

The Rock Bag

March 2009 Volume 47 Issue 3

Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society
Oxnard, California



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OGMS Editor
1134 Sunnycrest Ave.
Ventura, CA 93003



Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society

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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: 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:30 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	kharafdoc@aol.com	W 525-5415, H 525-7634
1 st Vice President (Programs)	Brett Johnson	bj9709@yahoo.com	822-3836
2 nd Vice President (Show)	Norb Kinsler		644-6450
3 rd 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

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Corresponding Secretary	Louisa Carey	big_L76@yahoo.com	(503) 309-6147
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Sergeant at Arms	Larry Knapton	dknapton@hotmail.com	647-8762
Ways & Means	Jean Wise		647-4393

Classes: Silversmithing & Casting: Lois Allmen, Nancy Bogart & Albert Rubio
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 2nd Wednesday of the month.
Thanks, Miriam

The Prez Sez...

We have many members in our society that must be recognized for their contributions of their time and talents – they know who they are – board members, instructors, members at large who quietly donate what and when they can. I deeply appreciate all of you!

In this vein, I would like to recognize a steadfast board member – Lee Leighton and his reverse mortgage consultant, Carlos Camargo, for the generous donation to our society. It will be put to good use. Lee has been an excellent recording secretary, always checking to see if his notes are right.

Also we honor Rudy Martin, who tirelessly and conscientiously, for a number of years, did the layout planning and coordination at our annual show. Rudy gave up his membership in OGMS – we will sorely miss him, we wish him well!!! Hope we can pack the show trailer well without him.

I want to encourage new members to jump right in and get actively involved – we need your input and help and ideas. On the other hand you will love the learning experiences through the classes, programs, field trips and projects that the society offers.

One note: The United States Senate has passed the 2009 Omnibus Land Act. It now goes before the House of Representatives. By the time you read this it will have either passed or failed. This bill will have a profound effect on our field trips and collecting sites in a negative way.

See you at our meeting – hope your Valentine’s Day was lovely. Kay

March Program

The Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society proudly presents: **FRED WARD on RUBIES & SAPPHIRES.**

Seasoned traveler and international gem expert, Fred Ward will give an informative and exciting discussion on the beauty and lore of Rubies and Sapphires. His presentation will cover the topics of his famous book: Rubies & Sapphires.

Mr. Ward will show us photos from the world of Corundum Crystals, while he tells us all about Rubies and Sapphires, their history and lore, how they are used and sold, stories of famous stones, and some interesting stories from his personal adventure with these beauties.

Mr. Ward is a well known gemologist (GIA), specialty gem broker, world renowned writer, lecturer, photographer and publisher. As a National Geographic photographer, Fred had access to many of the world's most famous gem stones, gem mines, mining processes and jewelry markets.

Fred will be bringing his books for signing and to sell. So, come join the OGMS membership with an amazing evening with Rubies & Sapphires by Fred Ward.

Time: 7:30 PM; Wednesday, March 4th

Location: The Thousand Oaks Room at the Oxnard Performing Arts & Convention Center
800 Hobson Way, Oxnard, CA 93030



