

THE ROCK BAG

January 2010 Volume 48 Issue 1

**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

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. 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	Louisa Carey	big_L76@yahoo.com	(503) 309-6147
1 st Vice President (Programs)	Brett Johnson	bj9709@yahoo.com	822-3836
2 nd Vice President (Show)	Frank Boulch	fboulch@oxnardsd.org	827-1161
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

Appointed Standing Committee Chairs

Corresponding Secretary	Louisa Carey	big_L76@yahoo.com	(503) 309-6147
Displays/Exhibits	Brett Johnson	bj9709@yahoo.com	822-3836
Editor	Miriam Tetreault	mtetreault@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	Carol Drescher		
Librarian	Abe Bar-Shai		(818) 991-7735
Member at Large	Kay Hara	kharaftdoc@aol.com	W 525-5415, H 525-7634
Membership Secretary	Anne Lewis		485-6356
Public Relations	Norb Tackman	ntack@sbcglobal.net	647-2538
Parliamentarian	Lee Leighton	ameritus@sbcglobal.net	647-4594
Refreshments	Laura Driskell		485-2983
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 2nd Wednesday of the month.
Thanks, Miriam

The Prez sez...

For a little over three years I have had the honor of being a member of O.G.M.S. It is filled with people who care, people that work hard, and people who love gems and minerals. The other evening I was having dinner with a friend. She was asking some questions about rocks and minerals, and as I answered, I realized how much I had learned in the past few years. Through shows, presentations, conversations with members and guest speakers, I have tripled my knowledge. I cannot wait to see what the next year will bring. I love this club! I know others are out there that will too. Let's keep up the great work and spread the word to all ages. Hope to see you all at the January meeting. Take care, Louisa May Carey, President

January Program

This New Year is shaping up to be fun, informative, and exciting at the Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society's general meetings.

January 6th, 2010 at 7:30pm will be our first meeting of the year. We will be meeting in the Thousand Oaks room of the Oxnard Performing Art Center at 800 Hobson Way, Oxnard.

At this meeting we will have two wonderful guest speakers, Fred & Charlotte Ward. They will give us a slide show presentation and discussion of "Opals - Chameleon of a Thousand Colors". The photos will be from Fred's many years of reporting on gems and minerals from around the world for the National Geographic magazine. There will be Opals from Australia, Mexico, the USA, and other sites and a discussion of their mining, processing, sales, and care.

The presentation will start at 7:40 pm, after some brief announcements and guest greetings. This will be an open discussion of Opals, so feel free to ask questions as the Ward's will best answer them. Afterward, they will be on hand to sign copies of their many books on gems and minerals, and there will be refreshments and an evening fellowship.

Looking forward to seeing you again. ~ Brett, VP-OGMS

***** Attention Members *****

January 1st is almost here and Membership fees are due ---- \$15.00 for Adults; \$2.00 for juniors (ages 12-18). Checks made out to OGMS or cash — Pay at the January 6th meeting or mail to: Anne Lewis, 2231 Mono St., Oxnard, CA 93036

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2009 General Membership Meeting

- Call to Order:** President Kay Hara called the meeting to order at 6:30P.M.
- Minutes:** The minutes were approved as written.
- Membership:** We have 81 members at this time.
- Hospitality:** There were 20 members and 13 guests present. The guests were: Vanessa and Michael Hester, Glenna Scott (The Tune Bandits), Ray Boulet, Bianca Terminello, Alan M., Jeff Miller, Cheryl Lunsford, Sharon Elvin, Ruthann and Mike Burnell, Brett Bednorz, and Brian Miller.
- New/Old Business:** All business was rescheduled until the next meeting.
- Program:** Tonight was the Christmas Pot Luck Dinner. The food was great. Everyone had fun. Everyone present enjoyed the entertainment. The entertainment was provided by the

Tune Bandits. They played Christmas carols and some old favorites.

Officer Installation: Pins and Bars were passed out to recognize prior service. Kay Hara installed the incoming officers. Louisa Carey is the new President of the Oxnard Gem and Mineral Society.

Officer Reports: **1st Vice President:** Fred and Charlotte Ward will speak at our next meeting about opals.
2nd Vice President: There will be a Show meeting next week.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned by our new President Louisa Carey.
~ Lee Leighton, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2009 Board of Directors Meeting

Call to Order: Outgoing President Kay Hara called the meeting to order at 7:40

Minutes: The minutes were approved as written.

Membership: We have 81 members at this time. A motion was passed to accept Mark Woolsey and Roger Clow as new members. Club dues can be paid now.

