

# NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol. 30 No, 3

March 2011

## President's Message

*by Dave Swanston*

A friendly reminder that dues are now due for this year 2011. Also, we now have a new dues/membership card. Once filled out will be useful in obtaining discounts and even entrance to various events of other associations. If you have not yet paid your dues, please send them in soon. Be sure to make your check payable to NOC Gem & Mineral Society or NOCGMS and mail it to our Treasurer, John Erskine or, bring your check to our meeting and give it to John yourself.

The Citrus Fair is coming in April. The Fair runs on the 15th and 16th with set up on the 14th. Fran will have a sign up sheet at our March meeting, so check your calendars for the possibility of having time to help promote our club at this event.

My thanks to Don Eschbach for getting our program speaker Dr. David Lynch and his most interesting talk on, "The San Andreas Fault" for our February meeting. Our club members were so inspired that they opted to purchase his "Field Guide to the San Andreas Fault" and add it to our club's library. If interested in checking out this or any other book or DVD, contact Yolanda Schirer so she may bring them to the meeting. Check Don's article for this month's speaker and topic and come to the meeting, you'll be glad you did.

The Education committee has held two classes. Bob Codero's earring and pendent class and Don Warthen's copper bracelet class. This month we will have the Knotted Pearl Necklace class on Mar. 22. Another class next month on April 19, is the Scroll Wire Wrapped Cabochon Pendant class. You can still sign up for either or both of these classes by downloading and sending in the registration form or fill one out at our meeting this month.

President's message cont. on Page 4

## NOC Club Activities

Board Meeting - to be announced  
Field Trip - Chuckwalla Springs - March 19-20  
Deadline for NOC News - March 17  
Show Committee Meeting - March 17

## Programs

*by Don Eschbach*

March 8 - Stan McCall -- Custom-Creative  
Custom Jewelry

## Refreshments

Thanks to Nancy O'Connor, Clyeda Tezak, and Heather Bates for bringing the goodies to the February meeting. Fran Swanston, Ofelia and Don Warthen will bring the goodies to the March meeting.

## Members in the News

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

*Dori Cooley*

*Virginia Grafton*

*Toni Mynes*

*Don Rees*

*Valeria Ruzgys*

*Rae Smith*

*Jay Valle*

*Mary Villaescusa*

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alan and Teri Heuer

Ruhan and Atma Singh Kainth

Linda Chu

---

## Shows and Events

---

### **March 5-6 2011, Arcadia, CA**

Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.  
Los Angeles Co. Arboretum & Botanic Gardens  
301 Baldwin Ave.  
Hours: Sat. & Sun. 9-4:30  
Jo Anna Ritchey (626) 359-1624  
Email: [vgms\\_editor@roadrunner.com](mailto:vgms_editor@roadrunner.com)  
Website: [www.Moroks.com](http://www.Moroks.com)

### **March 5-6 - VENTURA, CA**

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
Seaside Park, Ventura Co. Fairgrounds  
10 W. harbor Blvd.  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4  
Andy Anderson (805) 987-0043 /  
[lilliananderson@juno.com](mailto:lilliananderson@juno.com)  
Email: [vgms\\_editor@roadrunner.com](mailto:vgms_editor@roadrunner.com)  
Website: [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org)

### **March 11-13 2011, Stoddard Wells, CA**

Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Stoddard Well Tailgate (Stodrard Wells)  
Bell Mountain/Stoddard Well exit from I-15  
Hours: 8-5 daily  
Brett Ward (760) 954-4323  
Email: [Bretts88@verizon.net](mailto:Bretts88@verizon.net)  
Club (760) 243-2330  
Website: [www.vvgmc.org](http://www.vvgmc.org)

### **March 12-13 2011, San Marino, CA**

San Marino Masonic Center  
3130 Huntington Drive  
Hours: Sar. 10-6; Sun. 10-5  
Bud & Marcia Goetz / (626) 260-7239  
Email: [joenmar1@verizon.net](mailto:joenmar1@verizon.net)