**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2009
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

- Call to Order:** President Kay Hara called the meeting to order at 7:30P.M
- Minutes:** The minutes were amended: The program was a video on Quartzsite and a Silent Auction. The 1st VP's report spoke of the need for rubies for displays. The rubies are to be used to show to other clubs to promote our show and then they will be returned.
- Membership:** We have 51 paid members at this time. Dues should be paid soon, because the roster will be printed and in order to keep receiving the Rock Bag.
- Hospitality:** There were 22 members and 4 guests present. The guests were: Carlos Camargo (Wells Fargo Bank), John Kerr, Gary and April Louis.
- Treasurer:** We are solvent.
- Correspondence:** Show notices and ads were put out on the table.
- New Business:** ZZYZX is a close date-wise to our show. An award is pending for Rudy. The Silent Auction for LuNeal raised \$77.75. Carlos Camargo from Wells Fargo Bank presented the club with a check for \$300 as a donation to the club. He spoke briefly about loans and then answered questions.
- Program:** The video program was on precious gems. (rubies, emeralds and sapphires). Most emeralds come from Columbia. Emeralds are the second most valuable gem stone. They can be synthesized. Rubies are found in Thailand. The best rubies are found in Burma. Many peasants mine rubies and they make about \$8 a day. Rubies are the second hardest gem stone. They can be synthesized also. 90% of the sapphires found in Thailand are found near Bangkok. They also can be synthesized.
- Officer Reports:**
- 1st Vice President: The upcoming program was discussed. New Zealand and Australia through the eyes of a rock hound.
- 2nd Vice President: There will be a show meeting this month.
- 3rd Vice President: The upcoming fieldtrips were discussed; Ant Hill (Mar 21), Gem Hill (Feb 28), Jalama Beach (Apr 25), and Tajiguas Beach (Mar 22).
- Federation:** The Federation show is on Apr 17, 18, and 19, at the Santa Clara Fairgrounds.
- Misc:** Support the Wright library in it's time of need.
- Website:** Support our website — Oxnardgem.com
- Education:** Oxnard is now requesting Rock Boxes.
- Classes:** New classes are starting this week. Silversmithing starts Mar 9th.
- Refreshments:** The refreshments in March will be done by Louisa and April.
- Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M. Lee Leighton, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2009
Board of Directors Meeting**

- Call to Order:** President Kay Hara called the meeting to order at 7:35P.M.
- Minutes:** The minutes were approved as written.
- Membership:** We have 58 paid members at this time. A motion was passed to accept 3 new members. They are April and Gary Louis, and Esther Bar Shai. Steve Grayson's membership was extended.
- Treasurer:** We are solvent. Income and expenses were discussed. A motion was passed to pay the bills. Washington Mutual is becoming Chase Bank. The bank is making some changes to their checking accounts.

- Correspondence:** Info was put out on the Pasadena Lap Society, the Ventura show, and the San Diego Tailgate show.
- Old Business:** Set a date for the audit. Rudy's award from Aswell Trophy was discussed. The club's constitution needs to be revised.
- New Business:** Background noise at the meetings needs to be addressed. Our Scholarship was discussed. The money is to be sent to Oxnard College now. New members need a welcome call. Their participation is welcomed in all club activities.
- Officer Reports:** 2nd Vice President: There was a Show meeting tonight prior to the board meeting.
- Federation:** The Show is coming: April 17, 18, and 19 in San Jose. Competitive exhibiting was discussed. D. Holland is helping clubs learn to display. He is coming to the Ventura show. ZZYZX and Camp Paradise are now \$350. CFMS field trips were discussed, as well as the Omnibus Land Bill. It has passed the Senate; it is now in the House.
- Website:** We need to add Saviers Rd. to the website map. The website is getting more use now.
- Editor:** The class schedule was discussed.
- Classes:** The classes are doing well. The Wirewrapping class is very crowded. More space is needed. Possibilities are being examined.
- Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M. Lee Leighton, Recording Secretary

Show Time

Now is the time to start thinking SHOW TIME, I will be making personal contact with many of you to set up the chair persons for the many jobs to be done. I look forward to working with you again to make this another memorable experience and successful event. I know this can be done with your help and past experience. So be prepared when I contact you to volunteer or accept necessary assignments. Setting up the show is a large project, and I hope that many of our new members will volunteer. I will have a sign up sheet available at the next general meeting for you to look at and sign up. Thanking you in advance, Norb K. Show Chair

Planet Ranch Trip



While out at Quartzsite, a group of us decided to check out a dig site featured at the January meeting. The site was about 65 miles away on well graded dirt roads. The directions were very accurate. Just to let you know, the road to the dig site is closed a couple of weekends a year because it runs right next to an extreme motocross racecourse. As we came close to Planet Ranch, the road goes into and becomes part of a wash. There is an abundance of cholla cactus in the area. Along side of the wash are abandoned mines. We parked near the gate of Planet Ranch and walked down the wash, around the corner and up the next wash. The dry riverbed had malachite and blue chalcedony rocks lying on the surface washed down from the abandoned mines. In front of the abandoned mines, blue and green rocks were piled in front of the openings. Despite the fact that the site is in the middle of nowhere, an amazing amount of vehicles were traveling the wash/roads in the area. One guy who lives in the area told one of our group where to find an even better spot to collect rocks nearby. We only had a couple of hours to peruse the rock piles in front of a couple of mines before the threat of darkness forced us to return to Quartzsite. Stephanie Hagiwara



