

NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol. 33 No, 01

January 2014

President's Message

by Nancy Bird

HAPPY NEW YEAR! -Rock on-

We have a lot to look forward to this year. The Citrus Fair in April will be something about returning to the farm and they have asked for plants besides out rocks, so I have been busy potting up things early. If you run into nice smaller Mexican clay pots, please get them for me and we can reimburse you.

We will be having a Board Meeting Jan. 7, Tuesday from 7 to 9 pm at the small clubhouse across the creek from my place. Phil Pacia from Sonora H.S. will be fielding questions. Come if you like, but only Board members can vote.

Are you going to Quartzite? I'll be going with Walt Wright Jan. 3 and then back for the QIA, spending overnight in Ehrenburg just over the border.

I hope Santa brought you some nice rocks and/or jewelry.

Nancy Bird, President

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NOC Club Activities

Board Meeting - 6 p.m. 3rd Tues. at La Habra Community Center (none in Jul & Aug)

Next Board and Show Meeting - Jan 6.

Field Trips - January - Quartzsite

Programs

Jan. 14- The program is, I think, the FAA kids from Sonora,

Refreshments

Nancy and Kim will bring the goodies to the January meeting.

Date: January 14

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

Members in the News

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

Colin Arp Jane Hendrixson
Don Livezey Karen Miller
Betty Newman Bernie Ruiz

Your gemstone is Garnet.
Your flower is Carnation or Snowdrop.

Shows and Events

2014 -

February 15 - 24: INDIO, CA

San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society, Banning
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival
46350 Arabia Street

Hours: 10 - 10 daily

Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674, (951)
288-9025 cell

Email: bert67@verizon.net

March 1 - 2: ARCADIA, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds
Los Angeles Arboretum & Botanic Gardens
301 Baldwin Avenue

Hours: 9:00 - 4:30 daily

Contact: Jo Anna Ritchey, (626) 359-1624

Email: joannaritchey@gmail.com

Website: www.Moroks.com

March 1 - 2: VENTURA, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 W. Harbor Blvd.

Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

Contact: Krishna Juarez, (805) 323-6725

Email: abaris2007@gmail.com

March 8 - 9: SAN MARINO, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Center
3130 Huntington Drive

Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5

Contact: Marcia Goetz, (626) 260-7239

Email: joenmar1@verizon.net

Schedule of 2014 Education Classes

January 28 - Bead bracelet per attached flyer/
application

February 25 - Chain/Bead Necklace

March 25 & 26 - Silver Smith w/Pendent

April 29 - Wire Wrap W/Prongs

September 23 - Copper leaf

October 28 - Chinese Knotting

November 18 - Holiday Project

For more information contact Ofelia Warthen 562-
946-0828 or e-mail

odwarthen@verizon.net

There will be a Board meeting Mon., Jan. 6 from 7
to 9 pm at the clubhouse where I live—1001 W.
Lambert rd. This is urgent, please attend. I will be
also contacting Jann and John E. as he is not at work

. Let me know if you can make it. There will be
another Board meeting later in the month, but we need
this one before the regular meeting.

Nancy



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued)

HAPPY NEW YEAR-I HOPE IT ROCKS!!

Looking forward to 2014, we will be doing the Citrus Fair once again in April and they want plants to go along with their theme "Back to the Farm." So I'll be needing small to medium sized decorative clay pots for this and our show. Be on the look-out, please.

And speaking of the show, we have an opportunity to join with the 2 local high schools in a Community Fair the same weekend as our show. But we need to move on this immediately so I can get the contracts out to our vendors. If we wait a year, they have someone from out of town that wants the building.

