begin a rock collection, find fossil shark teeth, handle fossils and play games.

For more information on the show contact:

Bea and Sherm Griselle

(805) 238-4366 - E-mail thegriselles@tcsn.net



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## Secrets of Mineral Identification

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*From The Pegmatite April 2001  
(Excerpted from article by Jana Haege  
in Cobb-L-Stones 9/99,  
via The Glacial Drifter 03/00)*

One of the great thrills of having advanced knowledge of the mineral kingdom is being called upon by other less skilled and knowledgeable folks to help them identify their specimens. While this is usually a pleasant experience, quite frequently because of the poor quality of the specimen or the lack of information as to its origin, one must be creative when hypothesizing its identity. This article will assist you, the aspiring mineral expert, in obtaining your status as omnipotent. Yes, by using my simple, self-taught technique, your advice will soon be sought after by huge throngs of rockhound disciples who will be astounded by your vast knowledge and insight. Soon you will even be able to tell folks which fork to use first at dinner, and even the correct spark plug gap for a 1976 Chevette.

The first step in identifying minerals is to know the proper scientific name for the specimen at hand. For instance, any rock that is rough, ugly, useless and extremely weathered is known as **leaverite**.

Keeping in mind that there are more than 3000 species of minerals, not to mention all the different types of rock, we sometimes have to proceed to Step 2. You should always render an answer, correct or not, in a reasonably short period of time. While remembering that any word ending in "**ite**" will do, a short, generic glossary of names committed to memory will help avoid the indiscretion of allowing yourself to be stumped.

To give an example of how you would use these names, let us say, for instance, that you are brought a beautiful chunk of gneiss and the following conversa-

tion occurs: "What is this?" "It is **gneiss**." "Yes, I think it is very nice, but what is it?" "See the banding and these bends where it was folded? It is gneiss." "Yes, I agree, but what is it?" It is "**swirlite**." "Oh yes, now that you mention it, it looks exactly like swirlite. Thank you." Other names you should bear to memory, for just such occasions, are listed in the glossary below.

**Ambivalite** - use this to describe any specimen whose exact identity eludes you.

**Astrologite** - use this term to identify those odd chunks of non-magnetic objects which are presented to you as meteorites. ("No, that's not a meteorite, that's astrologite." "Really? Wow, gee thanks!")

**Barberite** - an easy to remember term for those really hairy minerals when you can't remember how to pronounce boulangerite.

**Casserolite** - any rock that looks like a food item.

**Garageite** - a specimen that was clearly collected years ago and is covered with dust.

**Infrequentite** - describe anything you haven't seen before as this rare mineral and instruct the owner to keep it out of direct sunlight at all cost.

**Jerkite** - this common term is used to describe specimens whose real identity is known by the owner but presented to you as something else.

**Mammothite** - when you go outside to see a specimen that is too large to bring in, spread a smile of recognition across your face as soon as the trunk of the car is opened and declare, "Oh, that's mammothite! I have a ton of those in the yard at my house, no need to bring it in and test it."

**Screwballite** - commonly used to describe a piece of chert found in Precambrian sediments after the owner insists, for the third time, that it looks too much like a dinosaur bone not to be one.