

# The Rock Bag

August 2009 Volume 47 Issue 8

**Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society**  
**Oxnard, California**



**M. Tetreault**

**OGMS Editor**

**1134 Sunnycrest Ave.**

**Ventura, CA 93003**

## Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society

P. O. Box 246  
Oxnard, CA 93032

**Web address: [www.oxnardgem.com](http://www.oxnardgem.com)**

The Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society is a non-profit organization formed to increase our knowledge in geology, mineralogy and other such related fields in the earth sciences. We classify, cut, grind and polish rocks and minerals for our personal collections and to display at club shows. We learn from each other through club speakers, programs and monthly fieldtrips. We co-operate with other clubs to encourage others to participate in our activity.

The Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society is a member of the State of California Federation of Mineralogical Society and the National Federation of Mineralogical Society.

**Meeting held:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. Potlucks: 6:30 P.M.

**Place:** Performing Arts Center, 800 Hobson Way, Oxnard, CA (Thousand Oaks Room)

**Dues:** \$15.00 per adult; \$2.00 per junior member (age 12 to 18 years)

### OGMS Officers for 2009

President	Kay Hara	khraftdoc@aol.com	W 525-5415, H 525-7634
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President (Programs)	Brett Johnson	bj9709@yahoo.com	822-3836
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Show)	Norb Kinsler		644-6450
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President (Field trips)	Ron Wise	clintwise@hotmail.com	647-4393
Recording Secretary	Lee Leighton	ameritus@sbcglobal.net	647-4594
Treasurer	Stephanie Hagiwara	purplehawk@hotmail.com	986-2006

### Appointed Standing Committee Chairmen

Corresponding Secretary	Louisa Carey	big_L76@yahoo.com	(503) 309-6147
Displays/Exhibits	Brett Johnson	bj9709@yahoo.com	822-3836
Editor	Miriam Tetreault	editor_ogms@roadrunner.com	642-5779
Education Director	Donna Knapton	dknapton@hotmail.com	647-8762
Federation Director	Jim Brace-Thompson	jbraceth@roadrunner.com	659-3577
Historian	Open		
Hospitality	Louisa Carey	big_L76@yahoo.com	(503) 309-6147
Librarian	Karen Bialobreski		(707) 648-7634
Member at Large	Miriam Tetreault	editor_ogms@roadrunner.com	642-5779
Membership Secretary	Anne Lewis		485-6356
Public Relations	Norb Tackman	ntack@sbcglobal.net	647-2538
Parliamentarian	Miriam Tetreault	editor_ogms@roadrunner.com	642-5779
Refreshments	Louisa Carey	big_L76@yahoo.com	(503) 309-6147
Sergeant at Arms	Larry Knapton	dknapton@hotmail.com	647-8762
Ways & Means	Jean Wise		647-4393

**Classes:** Silversmithing & Casting: Nancy Bogart, Albert Rubio & Jean Smith  
Lapidary, Opal & Wirewrap: Kay Hara, Dan Gealy, Brett Johnson & Don Minster  
Location: Durley Park, 950 West Hill Street, Oxnard, CA 93030

**Editor:** All members are encouraged to offer an article of interest or any suggestions as to what their interests are and what they'd like to see in the Rock Bag. Remember it is your bulletin! Articles can be submitted by an e-mail attachment or in writing by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.  
**Thanks, Miriam**

## The Prez sez...

I am sorry that I missed the July activities, but family obligations come first. We have had a very nice memorial service here in Colorado for Eleanor. She had made many new friends in her new surroundings. I should make it back to Santa Paula by the end of July. I know that you members will carry though with the important things that may arise in my absence.

Shirley and I wish to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to all of you for your thoughtful cards and condolences. It is very reassuring to have so many great friends in time of sorrow. ~ Kay

## August Program

On August 5th, we will explore our extraterrestrial neighbors by looking at meteorites and how to best to find one of your own. There will be a short video and then a show and tell of the different meteorites that are found on Earth. Come join us and see what a real alien looks like. Bring your own meteorites to show off. And if you are not sure it is from outer-space, we will do our best to find out if it is a meteowrong.

