

# NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

## NOC NEWS

Vol, 25 No. 4

April 2006

### President's Message

by Nancy Bird

Hello Everyone-

As it turns out, I won't have the hip operation until next winter. Our yard sale is a "go" and set for Saturday, April 22.

I hope all of you can bring things to sell-anything, including clothes. Loretta has sent out card to all surrounding clubs announcing the sale. I'll put it in the Pennysaver and put up signs.

Setup will be Friday, April 21 at my house at 10126 S. Grayling Ave., Whittier. Phone (562) 947-6845

Take Whittier Blvd. to Valley Home - North on Valley Home to Russell - Left on Russel to Grayling Ave. - Right on Grayland

If you can't make it that Friday or Saturday but still want to donate things, either bring them to the next meeting or drop them off here at the house.

Whatever is left that you don't want back, except for the rocks, we can donate to AmVets or Salvation Army. Please donate to the yard sale so we will have a lot to sell.

Izzie Burns has suggested we put a case in the CFMS show at Angels Camp, CA. on June 9-11 which is one week after our show. This is a great opportunity to "show our stuff." Please talk with Izzie if you are interested.

Have you contacted a local business for a donation award yet? And sell those tickets!

### Refreshments

Kathy Eschbach will bring the goodies for the April meeting. Thanks to Eleanore Pleines for bringing the goodies to the March meeting.

### NOC Club Activities

Board Meeting — April 11, 6:00 p.m.

Field Trip — To be announced.

Deadline for NOC News — April 17.

Show Meeting — April 4, 6:00 p.m. at  
La Habra Community Center

### April Meeting

Date: April 11

Time: 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting  
7:00 p.m. Main Meeting

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

Program: Ed Imlay of the Pasadena Lapidary Society will be doing the earth science presentation that he does for the schools. It will be interesting to see what others do and we may see some things that we can use our selves.

### Members in the News

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

*Barbara Steed  
Trini Hermosillo  
Vicki Marks  
Frieda Pool  
Oscar Veloz  
Joan Abramson  
Dana Matula*

Your gemstone is Diamond  
Your flower is Daisy or Sweet Pea

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## Shows and Events

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### **May 6-7 2006, Anaheim, CA**

Searchers Gem & Mineral Society  
2271 W. Crescent Avenue  
Hours: 10 - 4:30 both days  
Beth Pelfrey - Email [beth714sc-rocks@yahoo.com](mailto:beth714sc-rocks@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

### **May 6-7 2006, Bakersfield, CA**

Kern County Mineral Society  
Art in Stone  
Kern County Fairgrounds  
1142 South P Street  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
Buster Ordiway (661) 563-8310  
Email [CaOrdPTA@aol.com](mailto:CaOrdPTA@aol.com)

### **May 6-7 2006, Bishop, CA**

Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society  
Eastern Sierra Gem & Mineral Show  
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4  
Francis Pedneau (760) 876-4319 or  
Jeff Lines (760) 872-6597  
Email [franceem@qnet.com](mailto:franceem@qnet.com)

### **June 3-4 2006, 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](mailto:warthen@earthlink.net)

### **June 3-4 2006, Glendora, CA**

Glendora Gem & Mineral Show  
859 E. Sierra Madre  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4  
Bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638  
Email: [YBidwell2@aol.com](mailto:YBidwell2@aol.com)

### **April 22-23 2006, Lancaster, CA**

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds  
2551 West Avenue H  
Hours: 9 - 5 both days  
Pamela Birge (661) 264-3502  
Email [birgep@att.net](mailto:birgep@att.net)  
Show Website: [www.geocities.com/av\\_gem](http://www.geocities.com/av_gem)

### **May 20-21 2006, Newbury Park, CA**

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club  
Borchard Park Community Center  
190 Reino Rd.  
Hours: Sat. 9-5 Sun. 10-4:30  
Sal Scarpato (818) 707-9972  
Email [SALSCARPATO@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:SALSCARPATO@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

### **May 20-21 2006, Yucaipa, CA**

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Yucaipa Community Center  
34900 Oak Glen Road  
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4  
William Jochimsen (909) 790-1475  
Email [bjm2285@aol.com](mailto:bjm2285@aol.com)

### **June 9-11 2006, Angels Camp, CA**

CFMS Convention and  
Calveras Gem & Mineral Society Show  
Calveras Co. Fairgrounds  
Hours: 10-5 daily  
Web Site: [calaverasgemandmineral.org](http://calaverasgemandmineral.org)

### **October 14-15 2006, Trona, CA**

Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society  
"Gem-O-Rama"  
Searles Lake Gem & Mineral  
13337 Main Street  
Hours: Sat. 7:30 - 5; Sun. 7:30 - 4  
Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356  
Email [jbfairchild@verizon.net](mailto:jbfairchild@verizon.net)

via CFMS Web Site

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## In Memory

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*by Don Warthen*

I have just received news that long time member Virginia Harvey has passes away.

