

# NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol, 24 No. 2

February 2005

---

## President's Message

---

by Nancy Bird

Hello to all. It was my first meeting as your president and all I can say is thank goodness for Don Warthen. Ofelia saved me and accepted the refreshment chair duties.

The show will be on us in no time. Has everyone decided on their show case?

There is an article from the CFMS Newsletter included on page 5. In it are lots of web site addresses you may find interesting. Check them out. Also, there is information for us starting the Future Rockhounds of America (FRA).

As you know, the club voted to organize the FRA and the city of La Habra is interested as a sponsor.

I will see you at the next meeting and please don't forget dues are due.

---

## In Memorium

---

A memorial was held for Joe Reed, Monday, January 17, 2005 at the Culver City Rotary Plaza Community Center.

Most of us will remember the field trips with Joe and of course his rubarb pie. He will be missed.

---

## Refreshments

---

Beatriz Garcia Dela Rocha will bring the goodies for the February meeting. Thanks to Nancy Bird for bringing the goodies to the January meeting.

---

## NOC Club Activities

---

Board Meeting — To be announced  
Field Trip — Opal Mountain— February 19-21  
Deadline for NOC News — February 17.  
Show Meeting — February 22, 6 p.m. at the La Habra Community Center

---

## February Meeting

---

Date: February 8  
Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Place: La Habra Community Center  
101 W. La Habra Blvd.

Program: An Earth Revealed video on **Intrusive Igneous Rocks** - Most magma does not extrude onto Earth's surface but cools slowly deep inside Earth. This magma seeps into crevices in existing rock to form intrusive igneous rock.

---

## Members in the News

---

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

*Frances Toemmler - Feb 2*  
*Chalmer Steed - Feb 3*  
*Clarence Pool - Feb 8*  
*Verle Stadel - Feb 23*  
*Alfred Hermosillo - Feb 26*  
*Al Stadel - Feb 27*

Your gemstone is Amethyst  
Your flower is Primrose or Violet

---

## Shows and Events

---

### February 18-27 2005, Indio, CA

San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society  
Date Festival - Gem & Mineral Bldg. #1  
Riverside County Fair & Date Festival  
46-359 Arabia Street  
Hours: 10-10  
Bert Grisham (951) 849-1674

### March 5-6 2005, Arcadia, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds Inc.  
The Arbouetum of LA County  
301 N. Baldwin Ave.  
Hours: 9 - 5 both days  
Jo Anna Ritchey (626) 369-1624  
E-mail: j.ritchey#verizon.net

### March 12-13 2005, San Morino, CA

Pasadema Lapidary Society  
"Magic From The Earth"  
San Marino Masonic Center  
3130 Huntington Drive  
Hours: Sat. 10-6 Sun. 10-5  
Marcia Goetz (626) 914-5030  
E-mail: joenmar1@gte.net

### April 9-10 2005, Hacienda Heights, CA

Puerta Hills Gem & Mineral Club  
Steinmetz County Park Recreation Building 1545  
S. Stimson Avenue  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
Paula Hess (562) 696-2270  
E-mail: [rphess@adelphia.net](mailto:rphess@adelphia.net)

### April 23-24 2005, Lancaster, CA

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds  
2551 West Avenue H  
Hours: 9 - 5 both days  
Armin Nimmer (661) 945-5769

### June 4-5 Glendora, CA

Glendora Gems  
Goddard Middle School  
859 E. Sierra Madre  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5 Sun. 10-4  
Bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638  
E-mail YBidwell2@aol.com

### June 4-5 La Habra, CA

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society  
*Jubilee of Gems Show*  
101 W. La Habra Blvd.  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
Don Warthen (626) 330-8974  
E-mail warthen@earthlink.net

### June 10-12 2005, Roseville, CA

CFMS & Roseville Gem & Mineral Blast  
Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds  
00 All American City Blvd  
(916) 630-1000  
Web Site: [www.rockrollers.com](http://www.rockrollers.com)  
Show Web Site: [www.rockrollers.com/show.html](http://www.rockrollers.com/show.html)

via CFMS Web Site

### NOC DUES ARE DUE

Please send your dues: \$15 Individual; \$20  
Family; Student, \$10 to:

Don Warthen  
15455 Tetley Ave.  
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

---

## Moving

---

Beatriz Garcia Dela Rocha, a NOC member, is moving her store from 6512 Greenleaf to 7050 Greenleaf in Whittier which is next door to the Burger King.