See you then, ~ **Brett** VP-OGMS

### MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 2009 General Membership Meeting

- Call to Order:** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Brett Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- Minutes:** The minutes were approved as written.
- Membership:** We have 74 paid members at this time.
- Hospitality:** There were 22 members and 14 guests present. The guests were: Marie Mondragon, A. & U. Monteath, Megan McKee, Gloria Blackwood, David Richardson, Kim and Cliff Kinney, Francesca Villaruz, Mary Meeker, David Rodriguez, Angelica Rodriguez, Bianca Teumineuo, and Roy Boulch.
- Treasurer:** We are solvent.
- New/Old Business:** Business was suspended tonight for the Pot Luck Dinner.
- Program:** Tonight's program was the Pot Luck Dinner. A good time was had by all and no one went home hungry.
- Officer Reports:** 2<sup>nd</sup> VP- Show volunteers are needed. There is a show meeting next week.  
3<sup>rd</sup> VP- Support the Fair---Display!! The Ventura Club's Rock Hound Rendezvous was discussed. It is on Sat. July 18<sup>th</sup> at Camp Comfort. There will be something there for everyone - kids too!
- Editor:** Submit articles for the Rock Bag.
- Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M. ~ Lee Leighton, Recording Secretary

### MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 2009 Board of Directors Meeting

- Call to Order:** 1<sup>st</sup> VP Brett Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:30P.M.
- Minutes:** The minutes were approved as written.
- Membership:** We have 74 paid members at this time.
- Hospitality:** We discussed the club lapel pins. More research is needed.
- Treasurer:** We are solvent. Income and expenses were discussed. A motion was passed to pay the bills.
- Correspondence:** A Sam's Club membership letter was discussed. Other ads were discussed.
- Old Business:** We discussed the Scholarship and the possibility of rolling it over if no applicant is

found. Norb Tackman was given some tax info on a donation he handled. The club has access to a small pump organ.

**New Business:** A new 1 hp motor was purchased for the saw. A 16 inch saw available for the taking. Ask Ann or Jack for info. A display case is also available- Ask Ann or Jack for info.

**Officer Reports:**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Guest speakers and videos were discussed.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** We had a show meeting tonight.  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President:** The trip to Oak Park is this weekend.

**Federation:** The CFMS show in La Habra was discussed. Camp Paradise and Zzyzx were discussed. The All American Report was discussed The Federation is discussing buying its own rock hounding property.

**Website:** Our website is a banner ad website. Links were discussed. We also discussed the allowing of promotions.

**Displays:** Everything is coming together for the displays at the libraries, fair, and the show. Shopping bags were discussed for the show.

**Classes:** All is going well for the classes. A generous donation of Spencer Opals for the classes was received from Louisa Carey.

**Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 ~ Lee Leighton, Recording Secretary

# August 2009

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																	
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2 Jade Cove - Sat. 1st - See Rob 494-7734	3	4 9:00 AM Sil. Cl	5 7:30 PM Club Meeting	6 7:00 PM Adult Lap. Class	7 9:30 AM Junior Lap. Class	8 9:30 AM Wire Class																																																																																																	
9 County Fair 5-16 Volunteers are needed!	10	11 9:00 AM Sil. Cl	12 7:00 PM Show & Bd. Mtg	13 7:00 PM Adult Lap. Class	14 9:30 AM Junior Lap. Class	15 9:30 AM Wire Class																																																																																																	
16 For the Fair: call Richard 649-9065	17	18 9:00 AM Sil. Cl	19	20 7:00 PM Adult Lap. Class	21 9:30 AM Junior Lap. Class	22 9:30 AM Wire Class																																																																																																	
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## Show Report

Greetings, and I hope everyone has had a happy and safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July. As for myself, I will stay home where it is safe and sound, off the heavy traveled ways.

Ok, now let's get down to business, with only 4 months left to go, it is definitely time to think SHOW SHOW SHOW. The board has completed much of the work on Dealer, Demonstrators, fliers, posters and confirmation needs with the city. But after all these things are accomplished, the SHOW cannot go on without loads of help in setting up, during the show and taking down (as I have stated before). So stand by – I expect to see a lot of people putting their names on the sign up sheets – regardless if it's a specialty or general help.

There will be a show meeting at the next board meeting.

~ Norb K. Show Chair

### NOW IS THE TIME

To pot or repot or start plants for the Show in November --- that is November 20 & 21, 2009. If you have any questions call Anne Lewis at 485-6356

## Classes

A huge "Thank You" to all of our class instructors for all of your hard work! During the last six months we had 119 enrollments for our classes. As a student, I value the dedication and skills of all of our instructors. I know my skill level has increased and all the students have had fun while learning. As a club, I want to acknowledge we are supported financially by the classes. We appreciate all of your hard work, commitment and just plain enjoyment that each of you bring to your classes. Congratulations for a job well done! ~ Stephanie

## Field Trips

**August 1st Sat 10am Jade Cove (if your going to go on this trip let me know so you will have a place to camp.) Field trip:** Our August field trip will be to Jade Cove, south of Big Sur. We will be looking for Nephrite Jade. It can be found along the shoreline. You can come up for the day or join us camping over night. Deb and I will be there Wednesday July 29th to Sunday August 2nd. Day use free by side of road, camping \$22.00. No electric hookups. 45 campsites half are assigned on a first come, first served basis. You now can reserve your campsite. See contact information below: 8 persons per site. Each site has a picnic table, grill and fire pit. Flush toilet restrooms and water nearby. Saturday night there will be a potluck dinner with our club and the Channel Islands Divers club which Robert and Debra are members.

