

# NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol, 27 No. 5

May 2008

## President's Message

*by Don Eschbach*

Hi Everyone,

Our main focus for the month of May will be preparing for our June 6, 7, & 8 Jubilee of Gems Show. As you all know, our club is sponsoring a "Good Morning La Habra Chamber Breakfast" at 7:00 a.m. on May 29 at the La Habra Community Center, to promote our show. We will have three presenters, Don Warthen, Mike Beaumont and myself. We will also be handing out brochures, selling Raffle Tickets, and serving breakfast. We would like to have as much support as possible from NOC members, for example, we need help in selling Raffle Tickets in addition to where ever help is needed. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Don Warthen, Mike Beaumont, or myself at the following telephone numbers or e-mail addresses:

DonWarthen:(626)330-8974

warthen@earthlink.net

Mike Beaumont: (714) 510-6037

coyote.mike@gmail.com

Don Eschbach: (562) 943-8736

donkathyesch@verizon.net

We desperately need help with the VIP Event the night before the show on June 6 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. We will need people to help sell Raffle Tickets, serve hors d'oeuvre and promote our club! Of course we need help in setting up for all of this on Friday, June 6 at 8:00 a.m. Please bring scissors to help with the table skirting, etc. Again, please call any of the numbers above if you would like to help out. This is our biggest fund-raiser of the year and this year especially is going to be the best ever!!

We will also be attending the annual 5:00 p.m. early seating dinner at Senor Campos Restaurant, where our members help support the La Habra Chamber by giving larger than normal tips to our Waiter. City Councilman James Gomez will be our Waiter. We have always had a nice turnout for this event, so if you would like to attend, please call or e-mail me ASAP to let me know if you will be attending. If you haven't eaten at Senor Campos before, you are missing a real treat... the food is terrific!

Kathy and I are looking forward to seeing you all at the May 13 meeting.

## NOC Club Activities

Board Meeting — TBD

Field Trip — Tri-Federation trip to

Texas Springs NV, May 21-25

Deadline for NOC News — March 17.

Show Meeting — Tues May 6, 6 p.m.

Camp Paradise — Aug 31- Sep 6, Sep 7- 13

Grab Bag Filling Party - May 3, 10 a.m.

## Programs

*by Nancy Bird*

Program: The speaker for May will be Marc Willis, a geology teacher from Fullerton College, on the La Brea Tar Pits.

## Refreshments

Thanks to Nancy Bird for bringing the goodies to the April meeting. Kim & Frank Winn will bring the goodies to the May meeting.

## Members in the News

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

*Floyd Allen*

*Dennis Arp*

*Bill Burns*

*Izzie Burns*

*Deb Frey*

*Bob Hess*

*Lucille Howe*

*Jonas Ruzgy*

Your gemstone is Emerald

Your flower is Lily of the Valley or Hawthorn

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## Shows and Events

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**May 3-4 2008, Anaheim, CA**  
Searchers Gem & Mineral Society  
Brockhurst Community Center  
2271 W. Crescent Ave.  
Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4:30  
Betty Nelson (714) 530-1365  
Email: [betty@azteche.com](mailto:betty@azteche.com)  
Website: [searchers.org](http://searchers.org)

**May 10-11, 2008 Reno, NV**  
Reno Gem & Mineral Society  
Reno Livestock Events Center  
1350 N. Wells Ave.  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10 - 4  
John Petersen (775) 849-1522  
Website: [www.renorockclub.com](http://www.renorockclub.com)

**May 17-18, 2008 Yucaipa, CA**  
Yucaipa Gem & Mineral Society  
Yucaipa Community Center  
34900 Oak Glenn 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](mailto: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](mailto:warthen@earthlink.net)  
Website: [nocgms.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:res19pnb@verizon.net)

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## Safety

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*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.

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## Stablizing Turquoise

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*via The Pegmatite4/08, from Dops and  
Digs 01/95 via The Rock Collector 11/07*

To stabilize chrysocolla or turquoise, use both tubes of water-clear epoxy and one pint of acetone, and be sure it is well mixed. Use a container that you can seal up, like a big glass jar or a three-pound coffee-can. Be sure that your rock is clean and dry.

Soak in this solution for several weeks, depending on the size of the rock. Soak a fist-size piece three weeks. Take out of solution wearing rubber or surgical gloves. Let dry for about 10 days, depending on the size. Cut, grind, and polish as you do any turquoise.