March 2009

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Birthstone: Aquamarine	2 9:00 AM Silver Class starts	3 7:00 PM Silver Class	4 9:00 AM Sil Cl. 7:30 PM Club Mtg	5 7:00 PM Adult Lapidary Cl.	6 6:30 PM Youth Lapidary Cl.	7 9:00 AM Opal Cl. 9:30 AM Wire wrap Cl.
8 Vta Show 7th & 8th 10 to 4	9 9:00 AM Silver Class	10 7:00 PM Silver Class starts	11 9:00 AM Sil Cl. 7:30 PM Bd Mtg	12 7:00 PM Adult Lapidary starts	13 6:30 PM Youth Lapidary Cl.	14 9:00 AM Opal Cl. 9:30 AM Wire wrap Cl.
15 Fieldtrip 21st Ant Hill See article	16 9:00 AM Silver Class	17 7:00 PM Silver Class	18 9:00 AM Silver Class	19 7:00 PM Adult Lapidary Cl.	20 6:30 PM Youth Lapidary starts	21 9:00 AM Opal Cl. 9:30 AM Wire wrap Cl.
22 Tajiguas Beach today See article	23 9:00 AM Silver Class	24 7:00 PM Silver Class	25 9:00 AM Silver Class	26 7:00 PM Adult Lapidary Cl.	27 6:30 PM Youth Lapidary Cl.	28 9:00 AM Opal Cl. 9:30 AM Wire wrap Cl.
29	30 9:00 AM Silver Class	31 7:00 PM Silver Class	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> February S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> April S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 </div> </div>			

Printed by Calendar Creator Plus on 2/15/2009

RECIPE FOR A GOOD ROCK CLUB

Assemble a group of Rockhounds in assorted sizes and personalities.

MEASURE ACCURATELY:

- 1 cup friendly words 1 cup courtesy
- 1 cup understanding 1 cup patience

SIFT CAREFULLY to remove all malice and ego.

ADD a dash of wit and humor, a heart full of co-operation and praise, where needed.

MIX WELL until blended into a smooth running organization.

SPRINKLE with Good Times and Fun. Garnish with New Members. Serve with Warm Greetings. Plenty for all. Via Knoxville Newsletter 10/76

Rockhound Folks

I like rockhound people,
I think they just are grand;
They help you in the desert
When you get stuck in sand

They share their lunches with you
And give you rocks galore.
They are friendly people
And I like them more and more.
Unknown



Conejo Gem and Mineral Club; 35th annual show,

“Pageant of a Thousand Gems”; May 16th and 17th Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4.30; free admission & parking Newbury Park, CA: Borchard Park, 190 Reino Rd. Minerals, Rocks, Fossils, exhibits, demonstrations, gem and jewelry sales, youth activities, door prizes, silent auctions and plant sales.

Contact Robert Sankovich (805) 494-7734;

e-mail: rmsorca@adelphia.net or www.cgamc.org

Dues are past due!

This is the last chance to be included in the 2009 roster and to keep receiving the Rock Bag... If you want other members to know you, please remit your dues at the meeting or mail them to: Anne Lewis
2231 Mono St. Oxnard, CA 93036

Support Our Neighboring Clubs!

I hope everyone has registered to enter a display into the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society show taking place at the Ventura County Fairgrounds March 7-8. (If you haven't yet signed up to enter a display but would like to, please give me a call right away, 805-659-3577.) In addition, the Conejo Gem & Mineral Club in Thousand Oaks will be sponsoring their 35th annual show May 16-17 at Borchard Park, 190 Reino Road at Borchard Road, in Newbury Park, just off the 101 after you crest the grade. For further details, check their web site, www.cgamc.org, or contact VMGS member Rob Sankovich, (805) 494-7734, rmsorca@adelphia.net. Even if you're not interested in entering an exhibit in either the VGMS or CGMC shows, we encourage all club members to attend these shows, shop among their dealers, participate in their silent auctions and kids events, and enjoy the many interesting displays.