**Directions:** From Ventura head north on Freeway 101, at San Luis Obispo, take Highway 1 north, towards the coast, to Morro Bay, continue on Hwy 1 north approximately 60 miles from Morro Bay to Plaskett Creek campground. Campground is on right side (east). Once at campground, look for a Conejo Valley Gem & Mineral sign next to the sign by entrance or by Robert's campsite. Approximately 235 miles from Thousand Oaks, 3.5 - 4 hour drive time

**Meeting:** Saturday Afternoon, August 1st, 2009, 10am-4pm. We will meet at Robert's campsite. 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 drive south on Hwy 1 half a mile to a long pull out on right side (west) with an entrance to Jade cove. Use the stairs to climb over the fence and walk approximately 150 yards across a grass area to a switch back down to the cove, approximately 100 yards, use sturdy shoes. The bottom of the trail can be washed out so take your time. Walk over the bigger rocks at the basin to the center of the cove where there is a small beach. In the surf and along shore Jade can be found amongst the other rocks. Be careful and aware when collecting close to the surf zone.

**Mineral to collect:** Nephrite Jade, Serpentine, Actinolite, Soap Stone, Ab shells.

**Tools:** Collecting bags, buckets, day pack, digging tools, rock pick, pry bar, eye protection, trowels, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, sturdy shoes, rubber boots or old tennis shoes, layered clothing, towels, change of clothes/shoes in case you get wet. Drinking water, lunch or snacks. camping gear if you plan on spending the night.

**Contact:** Robert Sankovich 805-494-7734, [rmsorca@adelphia.net](mailto:rmsorca@adelphia.net)

Mike Miller 805-498-9586, [rockfmdr@aol.com](mailto:rockfmdr@aol.com). **Please let us know if you are going to go on the field trip, weather changes. If we don't know your going on the field trip, we won't be able to contact you if the field trip is canceled.** Color aerial photo of Sand dollar beach to Jade cove if you are interested, e-mail me and I'll send it to you.

**Reservations:** Recreation Gov. 877-444-6777 <http://www.recreation.gov>

**Links:** <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/recreation/camping/mrd/>  
[http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/html/rec/recmap\\_mrd\\_5.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/html/rec/recmap_mrd_5.htm) (Map)

Following two are Scuba Diving links, but have Jade Cove info

[http://www.shorediving.com/Earth/USA\\_West/CalM/Jade\\_Cove/](http://www.shorediving.com/Earth/USA_West/CalM/Jade_Cove/)

[http://www.cadivingnews.com/divespots.html?article\\_id=342](http://www.cadivingnews.com/divespots.html?article_id=342)

### Field trips done:

**June 12th-28th, Road Trip, 17 days, 7 collecting sites. Utah-Topaz crystals, trilobites, Wyoming-Blue forest petrified wood, Green River Formation fish fossils, Montana-Sapphires, Oregon-Glass Butte obsidian, CA-Davis Creek obsidian.** We had a great turnout, throughout the trip we had different amount of people collecting. When we were at Warfield Fossils, collecting fish fossils in WY, we had everyone at one site. Conejo-Deb and I, Joel Roush and his friend Cy Hichens, Kevin and Diane Grizard, Jeff Miller, Jaunie and Jacob Walker; Oxnard-Larry and Donna Knapton; Culver City-Steve Dover and Diane DiTamasso. Richard, Noah, Collin, went to Yellowstone Nat. Pk. earlier. Each day was different, we sure had weather changes.

We rendezvoused at Topaz Mtns. Everyone was there except Jaunie and Jacob who would later meet us at Warfield Fossils, then they would head South to Utah and collect Topaz crystals and trilobites, while the rest of us headed North to Montana Yogo Gulch. It was nice when we arrived at Topaz Mtns, We had a book about Topaz Mtns, which helped. The next day we went collecting, it rained off and on, but not too much, the last day we were there is was sunny, which tended to be the same at each site, first day rain, second day sunny, hot. We collected on the northern and western areas and close to camp, digging out pockets of crystals. We also sifted gravel, sand looking for the crystals, everyone found some. Jeff Miller found 2 red beryl crystals. We then headed to U dig fossils for trilobites, when we arrived, Jeff Miller got a flat, quickly changed then we collected for 4 hours, and went through 2 showers of rain, scrambling for shelter, then going back and digging when it ended. The rest of the day was nice and we collected some nice trilobites.