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## Senior Humor

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*Submitted by David E. Miller*

**Shown below, is an actual letter that was sent to a bank by an 86 year old woman. The bank manager thought it amusing enough to have it published in the New York Times.**

Dear Sir:

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my check with which I endeavored to pay my plumber last month.

By my calculations, three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his presenting the check and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honor it.

I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my entire pension, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only eight years. You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account \$30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank. My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways.

I noticed that whereas I personally answer your telephone calls and letters — when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become.

From now on, **I**, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person. My mortgage and loan repayments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank, by check, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate.

Be aware that it is an offense under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope. Please find attached an Application Contact which I require your chosen employee to complete. I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative. Please note that **all** copies of his or her

medical history must be countersigned by a Notary Public, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof. In due course, at MY convenience, **I will** issue your **employee** with a **PIN** number which he/she must quote in dealings with me.

I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, **I** have modeled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service. As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Let me level the playing field even further.

When you call me, press buttons as follows:  
**IMMEDIATELY AFTER DIALING, PRESS THE STAR (\*) BUTTON FOR ENGLISH**

- #1. To make an appointment to see me
- #2. To query a missing payment.
- #3. To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.
- #4. To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping
- #5. To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.
- #6. To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home
- #7. To leave a message on my computer, a password to access my computer is required. Password will be communicated to you at a later date to that Authorized Contact mentioned earlier.
- #8. To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 through 7.
- #9. To make a general complaint or inquiry. The contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service.
- #10. This is a second reminder to press\* for English. While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call.

Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement. May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous New Year?

Your Humble Client

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# NOC History

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*by Richard Schirer*

*Inputs from: Izzie and Bill Burns, Don Ogden,  
Susan Hansen and Virginia Grafton.*

## **THE PRESENT:**

The North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society (NOC) is dedicated to the advancement of the earth sciences, by stimulating interest and encouraging the study of the geological and mineral science and in lapidary arts.

NOC is a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). NOC received the AFMS All American Club Award from 1985 through 1992.

NOC meets every second Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the La Habra Community Center, except for the months of July and August and currently has 80 members. Club activities include classes and workshops in beading, cabochon cutting and polishing, carving, faceting, geology, lapidary, and silver smithing. Monthly field trips are taken to various geological and archaeological sites, in order to obtain specimens for the club's workshops. Visitors are always welcomed and children are especially encouraged to attend all of NOC events and meetings.

An annual show with fifteen dealers is held at the La Habra Community Center in June each year. Members demonstrate gold panning, wire wrapping, cabochon finishing, faceting, and a children's section that allows them to be exposed to earth sciences. The Youth Committee of La Habra, CA provide food, in conjunction with the Lion's Club. Educational classes are provided to La Habra schools and day centers as a part of NOC's services. The show's theme is Jubilee of Gems. This year's highlight exhibit will be Petrified Wood from the personal, extensive collection of Walt Wright, a national petrified expert, who will be on site to lecture and answer questions.

## **2007 - 2008 existing officers are:**

President - Donald Eschbach;  
First Vice President- Nancy Bird;  
Second Vice President - Kathy Eschbach;  
Secretary - Jay Valle;  
Treasurer - Donald Warthen;  
Federation Director - Loretta Ogden;  
and Directors -Bill & Izzie Burns; Frank Winn;  
Richard Schirer; Donald Ogden; and Olfelia Warthen.

Plans are in process to build and maintain a geological and mineralogy museum, workshop, and classrooms, so as to further promote education into these sciences. The business plan is being written and building sites are under consideration.

## **NOC HISTORY:**

NOC was formed by members of the Whittier Mineralogy Club in 1981, under Section 501(c)3 of the IRS Code, establishing it as a non-profit charitable organization. Members of the Whittier Mineralogy club decided that another club located in the La Habra area was needed.

The first two meetings were held at Leroy Grosenheider's home and Bill Burns gave a presentation on Opals at the first meeting. Meetings were then held at Mercury Savings from 1981 to 1991. Additional meeting sites were: the Senior Center Assembly Room (behind the Library, 209 South Orange, La Habra, CA in the years 1992 to 1997 and in The Veteran's Hall, La Habra, CA from 1997 to 2000. Meetings were then held in the La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd., La Habra, CA from 2000 to the present.