I don't have any details on the arrangements but I believe that they have already held the services.

Virginia dropped her membership a couple of years ago but she and her daughter, Janet were long time members. They lived at 341 Sonora Pl., La Habra, CA 90631. (562) 591-4009.

I'm sure Janet would like to hear from members of the club.

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## Treasurer's Report

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*by Don Warthen*

We are will into the year and things are looking good, however there are still a few that have simply forgotten to pay their dues for 2006. Please check your checkbooks to see if you have sent in your dues checks for the year:

\$15.00 for single

\$20.00 for family

*Editors Note:* I will begin work on the 2006 Membership roster in mid-April.

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## Insurance Report

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*by Don Ogden, via CFMS website*

The CFMS insurance agent, McDaniel Insurance Services, Inc., has been able to arrange for Directors and Officers liability insurance coverage which each society now has the opportunity to purchase at a very affordable cost. See the CFMS website for information and forms [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org).

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## The President's Corner

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*by Colleen McGann, CFMS President*

**ARE YOU INVOLVED** in your club? Have you held an office or committee position? Are you holding one now? Do you bring your family, your children or your neighbors?

Are the programs interesting enough or do you offer suggestions for programs? What about your clubs other activities, the mineral group, the lapidary shop or beadwork classes? Do you attend field trips or lead a field trip?

These are some of the variety of activities clubs offer their members. You can choose the ones that meet your interests. Start little. If you go to a new area on a weekend, pick up an unusual rock and bring it to share with your club. If you are searching online and find a fascinating topic about new minerals or geology in Australia, bring the article to share. The things that interest one person are certain to interest your rock friends.

The key is to participate in your club. Like many of you, I still work full time and I choose to be an active member of my local club. I am Secretary this year. I get to attend both club board meeting and general meeting. I volunteer to bring refreshments one meeting, I share my interests when our program is member share night. I add rock items to our silent auction table or bring rocks to share after a weekend field trip. I will give the Federation news at the general meeting, if our Federation Director cannot attend. In other words, I participate and I communicate information. This sounds like a lot, but this is spread over the entire year.

Being involved is very important and each one of us makes our club what it is. Review your interests, what it is **YOU DO** for your club and what it is **YOU CAN DO** more of to make your club grow in your community.

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## Safety

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by Chuck McKie, CFMS Safety Chair

In Quartzsite I monitored several field trips for safety compliance. The trips were led by qualified, experienced field trip leader and others not so well qualified. But I was not monitoring the leaders—although as a previous CFMS Field trip chairman I believe I would be qualified to do so. Safety was my concern. I had written up some citations for those I felt were doing things in a less than safe manner.

I am very happy to report that it seems nearly everyone was performing so as to bring joy to my heart and I believe to our insurance agent as well. Heavy duty shoes, gloves, glasses (although not goggles) were in evidence. Most were even wearing head protection. Some long haired ladies did not consider hats necessary. I did not observe any one behaving in a reckless or dangerous manner. Overall, I think our members should be prod of themselves. I hope all the rest of you are observing all the safety instructions that have been listed and posted over the years. Who wants a safety seminar?

I went on Dick Pankey's Wiley Well field trip. It was a great trip, well led, and had a bountiful harvest of geodes and other material from God's great collection. I checked to see how the field trippers were following the advice of Safety and Field trip Chairmen. Those from CFMS clubs did very well. We had several who joined us who were not members of CFMS. When I asked about their choice of foot wear, I heard that I have been rock hounding for umteen years and always worn tennis shoes. About wearing eye protection, I just turn my head away. I informed them as to what we advise our members and they would thank me. No, they did not say they would change.

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## Technical Problem

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How do you explain counter-clockwise to a person who grew up with a digital watch.