Jim Brace-Thompson, Federation Director

Show Exhibiting Tips from the Experts

Two special guests will attend the upcoming Ventura Gem & Mineral Society Show: **Dee Holland** and **Shirley Leeson**, both Past-Presidents of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Dee has been heavily involved in competitive exhibiting, overseeing the Uniform Rules and helping to run scoring of exhibits during California and American Federation shows. Both he and Shirley have generously offered to come to the VGMS show this year to provide informal evaluations and pointers of exhibits. So if you've ever been interested in entering a competitive exhibit at a Federation show but haven't yet made the plunge, this is an excellent opportunity to get some expert advice and guidance. And even if you're not interested in competition, the advice Dee offers will help improve your displays for our own local OGMS show. We're trying to get at least half dozen volunteers to get together Sunday afternoon at 1:00 PM to meet Dee and Shirley in the exhibit hall during the VGMS show at the Ventura Fairgrounds. Dee will offer a brief question-and-answer session about exhibiting and the rules for competitive exhibiting, and then he'll take any interested parties out to the exhibit floor to give pointers for how to transform a so-so case into one that wins awards. If you're interested in participating, give me a call (659-3577), then meet at the Hospitality Booth at the VGMS Show at 1:00 PM, Sunday, March 8.

Jim Brace-Thompson, OGMS Federation Director & VGMS President

Federation News

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) sponsors week-long Earth Science Studies seminars covering a variety of aspects of lapidary arts, such as silversmithing, rock carving, capping, wirewrapping, and so forth. These also generally include collecting field trips. The first, Camp Paradise, takes place in northern California May 17-23. The second, Zzyzx, takes place in the desert of southern California November 15-22. At our monthly meetings, I've had application forms for both seminars, and I'll continue putting them on the take-one table. One correction to note: the Zzyzx application form lists a fee of \$300, but it went up this year to \$350 to cover increased fees charged by the camp administrators. If you send in an application form for Zzyzx, it should be accompanied by a check in the amount of \$350. They'll begin accepting Zzyzx applications starting March 2. This is a very popular seminar, so if you're interested, sign up soon. The \$350 covers costs of the seminars plus rustic camp housing and meals for a full week, so it's a bargain, and well worth it according to OGMS members who have participated in the past. Again, look on our take-one table at the March meeting for an application form with further details.

In other Federation news, the annual statewide CFMS Show and Convention takes place April 17-19 in San Jose. Packets with full info about this show will be available on our take-one table at our monthly meetings in March and April. If you're interested in displaying at the show, the deadline for exhibitor applications is March 25. The statewide show offers an opportunity for competitive exhibiting, with trophies for the winning exhibits in a wide variety of categories, from fossils to minerals to educational cases to all the forms of lapidary arts. If interested in entering a competitive display, contact Marion Roberts (mvroberts@bigvalley.net). If interested in entering a noncompetitive display, contact Dean Welder (Wdeanwelder@yahoo.com) or check with our club Federation Director, Jim Brace-Thompson, who has entered a number of competitive displays at CFMS shows over the years. It's a long way to San Jose, but these statewide shows are always a lot of fun and generally feature 3 or 4 times more dealers than you'll typically see at a local club show.

Finally, in association with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, CFMS will be helping to sponsor and run an "Inter-regional Rockhound Rendezvous" to the Davis Creek/Lassen Creek area of the Modoc National Forest in northeastern California to collect obsidian. It's abundant, easy to find and collect, and of great quality, with a wide variety of colors, sheens and shapes. If you like obsidian, if you like rock collecting, if you like meeting other interesting rockhounds, join rockhounds from all over the western U.S. for this field trip, May 20-25. A 2-page Field Trip flier is available on the CFMS web site (www.cfmsinc.org). This flier has all the details about the trip, directions to the Rendezvous campsite and other useful information. For further info, contact Dick Pankey at (925) 439-7509, dickpankey@juno.com.