## **Charter Officers were:**

President – Leroy Grosenheider;  
First Vice President – Vern Smith;  
Second Vice President – Francis Troemmler;  
Secretary – Phyllis Radebaugh;  
Treasurer – Zeke Wilder;  
Federation Director – Leroy Grosenheider;  
and Director – Hayden (Pappy) Harwood.

## PAST NOC PRESIDENTS:

1981	Leroy Grosenheider
1982	Jack Radebaugh
1983	Vern Smith
1984	Zeke Wilder
1985	Hayden (Pappy) Harwood
1986	Rose Loest
1987	Bill Burns - CFMS President in 1985
1988	Jerry Conley
1989	Virginia Hansen
1990	Bill Huber
1991	Izabelle Burns CFMS President in 1992, & AFMS President in 2001 and 2002.
1992	Virginia (Ginny) Grafton
1993	Walt Messemer
1994 - 1995	Donald Warthen CFMS Financial Adv Com Mem & Club Rep to City of La Habra.
1996 -1997	Loretta Ogden AFMS/CFMS Rockhound Yr Com
1998	Mike Maneth
1999 - 2000	Donald Ogden CFMS Webmaster since 1999.
2001 - 2004	Donald Warthen 2-year officer terms started in 2001.
2005 - 2006	Nancy Bird
2007 - 2008	Donald Eschbach

**Charter Members** included: Mark and Jane Hendrixson, Hayden (Pappy) and Angie Harwood, Joan and Walt Abramson, Jack and Phylis Radebaugh, Vern and Eileen Smith, Zeke Wilder, Bob and Beverly Berg, George and Francis Troemmler, and Leroy Grosenheider.

## INTERESTING FACTS FROM NOC PAST:

Izzie and Bill Burns joined the NOC Club in 1984. They were instrumental in the formation and operation of both CFMS Outings - Zzyzx Workshop, held near Baker, CA in March each year, and Camp Paradise campout near Marysville, CA held in September each year. These outings are one week camping outings and members spend each week performing lapidary operations

of their choice. Members are able to specialize in their lapidary skills at these events.

The 1988 CFMS/AFMS Show was extremely successful and profitable by NOC and it was held at the Orange County Fair Grounds, Costa Mesa, CA. Workshops included faceting, carving, and wire wrapping. Six buildings were rented and 1,000 tables were utilized by NOC personnel. The CFMS/AFMS Show was again sponsored at Riverside, CA by NOC and four other mineralogy clubs in August 6 - 11, 1996. Another successful show!

Charles O'Neill manufactured the big case carrier for NOC in 1991. The big case was made and sold by a Long Beach club member and first utilized at the 1996 Riverside Show.

Cabochon classes were held at Walt Messemer's home in the years from 1988 to 2003. Donald and Loretta Ogden held cabochon workshop classes at their home in 2007 and 2008.

Charter Member Joan Greenlees Abrahamson has published numerous poems and books, related to mineralogy over the time period of her NOC membership.

Virginia Page won the Bulletin Editor's Hall of Fame Award in 1997. Virginia was editor of the NOC Monthly Bulletins for numerous years and her awards for the excellence of the monthly bulletins.

The Rockwell International, Autoneutics Division, Mineralogy Club closed and many of its members merged with NOC in 2003. Then in 2006, the Hacienda Heights Mineralogy Club members merged with NOC.

For the first 20 years or so, one annual field trip consisted of an Easter Sunday Ceremony. Alternating years, male and female members would place a cross upon a hill at the outing site. Services would be held at dawn and members would observe the dawning of the sun. A potluck breakfast would then be held.

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## Easter in the Desert 1996

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**(Blast from the Past)**

*by Richard Schirer*

When you talk about “going to the desert for Easter,” it sort of conjures up the image of Palm Springs, golf, tennis, and that sort of thing. Well, it might for some folks, but NOT for the Rockhounds of NOC. For us this Easter, it meant the harsh barren plain just north of Ludlow, where we hoped the wind and the sun would not be too intense, and where we waited anxiously for all the rigs to rumble in over the space of two days. We even expected Loretta and Don on Sunday morning! We should have known better!