There will be a ribbon cutting at 5:00 p.m. on February 10. NOC members are invited.

---

## Wanna be on TV?

---

*By Stephen Blocksage,  
CFMS Publicity and Public Relations Committee*

With the advent of the reality show, we begin to wonder just what the public wants to see. As I think of our hobby does it deserve to be amongst the new reality shows and the answer is a definite yes. Think of all the people who want to stand in rock hounds shoes and perhaps don't even know it. They would love to be digging or exploring where the next gem or great specimen would be unearthed no only to share in the excitement but the adventure. Off-roading and camping remain popular pursuits add in the possibility of hanging out with some really great people like you and you've got a winning combination. California's Gold with Huell Howser specializes in going to places not well known in California yet represent the uniqueness and diversity of California. As you might expect 50% of his shows are about geologic features and mining. Ordinary people are featured talking about their knowledge and enjoyment of the site or how it works or its history.

In light of this I have invited California's Gold to do shows on rockhounding but one in particular about Zzyzx in the Mojave Desert. Its unique history as army post, stage stop, religious retreat, and finally a desert studies center and on occasion lapidary school make it an ideal show. Most everyone who has made the trip to Vegas has seen the sign just this side of Baker and perhaps wondered what the letters mean and perhaps how to pronounce the word if it is a word. Unfortunately this upcoming year 2005 will be the last time we will be able to hold our week of fun and learning in April at Zzyzx because of the needs of the universities that own the site and their students. They have offered other weeks but those would be climate-disadvantaged times. So the Federation is in search of an alternate site somewhere in the desert eastern southern part of California.

Although Zzyzx was the primary offering it has long been my intention to offer the Gem Mine site of the state gem, Benitoite as a place to do a show. I immediately got Mr. Howser's attention several years ago if I could arrange a show there; unfortunately the owner hit a vein of gems and has been working the mine since. Of course he is unwilling to allow filming

at such a secure site or call attention to the mine unless it is no longer workable. Other sites were the Davis Creek/Lassen Creek for Obsidian, Clear Creek for Jadeite and Jade Cove for Nephrite jade, perhaps the first viable coal deposit in California in Stone Canyon and its associated railroad and finally the Tonopah and Tidewater railroad and the Dumont dunes and Sperry wash. The village of New Idria where much of the Mercury mined in California originated. The story of poppy jasper mine might be of interest as well.

So how can you be involved? Do you have anecdotal information, pictures, or historical news clippings of any of these areas? Perhaps a field trip where you found something special or an area with historical interest associated with our hobby. As you can see there is grist for many exciting and interesting shows featuring rocks and rockhounding. So if you have something we'll submit it but be prepared to talk about it and be seen at least state wide if not nationwide. Perhaps your 15 minutes of fame, but also the Federation's because we will be cited in the credits and hopefully that will generate interest in our hobby. If you have something to share please contact me at [similite@aol.com](mailto:similite@aol.com) or Dick Pankey at his web site. It should be noted that there are many people vying for time on the TV and since this is free, the show is selective and may not immediately run a particular idea so be patient.

---

## Insurance Coverage

---

*By Fred Ott, CFMS Insurance Chair*

One of the optional benefits available to member societies of the Federation is the ability to purchase insurance coverage for club-owned equipment and supplies.

Currently, the premium for such coverage (fire, theft, vandalism, etc.) is only \$5.00 per year for every \$1,000 of coverage (subject to a minimum premium of \$30.00).

What this means is that your club can obtain insurance coverage for \$6,000 of club-owned equipment and supplies for only 30.00 per year.

If you are interested in applying for such coverage, please complete the Request for Premises Liability and/or Property Coverages found on the Federation's web site, [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org), and submit your request directly to McDaniel Insurance Services, Inc.

---

## NOC Meeting Minutes

### January 11, 2005

---

*Submitted by Ofelia Warthen for absent  
Secretary Susan Hansen*

President Nancy Bird called meeting to order at 7 PM, at the La Habra Community Center.

Program for the evening was a video "Falls of Ohio"

Membership report by Chairman, Pat Felix, reported we had 13 members and 4 guests.

Intermission, refreshments by Nancy Bird followed by raffle.

Reports followed: Board Meeting minutes of 12/28/04 read by President Bird. Discussion was done under New Business.