Jim Brace-Thompson, Federation Director

Field Trip - Ant Hill in March [CFMS]



Field Trips-South will sponsor a trip hosted by Conejo Valley Gem & Mineral Club to Ant Hill near Bakersfield in March. Come for a fun day digging fossil shark teeth! Weather should be nice. The site is a 500-yard walk over semi-flat ground, then 100 yards uphill. Once there, most of the time you'll dig in a small area. In March, there's always a chance of rain, so bring the necessary clothing. If it is raining, we won't be digging. Also, an obligatory warning: this area is known for valley fever, caused by fungi in the soil. It can cause fever, chest pain, and coughing and, in extreme cases, has even been fatal. We don't want to overstate the danger; in fact, most

Safety Matters

From Betsy Martin
via EFMLS Newsletter



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in non-profit club newsletters
via AFMS Newsletter 2/00

who inhale the fungi have few, if any symptoms, but be advised! You may wish to wear a facemask while stirring up the soil, and should you feel like you've caught a cold after the trip, see a doctor right away. Effective treatments are available.

When: Sat., March 21, 2009, 10AM-3PM.

Directions: 5 Freeway North, to the 99 Hwy North; off at 178 Hwy East, near Bakersfield; go 8.3 miles to Harrell Hwy; turn Left (North); 3.5 miles on Harrell Hwy from the 178 Hwy. Site is on the Left (South) side of Hwy, in hills across from a soccer field. Look for Rob Sankovich's black Toyota truck with CVGM sign in the window. We'll be about 2.5 miles east of Hart Park. If you see an asphalt bike path going between the hills, you're at the right spot!

Tools: Rock pick, gad pry bar, hand sledge, sifter (quarter-inch), large pry bar, shovel, eye protection, newspaper to wrap fossils, collecting bags, wide-brimmed hat, sun block, lots of water, lunch. There's no shade in the morning, and while it will probably be cool, it can get hot there, so dress in layers. After 1:00 PM, the dig site will be in the shade. I recommend a daypack to put your tools in. It's a bit of a walk, and it'll be easier to carry gear.

Material to Collect: Fossil shark teeth of many types and sizes from the Miocene Epoch, 10-15 million years ago. There are other fossils (marine mammal bone and teeth). This is part of the richest Miocene marine fossil bed in the world. Fossils are found in a 3-foot layer of semi-soft clay; you'll see exposed holes from previous digs. You'll dig out the biggest pieces you can, then carefully break apart to find fossils. I usually use a gad pry bar to dig out bigger pieces of clay (golf ball to baseball size). If I see any sign of a shark tooth or fossil, I'll wrap it in newspaper, and later I'll use dental tools or Dremel motor tools to remove clay and reveal the tooth. To make a nice display, I'll often keep some teeth in matrix. The main thing when working with fossils is patience.

Contacts: Shep, freudonetoo@yahoo.com 661-248-0411; Adam, theagatehunter@verizon.net; Rob, rmsorca@adelphia.net, (805) 494-7734. If interested, please call in advance. Weather can change; without knowing if you're going, we won't be able to give you updates or notify you if the trip gets cancelled.

Via CFMS Newsletter 2/09

Tajiguas Beach
Santa Barbara, CA
Tri-club fieldtrip
March 22, 2009

- Fieldtrip:** Enjoy a winter day at the beach! On March 22, our fieldtrip will be to Tajiguas Beach North of Santa Barbara, about two miles beyond Refugio Beach. We will be hunting for petrified whalebone and concretions with petrified wood or whalebone enclosed in rock. Stop at the first turn out space along the highway and look for the tri-club signs in the parking spot along the highway. Note the distance from California Street in Ventura is 54.1 miles.
- Directions:** From Ventura proceed north on highway 101 north (west) of Santa Barbara past Refugio Beach. Proceed 2.5 miles past Refugio Beach turn off and make a U-turn south for 0.3 miles. We will meet at parking area leading to the beach. I have a white Ford 150 pick-up with a shell; note I have a rockhound sticker in the back window.
- Meeting:** On Sunday morning March 22, we will meet at the trail leading to the beach at 10:00 a.m. Low tide is at 2:33 p.m. and after a couple hours of running up and down the beach it should be a great spot for a picnic lunch, if the weather cooperates.