Here's the deal:

1. The Community Fair brings in 10,000 people from Friday night to Sunday. The people would either have to pass through our show or by it-our choice. There is a \$1.00 entrance fee which goes to the FAA.
2. Plenty of free parking.
3. We would have a humongous building free, enough to increase the number of our vendors. All the tables and help we would need, again, free. They have junction boxes for electrical, we would have to get more cords.
4. It's fine with the Youth Committee. I still need to talk to the city when they come off of break.
5. There are 2 car shows coordinated by Liz Steves, a dog agility show, craft show, and the auction of the animals all going on at the same time. Yucipia's show also has many other things going on and it doesn't seem to hurt them.
6. I've spoken to a number of our vendors and they think that even if we got 1% of the traffic, that would mean 100 more people to come to our show. We only reach around 500 now.
7. Kids!! Look at how many more young people and families with children would be in our potential reach.

Our club is not healthy and we either change or die is how I see it. This could be our salvation. And they have a space for us for a workshop!

We will be having some of the young people from the FAA giving a presentation at our January meeting. If you want a voice in this, either way, please attend.

The Annual QIA POW POW Quartzsite Arizona

**Wednesday, January 22 thru
Sunday, January 26, 2014.
Quartzsite Arizona**

There will be 460 vendors outside and 70 vendors in the main hall. Vendors come from all over the world to participate in the Pow Wow. All vendors merchandise must be 75% gem, mineral or jewelry related.

The admission and parking is free with two shuttles running thru-out the day from the parking area to the main hall.

Three home style cooked meals are served each day in the restarant. If you want a quick lunch, stop by the sandwich window.

There will be 52 showcases in the main hall of filled with beatiful gems, minerals and jewelry. In the Hobby Room there will be many beautiful displays of other hobbies such as painting, quilting, beading, wire wrap and much more.



Prospecting in Tick Canyon

AGUA DULCE CA - Tiny locomotives once hauled borax ore from a mine west of Vasquez Rocks, pulling cars on narrow-gauge track that ended five miles away at Southern Pacific Railroad's station at the mouth of Soledad Canyon.

A prospector in November 1907 discovered colemanite, one of the ores from which borax is refined, in Tick Canyon, a branch of Soledad Canyon off what is now Davenport Road - much more convenient for shipping than California's existing borax mines in Death Valley and the Mojave Desert.

"This mine is the nearest of its kind in the state to a shipping station and to tidewater," the U.S. Department of Interior said in its 1908 Mineral Resources of the United States report. "Some 20 claims were located, and have since been purchased by the Sterling Borax Company, which has its headquarters in Los Angeles. The vein is of colemanite and, if the claims of the owners are valid, it is one of the best bodies of that ore yet discovered in California."

The report added: "Cheap transportation is an important factor in working such properties, and this the mine possesses. Comparatively cheap labor may also be obtained in that locality, whereas in the desert region not only labor but supplies are more expensive than they are near the coast and close to railroad lines and large cities."

Among the men who went to work at the new Sterling mine was Norman Ross, who had been a U.S. Forest Service ranger and in 1914 married Anna Loomis, whose father homesteaded what is still known as Loomis Ranch in Angeles National Forest.

"We could not see a future in the service then so he found a job with the Sterling Borax Co. in Tick Canyon," Anna Ross recalled in 1971 in "Incredible Tales, Stories, Letters and Reminiscences," Valley pioneers' stories compiled by Realtor J. Shelton Gordon.

"We felt we had moved to the land of nowhere but we learned to like it. We shopped in Saugus or Newhall. If we needed a doctor or dentist it was either Lancaster or San Fernando. The Davenport road goes over where many of the homes were."

The Tick Canyon discovery caused the American Borax Company to close down its Columbia borax mine near Calico in San Bernardino County, where



borax deposits were almost worked out.

By 1908 shipments had been made to refineries in San Francisco, Chicago and New Bighton, Pa.," wrote Bureau of Land Management geologist Larry M. Vredenburg, who writes about the history of mining in the Mojave Desert. "The ore was shipped unrefined, although a calcining plant was constructed within a couple years of commencement of operations."

The mine was eventually bought by Pacific Coast Borax, owned by the famous F.M. "Borax" Smith, who had operated borax mines near Calico.

By 1918, Vredenburg wrote, the Tick Canyon deposit was nearly exhausted, and by 1922 all remaining reserves were removed. The plant was dismantled in 1926.