### **March 17-20 - SAN BERNADINO, CA**

Orange Belt Mineral Society Tailgate  
Little League Western Region Headquarters  
6707 Little League Drive  
Th 12-5, Fri 9-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 9-3  
Ann Teuscher, (909) 297 6652  
Email: [amansfield@live.com](mailto:amansfield@live.com)  
Website: [www.obmsrocks.webs.com](http://www.obmsrocks.webs.com)

### **April 30, May 1, 2011, Anaheim, CA**

Searchers Gem & Mineral Society  
Brookhurst Community Center  
2271 W. Crescent Avenue  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun 10-4:30  
Beth Pelfrey (714) 774-2754  
Email: [martin.swiderski@jacobs.com](mailto:martin.swiderski@jacobs.com)  
Website: [www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

### **May 13-15 2011, Anderson CA**

CFMS Convention & Show sponsored by  
Northern California Treasures  
Superior California Gem & Mineral Society  
Shasta Gem & Mineral Society  
Paradise Gem & Mineral Club  
Shasta District Fairgrounds - Anderson, CA  
Near Redding, CA - Off Highway 273  
Hours: Fri. & Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 10-4  
Show Chairman: Steve Puderbough -  
[steve@applyaline.com](mailto:steve@applyaline.com)  
Website: [/www.superiorcal.com](http://www.superiorcal.com)

### **June 4-5, 2011, La Habra, CA**

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society  
La Habra Community Center  
101 W. La Habra Blvd.  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
Dave Swanston (626) 912-1531  
Email: [swanni3@roadrunner.com](mailto:swanni3@roadrunner.com)  
Website: [nocgms.com](http://nocgms.com)

### **November 5-6 - LANCASTER, CA**

Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds  
2551 West Ave. H & Hwy 14  
Hours: 9-5 daily  
Cheri George, (562) 243-8470  
Email: [lizardwoman3@yahoo.com](mailto:lizardwoman3@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.palmdalegemandmineral.com](http://www.palmdalegemandmineral.com)

### **November 5-6 - LANCASTER, CA**

Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds  
2551 West Ave. H & Hwy 14  
Hours: 9-5 daily  
Cheri George, (562) 243-8470  
Email: [lizardwoman3@yahoo.com](mailto:lizardwoman3@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.palmdalegemandmineral.com](http://www.palmdalegemandmineral.com)

---

## Letter to the Editor

---

*Respectfully submitted by  
Don Warthen  
Past President, 1994*

I found the article in our Newsletter last month on Bonitoite to be very educational and entertaining. Also, Jim Brace-Thompson, President of the CFMS had an article in Rock & Gem Magazine last month on Bonitoite. However neither article told the story of how Bonitoite became the state gem stone and the relationship between Bonitoite, the CFMS, and the North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society.

In the article by Mark Nelson, Editor - Rockhound Ramblings, Pasadena Lapidary Society said "Because of its rarity and beauty, Benitotite was adopted as California's state gemstone in 1985." But there was no mention of the work and time that the Officers and Members of the CFMS put into this project. The following will fill in the missing gap in this story.

The CFMS wanted to present the State Gem Stone at the joint AFMS/CFMS show in 1984 hosted by the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society; Carmelita Swarts of the SDMG started this project. She got Assemblywoman, Lucy Killea from San Diego and "Rusty" Areias from the 25th Assembly District, San Benito County to carry bill SB2404 through the Assembly. The bill was introduced on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1984. By the end of May, the bill had been adopted in the Assembly and read and referred to the Committee on Rules in the Senate. Unfortunately, AB 2404 was defeated in the Senate on June 29 by a vote of 17 to 10.

This did not stop the CFMS. One year later under the leadership of 1984 President Charles Leach and 1985 President Bill Burns, the CFMS mobilized a state wide campaign.

A new bill, AB-2357, was again introduced in 1985 by Assemblyman Rusty Arias and Assemblywoman Lucy Killea. This time the members of the CFMS personally lobbied each Senator that had voted no on the first bill and the senate held hearings in Sacramento. Charles Leach, Bill Burns and several members of the CFMS (and some members of the NOC) testified at the hearings. The bill finally passed the Senate on Wednesday, Sept 11, 1985 and Governor George Deukmejian signed the bill on October 1, 1985 and Bonitoite became the state gem stone of California.