We then headed to Salt Lake City and stayed at hotel, Donna Knapton got us a great rate through price



Blue Forest Petrified Wood, Wyoming 6-2009

line. I locked my keys in my truck and had AAA unlock it. I don't have keyless. The next day we headed to WY, Blue forest. When we arrived I drove in and found our site, then everyone joined us. No trees only short scrub brush. We were in a great spot for the wood. The next day we started digging, through 4 inches of dirt, 12" or more of hard shale, it was like digging through thick ceramic tiles layer after layer, some places we dug had hardly any shale, others more. After the shale it was dirt again, and limbs, there was cleachie, a fossilized algae coating on the wood, some of it was 5" thick, it was a good sign seeing the cleachie, it meant wood could be in the center of it, some of it would break off with a tap of the rock pick and you could see the limb, agate, other times the

cleachie is still on mine to be removed in the future. We all dug in the same area for most of the day, we really

dug a lot, each of us had holes 4x5' or bigger. We found a lot of nice wood. From limbs 5" long, and 5-6" wide, Larry and Kevin, Diane found some of those. We also found limbs 1-3" across, 1 foot long. It was harder to find long limbs, we would find limbs 5 feet long, but they were broke into pieces 5" long. That night we went through a serious storm. We were on a small bluff, you could see 50 miles or farther 360 degrees around us, we watched the thunder storms farther out, some came our way. At one point we were all in our autos, lightning hitting within a mile and we were hailed on several times. While sitting in my truck hearing the hail sounded like a drum on our roof. Luckily the pieces were about pea size, so no damage. The next day we dug more out in a really sunny, hot day!

We then broke camp headed to Warfield Fossils near Kemmerer WY. We met Jaunie and Jacob who were all ready there and digging. We dug for 4 hours finding many nice fish fossils, some mirror pieces on each plate. Just before our time was up and the mine was getting to close, it rained, hard. I had on my poncho as I gathered up my fish fossils and stored them in my truck bed, I had a tarp over my bed so nothing would get wet. I was the last on to leave the quarry, the others went as soon as they could since the road up to the site was not very good, slippery muddy and most of it was down hill. Even with my 4x4 truck I broke traction in a few places for a couple of seconds. We all made it down the hill, and our autos were really dirty, caked on mud. We had lunch in Kemmerer and for half of us this was the end of their field trip.

Half of us headed north to Montana, Yogo Gultch. We arrived there the following day. It was nice out, a little cool, damp at night. We camped next to a small river with lots of pine trees in the area. The down side is there was no access to collect sapphires in the area. We then headed west to Helena where Larry Knpton suggested there would be sites, which there were. When we were leaving the Yogo Gultch camp, we were driving on a gravel road, a truck going the other way picked up a rock that hit my windshield and cracked it. I have a 7" crack, I will have to replace the wind shield. We camped by the Missouri river, nice warm days, we went to Spokane Sapphire Mine near Helena, we all bought a bag to sift for sapphires, and paid \$10 a bucket to dig on the mine face. It was not the primary one with slim to no chance of finding sapphires, Larry Knpton, Kevin and Diane Grizard, Joel Roush, Cy Hichens. They found 3 sapphires total, all at least 1 carat. They found the slim, I found zip. I still have my 3.5lb bag to sift. I didn't have time to sift it there, we all took our main bag home, so at this time I don't know what I have or the others.

At this point of the trip we just had Glass Butte, and Davis Creek for Obsidian. It would be just Joel, Cy, Deb and I. We went to Glass butte Oregon, we had to drive from central Montana to Oregon, we drove for some time, stayed overnight at a hotel. I printed an updated map of the site. We met some people near Glass Butte, who helped get us to the exact spot. This site was new to me. I had the CFMS information from the field trip a few months ago. There were trees, shade and hot sun for our stay. We drove around to many dig sites, some not dug for some time, others recently, Joel and I were the primary rockhounds looking for the obsidian, Cy and Deb picked up a few. For two days we dug, we found Mahogany, Rainbow, Banded, Pumpkin, Tomato Soup, Green, Solid Black, and some with a smoky band running through it. We also might have found some fire obsidian, a few pieces I can see it, but not spectacular. It was tricky, you had to chip it just right and hold it up to the sun just right so you could see the fire, or rainbow in the rainbow obsidian. I did find a mahogany piece about 8"x 8" or so, if it doesn't have fractures I'm going to try to contour polish it with my wet angle grinder. We then headed south parting with Joel and Cy, it was now just Deb and I, we stopped in Davis Creek got the collecting permit. Headed to road 30, Modoc Natl. Forest, and I dug for rainbow obsidian. I found some nice pieces with color that is very visible when the sun hits it just right. I also found banded obsidian. I only dug for 3 hours but found some nice obsidian.