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## Top Science Stories of 2004

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via *The Pegmatite*, Feb. 2006

### #3: NASA ROVER FINDS EVIDENCE OF ANCIENT SEAS ON MARS

*Opportunity* arrived on Mars in January 2004 and first detected a high concentration of sulfate minerals along with chloride and bromide salts in one rock outcrop, suggesting the previous presence of water. In another spot, the rover found jarosite, which only forms in water on Earth. Finally, it identified small rock balls rich in hematite, also an aqueous mineral. This proved conclusively that the Meridiani Planum area where *Opportunity* came down and explored was once a very salty, shallow sea.

(Summarized by your editor from an article by Kathy Stivil in *Discover*, 01/05)

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### #10: AUSTRALIAN CRATER IMPLICATED IN GLOBAL RUBOUT OF SPECIES

In a massive extinction about 250 million years ago, 90 percent of Earth's sea creatures and up to 80 percent of its terrestrial species vanished. Some scientists attribute the Great Dying to a gigantic asteroid or comet impact, similar to one in Mexico that obliterated the dinosaurs 185 million years later. In May 2004 researchers reported they located what may be the telltale scar in a large underwater dome off Australia's northwestern coast.

(by K. Stivil in *Discover*, 01/05. Reprinted under the Fair Use provision of the Copyright Act of 1976.)

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### #19: TWO NEW ELEMENTS DISCOVERED

Researchers at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Russian scientists at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research announced the discovery of two new "super-heavy" elements, nos. 113 and 115, which barely lasted one second. (In case you were wondering, element 114 was found in 1998; element 116 in 2000. —ed.)

(summarized by your editor from an article by E. Svoboda in *Discover*, 01/05)

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### #23: DISCOVERY OF TENTH PLANET... AND MOON!

This is the largest object orbiting our sun that has been discovered since Neptune was spotted in 1846. It's bigger than Pluto, has a huge elliptical orbit that ranges out to 10 billion miles from the sun and then comes back in closer than Pluto's orbit. Want to learn more? Visit: <http://www.gps.caltech.edu/~mbrown/planetlila/>

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## CFMS Field Trip to Ludow Area

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*by Bob fitzpatrick*  
*CFMS Field Trip Chair - South, 2006*

**Trip Location** - Ludlow, California area, approximately 50 miles east of Barstow - off Interstate 40.

**When** - April 8-9, 2006

**Sponsor** - CFMS Field Trip, South and Orange Belt Mineralogical Society of San Bernardino.

**Organization** - CFMS and OBMS.

**Material to Collect** - Zoisite, (massive pink and green Thulite). Hardness 6-6.5, polishes nicely also Agate, Jasper, Fluorite and much more.

**Leader** - Al Carrell and Emma Couveau

**Proposed Schedule** - Saturday, April 8th, we will meet at Ludlow on the South side of the cafe at 9:00 a.m.

**Directions to Campsite** - At 9:15 Al and Emma will lead us from Ludlow to the camping site.

**Camp and Facilities** - We will be camping on black top. This will be dry camping, there will be no water, picnic tables, toilets, no firewood to be gathered and no fees.

**Tools** - Collecting bags or buckets, rock hammer, eye gear, flashlights, spray water bottle, etc. Don't forget to bring your camp chair (we will be sitting around the campfire at night).

**Safety Concerns** - Do not lick the rocks, use sun screen, stay away from rattlesnakes, use bug spray, be aware of flash floods, be extra careful, don't wander off by yourself and don't get lost. Two wheel drive is OK to camping area.

**Climate and Weather** - It can be hot during the day and cold at night, it could rain.

**Clothing** - Appropriate for this time of year.

**Other Remarks** - All CFMS and AFMS club members and there guests are welcome to join us. Come for the day or camp out with us. Bring food, lots of water, a camera and firewood for the campfire at night. If you need a motel or supplies they are available in Barstow.

Don't forget we will have a potluck on Saturday night, so bring a dish of food to share and your place setting. After dark we will have a campfire where we can all join together and have a good time roasting marshmallows, telling jokes or just talking about the good OLE times.

We must all observe the AFMS code of ethics and sign a consent and assumption of risk waiver of liability form.

For additions information:  
Call Al Carrell at (951) 961-5988

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## Another Field Trip to Holbrook, AZ

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*via Robert Burson*

Robert Burson contacted Nancy Bird regarding a Searchers field trip to Holbrook, AZ. on April 15 (the day before Easter.)

He said that the people who have the BLM lease won't have it renewed and that shortly this area will be off-limits. This is where you find picture wood and lots of red and purple wood at \$1/lb. There are motels close by.