**Treasurer report** - was given by Don Warthen. Reminded Dues are due. \$20/family and \$15/individual – need new application with new figures.

**Show Chairman** - report by Don Warthen. Discussed donating the Raffle ticket proceeds to the Youth Group of La Habra. The amounts received last year balance out with the free rent we will receive this year from the City. Members approved. New banner was discussed. City has got prices; need to coordinate on price and size. Izzie Burns reported we have 12 contracts out on dealers and 7 have returned so far. Demonstrator Chairman, Don Eschbach reported demonstrators should be divided around the two rooms. Bill Burns is getting geodes at Quartzsite. Liza Babaloni from Ralph B. Clark Park has been contacted to put in display case. The main display case was decided to have Al and Trini Hermosillo put in their beautiful handiwork. A bead seminar is scheduled for May by Francis Lau.

**Federation Report** by Loretta Ogden. Will submit in next bulletin

**Fields Trip Chairman** Don Eschbach passed list of places of interest to members to sign-up. Discussed locations of interest.

**Program Chairman**, Loretta Ogden will submit report in next bulletin.

**No Old Business.**

**New Business:** Izzie Burns on "Art Clay" – price \$65, need minimum 10 people.

Ofelia Warthen was appointed to do Refreshment sign-ups. List was passed around.

Don Warthen reported on Future Rockhounds sponsored by AFMS, an education program where junior and young people can obtain up to 9 merit badges. City is interested as a sponsor. Motion made by Don W. to organize Future Rockhounds sponsored thru the City of La Habra. Izzie Burns second the motion. Motion passed.

Don Eschbach would like set up a wire wrapping class.

Loretta Ogden needs donations for raffle door prizes

Bill Burns announced open house at Zyzzx on April 9<sup>th</sup>, celebrating \$20<sup>th</sup> anniversary \$12.50/person.

---

## Is it a Stroke?

---

*By Paula Rutledge  
via Houston Gem Club's - The Backbender's Gazette*

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking the following three simple questions:

Ask the individual to smile.

Ask him or her to raise both arms.

Ask the person to speak a simple sentence.

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

A cardiologist says if everyone who gets this e-mail sends it to 10 people, you can bet that at least one life will be saved. Tell as many people as possible about this. It could save their lives!

---

# Surfing the Web

## Part One: Fossils

---

*By Jim Brace-Thompson,  
CFMS Juniors Activities Chair*

Kids have always been hard-wired, metaphorically, for learning but with the advent of the Internet, today's kids are literally wired-to-learn. If given a research assignment in school when I was a kid, my first stop was the library, but as my kids have been growing up, they run immediately to the Internet and Google. They play video games, they chat with friends via instant messaging, they write their papers on the computer, and they surf the Web for both school topics and personal interest. To help youth leaders capitalize on this now-natural proclivity of today's kids and teens, I'll be devoting my next couple columns to providing annotated listings of Web sites organized around various aspects of the rock-hounding hobby. Given my own interest in paleontology, I'll start with fossils. Future columns will cover minerals and earth resources, lapidary arts, and museums. Because kids especially like dinosaurs, I'll start with a couple sites specifically devoted to these "Terrible Lizards":

### **Russell "Dino Russ" Jacobson Site - [www.isgs.uiuc.edu/dinos/](http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/dinos/)**

This web site is maintained by Russell "Dino Russ" Jacobson, an associate geologist at the Illinois State Geological Survey and a certified dinomaniac. It's a collection of information on dinosaur digs, exhibits, societies, publications, dinosaur artwork, and more. A truly wonderful site and easy to navigate!

### **Links connected to more than 70 species of dinosaurs and dino relatives- [www.search4dinosaurs.com](http://www.search4dinosaurs.com)**

This site collects links leading viewers to paintings and drawings of more than 70 species of dinosaurs and dino relatives. Some permit downloading for educational purposes, thus allowing kids to cut-and-paste images into papers they may be writing.

### **Fossil News: Journal of Avocational Paleontology - [www.fossilnews.com](http://www.fossilnews.com)**

This is the official web site of Fossil News: Journal of Avocational Paleontology, a monthly magazine published with the amateur foremost in mind. The site includes articles and illustrations from past issues on topics ranging from specific geological time periods to fossil preparation to cladistics.