Don and I (Jane L.), along with Don’s mother Alice, arrived Thursday evening. Roger Loest and Dee were already there, as well as Valerie and Carl Gibson from the Delver’s Club. That evening, the excitement was watching Roger inflate Don’s flat tire with his handy compressor. Thank goodness it worked long enough to get the car back to Ludlow for a patch. That evening, the stars were shining and the moon was a golden orb, but we were all sort of tired and a bit anxious. Were we having fun? Not quite yet!

Friday AM, Don began his 50 mile trek back to Barstow. He did not trust the patch and needed a spare too. It was too chilly and windy to do much rock hounding. Walt and Joan Abramson arrived and Joan joined Mom and I (Jane L.) in the trailer, while Walt and a few others attempted to find some jasper. No luck! Little by little, more people arrived. By the time Don returned from Barstow around noon, Dana Matula had headed in along with Anne and Glen Radke from the Orange Coast Club. Walt and Chris Ringer from the Delver’s Club pulled in and shortly thereafter, came Joan and Bob Henry. Could we start having fun?

By early afternoon, the sun was shining, the wind had died down, and all of us were ready to go rock hounding. Don led us to the banded jasper

and then to a place we have always called Jasper Hill. Joining us were Mike and Mary Maneth and their grandchildren, Amanda and Adrian, along with Joe Reed. Everyone probably found more jasper than they wanted to. Isn’t that always the way? Back at camp, Izzie and Bill Burns had arrived and it was “happy hour” time! Yes, we were having fun! Later at the campfire, we enjoyed each other’s company and marveled at the clear starry sky.

Saturday dawned clear and clam. We planned the trip to the Strawberry Onyx Mine for 9 a.m., to allow for any late comers. Don and Peggy Hughes and children barely got their tents arranged, but were ready to join us. Very shortly after the planned time, we had nine vehicles pulling out in line for the rather tortuous 16 miles to the mine. The worst part of the trip was the loose sand in several areas, as well as a very rocky difficult area near the mine. How happy we were to reach the old adobe shack! Everyone scattered over the slopes searching for rocks of just the perfect color and stripe. Bill Burns and Mike Maneth spent much of the time working away at a gigantic specimen, which finally defeated them, at least for the day. Izzie said, “Have you seen a grown man cry?”

Happy hour and the potluck were magnificent as usual, and the night sky provided us with another stunning show, including the comet with its long hazy tail, still visible near the northwest horizon. Joan Henry spotted this first and it certainly made a perfect ending to a glorious day.

The Easter Morning Service provided by Walt and Joan Abramson was at 7 a.m. The time change had made it a little confusing, but we were aroused by horn toots and “Bringing in the Sheaves.” As usual, Walt and Joan were very special and inspired us all. After the service, Amanda, Adrian, and Vanessa Hughes had an Easter Egg Hunt. We all helpfully “egged” them on! By 8:30 a.m., we were gathered for a huge, tasty Easter Brunch. The harsh plain, now bathed in golden light, was surrounded by distant lavender and rose colored hills. What a perfect

spot! How could it ever have seemed so inhospitable?

Several people (including us) left directly after brunch. Those remaining decided to go do some four wheeling in the area of Broadway Dry Lake. Dee and Joan stayed behind in camp, while Walt went with Bill and Izzie and Joe rode with Roger. Bob and Jean were in their Jeep. Part way there, Roger broke down and Henry's rescued Joe. They found that the area known as the Pink Cliffs was closed to any driving in, so Roger did not miss much. By the time all returned, Roger had made it back to camp. How? Roger likes to live dangerously, I guess! On Saturday, he had driven to the Onyx Mine without 4 wheel drive! He made it, but I am not sure that all of his car did!

Guess that everyone had another wonderful day, capped with shared food and a starlit evening. The comet was still visible! We make such unforgettable memories with our great field trips. Next time, maybe more NOC's will be able to join us.

Author - Jane Livezey, North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society, Inc., May, 1996, Volume 15, Issue 5. Loretta Ogden, Club President.

Editor's Note:  
For over 20 years, NOC had this Easter in the Desert tradition field trip. I would like to see it reinstated! How about you?



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## Pearl Ring Wire Wrap Class April 17, 2008

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Students made 2 Pearl Rings with Gold Filled square and round wire.



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# NOC General Meeting

## La Habra Community Center

### April 8, 2008

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*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 22 members & 3 guests.

