

NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol, 27 No. 3

March 2008

President's Message

by Don Eschbach

Hi Everyone,

We had a wonderful turnout at our February 12 meeting with 25 members and 5 guests in attendance.

We also had a terrific turnout for the Wire Wrap Class on February 7 and several members stood up in front of the club during our General Meeting to display their beautifully wire wrapped stones. Our next Wire Wrap Class will be held on March 13, at the La Habra Community Center from 6-9 PM. This Class will focus on Wire Wrapping odd shaped stones. If you are planning to attend, please let me know as soon as possible, so that I can reserve your spot. I can be reached at 562-943-8736 for reservation or e-mail me at (donkathyesch@verizon.net).

Don Warthen talked about the VIP event that we will be having on Friday Night, June 6 before our show on Saturday June 7 and Sunday, June 8. We will need a lot of help for this event which will include members signing up to bring a "Finger Food" dish to help out with the food. We are expecting anywhere 50 to 500 numerous Chamber of Commerce members and city officials. We will also need people to help sell Raffle Tickets that evening. We still need a Grand Prize for the Raffle, so contact Don Warthen if you have any Ideas.

It has been a long time, great tradition of our club to bring in displays of your favorite stones, fossils, jewelry, and minerals for everyone to enjoy. Let's keep this tradition going.

Refreshments

Thanks to Dave & Fran Swanston for bringing the goodies to the February meeting. Don & Ofelia Warthen will bring goodies to the March meeting.

NOC Club Activities

Board Meeting — TBD

Field Trip — March 6-9, Stoddard Wells Tailgate

Deadline for NOC News — March 17.

Show Meeting — March 5, 6:30 p.m.
at Community Center

Wire Wrap Class — March 13

Programs

by Nancy Bird

Our program for March 11 is Simon King from the Himalaya Tourmaine Mine in Mesa Grande in North San Diego County. He will be showing slides from the recent pocket discovered along with examples and some faceting rough for sale.

You may have caught the story of this mine on a recent Travel channel "Cash and Treasures". Don't miss this one!

Members in the News

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

*Don Ames
Ginny Grafton
Ellen Higa
Grace Piccone
Don Rees
Valeria Ruzgys
Ray Smith
Jay Valle
Mary Villaescusa*

Your gemstone is Bloodstone or Aquamarine
Your flower is Daffodil or Jonquil

Shows and Events

March 1-2, 2008 Arcadia, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds
Los Angeles Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave.
Hours: 9 - 4:30 both days
Jo Anna Ritchey (626) 359-1624
Website: www.moraks.com

March 1-2 2008, Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Seaside Park - Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 W. Harbor Blvd.
Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4
Abe-Bar-Shai (818) 991-7735
Email: Barshai3@aol.com
Web Site: www.vgms.org

March 1-2 2008, Arcadia, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds
LA Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave.
Hours: 9-4:30 both days
Jo Anna Ritchey (626) 359-1624
Email: j.ritchey@verizon.net
Web Site: www.moroks.com

March 8-9, 2008 San Marino, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Temple
3130 Huntington Drive
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6, Sun. 10 - 5
Drew Wilson (626) 449-4910
Email: TODREW@sbcglobal.net

March 14 - 16, 2008 San Bernardino, CA

Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
Western Regional Little League Park
6707 Little League Drive
Hours: 9 am to Dusk
Emma Couveau (951) 288-6182

April 26-27 2008, Lancaster, CA

The Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Lancaster High School
44701 32nd St. W.
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
Jules Ficke (661) 943-5157
Email: av_gem@yahoo.com
Website: www.geocities.com.av.gem

May 17-18, 2008 Yucaipa, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society
34900 Oak Glen Road
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 9 - 4
Bill Jochimsen (909) 790-1475

May 31 - June 1, 2008 Glendora, CA

Glendora Gem & Mineral Club
859 E. Sierra Madre
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10 - 4
Bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638
Email: Ybidwell2@aol.com

June 7-8 2008, La Habra, CA

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society
La Habra Community Center
101 W. La Habra Blvd.
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
Don Warthen (626) 330-8974
Email: warthen@earthlink.net
Website: nocgms.com

June 27, 28, 29 2008, Ventura, CA

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Ventura County Fairgrounds
Hours: 10-5 Daily
Bural LaRue (909) 874-5664
Email: bplarue@earthlink.net

October 18-19 2008, Whittier, CA

Whittier Gem & Mineral Society
Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Avenue
Hours: Sat. 10-5 both days
Jay Valle: (626) 934-9764
Email: res19pnb@verizon.net

No Bones About It

by Jay Valle

*From the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society Bulletin,
The Rockhounder 02/08*

Someone has said that there are four kinds of bones in every organization. There are the **WISH BONES**, who spend their time wishing someone else would do the work. There are the **JAW BONES**, who do all the talking, but very little else. Next there are the **KNUCKLE BONES**, who knock everything anyone ever tries to do. And finally, there are the **BACK BONES**, who get under the load and do all the work.