Treasurer: We are solvent. Income and expenses were discussed. A motion was passed to pay the bills.

Correspondence: Casa Pacifica was discussed for club participation.

New Business: Show prizes are being picked up tonight. The club insurance was discussed. The Audit Committee needs to meet in March. Jennifer Friedman wants to teach enameling in the lab on Wednesdays.

Officer Reports: **1st Vice President:** The next program will be on opals.

2nd Vice President: There was a Show meeting tonight.

3rd Vice President: Look at the fieldtrips scheduled in this issue.

Federation: Check the Federation website for important information on land use issues, BLM, National Parks, and much more. It's there for you to use.

Website: The Federation is having a website contest. We discussed getting a Face book page.

Education: The books were all sold.

Classes: The shelving in the lab was discussed. Two tables from the lab can be used at the show to save money. A pump and two 10 inch blades need to be purchased. We need a new heat lamp.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm by President L. Carey.
~Lee Leighton, Recording Secretary

November Show Comments

An extra pat on the back for everyone who worked at the show!

Congratulations and a hearty well done. Thank you very much, you have helped to put on the best show Oxnard Gem & Mineral has had in many years. We had over 1,800 through the door. I can never tell you how much I appreciate all the hard work that was put forward by the general membership. A special thanks to Brett, Donna, Stephanie & Kay for the extra effort they made. We have received two letters that are very complimentary on the show, attention to detail and general over-all arrangements. This show is past and within the next two months we will start planning for 2010. I will be looking for your continued enthusiasm and support, again, I THANK YOU ALL! ~Norb K.

I wish to give everyone a big "THANK YOU" for making this year's Show great. We could not have done any of it with out you. You were a very big help during the whole process and it is always good to see you smile during the Show to help make the stress of running the Show go away. I hope to count on most, if not all of you to help out for next year. Speaking of next year, the theme will be Fluorite. So get out your carvings,

jewelry, specimens, crystals, and other fluorite-related things to show them off this Nov. 20th & 21st, 2010.
Thanks again for all your help, ~ **Brett, VP-OGMS**

Dear Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society,

It was a remarkable experience to come to the recent Oxnard Gem & Mineral Show. After 20 years of doing shows around the world, we found your show this past weekend, which celebrated 40th Gem Expo, was one of the best. There were a number of highlights:

- 1) Our booth was set up and consisted of exactly the elements we had requested.
- 2) Helpful folks were immediately available to give a hand in the arrangement of tables.
- 3) Willing hands helped us move goods into the hall and set up equipment without breakage.
- 4) The separate sections of the whole exhibit made sense, vendors in one area and educational displays and hands on exhibits in another.
- 5) We admired the focus on young people and the effort to interest young minds in science.
- 6) There was appropriate and careful attention to security.
- 7) Pre-show assistance such as hotel arrangements and directions to the venue were offered.
- 8) And, perhaps most importantly, the volunteer staff were consistently cheerful, helpful and concerned that we have a successful and profitable experience.

Shows just don't get any better than that. As a vendor, I cannot think of a single thing to help you all improve the event.

Sincerely,
Virginia Carter, J.O. Crystal Co. Inc.

Kudos for Donna & Larry!

Thank you for all your organizational skills and passion for learning! That was an amazing show yesterday and Saturday. The kids were excited, there were lots for them to do and see. OGMS members are well on the way to growing a new generation of people who care about the earth sciences. We did 28 new library cards and I'm hoping the rock and fossil educational kits continue to circulate regularly. Lunch was an unexpected treat too. Please keep the library in mind for the next show.

~ **Lori Karns**, West Region Principal Librarian & Youth Services Manager, Ventura County Library

Sorry, Donna! I want to thank you and all the volunteers who worked so tirelessly to put on that fabulous Rock and Mineral Show!! Will you please forward this to your officers and place it on the website somehow for me? Thanks again and again!

Thank you all for such a wonderful experience at your annual Rock and Mineral Show!! As a teacher who is planning a rock and mineral unit for fourth grade students, I found a virtual treasure trove of information, helpful people, activities that I can use in my classroom and invaluable resources! I came away from the day with rock samples that now fill my room. My students can touch and explore now, sharpening their skills at noticing rock and mineral characteristics. Now when I teach about luster or the Mohr's Scale, they run to find examples that illustrate what we are talking about! I can't wait to check out the rock box from the library to further my students' knowledge of rocks and minerals. I learned a ton, met wonderful people, and came away from the day with my questions answered and my enthusiasm for the subject enhanced by the experience. Thanks a million for all you do, for both teachers and students alike!! You're the best!!!! ~ **Karen Verham**