### **Burgess Shale of British Columbia - [www.geo.ucalgary.ca/~macrae/Burgess\\_Shale/](http://www.geo.ucalgary.ca/~macrae/Burgess_Shale/)**

One of the world's most famous fossil sites, the Burgess Shale of British Columbia holds spectacularly preserved soft-bodied fossils from the "Cambrian explosion" when complex life suddenly burst onto the scene in the Earth's oceans. This site shows photos of the Burgess Shale quarry, the fossils found there, references for further reading, and links to related sites.

### **Paleontological Portal - [www.paleoportal.org](http://www.paleoportal.org)**

The Paleontological Portal (produced by the University of California Museum of Paleontology, the PaleoSociety, the Society of Vertebrate Paleontologists, and the USGS) is a central entry point to paleontology resources for audiences of all levels.

### **Topics for exploration include Exploring Time & Space - [www.paleodb.org](http://www.paleodb.org)**

While the previous site I described is for audiences of all levels, the Paleobiology Database, composed by John Alroy of the University of California, Santa Barbara, is definitely on the more sophisticated level. It lets you scan more than 43,000 fossil collections. You can enter a specific species, and see where all sorts of information about it, and can even map the finds to see where that species has been collected. Again, though, definitely for a more sophisticated user and for older kids.

These sites scratch just the surface of what's out there. You can make this into a fun activity for your juniors by encouraging them to surf the Web themselves for interesting fossil sites and having them share and report on what they find with their fellow members at your next meeting. Let's capitalize on the tools today's kids use for learning while-as always- having fun!

---

## Field Trips

---

By *Don Eschbach, Field Trip Chairman*

Here are the Proposed Field Trips and Tentative Dates for 2005:

**Opal Mountain Black Mountain**, (February 19th, 20th, & 21st) Jasper, Nodules, Opal

**Willy Wells**, (March 25th, 26th, & 27th) Fire Agate, Black Agate, Sagenite, Nodules

**Cady Mountains** - Sponsored by CFMS (April 23rd, 24th, & 25th) Agate, Chalcedony, Geodes, Jasper

**Lavic Siding**, (May 27th, 28th, & 29th) Red & Yellow Jasper, Agate, Blue and White Chalcedony

**Bowers Museum**, (One day trip) (June 18th)

**Los Angeles Natural History Museum**, (One day Trip) (July 16th)

**Huell Houwser Bus Trip**, (Don Ogden has Video of the trip) (One day trip) (August 27th)

**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**, (One day trip) (September 17th)

---

## Art Silver Clay Class

---

By *Izzie Burns*

Kathy Davis will teach a class on Art Silver Clay on March 5 (10:00 to 4:00), followed by two advanced classes taught on April 2 and May 7 in the recreation room of Jerry & Kathy Turner's home at 7703 York Ave., Whittier, California. The cost is \$50.00 per class plus supplies. Each attendee will complete 3 projects at each session. Upon the completion of the three sessions, you will be certified in Silver Art Work. The class is limited to a minimum of 6 people and a maximum of 12.

Mark these dates on your calendar and let me know if you will be attending the first class on March 5.

There will be more information about the classes at the February club meetings. If you have question, email or call me, [Izzie.isnbil@aol.com](mailto:Izzie.isnbil@aol.com) or call (626)288 2896.

---

## Field Trip to Opal Mountains Joint FT with Whittier Club Presidents' Day Weekend February 19-21, 2005

---

By *Don Eschbach, Field Trip Chairman*

The NOC is planning a joint Field Trip with the Whittier Club. The Field trip is scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. I understand from the Whittier Club that there is always something good to collect. There are also Indian petroglyphs, plateaus, deep ravines, a dry lake or two (a place to search with a metal detector for meteorites).

All the opal found here is of the common variety and while it doesn't have "fire", it does come in colors such as amber (honey), cherry, green (scarce), brown and peach mixed with white. There is also agatized opal, or if you wish, opalized agate that is red on the interior and green on the exterior, as well as agate and jasper. Given the area, it is possible that you might stumble (not literally) across a new deposit of colored opal (maybe it will contain fire). Perhaps you will rediscover the 2" inch thick seam of cherry opal at the Cherry Opal diggings. Who knows?

### Directions:

Take I-15 towards Barstow and then take SR-58 Towards CA-58 / Bakersfield. Drive for about 12 miles and turn right or north onto Hinkley Rd for about 10 miles then the road changes to Opal Mountain Rd.. Follow the Opal Mountain Map and yellow Whittier Club signs to camp.