I think there are a lot of other possibilities for “bone” analogies. If you consider your club to be like bones in a skeleton, then the song “Dry Bones” comes to mind. You know the song:

Your toe bone connected to your foot bone,
Your foot bone connected to your ankle bone,
Your ankle bone connected to your leg bone,
Your leg bone connected to your knee bone,
Your knee bone connected to your thigh bone,
Your thigh bone connected to your hip bone,
Your hip bone connected to your back bone,
Your back bone connected to your shoulder
bone,
Your shoulder bone connected to your neck
bone,
Your neck bone connected to your head bone

The President and Board of Directors are the **HEAD BONE** of the club. They are responsible for the planning and thinking. All of the other bones support the **HEAD BONE** and all of the various **BONES**, including the **HEAD BONE**, must work together else the club (body) collapses into a **BONELESS** heap.

To have even more fun with this idea, consider the following **BONES** and see if you can think up any more **BONY** connections.

FUNNY BONES - These are the members who bring humor to the society. Sometimes they get a little out of hand but hey, don't we sometimes tend to take ourselves a little too seriously.

CHEST (HEART) BONES - Every club has a member who is the “heart” of the club. They exemplify the spirit, exuberance and friendship that we look for in our club, and that we all wish we had.

Wonders of a Crystal

excerpted from article in Rock Scoop 2/01, via The
Pegmatite, 12/06

A crystal is one of the strangest objects in the universe. It is not alive, yet it grows. A crystal attracts the same kind of materials of which it is composed, arranges them with great accuracy in geometrical forms, cements the parts together, and holds them.

Place a crystal in a liquid or vapor composed of the same ingredients as the crystal, and the process of accumulation immediately begins. If a crystal was broken into two parts and placed in a bath of liquefied crystal, the broken surface will be repaired and each part will grow into another crystal, providing the other conditions favorable for crystal growth are present.



Safety

via *Rock Rattler* 10/96, *Rock Rollers* 8/07, and
Del-Air Bulletin 1/08

Licking rocks can be dangerous, and even FATAL!! Always use water from a squirt gun or bottle to wet stones. At least one death has been attributed to a fungus contracted from licking a rock specimen.

Materials containing Arsenic, Mercury, Selenium, some of the Boron and even Phosphate minerals can be deadly.

Sawing Geodes

via *Breccia, GI Nugget & Rock Chip Reporter* 5/91, and *Del-Air Bulletin* 1/08

When sawing Geodes, look for the largest dome on the specimen. This dome was in an upright position while it was formed. Saw through the largest dome and it is likely you will get the best picture.

If the specimen is elongated or egg-shaped, saw lengthwise to obtain the best exposure. While there is no certain means to determine the interior of an agate nodule or geode, these ideas are likely to be beneficial.

Solder

via *The Burro Express* 3/97, *Rock-A-Teer* 8/05, and *Del-Air Bulletin* 1/08

If you get too much solder on a spot when making jewelry, trying to file it off takes too much time.

To get rid of the excess without filing:

1. Take a narrow strip of silver 1/8 x 2 inch.
2. Cut a slit in one end.
3. Heat the piece with the excess solder, touch the strip with the to the excess.

The extra solder will flow up the cut.

Polishing Jasper

via *The Rockbuster News* 12/06, and
Del-Air Bulletin 12/07

Jasper is more troublesome to polish than agate because many varieties are "earthy" and porous and others contain hermatite, which in itself is difficult to polish.

If you are on a field trip, a good way to test for jasper is to wet it. If it absorbs the water and dries rapidly, throw it away. It will not polish.

If it stays wet and does not dry right away, it contains a high amount of chalcedony and will take a good polish.

Most jaspers polish well on leather with lime, but good results can be obtained with titanium oxide or either leather or felt.

Always remember that a good fine sanding job is the secret of good polishing.

