

NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol, 24 No. 5

May 2005

President's Message

by Nancy Bird

Well, it's getting down to the wire-our show is one month away. Please, please, please help. This is YOUR club and we need Every Body. I can't stress this enough. We need people from Friday through Sunday-if you don't know what you can do call Don Warthen or just show up ready to help-wear your T-shirts or vests or anything orange. Come to the last show meeting if you can. We can make this our best show ever with everyone's help.

Have you signed up for the Beading Seminar May 14? Check it out with the Warthens. The food alone is worth the price of admission.

Hope to see you at the meetings.

Refreshments

Jonas Ruzgys will bring the goodies for the May meeting. Thanks to Kathy & Don Eschbach for bringing the goodies to the April meeting.

Members in the News

Members in the news this month. Have a wonderful day.

*Lucille Howe
Isabella Burns
Mary Maneth
Mark Summrow
Bill Burns*

May gemstone: Emerald

May flower: Lilly or the Valley or Hawthron

NOC Club Activities

Board Meeting — To be announced

Field Trip to GIA — May 18

Beading Seminar — May 14

Deadline for NOC News — May 17.

Show Meeting — May 12, 6 p.m.

Silver Clay Classes — May 7 and 9

May Meeting

Date: May 10

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

Program

*Agate Uber Alles
(Agate Over All)*

The May program "Agate Uber Alles" is a Powerpoint presentation about agate.

The show begins with the following statement: "When compared to diamond, the ultimate gemstone, the lowly agate gets little respect. But, in the eye of noted historian (and agate collector) Robert Proctor, diamonds are plentiful and ugly... while agates are rare and beautiful."

After that bold (and inflammatory) statement, the formation of handed agate is discussed and collecting locations, starting with Idar-Oberstein are detailed. Many fine agate examples from many locations worldwide are shown in beautiful detail. This presentation is worth seeing just for the amazingly detailed and colorful banded agate photos.

Shows and Events

May 14-15 2005, Newbury, CA

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club
California Gems & Minerals
Borchard Park Community Center
190 Reino Rd.
Hours: Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-5
Bob Stultz (805) 498-4220

May 14-15 2005, Yucaipa, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Yucaipa Community Center
349 Oak Glen Rd.
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4
Lee Peterson (909) 794-0731
Email: res09ayd@verizon.net

June 4-5 Glendora, CA

Glendora Gems
Goddard Middle School
859 E. Sierra Madre
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5 Sun. 10-4
Bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638
E-mail YBidwell2@aol.com

June 4-5 La Habra, CA

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society
Jubilee of Gems Show
101 W. La Habra Blvd.
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
Don Warthen (626) 330-8974
E-mail warthen@earthlink.net

June 10-12 2005, Roseville, CA

CFMS & Roseville Gem & Mineral Blast
Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds
00 All American City Blvd
(916) 630-1000
Web Site: www.rockrollers.com
Show Web Site: www.rockrollers.com/show.html

June 26-27 2005, Culver City, CA

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
Culver City Veterans Memorial Complex
4117 Overland Ave., Culver City
Corner of Overland Ave. & Culver Blvd
Hours: Sat. 10-6 Sun 10-5
Smith, Bradford brad@greenheart.com

September 24-25 2005, Downey, CA

Delvers Gem & Mineral Society
Downey Women's Club
9813 Paramont Blvd,
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6 Sun. 10-4
Earl Liston (562) 865-1348
Email: ejliston5@juno.com

October 8-9 2005, Trona, CA

Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
13337 Main Street
HOURS: Sat: 7:30 - 5: Sun. 7:30 - 4
Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356
E-MAIL: jbfairchild@verizon.net

via CFMS Web Site

Tax Advisor Notes

By Mike Kokinos, Tax Advisor

- The Internal Revenue Service has established a subscriber list for persons interested in current news concerning nonprofit organizations. If you have email capability, you can subscribe to receive email updates from the Exempt Organization Group. To subscribe send a blank email to EO-update-subscribe.
- Want to verify your society is tax exempt and under what Section of the Internal Revenue Code? The E.O. Customer Account Services can furnish the information as well as help you with other questions. Call toll free 1-877-829-5500.
- There has been a tremendous increase in the number of applications for tax exemption since 9/11. The Internal Revenue Service has also seen an increase in organizations abusing their tax exemption.
- I do recommend first asking Pat LaRue or me before going to the Service for specific problems.