Tools: You will need a bucket or pack to carry back your finds. Do not forget hat, sunscreen, water and lunch. Bring a variety of clothing for everything between sunny and hot to windy and cool.

Pray for oceanic storms to wash the sand away and expose the rocks and whale bones. If you attend the Ant Hill sharks teeth dig with Rob Sankovich, you will now have some bones to go with your sharks teeth.
Ron Wise, Field trip coordinator

Upcoming Field Trips

Please let us know if you are going to go on the field trip. The weather can change, if we don't know if you're going we won't be able to contact you if the field trip is cancelled. There will be maps and flyers available at the club meetings.

Jalama Beach, Lompoc Calif. April 25th Sat. 10am Tri Club Field Trip - Conejo, Oxnard, Ventura

Our April 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. You can come up for the day or camp overnight. Day use \$6.00, camping \$18.00, with electric hookup \$25.00 Campsites are assigned on a first come, first served basis, one site to one vehicle. 98 campsites, all overlooking the ocean or beach front. Each site has a picnic table and BBQ, with hot showers, restrooms and water nearby. 29 sites offer electrical hookups, and a dump station is available. I will not be camping.

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: Saturday, April 25th. 2009, 10am-4pm. We will meet in the parking lot. Look for my black Toyota Truck with a CGMC sign in the window. 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. The Shale in the area is a good place to look for fossils. Along the beach you can find 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, trowels, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, sturdy shoes, newspaper for wrapping fossils, 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 Mike Miller 805-498-9586, rockfmdr@aol.com Jalama Beach County Park, Star Route, Jalama Road, Lompoc, CA 93436
Recorded Information (805) 736-6316, Park Office (805) 736-3504

Links: <http://www.sbparcs.org/docs/jalama.html>

http://www.santabarbara.com/activities/camping/jalama_beach/movies/MOV00362.MPG

Field trips completed

Quartzsite AZ, Wiley's Well Area & Turtle Mtns. CA January 13 to 18, 2009, Tues - Sun

Quartzsite was a lot of fun, the weather was great, warm but not too hot out. Deb and I arrived on Tuesday. We checked out the dealers Tues/Wed, bought rough material to work. There were many dealers with a big variety of polished finished pieces to rough material. There were great prices compared to just about anywhere I've seen material for sale. If you never been to Quartzsite I'd recommend it. I bought a big piece of laprodite that I will polish with my angle grinder. Mitty & Sal Scarpato, (Ron & Jean Wise, and Greg & Valli Davis VGMS) were

there checking out Quartzsite and going on the field trips. This year for the show our mementos are going to be small carved dinosaurs on small slabs of coprolite "fossilized dino dung." If you want one you should think about exhibiting at our upcoming show. In a few months I'll bring in a finished piece, it will take me some time cutting the slabs. Thanks to Mary Pat for suggesting the dinosaurs and Mitty for suggesting the coprolite.

Thursday we went to the Turtle Mtns. with Ron and Jean, collected chalcedony pieces, didn't find any big chalcedony roses, but there was lots of float pieces everywhere near chalcedony hill. Friday we went to the Cinnamon beds and Kims for geodes and nodules in the Wiley's Well area. Ron and Jean then left for Arizona. Saturday Sal, Mitty, Greg, Valli, Deb and I went to the Colorado River area/hills to collect petrified iron wood. We all found some nice pieces. I didn't find Arnie Rudman's hidden piece, Arnie is it this still there? It's a really large piece that he hasn't been able to carry out. I'm looking forward to seeing it.

In November there will be a CFMS Wiley's Well field trip. The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society is thinking of going out in the spring and going to Joel Hauser's house, to see his museum and possibly buy material that he found and polished. I'll let you know if that will happen.