It was a great trip, much adventure, with nice specimens found, we saw deer, antelope in many states, had mostly cool good digging weather, campfires almost each night, great group of rockhounds. All of us shot lots of photos, I'm going to try to put together a Power Point presentation in the upcoming months and will make it a program for an upcoming club meeting for the tri clubs, Conejo, Oxnard, and Ventura. There will be another out of state field trip next year, with rockhounds going on it. There were 16 people on this trip, for 3700 miles total driven. I'm already looking forward to the next one, but for now it will be cleaning, polishing what I have found. I'll be bring some of it to the July meeting and in future meetings. I hope all of you that did attend, bring in what you found and share it with the members of the club. I'd like to see them.

**Upcoming Field Trips 2009:**

The field trips listed below are tentative, they might change. All are Tri Club field trip with either: Conejo, Oxnard or Ventura leading. Each month there will be info in the bulletin, and a flyer/map at the club meeting.

**September-**Pine Mountain sand dollar fossils or Ammonites fossils, Bishop area

**October-** Trona Gem O Rama, Pink Halite, Hanksite

**November-**Somis Fossils, Sand dollar, Clams, Gastropod fossils

**November-**Wiley's Well, Geodes, Nodules, Chalcedony, Petrified Iron Wood, Agate

**December-**Ant Hill, Shark Teeth Fossils

The Field Trip e-mail list is working, members have current, new information as I finish it. I get field trip information from other clubs at different times during the month, some with to short of notice for me to put in our bulletin. I will send direct monthly information, maps on club field trips, and updates on weather, other last minute factors that can effect field trips. If you want to sign up, no e-mail addresses will be printed, posted anywhere. Send me your e-mail addresses to mine below. I also updated the field trip information on the Conejo web site [www.cgmac.org](http://www.cgmac.org). The information is current and I'll keep updating as I add field trips. 2009 has started nice, good weather. Now is a good time to go on field trips, it will get warmer and hotter as the month's go by. There's going to be a field trips for everyone, we'll have close to home, and out of state trips. There are easier and harder field trips requiring chisels, sledges, hopefully something for everyone. The June road trip was fun, 14 people joined Deb and I. We collected many nice specimens and got to know other rockhounds and make friends.

~ **Robert Sankovich**, VP Field Trips Conejo/Ventura Clubs  
[rmsorca@adelphia.net](mailto:rmsorca@adelphia.net) 805-494-7734

**CFMS CAMP PARADISE AT A BARGAIN PRICE!**

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies sponsors seminars offering classes on cabbing, faceting, wirewrapping, and all other manner of lapidary arts, as well as field trips. These are offered twice each year, in the spring and in the fall. In 2010, classes will be in Northern California, at Camp Paradise, with one session running May 16-21 and the second running May 23-28. Cost is \$350 per person and includes classes, room, and food - a great deal! But here's an even greater deal! This year, to help raise funds for the CFMS Endowment Fund, the CFMS is offering raffle tickets at just \$5 for one ticket or \$20 for a set of 5 tickets. The winner gets a \$350 week of classes at Camp Paradise! Deadline for sending your entry is October 31, 2009. The drawing will be held at the CFMS Directors' Meeting on November 7. With this article is a ticket; you can make as many copies and enter to win as many times as you like. Simply cut out, or copy the ticket, fill in the info, and send it with your check to my address located on the ticket. Make the check out to "CFMS Endowment Fund", or simply "CFMS."