Zzyzx 2005

Pictures of Zzyzx 2005 and the open house are on the CFMS website Photos page (<http://cfmsinc.org>).

Insurance - Umbrella Policies

By Fred Ott, Insurance Chairperson

Many people have heard the term “umbrella” policy and have wondered what such policies actually “do.” Simply stated: an “umbrella” policy provides “excess” (or “additional”) liability protection in the event of a major claim that exceeds the limits of liability that you carry on your current policies (automobile, home, boat, etc.).

Here’s an example: suppose you carry 100/300/50 limits of liability on your automobile insurance policy which, for the longest time, were very good limits. Now, unfortunately, it’s much more common to see claims above these limits! These three limits mean that your insurance company will pay up to \$100,000 per person but no more than \$300,000 per accident (involving 3-or-more persons) in which you caused “bodily injury” to others. Additionally, the policy would also pay up to \$50,000 for any “property damage” that you may have caused (such as damaging the fender on another vehicle or causing a chain-reaction of several vehicles). But what happens if you cause a “major” accident and are liable for more than these limits? That’s where an “umbrella” policy comes into play. Such policies typically pay up to an additional \$1 million for your legal obligations should you exhaust the limits of your “underlying” policies (autos, home, boat, rentals, etc.).

There are several requirements that you must meet in order to qualify for such “umbrella” policies, but you may find that, in your situation, it may cost as little as \$20 to \$30 per month for \$1 million of coverage. Call your current automobile or homeowner’s insurance agent or broker and ask for a quote.

Silver Clay Classes

By Izzie

The dates for the last of our series of classes with Kathly Miller will be Saturday, May 7 and Monday, May 9, 10:00 to 4:00 at the Turner’s home.

Hope to see you there.

Show Meeting Minutes

By Nancy Bird

The meeting was called to order by Show Chair Don Warthen on April 21.

Who will be running the kitchen is still up in the air-either us or the Sonora Band Boosters.

We received a \$25 donation award from B.J. Antiques plus a pledge of a gift donation due to the Chamber of commerce letter. The Show program has to be out soon -the City will publish it.

Beatrice took a bio of Trini and Al Hemosillo. Will try to get it into the local papers.

We need help setting up Friday noon and tearing down Sunday p.m. and Monday a.m. Can you help?

We need people to cut geodes.

The new banner is double sided and the dates can be peeled off. It’s coming along real well.

We need people to stay overnight at the show.

We are staffing the Future Rockhounds of America booth.

Show Report

By Don Warthen

The show is coming along great. It looks as though another group (The Sonora Band Boosters) has stepped forward and would do the kitchen. They have contacted Starbucks Coffee Shop to donate coffee, which they have done in the past.

The person who sells the most donation award tickets this year will receive a substantial gift, so lets all get to work and get those tickets sold! We already have some great gifts to give away but appreciate members donating something they have made.

Please let Virginia Grafton (Ginnie) know if you are planning to put a case in this year and need to know who has their own cases. We will be getting cases from Puente Hill and we need volunteers to pick up and take them back.

The new banner looks great. I think everyone will be pleased with it.

We still need volunteers to help out in several areas; we need someone to stay overnight both Friday and Saturday. We need help with cutting Geodes, the Silent Action and anyone wanting to demonstrate. The next show meeting will be at La Habra Community Center scheduled for May 12 at 6:00 p.m.

May Field Trip

by Don Eschbach, Field Trip Chairman

The May Field Trip will be to the GIA Institute of America for a Lecture on May 18. Hors d'oeuvres are served at 6:30 pm and the lecture begins at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in attending, you must call in your reservations as soon as possible. (See the information below.)

The GIA Museum
presents
TRUE LIES: STORIES BEHIND THE LARSON COLLECTION
with
Bill Larson
Wednesday, May 18, 2005
GIA's Robert Mouawad Campus in Carlsbad
5345 Armada Drive
6:30 – Hors d'oeuvres
7:00 – Lecture
Admission is \$10 per person.
To RSVP, please call (760) 603-4169
Please reserve early – seating is limited.

GIA's 2005 Museum Lecture Series, "Connoisseurship: Excellence in Collecting," examines the passion to collect minerals, gems and jewelry and the defining elements of a fine collection.