Deep Earth Rocks San Andreas Fault

via *The Pegmatite* 12/07, summarized by the editor
from [http://www.livescience.com/environment/
071004-fault-rock.html](http://www.livescience.com/environment/071004-fault-rock.html)

About 23 miles north of Paso Robles, scientists drilled 2.5 miles down into the San Andreas Fault and removed 4 inch core samples which they hope will answer the question why this section of the fault moves so gently, instead of rupturing violently.

Is it the serpentine? Is it serpentine decaying into talc? Further study may tell.

Scientists will next place seismometers and tiltmeters into the borehole directly above the spot that ruptures, to detect earthquakes from the place where earthquake energy accumulates.

Blue Lady Mine

One-day SDMG Field Trip

Saturday, February 23, 2008

by Jim Mellos

via Anne Schafer Editor, SDMG

"The rain broke on Saturday morning, February 23rd, and we had a great day for a field trip. Forty-seven rockhounds signed in, including several field trip leaders from other southern California clubs, plus members of the Whittier, NOC, Fallbrook, El Cajon, San Diego and other clubs. SDMG Field Trip Leader

Jim Mellos gave an introductory talk, then everyone broke into two groups. Asst. SDMG Field Trip Leader Dave Rosendahl lead one group right up to the Blue Lady Mine, to look for crystals. Jim Mellos lead another group on an hour-long general hike through the collecting area.

Amanda Hiner, a 14 year old first-time field tripper, found a facet-grade piece of deep blue tourmaline big enough to cut a 1 ct. stone.

A San Diego couple found a 2.5" by 1" smoky quartz crystal under a bush, and a 3/4" long blue tourmaline pencil, among other things.

John Greaves and his daughter Katie found a 10" diameter flat cluster of clear quartz crystals, and a tourminated black tourmaline.

Surface collecting was phenomenal. Everyone got some crystals. The rains of previous days had eroded out and exposed much new material -- everything was still wet! A flock of turkeys was sighted on the way out."

The field trip was attended by NOC members Nancy Bird, Jay Valle, and Don Ogden.



Nancy made it up to the Blue Lady Mine with the help of her cane.

NOC General Meeting Minutes La Habra Community Center February 12, 2008

by Jay Valle, NOC Secretary

Call to Order: President Don Eschbach called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM followed by the flag salute.

Membership: The meeting was attended by 25 members & 5 guests.

Program: Two related videos from the CFMS video library: Great Floods of the Northwest & Ginkgo Petrified Forest of Oregon.

Acknowledgements:

1. Don Eschbach had the participants of the February 7 wire wrapping class stand and show their wire wrap projects.
2. Bill & Izzy taught a class in rocks to local Girl Scout Troop #74. They explained hardness and other basic characteristics of minerals and rocks.

<Break & Drawing>

December Minutes: Don Eschbach asked if there were any changes to the January Minutes - there were none. They will stand as read.

Treasurers Report: Don Warthen gave the Treasurers Report. There were no corrections so they will stand as read.

■ Don W. also informed us that we had been the victims of Bank Fraud, the amount of \$69.20. Someone had accessed our checking account and was using it for on-line purchases. After being told of the unauthorized charges, Bank of America and the on-line finance company (ElectraCash) blocked further payments from this account. NOC has filed criminal charges with the City of La Habra Police Dept. & the Bank of America Fraud Division and they are investigating. Our stolen money will be refunded after the investigation is complete.

■ Don W. distributed copies of the proposed budget for 2008 and discussed each line item. Dave Swanston made a motion to accept the proposed budget as read and Bill Burns seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous to accept the budget.

Field Trips: Jay Valle informed the membership that the Club field trip will be to Wiley Wells the upcoming weekend of February 16-18 (we are joined by the PLS & Whittier Clubs.) Maps to the camp are in the NOC bulletin and you should let Jay know if you plan to come. The Quartzsite trip at the end of January was a lot of fun but only 1 NOC participants came out that I am aware of. Izzy told us that the Indio Date Festival was also going on during the field trip weekend. Saturday, February 23, the San Diego Club is going on a day trip to the Blue Lady Tourmaline Mine. Contact me after the meeting if you want information on where to meet, etc. A reminder about the Tri-Federation field trip to Texas Springs coming up in May 21 thru 26. If you want to go on this trip, start making plans now - we need to inform the field trip leaders how many of us are going by the end of April. Don Eschbach added that we are probably going to hold a field trip meeting and establish some daytrips per NOC member feedback to supplement the regular scheduled trips.

