

NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol, 20 No. 8

October 2001

President's Message

by Don Warthen
warthen@earthlink.net

Our last meeting was on the day that we were attacked by terrorist. I don't think any one really understood the scope of this act. We had several members traveling at the time with some out of the country. I hope and pray everyone got home safely.

I will be out of the country myself for this meeting; I will leave you to the capable hands of Irene. We will have first nominations for officers.

I will be the auctioneer at the big auction for the November meeting (if I can get back in the country). Remember, we need items for the auction.

We will be having a beading class at our home on November 3 (Saturday). I hope to see as many as possible there. (Please RSVP)

Trini is planning a great Christmas party this year I hope everyone can attend.

Programs

by Irene Veloz

Our speakers for the month of October are Steve and Anita Shearer on Northwest Coast Indians. On display will be real Indian artifacts. They have spent 30 years traveling 500,000 miles on Indian-Eskimo studies/research and collecting/

Refreshments

by Oscar Veloz

Izzie and Bill Burns are on the refreshment list to bring goodies for our October 9 meeting.

Thanks to Mike Maneth for bringing the refreshments to the September meeting.

NOC Club Activities

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

Board Meeting — To be announced

Regular Meeting — October 9, 7:30 p.m.

Field Trip — To be announced.

Deadline for NOC News — October 17.

October Meeting

Date: October 9

Time: 7:30 p.m.

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

Program: Our speaker this month will be Steve and Anita Shearer on Northwest Coast Indians.

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 gemstone is Opal or Tourmaline.

Your flower is Calendula or Cosmos.

Shows and Events

via CFMS Web Page

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

October 20-21 Whittier, CA
Whittier Gem & Mineral Soc.
Whittier Masonic Temple
7604 Greenleaf Ave.
Hours: 10-5 both days
Jay Valle (626) 934-9764

October 27 Canoga Park, CA
Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
Canoga Park Community Center
7248 Owensmouth Ave.
Hours: Sat. 10-5
kellyhickman@hotmail.com

November 3-4 Anaheim, CA
American Opal Society
Quality Maingate Hotel
616 Convention Way
Harbor Blvd. South of Katella Ave.
Hours: Sat. 10-6 Sun. 10-5
Mike Kowalsky (714) 761-4876

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

November 17-18 Victorville, CA
Victorville Gem & Mineral Club
San Bernardino County Fairgrounds
14800 Seventh Street
Hours: 9-5 both days
Gil Gilbert (760) 868-6900

November 24-25 Barstow, CA
Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Soc.
Barstow Community Center
841 S. Barstow Road
Hours: 10-5 both days
Bob Depue (760) 255-1030

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

First Aid Hint

How to Remove Cactus Needles

*Del Air Bulletin via
Rockhound News via Northwest Newsletter*

Elmer's glue can remove cactus needles from your
hide. Cover the area with glue, let dry and then peel
off-needles and glue.

General Meeting September 11, 2001

by Susan Hansen

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Don Warthen.

The flag salute was led by Ofelia Warthen. There was a moment of silence for the New York and Washington DC victims of terrorist attacks this morning.

Irene Veloz introduced the program: Virginia Grafton, who reported on the Education conference the club sent her to in June. She showed the materials and samples and showed 2 of the short videos she received.

Ofelia conducted the donation drawings. Bob Cordero won the white elephant. Loretta set up in the back, the club display she set up at the Paso Robles CFMS show.

The board decide the club would help collect "pennies" (or any other denomination) for the AFMS scholarship fund, a project of AFMS President and NOC club member Izzie Burns. We don't have the wishing well tonight but there is a dish at the back table.

Treasurer Don Livezey not present, but he sent the report. Don Warthen. read it for him.

Loretta gave the Federation report. November is the Visalia business meeting.

Don Warthen. sent in the new application to register with the state and \$20 for a raffle permit. We have to send a reporting form every month.

Education: Virginia wants to use her education money to buy materials to put together a toothpaste kit for the club to have for demos/displays. She has been borrowing one from the Women in Mining.

A bead stringing class in set (tentatively) for Sat., Nov 3 at the Warthen's, there was a request to include wire bending techniques.

Field Trips-there is a BLM cleanup day at Calico on Sep 28. Oct 13-14 is the Trona show & field trips. Oct 28-Boron??

Show-Jane Livezey sent the show publicity package to Don Warthen. Loretta will send notices to the magazines, probably on-line. Mike sent the dealers the info. and contracts for next year.

New Business: Delver's show Sep 29-30. We received a letter from Clouds Jamboree, they are re-opening in Laughlin Jan 4 - Feb 3, free RV parking, dry camp, they sent dealers' forms @ \$350/space.

Loretta mentioned that when Izzie wrote her AFMS report, she mentioned that students were having money difficulties. Loretta suggested we give a donation to the professor and let him select a needy student.