Contact Robert Burson at (562)860-5938 or Steve Duncan at (714)724-7102 or email [WSD@iteris.com](mailto:WSD@iteris.com).

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## NOC Meeting Minutes

### March 14, 2006

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by *Pat Felix, Secretary*

This meeting included 19 members and three guests: Frank Mills, President, Puente Hills Gem and Mineral Club; Jim Guthrie, whom Izzy said has volunteered to help children with the telescopes at our show; and Al Zbaganoff, a prospective member.

The Program was a most enjoyable and inspiring slide show on Sedimentary and Vein Agates, put together by Doug Moore of the Heart of Wisconsin club (2005)

Raffle: Ophelia Warthen won the wire-wrapped fossil pendant made by Don Eshbach.

The Club Roster is being updated., so any relevant information should be sent to Don Ogden.

Show: Regarding the prior vote to have the big case filled by members, Izzy needs to know who will have something to put in and what it is, and a sign-up sheet was passed for that purpose. She asked if contributors would be willing to enter their submissions in the Federation Show competition, which will be held a week after our show. A motion was made and carried that we enter a club case in the CFMS show competition.

Show: Walt Wright will be in New Zealand at show time. He offered to let us use his display of petrified wood, but it was generally agreed that we would not want to be responsible for such a valuable collection. Therefore, we will contact the Children's Museum to see if they would put a display in the show. Nancy has secured the skirting for the tables. We need to work on Security; other than that, show preparations are going very well.

We received a thank-you letter from the CFMS for the club's \$25 donation to the endowment fund in memory of Jack Radebaugh.

Displays and Education: Don Eschbach recommended that we have a display at the show, of rocks collected on field trips.

Federation Report (Loretta): If anyone has a nomination from our club for "Rockhound of the Year" for the AFMS, or for "Education through Sharing" Person of the Year for the CFMS, let Loretta know. Bill and Izzy have received their pins for their nominations last year.

Zzyzx: Zzyzx is full for this Spring. For next year, another place is needed to hold the school, because the rent was raised. The location should accommodate 80 people overnight for a week. Contact Izzy.

Field Trip Report by Jay Valle: On March 18th, meet at the Amboy Crater for a trip beyond Ludlow, to the Marble Mountains and Chamblis.

Library (Ophelia): A list has been compiled of library books and will be at each meeting. Check the list, and if you want to borrow a book, see or call Ophelia.

Refreshments: Eleanor Pleines brought the refreshments for this meeting. Don and Kathy Eschbach will bring the refreshments to the April meeting.

Yard Sale: Date is undetermined until Nancy learns when she will have surgery.

La Habra Chamber of Commerce (Don Warthen): Don attended the luncheon today, and said there will be a mixer on 3/22. He said attending is very worthwhile, to talk about the show. He will send out a Council meeting schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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## Getting Started

### Building Your Club's Foundation

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by Fred Ott, CFMS Secretary

Does your club want more members? If so what are you going to do about it? There are many ways to develop increased membership...tools, shortcuts, tricks-of-the-trade, etc. but, above all else, a successful club must have a solid foundation. It must be organized. It must be consistent. People don't like to join organizations that have nothing to offer, are disorganized and/or lack leadership and direction.

It may seem silly, but you must first ask yourself: **Why is increased membership in your society a worthwhile goal?** A constant complaint heard throughout the Federation is that clubs are aging and membership rosters are down. There are, however, a number of success stories. As an example, the El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society had 77 active members on January 1, 1999. As of December 31, 2005, they have 207 members! They're doing something right!

Again, why new members? New members can provide:

- **New blood** to fill the ranks of officers, directors and committee chairs.
- **More members** to do the work of your society.
- **Stability** to your club's long-range viability.
- **New ideas** and **energy** to expand your club's activities.

Without increased membership, the same people will always be called upon to do the work of the society.

**What does your club do to encourage interest in new members?** Many clubs in the Federation are focused on a single interest such as fossils, faceting or metal detecting. Others are multi-focused: rocks, gems, mineral, fossil, faceting, field trips, metal detecting, gem shows, etc. Regardless of the focus, your club must have a clear vision of its reason to exist. For those multi-focused clubs,

establishing the concept of a platform works very well. This concept means designing a club to accommodate the many varied interests of prospective members. Obviously this can't be done overnight, but having:

GOALS can be the first step in pointing your club in the right direction.