You should try to get into camp by 8:00 am, though we may not leave until about 9:00. Bring along a lunch, as we may not go back to camp for lunch and bring something for potluck, as well as happy hour. We will be collecting until possibly 3:30 pm to return to camp for "happy ½, \_\_, 1 hour", then potluck and afterwards, a campfire.

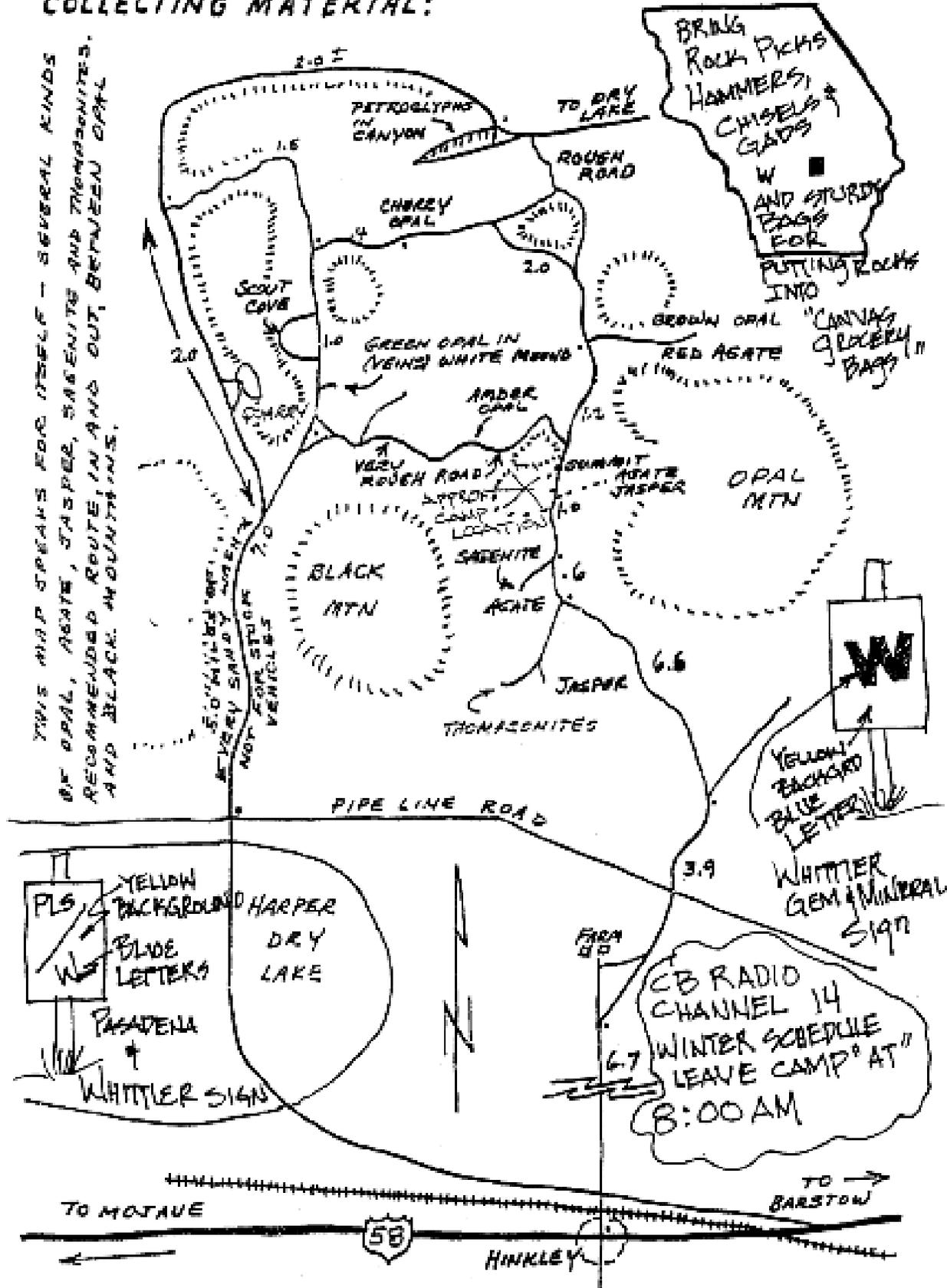
Remember to bring plenty of water, collecting bags, rock hammer, eye gear, flashlights, spray water bottle, fire wood, camping chair (to sit in at night around the fire).