Upcoming Field Trips 2009:

These dates are fixed and will be the dates we are going:

March - Ant Hill-Bakersfield CA, March 21st Sat. 10am

April - Jalama Beach, Lompoc CA April 25th Sat. 10am

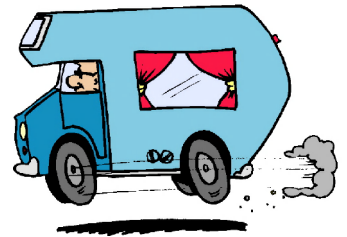
The field trips listed below are tentative, they might change. All are Tri Club field trips with either: Conejo, Oxnard or Ventura leading. Each month there will be information in the bulletin, and a flyer/map at the club meeting.

May - to be determined

June - Green River Formation Fish Fossils-Kemmerer area, Wyoming, Blue Forest Petrified Wood, Wyoming, Sapphires-Montana (this will be a week long road/field trip)

July - to be determined

August - Jade Cove, Nephrite Jade, Serpentine, Actinolite, Soap Stone, Abalone shells.



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 too 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 affect 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 our web site www.cgmac.org. The information is current and I'll keep updating as I add field trips. 2009 has started nice with good weather. There's going to be a field trips for everyone, we'll have some close to home, and out of state. Easy and harder field trips requiring chisels, sledges, something for everyone hopefully. I am open to any places members are interested in. I'm always researching sites. Most of the time I make sure, I check out the sites, so when it finally becomes a field trip it doesn't waste our time. I like digging for shark teeth fossils, so there will be field trips there.

The March field trip will be a co-op field trip with our club, and the tri clubs, with myself, Mike, and CFMS Shep Koss, Adam Dean, will be leading the trip. This time of year the weather can change so make sure I know you will be going, this applies to all field trips. We will also be going to Jade Cove later in the year, probably August, it will be warmer. Check out the website for updates. We've been getting good turnouts of rockhounds for all of our field trips; the upcoming field trips offer a diversity of collecting. As the weather cools off, we will be heading out to the desert for collecting. Field trips are fun and you will find some nice specimens and make new friends. I find most people on field trips are friendly and nice, willing to share in their knowledge and experiences. See you there.

Contact: Robert Sankovich, [805] 494-7734 - VP Field Trips Conejo and Ventura - msorca@adelphia.net

FIELD TRIPS-SOUTH Upcoming Trips

By Shep Koss & Adam Dean

Please see the CFMS web site for full details or contact Shep, freudonetoo@yahoo.com; 661-248-0411; Adam, theagatehunter@verizon.net; or Rob Sankovich, rmsorca@adelphia.net; 805-494-7734.

Other trips planned for the spring include:

* April 25 to the **Lavic Siding** area for jasper and agates.

* May 23 to the **North Edwards** area for "The Great Onyx Hunt."

* June (date TBD) for the "Double-Your-Pleasure Tourmaline Trip." For this trip, we need feedback as to how many would commit to a two-day trip to the **San Diego** area for adventures at two tourmaline mines. A reduced cost to each mine is dependent upon the number of attendees. So contact either Shep or Adam with intentions so they can determine, along with the mine owner, the ultimate cost per attendee. We're hoping to make this a "two-for-the-price-of-one" trip!

- Shep & Adam

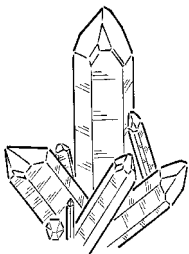
Words of Caution

As expected, Senator Reid wasted no time in introducing the 2009 Omnibus lands act (s-22) in the new session for a vote that approved one of the largest packages of legislation dealing with land use in the history of the United States. It now goes to the House of Representatives where quick approval is expected. By the time you read this it may be a done deal.

Well, what in the world happened? Not very much on our side of the issue and a tremendous amount of organized effort for way more than a decade by advocates that wanted this legislation passed. If it has not yet been passed by the house, we may still have an opportunity to voice our opposition.