**Program:** Joe Girtner presented a program about Flint Knapping which included several Riker mounts full of modern and ancient flaked blades.

#### <Break & Drawing>

**March Minutes:** There were no changes to the March Minutes so they will stand as read.

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

**Field Trips:** Jay Valle informed the members present that the club field trip was to Castle Butte the weekend of April 26-27. Please sign up if you intend to go. Next month there are 2 field trip events. The club field trip is to one or more tourmaline mines in San Diego County on May 24-25. More information will be available next month. The other trip is the Tri-Federation trip to Texas Springs on May 21-25. This is a long distance trip, about 700 miles one way. Jay Valle & Don Ogden are planning on carpooling there and anyone else wanting to go or more information should contact Jay.

#### **Federation Report:**

- Loretta Ogden reminded us that the CFMS Show was coming up fast in Ventura the last weekend in June. She requested that members come out to the CFMS "Cracker Barrel" event on Friday evening which is being put on by Don Ogden and his Internet Committee. Loretta will also put in

the NOC Club case at the show so you need to give her your items to display right after the NOC Show.

**Librarian:** Ofelia - We have books, videos and dvds.

**Programs:** The May program will be presented by a Fullerton College geology teacher. He will be discussing the finds at the La Brea Tar Pits.

**Refreshments:** Kathy Valle thanked Nancy Bird for bringing the snacks. Next month's treats will be provided by Frank & Kim Winn. The June refreshments will be courtesy of Richard & Yolanda Shirer and Bill & Izzy Burns..

#### **Show Report:**

- Don Warthen displayed pictures of the Amethyst Cathedral Geode the Club had purchased from The Jewel Tunnel for use as our Grand Prize. He said other rocks had been bought as well.

- There will not be a Main Case this year. That space will be used by Walt Wright to showcase his petrified wood.

- Mike Wilson will be displaying his scale model working elevator in the lobby.

- The Friday Night VIP Mixer (Gala): The food is going to be located at the far end of the room to force the guests to go past all of our vendors and displays to get to it. We need monitors to watch the food trays. Nancy Bird is going to be doing the drinks and selling grab bags. We need volunteers to work at this event from around 5-8 PM. NOC members are asked to bring small food items to supplement the food we are getting from Sunshine Bakery (a signup sheet was sent around.) The 3D Art People are bringing the desserts. Yolanda Shirer bought orange material and she & Ofelia Warthen are making aprons for NOC members to carry money and donation award tickets at the mixer.

- In the Main Room, tables will be set up by around 8 AM and we will get the room by about 10 AM and start skirting. Dealers will come in about noon and start setting up. Everything has to be done by 5 PM.

- Bring scissors for skirting.

- Mike Beaumont will be giving a program at the Good Morning La Habra breakfast on the Thursday morning, two weeks before the show.



Mike needs help providing food and breakfast and also setting up a rock & mineral display. Mike is also involved with another breakfast event this month called the Business Connection and Don W. would like to see some NOC members come out.

- In order to conveniently carry donation award tickets and money, Yolanda Shirer and Ofelia Warthen are making orange aprons for the "ticket people" to wear during the mixer and show.

- Nancy Bird informed us that she has 23 cases filled and just needs one more exhibitor to fill the last case. She also signed the club up to put in a display at the La Habra Library and needed ideas about what to put in. She asked for volunteers.

- Grab Bag Filling Party at Nancy Bird's trailer, May 3, starting at 10 AM. She said that we need more rock for the grab bags. There will be a potluck lunch and Nancy requested that people sign up for various foods. Note: due to space limitations, those attending may pull up to her home to unload rock & people but then need to re-park their vehicles on the main street.

- Loretta Ogden requested members to bring donation award items.

- Don W. pointed out the stack of show flyers and asked members to take and distribute them.

**Social Secretary:** Loretta Ogden said that Jerry Grafton's daughter had died and that Eleanore Pleines had sent a card.

### **NOC Board Meeting Items of Interest:**

- Gilbert Pelayo of Sunshine Bakery brought food samples to the NOC Board Meeting for them to sample. Ofelia Warthen & Yolanda Shirer will decide on the food which we will be purchasing from Gilbert for use at the Friday Night "Gala".

- The Puente Funds were discussed and Don W. and Frank Winn will continue to work on securing the funds.