Federation Report: Loretta Ogden reminded us of the June CFMS Show in Ventura on June 27 to 29. There is camping at the fairgrounds and lots of hotels in the area. She also mentioned that Amtrak goes right to the fairgrounds. She asked that members participate by putting in a showcase and suggested that NOC enter a Club Case with the theme of "What We Teach." Don Eschbach suggested that the members of the wire wrapping class should display a case of their creations. Nancy Bird pointed out that this year CFMS members can put in cases for "evaluation" as well as competition so that the judges can tell you how to do your case better. There is an Editor's Breakfast on Saturday morning and the Awards dinner id held on Saturday night. Note: Don Ogden's CFMS Internet Committee is sponsoring the "Cracker Barrel" get together on Friday at the show. Loretta asked members to come out and enjoy the "meet-the-CFMS-leaders" event with us.

Librarian Report: No report.

Programs: Nancy Bird informed us that next month's program will feature a guest speaker & slide show about the Himalaya Tourmaline Mine which was recently featured on an episode of the Travel Channel's program, "Cash & Treasures."

Refreshments: The March Meeting snacks we will be provided by Don & Ofelia Warthen. Thanks go to Dave & Fran Swanston for the wonderful spread for tonight's meeting.

Show Report: Don Warthen told us that we have all of our dealers signed up now, including a new dealer from Sedona, Arizona who specializes in copper. Wendy has been taking over many of the Children's programs and events. The big new thing, though, is the Friday VIP Mixer which NOC will be hosting for members of the La Habra Chamber of Commerce and City Council. We will also invite members of the La Mirada and Brea Chambers to join us at this event as well. It will be held in the main room and our dealers can sell to the guests as they circulate around the room. NOC members will be asked to provide finger food and we will need a lot of help staging the event. The 3D Art people will be bringing the desserts.

Walt Wright will have part of his collection of petrified wood on display across the hall from the main room. We will receive the room at about 8 AM on Friday morning and we need to be done by 5 PM. The Seniors will be going down to the Hometown Buffet while we do our setup (NOC and the City of La Habra split the bill.) The dealers must be set up in time to open between 5:00 & 8:00 PM to sell to the VIP guests. NOC will also be providing other food for the mixer - we have a budget for the event of \$500. We want to sell a lot of Raffle Tickets during the 3 hour period.

We need NOC setup people in early so we can get everything prepared for the dealers who will start showing up about noon. City people will start setting up tables at 8 AM and we need to be at the storage building about 8 AM to start loading the truck (we will begin unloading at the Community Center about 10 AM.) A regular timetable will be published before Show time.

Issue Discussed at the February Board meeting:

Don Eschbach discussed some of the issues talked about at the February Board Meeting.

- The Board discussed joining the La Mirada Chamber of Commerce but the cost is too much.
- Loretta Ogden & Nancy Bird volunteered to do the Installation/Christmas Dinner for this year. Loretta

will get a list of the available facilities and prices and the Board will decide which one to go to.

■ Don Warthen confirmed that our Liability Insurance has been paid for the current year (it was paid with the dues.)

■ Frank Winn & Don Warthen are still working on getting the Puente Hills Gem Club funds from their bank which is holding the funds. They are going to draft a letter which they hope will allow the bank to release the money.

■ Nancy Bird asked that the Board budget more money for speakers. The Board agreed that Nancy finds out that she needs more money for speakers, she should request the Board for approval.

New Business:

Nancy Bird asked the members present if they enjoyed the video program. The response was positive. She stated that we will probably show another video some time in the Fall when our Program Funds are running short.

Don Eschbach noted that one of our guests found us by visiting our NOC web site. He thanked Don Ogden for his continued fine work on the web page.

Nancy Bird reminded everyone that the Monrovia Gem Show was the weekend of March 1-2 at the LA County Arboretum. There is also the Pasadena & Palomar Shows on March 8-9.

Old Business: None

Meeting adjourned.

Blue Lady Mine



Field Trip Report

CFMS Whalebone Trip

January 19, 2008

by Jay Valle, NOC Field Trips

The “Three Amigos”, Don Ogden, Don Eschbach and Jay Valle hopped into Jay Valle’s new rock hound vehicle on a cool Saturday morning and made the drive up to Refugio State Beach for petrified whalebone. The skies were crystal clear blue, no breeze and about 38° F at 6:00 AM (it warmed up to about 65° F while we were collecting). The plan was to meet Jon Meridith of the Del Aires Club and search one or more of the local beaches after the big Pacific storms of a few weeks ago. Arriving a few minutes early, we did some exploring of other beaches not previously visited (by us) with some small success, returning to Refugio State Beach at the appointed hour, 11:00 AM.