The workers were transferred to Ryan, in what is now Death Valley National Park, where the Pacific Coast Borax Co. operated mines.

"We were sorry to leave Lang," Anna Ross said.

*From AV Press
Compiled by Managing Editor Charles F.
Bostwick.*



Tick Canyon Field Trip Led by Walt in 2000

Calico Ghost Town

*via Las Vegas Review-Journal
Nov. 24, 2013*

Yesteryear is alive and well in old Calico, the restored ghost town in the Mojave Desert that was resurrected as a popular regional park.

Named for the multicolored hills where it perches near Yermo Calif., Calico was the site of the state's richest silver boom in 1881. During their heyday, Calico mines produced \$86 million in silver and \$45 million in borax. The town was home to several thousand hopefuls who abandoned Calico when production waned and silver prices fell.

The town lay lifeless for decades under the relentless desert sun. It would have met the same fate as hundreds of other boomtowns across the West if not for the efforts of Walter Knott, founder of Knott's Berry Farm.

Knott's uncle had been sheriff at the time of the silver strike. He grubstaked some burly prospectors and retained an interest in the town. Walter Knott and his family kept scavengers and vandals at bay, planning to restore the original buildings that were still standing. Restoration began in 1951. In 1966, Calico was turned over to San Bernardino County for use as a historical park.

Calico has enjoyed great success as a recreational attraction. It pays its own upkeep through use fees and concession leases. Visitors of all ages can explore a bygone era, as they stroll the main street, tour the town on a scenic train, visit museums, observe old mine tunnels and browse through shops and eateries in the town's old buildings.

Calico is about 2 hours away from Southern California off Interstate 15 past Barstow and left on Ghost Town Road. Visitors park in a fee area below the town. There is also an adjacent campground with sites for tents, RVs and trailers. *(NOC had a field trip in 2004 and camped here.) Attached is a picture I took of a ghost.*

A good way to get an overview of the town is to board the Calico-Odesa Railroad, an excursion line similar to old-time ore car trains. Train rides cost \$3 for adults and \$2 for children.

Many visitors use the 265-unit campground or find accommodations in rental cabins or bunkhouses. Reserve campsites at sbcountyparks.com. Tent sites cost \$30 a night. RV sites with hookups cost about \$35. Senior campers arriving Sunday through Thursday save \$5.

Accommodations include six cabins for four people at \$45 a night, a mini bunkhouse for six at \$100 a night and a no-frills bunkhouse for 12 to 20 people at \$80 a night. Bring your own bedding.

The ghost town park is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Christmas. The entrance fee is \$8 for adults, \$5 for ages 6 to 15 and free for ages 5 and younger.

Many visitors spend all their time browsing in the shops that occupy restored buildings, where costumed shopkeepers add to the vintage ambiance. In some shops, visitors can see artisans create items such as leather goods or pottery. There are three restaurants and several shops that feature snacks and beverages.

Popular stops include the Lucy Lane Museum's historical artifacts, the Maggie Mine Tour and the topsy-turvy walk through the mystery shack. On weekends, you can also learn to pan for gold.

More adventurous visitors may explore old roads and trails near Calico. Take guided horseback or four-wheeler tours or use our own off-highway vehicle or mountain bike. Some explore the Silver King Mine of specialized two-hour tours. Others return to Calico after dark for one of the two haunted tours on Saturday nights.



Ghost in picture on a NOC 2004 field trip camping at Calico Ghost Town

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society

Beautiful Bead Bracelet Class Tuesday January 28, 2014
6:00 to 9:00 pm



Space is limited, please register early! Please arrive promptly!
Classes are held at the:

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

For more information call Ofelia Warthen at (562) 946-0828 or (626)330-8974
Or email odwarthen@verizon.net

REGISTRATION FORM:
Mail with your check made payable to NOCGMS.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____ Email: _____

Only \$20.00 includes Class and materials. Open to the public.
Make check payable to NOGMS and mail to:



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