The second lecture in the series, "True Lies: Stories Behind the Larson Collection," will be an entertaining look into some of the adventures, trades, and stories relating to a few of Bill Larson's marvelous mineral and gem specimens. Larson, president of the mining company Pala International, Inc., is a respected veteran of the gem and mineral world. His personal collection is considered by many to be one of the finest ever assembled.

Directions to GIA:

Take Interstate 5 to the Cannon Road exit in Carlsbad. Head east on Cannon Road. Turn right on Legoland/Armada Drive. GIA is on the corner of Legoland and Armada Drive. Enter at Security Gate.

Cabochons 101

*by Wayne Moorhead, School Director
via The Pegmatite - 3/05*

I've been seeing many new and inexperienced cabochon students ending up with large scratches on their finished cabs. I think a review of the cutting and polishing process is in order. Of course, different instructors teach class differently and everyone learns their own style with experience, however, this is based on my experience.

When new students show me a wet cab and say, "Am I done?", I tell them you have to DRY your cab after each grinding stage in order to inspect it for scratches. Use an old hand towel for this purpose. After the 80 grit diamond wheel, DRY your cab and see if you got out all the saw cut marks. After the 220 grit diamond wheel, DRY off your cab and see if all the 80 grit scratches are gone, especially around the girdle, where many people miss seeing them. You'll start to recognize the difference between 80 and 220 grit scratches after you do this a few times.

Likewise, after each sanding step—220, 400, and 600—DRY off your cab and look for scratches left from the previous grit. You may have trouble telling 220 scratches from 400 scratches, so here's another trick. Finish sanding the entire surface of your cab on the 220 belt in a vertical direction, for instance, with the stone's longer dimension pointing up and down. Rinse (ALWAYS rinse the stone and your hands between grits) then sand your cab on the 400 belt in the horizontal direction, i.e., with the stone pointing sideways. Now DRY the stone and look at it carefully. If there are still some vertical scratches mixed in with the horizontal ones, you need to continue sanding at 400 grit until they are all gone. And you need to DRY the stone each time you check. Ditto for 600 grit.

It's a shame to see students go through all the effort of cutting and polishing a large stone, only to see ugly 80 grit scratches on the girdle, which means they have to go back to the 220 diamond wheel and start over again. Hopefully these tips will help you, so don't get discouraged, practice and learn!

Time is Short !!!

by Gloria Tomczyk, 2005 Show Chair

I would like to offer an update on the progress of the CFMS show, with the hope that ALL of you reading this will attend. If you haven't done so yet, please submit your reservations for camping or for the Best Western in Roseville, if you plan to stay in town. Remember to mention the Gem Show to get the reduced rate. Same goes for the banquet, this is one banquet that you may wish you had attended when all is said and done! There is still time! If you are coming just for the Directors meeting, please make sure that you have submitted your show registration form(s). This needs to be done so that we know you are attending, and it allows us to have a pass ready for you at the gate, allowing you into the meeting room and show, later if you choose. (You can download forms from the website at www.rockrollers.com)

As I have mentioned before the show keeps improving with each passing week. We now have added a 70,000 year old standing Cave Bear from Russia to the show lineup of attractions, thanks to perseverance by the show committee, and the willingness of the owner to display it. This new addition will be a very nice compliment to the various museum displays already lined up, along with the 5 foot fulgurite and 123 pound meteorite.

Are there any pin collectors out there??? If you are one of those folks that love to display these unique little things all over your vest, well the Roseville Rock Rollers have got you covered! At this show we will offer pins as a remembrance of the "Roseville Gem & Mineral Blast 2005." Quantities will be limited so make sure you pick one up when picking up your admission packet upon entering the show. And by the way, what better way could there be to show off that lovely new pin except to be on your club's vest! With that said, I offer a challenge to each and every one of the CFMS Directors and Board Members out there. The challenge is: Fly your club's colors, by wearing your vest and nametag, Show pin or no Show pin! Let's have a colorful show this year in Roseville! I have gone to shows in the past where visiting club members were clearly represented, by visitors wearing their jackets from all over California. Attend the meeting on Saturday, collect your ticket stub for the drawing on the gold nugget, and lets see your colors!