So, here's something concrete that your club can do to begin the process. Establish a Long Range Planning Committee. It's simple; have your club President establish an ad hoc committee, appoint a chairperson and invite all your members to attend. Make sure the setting of these meetings is in a relaxed, social atmosphere: restaurants, member's homes, etc...anywhere that you can spend quality time discussing recommendations without the normal pressures and time-restraints of Board and General Membership meetings. Establish guidelines for the committee, such as:

- √ All members should be invited to attend each meeting.
- √ The Long Range Planning Committee should be an advisory committee, only making recommendations to your Board of Directors for their action.
- √ Meetings should be regularly scheduled (that is, every other month, quarterly, etc.

You'd be **amazed** at the energy and creativity found at these gathering.

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## Little Known Facts

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*From Pebbles, Via others, via Breccia 12/05*

Pencil points are made from *plumbago* from the Principle World mine at Barrowdale, Cumberland, England. Plumbago is a form of graphite called "black lead." Instead of being worked constantly, the mine is opened once a year and one year's supply is mined.

Then the mine is closed with strong doors, bars, and locks until the next year. All the fine pencils in the world have been made from the black lead from this mine since Elizabethan times.

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# Field Trip Report

## Tecopa Minerals

### President's Day Weekend

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by Jay Valle

It was cold, someone had a really bad day, and rock was collected. If that is all you need to know then stop reading now because I am going to expand somewhat on that initial statement.

It was Friday afternoon, about 3 PM, and the temperature was a comfortable 60 something degrees in the sun. Rain and cold weather had been predicted for the Death Valley areas throughout the weekend, but for rockhounds, rain is frequently our friend, cleaning and revealing hidden treasures, so I was not worried (too much). I was first to arrive, then Vern & Sylvia Cliffe, followed shortly thereafter by our field trip leader, Dave Kelty. We placed the first of three club signs at a bend in the road to give those who would be coming later an indication of which way to go. Funny thing about those signs, they can turn in the wind (this bit of data will be important later in the story). The next sign was set out at the turn onto Western Talc Road and the final sign was at the camp location. Camp was quickly thrown together. Vern & Sylvia parked their trailer and they were set. I sited my tent trailer and 15 minutes later, I was done. Dave spent somewhat more time setting up his unique tent trailer which just happens to be missing the tent part. He created the walls with blue tarps and in spite of sometimes windy and wet weather, survived comfortably with no apparent problems. We skipped the campfire due to gusting winds. (The temperature dropped to about 35° F that first night.)

Saturday morning dawned cold and clear and slightly windy. We waited for late arrivals, and then left for the Western Talc Mine, only about 2-miles away. The talc mine, or more correctly, talc mines cover many acres and include outcrops high up on the hillsides and a large open pit mine area with some collapsed vertical shafts along the bottom. On this day, I explored the pit and Vern & Sylvia checked out the rock piles at the top. Down below, I found a couple of interesting outcroppings of talc, one of which was a tan color with dendrites, the other mostly white with translucent green areas in it. Climbing back to the top, I showed off my specimens and it was decided that we would continue with our scheduled visit to Sperry Wash and come back to collect the talc later. And so away we went.

We proceeded to a location Sylvia identified as the original club collecting area. This location also agreed with the old guide books which Dave had brought, and the directions given by Geoff Caplett (PLS). Sperry Wash is a classic collecting area for petrified wood, palm root, and

agate of various shades of red, green, brown and mixtures. Much of the agate contains inclusions of moss, sagenite and palm fibers. Petrified wood rootlets are common. Our time here was mainly spent in exploring, locating places to collect. Agate and palm root was found with Sylvia finding the "catch of the day", a 10 lb. or so chunk of palm root, covered with eyes. We returned to camp in the mid-afternoon to find Chris Kyte (PLS) waiting for us.

On the Importance of Good Initial Directions (and Signage)

Chris arrived in camp in the early afternoon but had actually been in the area somewhat earlier. He had encountered an errant sign which had led him off in the wrong direction. The PLS signs we are using right now (there are no WGMS signs at present) are created out of PVC tubing and slide over a stake driven into the ground. The actual signs are triangular in shape and can be oriented so that they form an arrow pointing the way to go. Unfortunately, in a good (bad) wind, they will sometimes turn on the stake, pointing in an unintended direction. This is what happened to our 1st sign. It had rotated in the wind until it pointed to a dirt road leading away from the main road. This is how Chris found it and so he turned and followed the other road for some distance without finding our camp. Eventually, he turned around (not a mean trick with a tent trailer behind) and went back to the main road and the lying sign. Correctly assessing the problem, he continued further on down the road, shortly coming upon the turnoff and our actual camp beyond. He quickly set up his tent trailer and about that time, we returned to greet him. His was the first but mildest "bad day".