Karen is a 4th grade teacher in Ojai who ordered 35 egg carton kits for her class (that she is paying for herself, I might add.) She hadn't been to a show before. This is the kind of teacher that makes it all worth while! ~ **Donna

“Also from Donna”

We need as many egg cartons as possible for making rock kits. They were extremely popular at the show. So we want to start collecting them now for next year's show. The egg cartons need to be one dozen, 18 packs don't work. Both the recycled paper mache kind and the plastic work just as well. The size of egg doesn't matter--small, medium or large work just as well. The **main** quality they need to have is that they are flat on top, no group of indentations down the middle. There is a paper guide that is glued on the top and on the inside top of the lid that needs to lay flat. There is a type of carton that has a dividing indentation in the middle between the two sets of 6 eggs. This is the "perfect" carton for these kits. When we cut this carton in two, the indented divider in the middle covers the side so that the rocks (or eggs) **don't fall out**. Just stow them somewhere, or bring them to a meeting. Thanks a lot. ~ Donna

Well Done!

A huge "**Thank You**" to all of our class instructors for all of your hard work! Between July and November, we had 102 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. In 2009, 66% of the club income came from 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

Welcome these new members!

Mark Woolsey
344 Zink Ave.
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
637-4110

Roger Clow
14900 Telegraph Rd.
Santa Paula, CA 93060
340-1478

Field Trips

Rob Sankovich, CGMC, VGMS

January 21st - 23rd 2010, Thurs. – Sat., Quartzsite, AZ

Quartzsite, Arizona, is a gathering of lots of rockhounds, dealers for a huge show of minerals, fossils, rocks, with some of the best prices I've seen for specimens. It lasts more than a month. Deb and I will be staying at a the Best Western Desert Oasis 1-10 Exit, 1, S. Frontage Rd., Ehrenberg AZ. (4 miles east of Blythe, CA), 18 miles west of Quartzsite. We will be there 6 days, checking out Quartzsite and also doing day trips to Wiley's Well (nodules, geodes) and the Colorado river (petrified wood). All within a 20-45 mile drive. If you're going to go I suggest you book your hotel now, or you can camp in the surrounding areas. There are several hotels in Blythe, one in Quartzsite, and one in Ehrenberg. Deb and I are going to check out Quartzsite Tues, Wed, Sunday and have field trips Thurs, Fri, Sat. Deb and I are going to check out the Pow-Wow, it runs the 20th - 24th. There is a link below about it. Lots of different material, you can buy or trade for some of it. There should be time each day after the field trips to explore Quartzsite as well. You will need to rendezvous with us each morning for the field trips, it will be to hard to find us out in the desert if your going to arrive late. We will be at Denny's restaurant 7am - 8am each morning, Thurs - Sat., in Blythe off exit So. Lovekin Blvd. 876 W Donlon St.

When: January 21st - 23rd 2010, Thurs – Sat. Field Trips (Quartzsite - Tues, Wed, Sun.)

Directions: Exit Interstate 10 at Blythe, CA, off exit S Lovekin Blvd. Approximately 10 miles east of Wiley’s Well Rd. (Quartzsite AZ is 20 miles east of Blythe) **Meet at the Denny’s restaurant each day Thurs - Sat. at 7am Blythe CA. (876 W. Donlon St.). Departing by 8am for the field trip.**

Field Trips: Thursday - Straw beds and Kims Beds, Nodules and Geodes. **Friday** - Hauser beds Nodules/Geodes, Cinnamon Beds Geodes. **Saturday** - Petrified Iron Wood, near the Colorado River

Vehicles: Roads to campgrounds and camping sites are typical desert roads and should be okay for most cars, trailers and motor homes. The collecting areas, 2 wheel drive are ok, 4 wheel drive vehicles and pickups are recommended.

Tools: Collecting bags and boxes, bucket, day pack, digging tools, rock pick, gad bar, trowels, spray water bottle, buckets, eye protection, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, large brim hat, drinking water, food, camping gear

Materials to Collect: Geodes, Nodules, Petrified Iron Wood

Safety Concerns: Do not lick the rocks, use sun screen when needed, stay away from rattlesnakes, use bug spray, be aware of flash floods, be extra careful, team up with a buddy and don't get lost.

Weather: We are planning on nice weather, sunny days; cool, clear, star filled nights. But remember it can rain this time of year so be prepared and plan ahead. Please let me know if your going so I can give you updates on the field trip and weather conditions.