~ **Ray Quitoriano**, CFMS Endowment Fund Chair

<p>* * * * *</p> <p><b>\$5 Camp Paradise Raffle Ticket (or 5 tickets for \$20!)</b></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Club Name: _____</p> <p><b>Send to:</b> Ray Quitoriano, 7968 Elder Ave. Rosamond, CA 93560.</p> <p>Make checks payable to: <b>"CFMS Endowment Fund."</b></p> <p>* * * * *</p>
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## Women in Mining

Women in Mining (WIM for short) was founded in 1972 in Denver, Colorado, by several women who wanted to know more about the mining industry. Today, the most important goal of WIM is to educate both the members and the public about the mining industries. You might be surprised to learn that women and men can join this organization. Education about minerals is what WIM does all across the country. They work to educate students, teachers and the public about how important minerals are in our daily lives. In fact, their favorite saying is, "If it isn't GROWN, it has to be MINED!" They also create and pass out educational materials about minerals.

The WIM Chapters around the country do workshops, set up tables and booths at rock and mineral shows, and show many different items that we use in our lives every day that are made out of materials that come from minerals. This is what they say on their website: "An important part of each workshop is to bring the minerals industry to attendee's everyday life by showing the many products made from each mineral and/or rock provided. A simple way is to put out a variety of products, such as gum, aspirin, roofing shingles, Tums, crayons, paper, etc., out and have the group match these to the mineral/rock samples provided. Most people are amazed how much mining impacts their daily lives."

Check out Women In Mining on their website. Who knows? Maybe YOU will be a mining engineer, mining geologist or mine manager when you grow up! [www.womeninmining.org](http://www.womeninmining.org) ~ Via Diamond Dan Publications



Two minerals were named after Marie Curie-Sklodowska (1867 - 1934), sklodowskite and curite (named after Marie and her husband, Pierre). The mineral cuprosklodowskite was originally thought to be a copper-bearing version of sklodowskite and so its name bears Marie's name. Pierre and Marie Curie discovered the element radium.

Left: A Polish stamp with a portrait of Marie Curie-Sklodowska ~ Via Diamond Dan Publications

## Rockhounding in California State Parks & BLM Mining-Related Fees

By John Martin, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Committee



During the last several months there have been several incidences where rockhounds have had an encounter with an authority figure over collecting in a California State Park or on a California State Beach. After lengthy searches on the internet, hours of reading regulations and several trips to the local State Senator's office, there is light at the end of the tunnel, and it is not the headlight of the approaching train. Yes, Virginia, there really is rock collecting within the boundaries of California State Parks and California State Beaches. The collecting regulations are intermixed within several dozen California Code of Regulations documents, which give explicit collecting requirements and conditions. This does not mean that collecting is allowed at all parks and beaches nor does it exclude collecting from all parks and beaches. As it turns out, each unit within the California State Parks System, through its own regulatory processes, may, can and will regulate rockhounding within its own boundaries within the regulations established at the state level. During the search of the regulations covering rockhounding, it was discovered that there is no actual reference to the collecting of paleontological resources, such as fossils, petrified bone or petrified wood, nor is there any exclusion for these. So, during visits to California State Parks and Beaches for rockhounding activities, just keep in mind their definition of rockhounding as defined in the California Code of Regulations. There are over 200 units within the California State Parks System, and therefore there could be over 200 different collecting regulations. After surfing several State Park and State Beach web sites, I discovered no consistency in published unit regulations. For example, Hearst San Simeon State Park allows rockhounding as published in the California Code of Regulations; Carpinteria, El Capitan and Gaviota State Beach web sites had no mention of rockhound opportunities. Some of the State Park web sites included Providence Mountains, which includes Mitchell Caverns, Silverwood Lake, which borders the National Forrest, had no mention of rockhound collecting while Red Rock Canyon State Park states that "All plant, animal, natural and cultural features are protected. Collection is prohibited without a permit." So to be on the safe side and to avoid any confrontation with that big guy with the gun, check at the entrance to the park for the bulletin board where there will be the "Posting of Notices" where special instructions pertaining to areas where activities are curtailed or restricted are to be found for the particular state park or beach. If there is no posting of restrictions,

check with park personnel before collecting to avoid losing the collected specimens or worse yet, receiving a citation from a park ranger where the fine could be between \$10 and \$1,000 or more. Just remember to follow the California Code of Regulations for Rockhounding and you should be safe. **"Check before you collect."** Below is the California Code of Regulations pertaining to the California State Parks and Beaches to serve as a guide while rockhounding.

**CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS  
TITLE 14, NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIV. 3. DEPT. OF PARKS & RECREATION  
CHAPTER 1. GENERAL**

**§ 4307. Geological Features:**

(a) No person shall destroy, disturb, mutilate, or remove earth, sand, gravel, oil, minerals, rocks, paleontological features, or features of caves.

(b) Rockhounding may be permitted as defined in Section 4301(v).

**§ 4308. Archaeological Features:**

No person shall remove, injure, disfigure, deface, or destroy any object of archaeological, or historical interest or value.