As we were setting up for our evening potluck, Eva, a guest on some of our field trips showed up. Eva is a rockhound from the Palomar Club who travels with her longtime companion, Gecko (a dog). She has only about 2 years rockhounding experience but she has great enthusiasm for the hobby and particularly likes field trips. I had sent her directions to our camp location but the map which we provided her left off one minor detail, the name of the road to turn onto for the last 8 or so miles. Eva had come out Friday afternoon but not knowing about the turn she continued up the wrong road to the mileage listed on the directions and, lo and behold, there was a road leading up into the hills. Thinking that this must be the place, she followed the dirt track until she reached a really bad spot and decided to turn around. It was here that she got hung up. As it was now dark, she camped out there for the night.

The next morning, Eva unsuccessfully attempted to free her car and while she was working on it, Gecko wandered down to the road where he was spotted by a passing vehicle and picked up as a stray. Now she was stuck 10 miles from Tecopa and had lost her dog. Eva hiked down to the road and hitched a ride into Tecopa (as did Gecko, now that I think of it). There she found some very friendly people.



She told them about her car being stuck and her dog being lost and they helped her. A man took her back to the stuck vehicle where they jacked up the car and pulled it free. In the meantime there was no sign of Gecko. Returning to town, she was delighted and much relieved to find that Gecko had been picked up by some town residents out for a day of off-roading. Eva's story about losing the dog had swept through town and everyone now knew her tale (what a grapevine). They were there waiting for her to return to reunite the pair. Apparently, it is not unusual for people to come out and lose pets (or leave unwanted pets) and the local townsfolk collect them as a kindness before they coyotes find them. Talk about lucky. Anyway, Eva showed them the map and described the camp location, and someone directed her down the correct path. So she finally arrived at camp after her "really bad day". She joined us for potluck and as the wind was blowing and some rain was beginning to fall, everyone turned in (no campfire). The temperature fell to 29° F during the night.

Sunday morning was wet and cold. We had planned to go to the Kingston Range for amethyst, a location at about 5,000 feet in altitude. Since the snow level was down to about 3,000 feet, it was decided to pursue other options. We started with a visit to the nearby trilobite location. It was slightly windy and definitely cold when we got there. Dave showed us what to look for and as we searched the slabs of slate for fossils, a very light snow was falling with perfect snow flakes which were large enough to be seen. It was a magical moment. Dave found the "catch of the day" by turning over a flat section of rock and finding a cluster of complete trilobites. We continued on to Shoshone for lunch and on to an agate location just past town. Some agate was found and, returning to Shoshone, we gassed up and drove on out to the pin-fire opal site described accurately on the Rockhound Notes web page. After some trial and error, we found the formation that the fire opals were to be found in and collected until late afternoon. Fun and opals were collected by all.

Back at camp, the wind had died and skies were clear, so after a fine potluck meal we adjourned to the fire ring for our first campfire of the trip. It was great. I must tell you that, in my mind at least, a field trip is not complete unless it includes a campfire. We enjoyed the heat of the fire and talked about whatever came to mind. The temperature bottomed out at 25 degrees during the wee hours of the night.

Monday was clear and promised a warmer day than any we had experienced so far. Two things were decided. First, we would try for the Kingston Range Amethyst and, second, most of us would stay until Tuesday before going home. A number of reasons for staying were offered including avoiding the Come-Home-From-Vegas crowd, and reports that Cajon Pass was iced up and partially snowed in clinched it. The real reason, of course, was that we were having a good time, in spite of the cold, and an extra day,

for whatever reason, sounded pretty good. To paraphrase an old saying, "The worst day of rockhounding is better than the best day of work."