---

## American Indians and Turquoise

---

Taken from article in *Rock and Gem Smithsonian*  
via *The Pegmatite* 2/2011

American Indians have worked the numerous deposits in the southwestern United States since AD 1000. The Pueblo Indians used turquoise for beads and made beautiful necklaces and pendants from shells covered with turquoise mosaics.

In 1853, silverworking was introduced to the Navajo for the first time by Mexican smiths. The Navajo soon began reworking Spanish American Indian styles.

In 1872 the Zuni learned silver smithing from the Navajo. Zuni work is characterized by finely set, small turquoise inlays; Navajo work is distinguished by die-stamped designs and large turquoise cabochons.

South American Indians regard turquoise as "male" or "female" depending on its color. "Male" blue is associated with the sky-Father Sky and "Female" green with earth-Mother Earth.

According to Pueblo belief, a piece of turquoise attached to a gun or a bow assured the firer a perfect aim.

---

## Alluvial Fan

---

An **alluvial fan** is a large, fan-shaped deposit of sediment formed where a fast flowing stream flattens, slows, and spreads typically at the the base of narrow canyons at the foot of a mountain range



---

## President's Message Cont.

---

We are in need of donations for our raffle at our June show of rocks, gems, minerals and fossils, or perhaps, of something you have made. If you have any of these items and wish to help us by donating one or more of these items, please contact Kathy Eschbach to let her know what you are willing to donate for the benefit of our club. Thank you.

My thanks to Nancy O'Connor, Clyeda Tezak, and Heather Bates for bringing snacks to our February meeting. This month Don and Ofelia, and Dave & Fran will be providing refreshments.

Ofelia is in need of egg cartons, the one dozen size only. If you have any, please bring them to one of our meetings. These cartons are needed for the children's room at our show in June.

Remember, that when you sign in, please let Mary Ellen know that this is your birthday month and you will receive three free raffle tickets from Loretta.

Please check the club roster to see if your information is complete and up to date, as Mary Ellen will be printing a new Club Roster for our May meeting.

See you at our March meeting.



Navy's New Pirate Catcher

---

## In Memoriam Helen Louise Dahnke

---

by Don Ogden

Helen Louise Dahnke of Sun City, California passed away after a three year battle with cancer on the 28th of January, 2011. Helen was born in Denver, Colorado in 1931, and lived for the last 18 years in Sun City, and the twenty years prior in Loma Linda.

We remember Helen and her husband John as dealers at our show and many other shows we attended.

Helen was a busy person. She was an accomplished potter besides her jewelry know how. Both of which we were lucky to see at our shows and others.

Helen and John came to the NOC weekly seminars by Walt Wright at Don and Ofelia's place of business. They also attended the follow on seminar in Smiley Park, and stayed at Virginia Grafton's Cabin.

Kim and Frank Win, Loretta, and my self went out to see them around Thanksgiving. We had the opportunity to pick from the cream of the crop and had a lovely visit with John and Helen. We all bought beautiful petrified wood from them.

In losing Helen, it has made me think about dealers we have taken for granted for so many years. I am so glad we have developed good dealer relationship for our show. Shirley Hill, Paul the book dealer, Todd Sohowalter, Cheri George and more. I am looking forward to see them at our show in La Habra.

*She will certainly be missed by all.*

The following picture was taken on January 22, 2011 while she was working in quartzsite.



## 50 Cent Lightbox

by Don Ogden

after reading *Photography by bomobob*

<http://bomobob.blogspot.com/>

After reading the "Photography" article, I decided to build the **50 cent Lightbox**. I made a list of the two things required: a Bristol board, and an Ott light bulb and went to a lot of Hardware, and office supply stores. No one had either one.

So I went to Office Max and bought 22 in. x 28 in. white board for \$1.00 in place of the Bristol board.

On the way home, I decided to stop at the Lamps Plus on Imperial by the 57 Freeway. Guess what, they had Ott light bulbs for \$20.00.

I now had \$21 plus gas invested to make a 50 cent light box.