Quartzsite Links:<http://www.desertusa.com/Cities/az/quartzsite.html#anchor832166>
http://www.desertgardensrvpark.net/Desert_Gardens_Rock_Gem_and_Mineral_Show.html
<http://www.qiaaz.org/PowWow.htm>
<http://www.qiaaz.org/booths.htm>
<http://www.quartzsitegemandmineralclub.org/>
<http://www.quartzsitetourism.us/>

Upcoming Field Trips 2010:

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 information in the bulletin, and a flyer/map at the club meeting.

February - Marble & Cady Mtns/Basin road-Trilobites in the Mojave desert area, agate

March - Somis Fossils, Sand dollar, Clams, Gastropod fossils

March - Ant Hill-shark teeth

April - Jalama Beach-Fish fossils, plant fossils, agate, petrified whale bone

May - Road Trip-2010 will probably be around early May and heading to Arizona, New Mexico, going to Petrified National Forest, Meteor Crater and collecting a several sites. Turquoise, Crinoids fossils, Petrified wood. I'm still researching this.

June - Independence/Bishop-Ammonites fossil, garnets, other minerals

August - Jade Cove-Nephrite Jade

September - Acton-agate, small nodules, geodes

Quartzsite Schedule

Desert Gardens	1/1 – 2/28	Main Event	1/9 – 1/24
Tyson Wells Rock Show	1/1 – 1/10	Pow-Wow	1/20 – 1/24
Tyson Wells Sell a Rama	1/15 - 1/24	RV tent	1/16 – 1/24
Tyson Wells Craft Show	1/29 – 2/7		

Tucson Shows 2010

1/3 --- Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show – Martin Zinn Expositions

Feb. 13 Four locations: Inn Suites Hotel, 475 N. Granada; Mineral & Fossil Marketplace, 1333 N. Oracle Rd.; Quality Inn, 1025 E. Benson Hwy; Ramada Limited, 665 N. Freeway. 10 – 6 daily. Free. 400+ dealers, total. www.mzexpos.com.

1/3- Pueblo Show – Rapa River Show AKS Show (Howard Johnson's)

2/11 All along S. Freeway Ave. west of I-10 and south of Congress St.

1/30 - Tucson Electric Park Gem & Mineral Show & RV Gem Show tailgate

2/14 Tucson Electric Park, 2500 E. Ajo Way. Lapidary, polished goods, equipment, etc.

2/5-8 Rio Grande – Catalog in Motion

Hilton Tucson East, 7600 E. Broadway Blvd. Fri-Sun 9-6, Mon 9-4. Professional demos of every possible kind of tool and equipment! Free seminars by pros, too.

2/11-14 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show

Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Ave. Thu-Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Adults \$9. Lectures; seminars; guest exhibits from museums, universities & private collections; 240+ vendors. Theme: **Gems & Gem Minerals**. www.tgms.org/showinfo.htm.

To find more shows, just browse online:

Tucson: www.jewelryshowguide.com/event/index.php
www.xpopress.com/Tucson-show-schedule.html

Via The Pegmatite 12/09

SLATE CARVING A UNIQUE HOBBY

by Helen K. Boyer

The slate found locally in streams is too soft; it shatters. Good, hard slate is found in salvage yards where they have reclaimed roofing. Slate blackboards from old schools is best but now very rare.

TOOLS: If you have a place “to work out of doors” in good weather, wearing a mask and safety goggles, it is ok to use a small power tool. But if you work indoors, never use a drill. The whole house will get a coating of the oily dust. Wood carvers’ flat chisels are fine. Always wear a mask. The dust is bad for your lungs. Lay the slate on a towel to catch the dust you brush off your work. You do not have to be an artist. Choose a simple subject. Trace the major lines from the photo and transfer to the stone, with a dart or stylus, scratch the lines into the slate, otherwise the dust will erase the drawing as you work. Repeatedly scratch the out - lines deeper and with slate chisels, bevel a sloping area down to it. Use a damp rag to clear the dust onto the towel. Always keep hands back of the tool. A slip can make a bad gash. What you are doing is creating the illusion of three dimensions. It is called “Bas-Relief” or “Low- Relief”. Look at the sculptured figures on coins to get the idea. When done, the slate will have a varied, dull, gray look. A couple of coats of wax (like Johnson's) will buff it up to a slight shine and more uniform look. Ref: *Gem Rock*, 2003; via *Snoopy Gems*, 10/04; *The Franklin County Rockhounder*, April 2009; Via *Golden Spike* 10/09

Upcoming Shows

January 16 & 17: EXETER, CA

Tule Gem & Mineral Society
 Exeter Veteran's Memorial Bldg.
 324 N. Kaweah (Hwy 65)
 Hours: Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4
 Don Viera (559) 732-7739
 Pepper Okada (559) 733-5842