We'll be on channel 14 on the CB radio. Come on out and have a good time!

# OPAL MOUNTAIN

APPROXIMATELY 110 MILES FROM WHITTIER

## COLLECTING MATERIAL:



THIS MAP SPEAKS FOR ITSELF - SEVERAL KINDS OF OPAL, AGATE, JASPER, SAGEHITE AND TRONASCONITES. RECOMMENDED ROUTE IN AND OUT BETWEEN OPAL AND BLACK MOUNTAINS.

---

## Roseville Gem & Mineral Blast Update

---

By Gloria Tomczyk,

Show Chair for the "Roseville Gem and Mineral Blast"

February is upon us; hopefully the winter storms have not been a problem for you. As the year marches on, the Roseville Rock Rollers & the CFMS 2005 show committees continue to work on putting on a great show. This month I would like to give you a sneak peak at our growing list of SPEAKERS. The schedule is still being developed with a variety of renowned professionals offering lectures on some very interesting topics.

**METEORITES** - Many folks find them intriguing to say the least, or maybe you personally have tried your hand at using a metal detector to hunt your own. Whichever the case, Michael Santos will be one of our guest speakers on that very topic all three days of the show.

**FOSSILS & DINOSAURS** - Most of you have encountered them, from time to time, out in the field, museums or at a show. Dr. Richard Hilton, Professor at Sierra College, and author of the new book, "Dinosaurs and Other Mesozoic Reptiles of California" will be another guest speaker. If you already have his book, bring it with you, as he will be glad to sign it after his talk.

**MINERALS** - Dr. Jean DeMouthe from the California Academy of Sciences, will be another guest speaker with two topics: "Minerals as Medicine" and "Minerals of Northern California."

**GOLD** - We all have it, we all want it, we all try to find it, but where the heck is it and how did it get there? John Clinkenbeard, Supervising Senior Geologist, with the California Geological Survey, will be our guest also.

**MINERALS OF NEVADA** - If you missed Dr. Gregory Ferdock, Co-Author of the "Minerals of Nevada", at the Mariposa show in 2004, you will have another chance to hear his presentation about his new book. He too will be available to sign your book after this talk.

**FLUORESCENT MINERALS** - They capture our attention in the dark, ever wonder why they fluoresce? The Fluorescent Mineral Society of Northern California will speak on that subject. This is

just a sampling of what we plan to have for the show. I hope that as time draws nearer you will make plans to attend their lectures.

Also, please make your plans early to attend the Directors meeting on June 11th, and take part in the gold nugget raffle for just attending. Nothing to buy, only free nuggets to win! For more information and forms, please visit the Roseville Rock Rollers website: <http://www.rockrollers.com>. Hope to see you soon!

---

## Museum Corner

---

By Debbie Bunn, CFMS Museum Committee Chair

If you like fossils, then one museum you have to see is the Sierra College Natural History Museum. Located in Rocklin (northeast of Sacramento), it has a fine exhibit of local and US fossils; many of them collected by the students & instructors while on class fieldtrips.

There is a case tracing the story of life in fossils from algal balls to primates. Local fossils from the Ice Age were discovered when the Arco Arena was constructed to house the Sacramento Kings. Parts of bison, camels, horse, and other animals excavated are on display. Also there is a large log of the famous Eocene Roseville petrified wood.

There is a surprisingly large dinosaur exhibit, including a rare pachycephalosaurus skull that I got to help excavate. There are parts of other dinosaurs that have been found in northern California including a hypsoliphodont leg and a piece of a meat-eating dinosaur found in Granite Bay/Sacramento. You can see parts of pterosaur found in northern California and a giant turtle.

There are sea mammal fossils, a titanother skull, and a gompothere. In addition to all the fossils, there is an extensive skull display from bats to elephants. And stuffed animal heads from around the world. There is a fine mineral display.

Outside there is a labeled nature trail and desert rock garden. Admission to the Sierra College Natural History Museum is free when the college is in session. Special tours can be arranged for groups. For those of you planning to attend the CFMS show in Roseville in June; plan to visit this great little museum. Located in Sewell Hall at 5000 Rocklin Road in Rocklin, Ca. Website: [www.sierramuseum.org](http://www.sierramuseum.org)