### 50 CENT LIGHTBOX

#### Material Required:

1 Ott light bulb

1 table lamp

White card board 22 in. X 28 in. (in lieu of Bristol board)

#### Make lightbox as follows:

**NOTE:** To use a tripod, the card board was placed on a shelf over 2 ft. high.

1. Place card board on shelf, bent it, and tape it to wall (see figure).
2. Remove shade from table lamps, and screw in Ott bulb.
3. Connect lamp to electrical outlet.
4. Position the lamp roughly 45 degrees above the item, and about 45 degrees off to the side.

**NOTE:** Use of 2 lamps will reduce shadows.

#### Taking Pictures Tips

1. Place camera on a tripod. There's absolutely no other way to eliminate shake.
2. Set camera to fully automatic (that is how I got my best picture).
3. Move the light, from the lamps, around so that you don't cast shadows where you don't want.



**50 Cent Lightbox Set Up**



**50 Cent Lightbox Picture**

The picture was taken with a Canon EOS 60D camera in the fully automatic mode 20 inches from the subject. The subject was an 1/2 inch diameter ear ring made by Loretta. A picture of the actual size of the ear ring is below.



The moral of this story: there is no 50 cent Lightbox any more. The lightbox now costs 42 times 50 cents. And, please read the bomobob article before you make a 50 cent lightbox.

---

## March Birthstone

---

*by Ofelia Warthen*

The Birthstone for March is Aquamarine. Aquamarine (from Latin: *aqua marina*, “water of the sea”) is a blue or turquoise variety of beryl.

It occurs at most localities which yield ordinary beryl, some of the finest coming from Russia. The gem-gravel placer deposits of Sri Lanka contain aquamarine.

Clear yellow beryl, such as occurs in Brazil, is sometimes called **aquamarine chrysolite**.

When corundum presents the bluish tint of typical aquamarine, it is often termed Oriental aquamarine.

The deep blue version of aquamarine is called *maxixe*. Its color fades to white when exposed to sunlight or is subjected to heat treatment, though the color returns with irradiation. The stone is also a talisman for sailors.

In the United States, aquamarines can be found at the summit of Mt. Antero in the Sawatch Range in central Colorado. In Wyoming, aquamarine has been discovered in the Big Horn Mountains, near Powder River Pass.

In Brazil, there are mines in the states of Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo, and Bahia, and minorly in Rio Grande do Norte. The Mines of Colombia, Zambia, Madagascar, Malawi, Tanzania and Kenya also produce aquamarine.

The biggest aquamarine ever mined was found at the city of Marambaia, Minas Gerais, Brazil, in 1910. It weighed over 110 kg, and its dimensions were 48.5 cm (19 in) long and 42 cm (17 in) in diameter.

Research by Don Warthen



---

## Education Report

---

*by Ofelia Warthen, Chair Person*

Education classes have started! We had Bob Cordero create our first jewelry project in January that went very well. Our February class was on Textured Copper Bracelet with Don Warthen as teacher.

The following classes are scheduled for the remainder of the year. All classes are very interesting and get great response. There will be applications at the next meeting. So, please sign up! See me or Fran Swanston for more information.

March 22 Fresh Water Pearl Stringing  
April 23 Scroll Wire Wrap  
September 20 Ring Wire Wrap  
October 18 Wire Wrap Prongs

Other Information: Please start saving your egg cartons (one dozen) for the Gem Show in June. We will need them for a children's project.

We need to change the Lobby Display Case at the La Habra Community Center. We have members that have great Collections; this is the time to display them!

Please give me a call 562-946-0828 or e-mail at [odwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:odwarthen@verizon.net).

---

## Field Trips for March

---

*by Frank Winn*

Mar 11-13 .... Stoddard Wells tailgate

Mar 19-20 .... Chuckawalla Springs (agate, fluorite, bloodstone)

March 26-27 ..CFMS - Jalama Beach County Park  
(See page 8.)

## NOC General Meeting Minutes La Habra Community Center February 8, 2011

by Nancy Bird

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Swanston at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Don Eschbach. Twenty nine members and 2 guests, and 2 new members were present.