Elections: We need a nominating comtee. ee, Ofelia was selected by the board and will be chairman of the committee. Three members to be selected by membership and one appointed by President Warthen. Don appointed Loretta. Trini, Al and Bob Cordero were chosen from the floor. They will report at the November meeting. Our officers are 2 years, only 2nd VP, Secretary, and 2 directors are to be elected this year.

Trini agreed to chair the Christmas party committee. Jane Livezey has made reservations at the hotel, but we can still change the location.

Verle will do the door prizes in October. Don and Ofelia will be here. The November meeting will be an auction, donations are needed, bring in.

Don Ogden reported that printing costs for the newsletter have gone up, he may have to cut it down a page or two.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Wiley Well District Field Trip January 28 - February 1, 2002

*Hosted by CFMS Field Trip Chairman - North
By Richard Pankey,*

Back by popular demand. We had such a great field trip in 2000 we are going to do it again in 2002. We will be celebrating the 2nd anniversary of the dedication of this area as the Hauser Bed Educational and Recreational Area. We will collect at the traditional sites as well as some new ones. A great variety of materials are available to collect in the Wiley Well District. There are several productive geode beds including Hauser Beds, Roads End, Potato Patch, Straw Beds and Hidden Saddle Beds. All of these sites are in the Black Hills. Agate, chalcedony, jasper, pastilite, botryoidal psilomelane and crystal filled amydules are found throughout the hills and washes. Another major rockhound attraction is the Opal Hill fire agate mine. This is a fee dig area located in the Mule Mts. Besides the very fine fire agate, quartz crystal "flowers", calcite crystals, chalcedony nodules and other mineral specimens can be found.

The end of January may seem like a long way off, but not for rockhounds planning their annual pilgrimage to Quartzsite and for planning our field trip to one of the finest collecting areas in southeast California. Five days of collecting are planned for the CFMS - North field trip to the Wiley Well District on Jan. 28 to Feb. 1, 2002. This is a Monday through Friday. The Wiley Well area is a long-time, well known collecting area for geodes, agate, pastelite, psilomelane, fire agate, chalcedony roses, petrified wood, and much, much more. The Wiley Well area is southwest of Blythe. We will camp just off the Wiley Well road about 12.5 miles south of I-10. The campsite is a large, flat, open area suitable for trailers, motorhomes and tents.

This field trip is being planned to coordinate with the activities at Quartzsite. The QIA and Tyson Well Shows are running a week earlier this year. Main Event and Desert Garden will have their traditional schedule.

The QIA POW Wow runs Jan. 23rd to Jan. 27th. Our field trips will start Monday morning, Jan. 28th. Betty and I will be at the campsite by late Sunday morning.

This is a beautiful time of year to visit the California desert. The weather is typically sunny and mild. The cacti, bushes and wild flowers are coming into bloom. Mark your calendars now (Jan. 28 to Feb. 1, 2002) and plan to join us for this great rockhound event. Besides the daily collecting trips, we will have several potluck dinners, daily happy hours and evening campfires.

Yard Rock Sale

*by Jon Fults Delters
jhfults@juno.com*

The First October field trip for the Delters is to Huntington Beach on October 6 and will start at 8 a.m. and continue into the early afternoon.

There is a fascinating variety of material and assorted lapidary items (tumbler charges, saw blades, etc.) Most of the material (yes even the Montana Agate and Petrified Wood) will be priced at fifty cents a pound. Large pieces that I don't want to weigh will be individually priced. There will even be free stuff.

Lois Jean and I will serve hot dogs and soda pop at 11:30 a.m. Mark your calendar for October 6, 8:00 a.m.

We are located at 3914 Mistral Drive, Huntington Beach. Take the 405 South to the 22/405 split. Stay right and exit at Bolsa Chica (coming north exit 405 at Valley View). Drive South to Edinger, West to Saybrook, South to Humboldt and drive west onto the island. Immediately turn right, then left on Mistral drive to 3914. Call me on your cell phone if you get lost 714 287 5743. This is your best bet for an easy field trip in October.

The Bola Tie Revisited

*Original source unknown.
The Nugget 9/01 via Breccia 6/98*

The bola (not bolo) tie, though known in much of the world, is most prevalent in the Southwestern U.S. There are many stories as to the origin of the bola tie, but the one that is normally accepted started in 1949 with Victor E. Cedarstaff of Wickenburg, Arizona.

Cedarstaff was riding horseback when the wind blew his hat off; the band had come loose. Instead of putting it back on the hat, he put the band around his neck. A friend saw this and remarked, "Nice tie you're wearing!"

That gave Vic an idea. He was a silversmith and had taught leather craft, so he made a tie from leather lacings and attached silver balls at the end. Then he made a silver slide with a piece of turquoise on it and slipped in on the lacings. This attracted attention, and he began to get orders to make them. He was unable to get a patent on the tie because such a slide arrangement was already in existence.

One problem was to make the slide so it would slip but not damage the leather. Eventually, he designed a yoke which held the leather properly and eliminated the necessity of having to slip the tie over the head. Now he had something new, and on this modification he was issued a patent.