**§ 4309. Special Permits:**

The Department may grant a permit to remove, treat, disturb, or destroy plants or animals or geological, historical, archaeological or paleontological materials; and any person who has been properly granted such a permit shall to that extent not be liable for prosecution for violation of the foregoing.

**§ 4301. Definitions:**

(i) **Posting of Notices.** The term "posted" as used herein, unless otherwise indicated, shall mean and require that the Department shall set aside at the district headquarters and at the **unit affected and in a location convenient to the general public**, a bulletin board or similar device upon which shall be posted all special instructions, orders, pertaining to units of the district including but not limited to special hours of operation, swimming and boating restrictions, hunting and camping restrictions, and **special instructions pertaining to areas where activities are curtailed or restricted**. Proof of posting shall be filed in the offices of the division chiefs or the Sacramento California Office of the Division of Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation.

(t) **Unit.** Unit means any named and classified unit under control of the Department of Parks and Recreation, as well as any Department projects which have not yet been named or classified.

(v) **Rockhounding** is defined as being the recreational gathering of stones and minerals found occurring naturally on the undisturbed surface of the land, including panning for gold in the natural water-washed gravel of streams.

(w) **Float Material** is defined as materials only occurring naturally on the surface of the land.

**TITLE 14, NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIV. 3. DEPT. OF PARKS & RECREATION  
CHAPTER 6. PROVISIONS LIMITED TO SPECIFIC UNITS**

**§ 4611. Rockhounding**

(a) Rockhounding is authorized by Section 5001.65 of the Public Resources Code.

(b) Units and portions thereof open for Rockhounding will be posted in accordance with Section 4301(i).

(c) *Commercial Use.* Rocks or mineral specimens gathered within a unit may not be sold or used commercially for the production of profit.

(d) *Maximum Take.* One person may gather, in one day in one unit, not more than 15 pounds of mineralogical material or not more than one specimen plus 15 pounds of mineralogical material.

(e) *Use of Tools.* **Tools**, except goldpans to be used in gold panning, **may not** be used in rockhounding within a unit.

(f) *Areas for Swimming and Boating.* In state recreation areas rockhounding may not be practiced in areas designated for swimming or for boat launching.

(g) *Areas Limited for Collecting.* In state recreation areas rockhounding is limited to beaches which lie within the jurisdiction of the Department and within the wave action zone on lakes, bays, reservoirs, or on the ocean, and to the beaches or gravel bars which are subject to annual flooding on streams.

(h) *Indian Artifacts.* Rockhounding in a unit specifically does not include the gathering of Indian

arrowheads, Indian stone tools, or other archeological specimens, even when such specimens may be found occurring naturally on the surface.

(i) *Panning for Gold*. Panning for gold is considered to be "rockhounding" as the term is applied in the Department. The goldpan is the only exception permitted to the exclusion of tools from rockhounding in a unit as provided in Section 4610.5. Muddy water from panning operations must not be visible more than 20 feet from the panning operation.

### **California State Beach Regulations General Regulations (14 California Code of Regs.)**

**6) Geological Features.** No person shall destroy, disturb, mutilate, or remove earth, sand, gravel, oil, minerals, rocks, paleontological features, or features of caves except rockhounding may be permitted as defined and delineated in Sections 4611 (a) through (i) (14 Cal. Code of Regs. 4307).

**7) Archaeological Features.** No person shall remove, injure, disfigure, deface, or destroy any object of archaeological or historical interest or value (14 Cal. Code of Regs. 4308).

### **BLM Announces Adjustments to Mining-Related Location & Annual Maintenance Fees**

In June, the Bureau of Land Management published in the Federal Register a notice that it is adjusting for inflation its fees for the location (or "staking") and maintenance of unpatented mining claims, mill sites, and tunnel sites. The location fee will increase from \$30 to \$34 and the maintenance fee will rise from \$125 to \$140 for such unpatented claims, in which no federal land has been transferred to the individual or company staking the claim.

The adjusted fees are due on or before September 1, 2009. Mining claimants must pay the new location fee for any mining claim or site located after the effective date of this final rule, which is today (June 29, 2009). Those who have already submitted maintenance fees for the 2010 maintenance year will be given an opportunity to pay the additional amount without penalty upon notice from the BLM.

Since Fiscal Year 1993, mining claimants staking new claims or sites have been required to pay a one-time location fee. Claimants must also pay an annual "maintenance" fee in lieu of performing annual assessment work and making annual filings.