Don Eschbach introduced the speaker Dr. David K. Lynch. Dr. Lynch spoke on the San Andreas fault, and had a great Power Point presentation.

During the break members bought copies of his books on the San Andreas fault. The club bought one for the library

After the break, the drawing was held.

The Minutes of the last meeting by Secretary Nancy Bird were in our newsletter. There were no corrections. Frank Winn moved that the minutes be accepted, Seconded by Loretta Ogden. The motion was accepted, none opposed so the Minutes will stand as published.

John Erskine presented the Treasurer's Report.

Loretta Ogden gave the federation report. There are still room at Zzyzx.

Frank Winn gave the field report and past out flyers for the Cramer Junction field trip in February.

Thanks to Nancy O'Connor, Clyeda Tezak, and Heather Bates for bringing the goodies to the February meeting. Members are highly encouraged to sign up for refreshments.

Education committee-Ofelia Warthen talked about the next project-a copper bracelet.

Important dates: Show committee March 17 here at the community center at 7 p. m., and the Citrus Fair April 15, 16, and 17 in downtown La Habra.



## Underground Gold Miners Museum

Hi,

I'm the curator of a tiny museum in the tiny town of Alleghany California. We are planning on holding our second annual gold show the last weekend in June and are seeking newsletter submission guidelines from gem clubs so we can get the word out.

We also are putting together geology tours of the Alleghany Mining District for interested groups. (These are surface tours)

Geologist Raymond Wittkopp will guide the tours. If your group might like to come for a day to learn about the unique geology up here, let me know.

For now, I would just like to find out how successful this group email is at contacting you folks. Please confirm receipt of this email, and please let me know about your newsletter submission guidelines and deadlines.

[www.undergroundgold.com](http://www.undergroundgold.com) is our website

Thank you so much!

Rae Bell



# CFMS Field Trip to Jalama Beach, Lompoc, CA

by Adam Dean and Robert Sankovich  
CFMS Field Trips South - Co-Chairs 2011

**WHERE:** Jalama Beach County Park, Star Route, Jalama Road, Lompoc, CA 93436 Park Office (805) 736-3504

**WHEN:** March 26 - 27, 2011

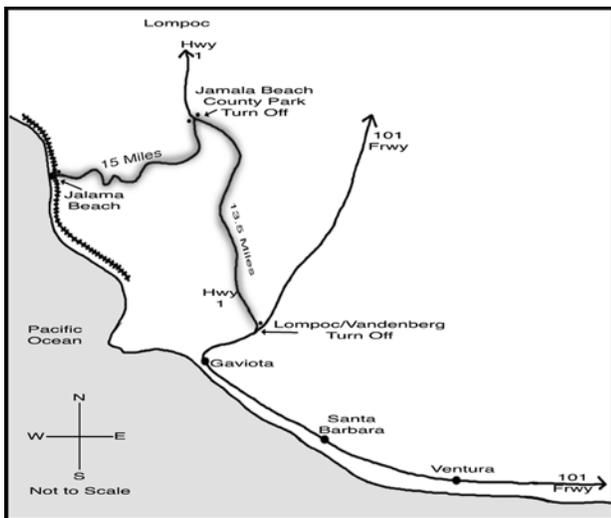
**MATERIAL:** Agate, jasper, Petrified Whale Bone, Travertine Onyx, and Fossils.

**Please let us know if you are going on the field trip, the weather can change, if we don't know your going we won't be able to contact you if the field trip is cancelled.**

**FIELD TRIP:** Our March field trip will be to Jalama Beach. We will be looking for Agate, Jasper, Petrified Whale Bone, Travertine Onyx, and Fossils. They can be found along the shoreline.

**CAMPING;** You can come up for the day or camp over night. Day use \$8.00, Dogs \$3.00 (current rabies vaccination required.) camping \$20.00-\$30.00, with electric hookup \$30.00 Campsites are assigned on a first come, first served basis. One site to one vehicle. Limit 1 additional vehicle per campsite \$10.00. 98 campsites, all overlooking the ocean or beach front. Each site has a picnic table and BBQ, with hot showers, restrooms and water nearby. Twenty nine (29) sites offer electrical hookups, and dump stations are available. Robert will be camping.