- A letter from the IRS was received confirming that we qualify to be a 501(c)3. Since we are already a 501(c)3 and are requesting a refund for our application, this letter is confusing. Don Warthen will follow up on the letter and our refund request.

- Loretta Ogden is working on ideas for our Christmas Party.

- La Habra Summer Day Camp: The date of this event will be Thursday, July 29.

- The annual Chamber event at Senor Campos that the NOC supports every year is going to occur on May 20th. So far, 14 members are signed up to go. If anyone else wants to join us they should contact Don Eschbach so he can confirm our reservations.

### **New Business:**

Loretta O. informed us that the lapidary workshop would no longer be held at hers and Don's house. Instead, she proposed that a wirewrap class be started on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, either at the Community Center or at Don & Loretta's house.

- Richard Shirer asked when a Field Trip Meeting was going to occur. Jay Valle was directed to select a suitable date and inform Don Eschbach.

- Nancy Bird supplied the mystery rock which was correctly identified as mahogany obsidian.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

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## **Grab Bag Filling Party**

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*by Nancy Bird*

**When:** May 3, 10 a.m.

**Where:** Nancy Birds Home

1001 W. Lambert Road, #18

La Habra, CA

Ph: (562) 697-0636

Cell: (562) 587- 7500

She needs more rocks for the grab bags. There will be a potluck lunch and Nancy requested that people sign up for various foods. Note: due to space limitations, those attending may pull up to her home to unload rock & people but then need to re-park their vehicles on the main street.

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## Thank You May Not Be enough .....

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*Submitted by Ofelia Warthen*

I want to thank Don Warthen for a great job and ideas he has brought unto the 2008 Gem Show. He always put his mind and heart into this show. He has great enthusiasm and believes that his ideas are workable and that it can be done.

I am thankful that he chose me to help him, even at times I have complained. I believe NOC Club has been recognized as a great non-profit organization in helping the youth and La Habra Community. This is a great opportunity to work together in this great tradition and make it the greatest show ever!

I appreciate you Don W. A thank you may not be enough, how about a Hug!

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## Emerald is Gemstone of the Month for May

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*Submitted by Ofelia Warthen*

Reference Crystal & Gem by Dr. R.F. Symes and Dr. R. R. Harding

The name emerald derives from the Greek “Smaragdus, which in turn came perhaps from the Persian. It means “green stone” and, in ancient times, referred not only to emeralds, but also probably to most green stones.

Emerald, together with aquamarine and beryl, belongs to the beryl group, being the most precious of the group. Its green is incomparable, and is therefore called “emerald green”. The pigment is chrome, sometimes vanadium. The color is very stable against light and heat.

Only the finest qualities are transparent. Often the emerald is clouded by inclusions (liquid or

gas bubbles, healing cracks and foreign crystals). These are not necessarily classified as fault, but are evidence as to the genuineness of the stone as compared with synthetic and other imitations. The expert refers to these inclusions as a “jardin” (garden).

The physical properties, especially the specific gravity and double refraction as well as pleochroism, vary according to source area. All emeralds are brittle and combined with internal stresses, sensitive to pressure; care must be taken in heating them. They are resistant to chemicals with the exception of fluororic acid.

Emeralds are formed by rising magma and metamorphism. Deposits are therefore found mainly in or near pegmatite veins. Mining is nearly exclusively from host rock, where the emerald has grown into small veins or on walls of cavities. Alluvial mining would hardly be possible as the specific gravity is near that of quartz.

The most important deposits are in Colombia, especially the Muzo and Chivor Mines near Bogota. The state of Columbia tries to impose a control over the sale of emeralds, but the larger part of the production reaches the trade illegally. The Chibcha Indians of Colombia mined emeralds and through trade with Peru and the Aztecs of Mexico, the Spainards were determined to find their source. They found the Chivor mine in 1537 and send most of emeralds back to the Spanish court.

There are many well-known large emeralds, as famous as diamonds and rubies. Some beautiful specimens of several carats are kept by the British Museum of Natural History in London, by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, Russia and in the Persian crown Jewels. In the Viennese treasury is a jug, 4¾ in/12cm high and weighting 2205 ct, cut from a single emerald crystal.

Emerald has a Mohs hardness of 7 ½-8, specific gravity 2.67-2.78, Cleavage is None, Fracture is small conchoidal, uneven and brittle