He needed a name for the tie which would help popularize it, and first called it a Pigin Necklet after the pigin string that cowboys used. Sometime later, a friend who had been to Argentina showed Vic a device he had brought back called a bola. This was used in Argentina for catching cattle and it reminded Vic of what he had made. The initial name never caught on, and Vic decided to call his tie a bola. It is now the official neckwear of Arizona.

Trona Field Trip

*by Jon Fults
jhfults@juno.com
from Delvings October 2001*

Our (Delvers) October 13, 14 field trip is to Trona, CA. Simply study a California map and drive to Trona. This field trip is sponsored by the Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society (SLG&MS) in conjunction with their Annual Show.

The SLG&MS will have the Mud field trip Saturday morning and the Blow Hole field trip Saturday afternoon.

Field trip tickets will be sold for 2 hours (7:00-9:00 a.m.) Saturday morning. Arrive early to purchase tickets as it is not unusual for over 250 vehicles to participate.

The SLG&MS invites you to camp at the Valley Wells Recreation Area of IMC Chemicals while attending the Gem-O-Rama. Although it is dry camping, there are restrooms and portable toilets, fresh water at 3 faucets, an outdoor shower to wash the salt and mud off after field trips, and a trash receptacle. There are also tennis and volleyball courts and a horseshoes pit (bring your own equipment), and a playground for young kids. All this for just \$5 per night. Registration will either be as you drive in or someone will stop by your camp.

Valley Wells is located about 5.3 miles north of the show building. Follow the "Show Camping" signs north on the main road (this road continues on to Death Valley) until you see a sign pointing down a paved road to the right (east). Turn at this corner and drive the last 1/4 mile to Valley Wells. During the day, Valley Wells is noticeable because of the large collection of trees at the site, the only trees in the area. At night, you will see the large collection of yellow, sodium vapor lights.

We are guests of IMC Chemicals, on their property. One condition of our use is that their property is not damaged. No alcoholic beverages allowed in camp area.

The Golden Era of the San Gabriels

By Wally Ford

From *The Agatizer*, October 1999

It is well known that the gold discovery at Sutter's Mill on the American River is what sparked the rush of 1849. However, it is little known that in 1842, Don Juan found gold in Placerita Canyon. Within days, the word spread throughout southern California and into northern Mexico. Answering the siren's call, Mexican miners from Sonora, Mexico rushed north to the various rivers in the San Gabriel Mountains where the virgin placer deposits lay in waiting. Soledad, Pacoima, San Gabriel, and Lytle Creek canyons were heavily exploited.

Even before this, it has been said that some of the San Fernando and Santa Barbara mission neophytes were "employed" to pan the gravels near Newhall in 1842.

By the 1860's, the river gravels were facing depletion, encouraging the search for outcropping quartz gold veins. The Mexican miners working in Soledad Canyon were the first to exploit such new occurrences. The ore was crushed by a primitive mill called an arrastre to the consistency of sand and taken to the river and panned. Gold ran between \$30 and \$40.

Don Manuel Ravenna, a Los Angeles businessman, organized a copper mining company in 1862. The copper deposit had been located on the slope of Parker Mountain near Acton. Soon, a small cluster of shacks, a livery stable, and blacksmith shop became Soledad city. The operation was short-lived due to a drop in copper prices. The "town" was revived, taking on a new name, Ravenna, and becoming a gold-mining center in 1864.

By the 1870's, lode mining had shifted up the Santa Clara River to the vicinity of what is now Acton. This, the Cedar mining district, became the most productive gold producer in the San Gabriel Mountains. The ore occurred in fractured granite, gabbro, and schist. The gold in quartz was free milling, with pyrite

an accessory mineral. There were extensive underground workings, 1,000-foot inclined shafts, tunnels, and adits.

Of the dozen or so mines, the Buena Esperanza and Red Rover produced \$1.5 million. The High Grade and Puritan earned \$550,000. as many as 10 stamp mills were in operation.

Large-scale commercial hydraulic mining of the river gravels was feasible in the San Gabriel and Lytle Creek canyons. This process requires large volumes of water. Monitor or large nozzles played a powerful stream against the gravel banks, washing the material into sluices. Several million dollars of fine gold was recovered.

While visiting the Red Rover mine, a student in my geology class picked up a grapefruit-sized rock on the waste dump that had a thin gold seam running through it! Near the parked car, I found a raisin-sized nugget!

CFMS Notes

by Loretta Ogden
donogden@aol.com

The Annual Fall Business Meeting and election of officers for 2002 will be held at the Holiday Inn Plaza Park, Visalia, CA on Saturday, November 10, 2001.

Committee reports are to be in the hands of Pat LaRue, CFMS Executive Secretary/Treasurer by Thursday, October 25.

The contest rules and procedures for the 2002 CFMS Bulletins, Articles, poems, and special publications published in 2001 are now in the Newsletter page on the CFMS web site <<http://www.cfmsinc.org>>.

Equipment Sale

Bev Berg has a 12-inch saw and a 18-inch vibrating lap for sale. Make her an offer at (909) 244-6615.