If unencumbered and enacted into law, the Omnibus lands act is going to cause a lot of heartburn for our members over many years to come. I'm afraid that the ease with which this legislation was orchestrated by the pork barrel oriented crew in Washington, a flood gate has been opened that will ultimately lead to us to being restricted from access to all public and most private owned lands. Via AFMS bulletin

Some Mineral Fun Facts



The Roman writer named Pliny the Elder noticed that quartz crystals are very cool to the touch. He also found many quartz crystals high in the mountains. So, he came to the conclusion that quartz is petrified ice. In other words, he believed that quartz was ice that had frozen so hard that it would never thaw out and melt! (Today we know that quartz is silicon and oxygen and that it absorbs heat quickly and easily.)

Sulfur cannot absorb heat very well. If you put your warm finger on the surface of a sulfur crystal, the crystal will crack. Sometimes you can even hear the cracking.

Via Mini Miner Publications

Save the Wright Library!

For many, many years, the Wright Library on Day Road in Ventura has offered us use of their lobby display case to publicize our annual show. This has given us invaluable publicity, at no charge whatsoever. Well, now the Wright Library needs our help! In all their wisdom, the Ventura County Library Services Commission, under the leadership of Library Director Jackie Griffin, has decided that in light of our current economic crisis, a library needs to be closed, and they've chosen the Wright Library--the most heavily used library in all the Ventura library system! There's only once chance to keep it open, and that involves raising \$280,000. The nonprofit San Buenaventura Friends of the Library has until the beginning of April to raise these funds to keep the Wright Library open. To help show our appreciation for all the support the Wright Library has offered us over the years, I encourage all club members to extend their support by sending checks in whatever amount to: Save Wright Library, P.O. Box 403, Ventura, CA 93002. Make your checks payable to "Save Wright Library." During a time of fiscal crisis and budget cuts, you would hope that government officials would have the wisdom to focus on cutting luxuries, not essentials. In my humble view, a library--one of the most heavily used in the county--counts as an essential. Please show your support!

Jim Brace-Thompson, VGMS President

Upcoming Shows

MARCH 7 & 8: VENTURA, CA

Ventura G & M Soc. Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 West Harbor Blvd., Ventura
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
Andy Anderson (805) 987-0043
E-mail: vgms_editor@roadrunner.com
Webpage: www.vgms.org

MARCH 13, 14 & 15: VICTORVILLE, CA

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club
Tailgate Show & Fieldtrips
Stoddard Wells Road, Victorville, Ca
Hours: 9 am – 5 pm daily
Gil Gilbert (760) 868-6900
<http://fosse.schema-root.org/vvgmc>

MARCH 14 & 15: SAN MARINO, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Center
3130 Huntington Drive, San Marino
Hours: Sat. 10 – 6; Sun. 10 – 5
Drew Wilson (626) 298-1534
E-mail: todrew@sbcglobal.net

MARCH 28 & 29: ROSEVILLE, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers
Placer County Fairgrounds
800 All America City Blvd., Roseville
Hours: Sat. 10am–5pm; Sun. 10am–4pm
Gloria Marie (530) 367-2262
E-mail gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com
Webpage: www.rockrollers.com

MARCH 28 & 29: ANGELS CAMP, CA

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society
Calaveras "Frog Town USA" fairgrounds
Highway 49 in Angels Camp
Hours: Sat. 10am–5pm; Sun. 10am–4pm
Tak Iwata (209) 928-5579
Webpage: Calaverasgemandmineral.org

APRIL 11 & 12: PARADISE, CA

Paradise Gem & Mineral Club
Paradise Elks Lodge
6309 Clark Road, Paradise
Hours: Sat. 10 – 5; Sun. 10 – 4
Carol Eggleston (530) 343-0894
cjeggy@chico.com C (530)321-6941
www.godnuggetwebs.com/PGMC

CFMS SHOW and CONVENTION

APRIL 17, 18 & 19, 2009: SAN JOSE
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Soc.
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
344 Tully Road, San Jose
Hours: Fri. 9-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5
Frank Mullaney (408) 265-1422
E-mail: info@scvgms.org
Webpage: www.scvgms.org

APRIL 18 & 19: LANCASTER, CA

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club
Lancaster High School
44701-32nd St. West
Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily
Vivian Watts (760) 373-1309
vivlea22@yahoo.com
www.geocities.com.av.gem