**WEATHER:** The weather can be windy, cold, wet, sunny so plan for all. offer electrical hookups, and dump stations



are available. I will not be camping. The weather can be windy, cold, wet, sunny so plan for all.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Ventura head north on 101, past Santa Barbara, just past Gaviota as the 101 goes inland take the State Hwy 1 turn off, marked Lompoc/Vandenberg. Go north approximately 13.5 miles to Jalama Beach County Park turn off. Turn left, west, drive approximately 15 miles to Jalama Beach County Park. Approximately 122 miles from Thousand Oaks, 2.5-3 hour drive time.

**MEETING:** March 26th 27 th Sat/Sun morning, 9am 2011. Meet at my campsite, look for my campsite # on a sign near the park entrance and a CFMS sign on my white F-250 Ford Pickup 4x crew cab. There will be a short briefing of the site. Please remember to sign a release form to participate in the field trip. We will then walk along the beach south of the parking lot, approximately 2.5 miles, to an area that has cement on the side of the hill. Along the beach you can find petrified whale bone, agate, jasper in shades of brown, honey, gold, and clear. Travertine Onyx can be found north of the parking lot approximately 1.5 miles.

**TOOLS:** Collecting bags, buckets, day pack, digging tools, rock pick, pry bar, eye protection, gloves, trowels, wide brimmed hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, sturdy shoes, newspaper for wrapping fossils, Drinking water, lunch or snacks. There will be a potluck Saturday night.

**For further information, please contact:**

Adam Dean @ (909) 489-4899 - theagatehunter@verizon.net or

Robert Sankovich @ (805) 494-7734 - rmsorca@adelphia.net



---

## Books by Our February Speaker David K. Lynch

---



---

## Some “Scientific Puns”

---

*via David Miller Feb, 2011*

For all of you higher scientific minds, a new system of weights and measures:

1. Ratio of an igloo’s circumference to its diameter = Eskimo Pi
2. 2000 pounds of Chinese soup = Won ton
3. 1 millionth of a mouthwash = 1 microscope
4. Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement = 1 bananosecond
5. Weight an evangelist carries with God = 1 billigram
6. Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour = Knotfurlong
7. 6.5 feet in the Twilight Zone = 1 Rod Serling
8. Half of a large intestine = 1 semicolon
9. Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower
10. 1,000,000 aches = 1 megahurtz
11. Shortest distance between two jokes = A straight line
12. 453.6 graham crackers = 1 pound cake
13. 1 million + million microphones=1 megaphone
14. 2 million bicycles = 2 megacycles
15. 52 cards = 1 decacards
16. 1 millionth of a fish = 1 microfiche

## Field Trip to Kramer Junction

*by Frank Winn and Don O*

We made it on Saturday, but no one else did. The weather was great on the way there and while we were there. The weather got bad when we entered the Cajon Pass on the way home. Pictures follow:

### *At Kramer Junction*



### *On the way home*



Saturday, June 4 & Sunday, June 5, 2011

Time: 10:00 am — 5:00 pm

# Jubilee of Gems Show

- Checkout our many Dealers with beautiful stones and jewelry.
- See our Demonstrations and Displays including rocks, crystals, and fossils.
- Participate at our Spinning Wheel
- Visit the Children's Activities.
- Enjoy good food, and hourly Raffle drawings.

We will have Demonstrations in:  
Wire Wrapping, Lapidary, Faceting,  
Carving, Silversmithing, and  
Geode Cutting.

North Orange County Gem &  
Mineral Society, Inc.  
Presents:

**Jubilee Of Gems Show  
"Rocks For All Ages"**

La Habra Community Center  
101 W. La Habra Blvd.  
La Habra, CA 90631

Located at the corner of Euclid and  
La Habra Blvd.

**Free Admission & Free Parking**

Show Chairman, Dave Swanston

Phone: 626-912-1531

E-Mail: [swanni3@roadrunner.com](mailto:swanni3@roadrunner.com)