The path to the amethyst area was directly through the scenic heart of the Kingston Range. Sylvia's memory was surely an aid because when we reached the general area, she remembered the old road and the direction that it went toward to mountains above. The original road was long gone though and no trace remained. After some cautious exploring, a 4-wheel drive trail was located which ended at the collecting location. There were patches of snow around us where we parked but the collecting area was mostly clear and amethyst was found by all who looked. Dave found some individual amethyst crystals and my finds were massive, in tight interwoven seams of quartz crystals. It is truly beautiful country and I would like to go back when it is warmer. Each time the sun would go behind a cloud we would freeze and when the sun came out again it was hot (relatively speaking, of course). After we had our fill of mountain climbing, we returned to the main road and checked out several of the mines which we had passed on the way up. There were several types of serpentine, marble and hematite to be found. Eventually, we returned to camp where Dave took his leave of us (he says he went home??). The rest of us savored a last meal together and another hot and roaring fire before turning in. (The overnight temp was pretty darn cold again but I think you get the idea now).

Tuesday morning we went back to the talc mine. This time everyone made their way down into the open pit mine area and collected specimens of talc. Point of fact: Talc is a dense, heavy mineral, and it is a lot slower climbing out of a pit with a pack-load of talc than coming down with empty bags. After assisting everyone back to their respective vehicles (Eva made two trips into the pit to retrieve all the rock she found), Vern and Sylvia returned to camp to head for home and the remaining rockhounds (3) went back to the Sperry Wash petrified wood/agate location for one last try. Again, rock was collected with my chunk of palm root being the "find of the day" this time. Then it was time to break camp and off for home.

So, in spite of the weather, we had a good time. Every trip is an adventure and this one certainly had its moments.

As I said before, it was cold, someone had a really bad day, and rock was collected.



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## Come See The Show

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*By Tom & Sue Reeves*

As we continue to prepare for the 2006 Federation Show I thought you might like to hear about our awesome plans. First we have a list of speakers that is out of this world. We have Jeffrey Post from the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, Anthony Kampf from the Los Angeles Co. Museum, Bob Jones of Rock & Gem Magazine, Russ Shoemaker from Stories in Stones and Robert Watters from the University of Nevada.

And what a list of special exhibits including a part of the following collections: Smithsonian's National Gem Collection, Los Angeles Co. Museum and The California Mining Museum. Also slated to be exhibited are two private fossil collections including a prehistoric cave bear and a 30-foot long sea fossil.

There will be field trips scheduled everyday so you can chose from times to attend one of these adventures. We will be going to Carson Hill quarry, a former open pit gold mine with over 70-named minerals found there, as well as the Hidden Treasure Gold mine in nearby Columbia State Park.

Of course we will have a great selection of dealers so you can get the latest tools and greatest materials out there on the market. We have a great buffet style dinner banquet planned but reservations are going fast so if you plan to attend you can get your forms online at [www.calaverasgemandmineral.org](http://www.calaverasgemandmineral.org). And while you are checking out the show page you can get further info on lodging and camping. So get ready for a relaxing fun time at this years Federation Show. See you in Calaveras County, home of the frog jump.

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## Rockin In Music City

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*By Lewis Elrod, General Chair*

Welcome to "Rockin' In Music City" the 2006 convention and show for the AFMS. and the SFMS, sponsored by the Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. The convention will be held in Nashville "Music City" Tennessee in August of 2006.

See web page [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org) for detailed information of the show and convention.

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## Challenge

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*By Dee Holland, CFMS Rules Committee*

We have had a challenge from the Northwest Rules Committee. They believe they can bring in more competitive exhibits to their show than the California Rules Committee can bring in for our show. We'd like to take up the challenge but we need your help. Last year we had nine competitive exhibits and they had eleven.

Can we beat their challenge? Only YOU can do that. Please consider putting in a competitive exhibit. Besides being a personal challenge to you, it also helps educate the public as to who and what we are. In addition it helps other rockhounds see that competition isn't that bad, and that they can exhibit and compete too. It's a win-win situation. Plan now for a competitive exhibit in the CFMS show at Angels Camp in June.

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## Top Science Stories of 2004

(continued from page 4)

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*via The Pegmatite, Feb. 2006*

### #42: GEOLOGICAL TIME GETS A NEW PERIOD

After a 15-year debate, geologists of the International Commission on Stratigraphy have carved out a 50-million year time span in the Precambrian Eon and named it the **Ediacaran Period**.

The Ediacaran began about 600 million years ago, at the end of the last ice age of the "Snowball Earth" period (officially called the Cryogenian Period, lasting from 850 to about 630-600 million years ago.) The many new life forms that appeared in the Ediacaran were simple organisms, probably related to modern sponges.

(Summarized by your editor from an article in BBC News on [news.bbc.co.uk](http://news.bbc.co.uk) 05/07/04)