Jon Meridith had come in his distinctive SUV. I don’t have clue what color the car is or the make of the vehicle, but it is literally covered with stick-on smiley faces so I never have trouble finding him (or more precisely, his car.) Jon warmly greeted everyone and showed those who had not collected petrified whalebone before sample of what we were looking for. Dottie Jacobs (WGMS) and Marilyn Kline (NOC) were there, as was Art & Ginger Ragazzi (WGMS). Another treat was meeting Heidi of McDaniel Insurance - she’s apparently a rock hound as well as our insurance contact.

The order of the day was walk & look, walk & look. This we did for several hours. I like to hike and so I wandered some distance north along the beach, finding two large vertebra and several smaller pieces (Art and I were “leap frogging” past each other for most of the way.

About 2:00 Jon led the main group down to El Capitan State Beach where they continued to collect small pieces of whalebone. Art & Ginger and the two Dons and I headed north towards Gaviota to explore an area I used to collect some years ago. This section of the coastline is used by some as an impromptu nudist beach. Unfortunately, all we found there was a few naked people but the time was not wasted. We found another way down to this section of the shoreline and it could be a good collecting place after another winter storm or two.

Our happy ‘hounders then rejoined the main CFMS collecting party at El Capitan, then heading for home.

President’s Day Weekend

Wiley’s Well Area Field Trip

February 16-18, 2008

by Jay Valle, NOC Field Trips

It was the perfect weekend! Mother Nature cooperated to give us perfect weather and ideal temperatures. The rockhunting was good and the company congenial. Ten rockhounds representing three clubs showed up for the Wiley’s Well area collecting, including a couple from Murietta, CA who needed directions to the Coon Hollow Campground and ended up spending both Saturday and Sunday hounding with us.

I arrived at the campsite on Friday and was greeted by a small herd of burros. They stood and watched as I put up the tent trailer and prepared camp. After putting out a sign directing members to the camp location, I went over to the Opal Hill Fire Agate Mine to check out the diggings. Though Nancy Hill is still the owner, only a caretaker was on hand to take money from prospective diggers. Cash & Treasures did an episode about the mine so the fee had gone up from \$10/day to \$25/day per person. Since there was only about an hour left of daylight, I decided to pass on the digging for the time being, \$25 for 1 hour not seeming like a really good deal. Back at camp, Caroline & Charlotte of the PLS had arrived and set up their Alpine pop-up trailer. Dave Kelty had also arrived. I needed gas so I ran into Blythe for food and fuel.

Saturday morning, we waited until about 9 AM for latecomers, then headed off down the Bradshaw Trail to the Rainey Wells Geode Beds, followed by a visit to the Black Agate Mine. Your field trip leader collected geodes and agate at both locations. Eventually we returned to camp to find four rather disgruntled field trippers who had arrived after our morning departure time. They were Jerry & Kathy Turner (WGMS), Dottie Jacobs (WGMS) and Marilyn Kline (NOC). The evening was rounded out by a fine potluck which was joined by our new Murietta friends, Joe & Dolly.

Sunday morning we left bright and early (9 AM actually) for the Potato Patch Geode Beds followed by the Cinnamon Beds and the Lost Agate Claim location. Rock was collected by all. For dinner, we

President's Day Weekend (Cont'd)

went into Ehrenburg, Arizona to the Flying J truck stop restaurant where most of us enjoyed the buffet.

Finally, on Monday morning, Dave Kelty and I did some scouting for a fabled geode location over near the Fire Agate Mine. We did not locate any geodes but found a nice outcropping of orange speckled marble. Then we successfully located an old collecting area for chalcedony roses, some with fire agate. Returning to camp by noon, we broke camp and joined the holiday go-home traffic, thus ending a fine weekend.



President's Day Weekend Photos

Burros & Thump Peaks -- Camp on the flats --
Other Road Again -- Over the Hill Agate Mine --
Pebble Terrace Collecting -- Rainey Wells Geodes



Wire Wrap Class - February 7, 2008



Don & Kathy Eschbach



Don & Ofelia Warthen



Bernie & Mary Ellen Ruiz



John & Wendi Erskine



Julia West



Fran Swanston



Frank Winn