February 12-21: INDIO, CA



San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society
 Riverside Co. Fair & Date Festival
 Gem & Mineral Bldg., Bldg. #1
 46-350 Arabia Street
 Hours: 10 am – 10 pm daily
 Bert Grisham (951) 849-1674
bert67@verizon.net

February 26 & 27: NORTHRIDGE
 Del Air Rockhounds Club
 United Methodist Church
 9650 Reseda Blvd. (at Superior Street)
 Fri. 3 pm-9:30 pm & Sat. 10 am-5 pm
 Julie Marin (818) 886-7190
<http://delairrockhounds.blogspot.com>

March 6 & 7: VENTURA, CA
 Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
 Seaside Park, Ventura Co. Fairgrounds
 10 W. Harbor Blvd.
 Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
 Andy Anderson (805) 987-0043
vgms_editor@roadrunner.com
www.vgms.org

January 2010

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
					1  Happy New Year!!	2 9:00 AM Opa Class																																																																																				
3 Dues are due!	4 9:00 AM Silver Class	5 7:00 PM Silver Class	6 9:00 AM Silver Class <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">7:30 PM Club Meeting</div>	7 7:00 PM Adult Lapidary Class	8 6:30 PM Junior Lapidary Class	9 9:00 AM Opa Class 9:30 AM Wire wrap Class																																																																																				
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17 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Quartzsite & Hauser Beds 1/22-23 See article</div>	18 9:00 AM Sil.Cl  King Day	19 7:00 PM Silver Class	20 9:00 AM Silver Class	21 7:00 PM Adult Lapidary Class	22 6:30 PM Junior Lapidary Class	23 9:00 AM Opa Class 9:30 AM Wire wrap Class																																																																																				
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31	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <table border="1" style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <caption>December 09</caption> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <caption>February 10</caption> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>					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	31			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							
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The Clear Creek area has been a collecting area for Serpentine, (California State Rock), Benitoite, (California State Gem) and a multitude of other agates, rocks and minerals for over 50 years. It has been a recreational and camping area for a lot longer. Please help keep the Clear Creek Area open for all users. If you live in the area please try to attend the public meetings and show your support. If you can not attend the meetings please mail or fax your comments to the responsible parties by the deadline date.

Clear Creek Public Meetings

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM M) Hollister Field Office will host three public meetings to gather comments on the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in January 2010.

"We encourage the public to attend these meetings to find out more about Clear Creek and help us plan for its future management," said Rick Cooper, BLM Hollister Field Office manager. The draft RMP/EIS covers about 75,000 acres of public lands administered by BLM in southern San Benito and western Fresno counties. The draft RMP/EIS does not include public lands outside of the CCMA.

The draft RMP/EIS was developed through a public planning process and considers seven alternatives. The primary issues addressed are public health risk from asbestos exposure in CCMA, recreation, protection of sensitive natural and cultural resources, energy and mineral development, land tenure adjustments, and other planning issues identified during the public scoping process.

Each public meeting will begin with an open house where the public can gather information, talk with BLM specialists, and provide written comments on the draft RMP/EIS. Following the open house, the BLM will give a brief introduction followed by an opportunity for the public to provide oral comments on the draft RMP/EIS. Although oral comments will be noted on flip charts, BLM will only respond to written public comments in the proposed RMP and final EIS. Comments must be postmarked or received by BLM no later than March 5, 2010.

The public is encouraged to attend the public meetings to gather information and provide comments on the draft RMP/EIS. All public meetings will take place from 5:30 – 8:30 pm at:

January 13, 2010: Harris Ranch Garden Ballroom, 24505 W. Dorris Ave., Coalinga
January 14, 2010: Veterans Memorial Hall, 649 San Benito St. Hollister
January 20, 2010: Santa Clara Convention Center, Great America Meeting Rooms, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara

The draft RMP/EIS is available on-line for public review at the Hollister Field Office webpage: http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/hollister/clear_creek_management_area/CCMA_RMP.html. Compact disks of the document are available by request from the Hollister Field Office at the address above. For additional information contact the Hollister Field Office at (831) 630-5000.

Two websites for those interested in keeping Clear Creek Management Area open:

<http://www.foccmma.org> is the friends of Clear Creek. This site stays up to date, and has good suggestions regarding comments sent in regarding the new draft management plan.

<http://salinasramblersmc.org> is the motorcycle club that has always been at the forefront of keeping Clear Creek open. This site is best for the history of Clear Creek use. ~ **American Lands Access Association (ALAA)**