In accordance with the Mining Law of 1872, as amended, and in light of recent related regulatory actions, the BLM is announcing today a new final rule that establishes a regular schedule for adjusting mining-related location and annual maintenance fees. Specifically, the new rule authorizes adjustments to these fees to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index every five years after August 10, 1993, or more frequently if the Secretary of the Interior determines an adjustment to be reasonable.

The BLM has not adjusted location and maintenance fees since 2004. The adjustments made in this final rule are based on the change in the Consumer Price Index from December 31, 2003, through December 31, 2008, as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The link to the final rule in the Federal Register is: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-15248.pdf>

~ John Martin

## **HOW TO BECOME A FOSSIL**

**FREEZING:** Leaves the creature much as it was in life. Its arteries may still contain dried blood. The Ice Age mammoths of Siberia and Alaska froze.

**DRYING OR DESICCATION:** Best known are the camels and sloths in our southwest caves.

**WAX AND ASPHALT:** Natural paraffin makes an excellent preservative. Many specimens have been found in Polish mines. The most famous asphalt fossils were found in the La Brea Tar Pits in California (la brea means *the tar*).

**SIMPLE BURIAL:** English bogs are famous for their buried forests. Sand dollars are mollusks, some of which were preserved this way for up to 75 million years.

**CARBONIZATION:** Incomplete decay of volatile substances leaves carbon behind, sometimes reducing organisms to paper thin layers of shiny black film that reveal much detail.

**TRACKS, TRAILS AND BURROWS:** Dinosaur tracks are the most famous of these. In Nebraska, the Devil's Corkscrew once housed a beaver who dug an eight foot spiral hole.

**CASTINGS AND COPROLITE:** Ancient worms swallowed sand to help digest small organisms, then regurgitated these castings. Coprolite is a polite word for petrified dung.

**GASTROLITES:** Many ancient reptiles ground their food with these stones (as do modern fowl). The stones are rounded, smooth, and even polished at times, and are known as gizzard stones.

**PETRIFICATION:** Our common stony fossils got that way by mineralization, the replacement of structure by dissolved minerals, or by secondary replacement, such as when limey fossils are dissolved and replaced by silica.

**MOLDS AND CASTS:** Natural molds in sediment remain after organisms decay. Sandstone beds reveal molds of shells and trees. The finest molds are Northern European amber, which have perfectly preserved insects.

**IMPRINTS:** Sandstone, shale and tuff reveal external molds of very thin objects such as leaves. Best known are the Illinois Coal Age plant imprints.

~ From Numerous bulletins, original authors/sources unknown via Rockhound Rambling 05/2009 via Golden Spike 6/09

## Upcoming Shows

### August 7-9 2009, Nipomo, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society  
St Joseph's Church  
298 S. Thompson Ave.  
Hours: 9-5 daily  
Wes Lingerfelt (805) 929-388  
Email: [Rocks4u@prodigy.net](mailto:Rocks4u@prodigy.net)  
Website: [www.omsinc.org](http://www.omsinc.org)  
Show Flyer: [click here.](#)

### August 14, 15 & 16 2009, Tehachapi, CA

Techachapi Gem & Mineral Society  
St Malachy Catholic Church  
407 West E. Street  
Hours: Fri. & Sat. 8-7:30; Sun. 8-5:30  
Chuck Overall (661) 821-4650  
Email: [Luckydog5433@aol.com](mailto:Luckydog5433@aol.com)

### September 12-13 2009, Vista, CA

Vista Gem & Mineral Society  
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum  
2040 N. Sante Fe Ave.  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4  
Fred Wilson (760) 433-8464  
Cherie Wilson (760) 941-7073  
Lois Harr (560) 724-0395

### September 19-20 2009, Paso Robles, CA

Santa Lucia Rockhounds  
Pioneer Park & Museum  
2010 Riverside Ave.  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
Richard Smith (805) 467-2966  
E-mail: [jonme2@wildblue.net](mailto:jonme2@wildblue.net)

### September 19-20 2009, Stockton, CA

Stockton Lapidary and Mineral Club  
Scottish Rite Masonic Center  
33 West Alpine Ave.  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
(209) 946-0113  
E-mail: [footsey1@yahoo.com](mailto:footsey1@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.stocktonlapidary.com](http://www.stocktonlapidary.com)

### September 26-27 2009, Downey, CA

Delters Gem & Mineral Society  
Womens Club of Downey  
9813 Paramount Blvd.  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10-4  
Nancy Bird (562) 697-0636  
E-mail: [nancyjbird@verison.net](mailto:nancyjbird@verison.net)