Surfing the Web, Part Four: Museums

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Juniors Activities Chair

In my fourth and final column on using the web to tap into the interest of today's computer-connected kids, I provide annotated listings of Web sites for natural history museums. Museums are wonderful resources and make for great field trip destinations with kids. Unfortunately, not all of us are conveniently located close to a museum. The Web circumvents this problem, and today, pretty much every major museum - and most smaller, regional museums - offer a glimpse of their collections on-line, combined with additional educational resources and links. For instance, just a few seconds after typing "Natural History Museums" into the Google search engine, I found a long list of sites. I explore just a few for this month's column. Each offers excellent listings of other museums, complete with links that take you to them.

www.lib.washington.edu/sla/natmus.html

An "Education Index Top Site," here you'll find direct links to local and regional museums, large and small museums, and university collections across the U.S. and around the world. One of the most comprehensive collections of museum links I've seen!

www.ucmp.berkeley.edu

The University of California, Berkeley, Museum of Paleontology is a research museum not open to the general public - except through this web site. Links allow you to explore the museum collections, enter a "paleoportal," and learn about exhibits and education on the history of life.

Paleo.cc/kpaleo/museums.htm

"Kuban's Guide to Natural History Museums on the Web" features annotated links to the larger, more famous museums and virtual museums that feature

displays of fossils, paleontology, and related subjects.

www.clpgh.org/cmnh/exhibits/hillman/index.html

Visit dinosaur exhibits and the Hillman Hall of Minerals and Gems at the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh.

www.rom.on.ca

The Royal Ontario Museum of Toronto, Canada, is a true treasure from our neighbors of the North.

www.mnh.si.edu/earth

"The Dynamic Earth" gives you an inside look at geology exhibits at Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History as well as info on geological processes. For instance, see how caves form or how minerals precipitate and change under heat and pressure.

www.amnh.org/education/resources/

Online activities and resources are available through the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Lessons are written for primary through high school levels (and divided by grade levels) in five areas, including Earth Science, Paleontology, and Astronomy. You'll find 17 lessons on Minerals, 6 on Meteorites, and more than 25 on various aspects of Paleontology. Museums are terrific places to take kids for "indoor field trips," but if the nearest museum is too far away, distance need not preclude a visit. Take your kids on a "virtual" field trip. The furthest museum is now just a mouse click away! As with the sites I shared last month, these sites scratch just the surface of what's out there. Make this into an activity for your juniors by exploring one museum's web site as a group and then encouraging them to surf the Web for interesting museum sites and having them share what they find with their fellow members at your next meeting. Let's capitalize on the tools today's kids use for learning while-as always-having fun!

Desert Safety Tips

Bob Fitzpatrick, Field Trip Chair - South

Travel in the desert can be an adventure. It can also be a disaster if a breakdown or a sudden change in the weather catches you unprepared. Be aware of the hazards of desert travel, both in winter and summer. Harsh weather conditions can turn a desert outing into a tragedy. Acquire knowledge of desert survival skills. Travel in pairs for safety.

Plan your trip carefully. Tell someone where you are going and when you will return. Stick with your itinerary and let them know when you return. Do not travel in the desert backcountry without taking along appropriate maps such as 7.5-minute USGS topographic maps with contours and specific features. Learn how to use a GPS system and topographic maps and compass before you hike cross county. It is easy to become disoriented in the desert where many landmarks and rock formations look similar.

Dress properly. In summer, layered clothing slows dehydration and minimizes exposure. Good hiking shoes, loose-fitting natural-fiber clothing, a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen are a must. Desert temperatures can reach over 90° F and drop below 50° F in one day. Summer temperatures can reach 125° F in some locations. In winter, temperatures can often drop below freezing. Bring extra warm clothing.

Carry plenty of water. There are no dependable sources of water within the California desert. A gallon of water per person per day is the absolute minimum that should be carried. When planning a hike, remember that water weight approximately eight pounds per gallon. When the water is half gone, it is time to turn back. Don't forget extra water for your vehicle. Do not ration your water. It will only do you good if you drink it.

Museum Corner

by Debbie Bunn, Chair, Museum Committee

If you happen to be in the Sacramento area, and are interested in the history of gold mining; plan to visit the historic Kennedy Gold Mine in Jackson, Ca. Take the above ground self guided tour and visit the 135 foot high head frame erected over the deepest vertical shaft in the Mother Lode. This is one of the most photographed sites in the gold country, so bring your camera. See the abandoned stamp mill and other mining equipment.

Take a docent-guided tour and visit the 3 story mine office building with its retort, assay, pay room, and third story bedrooms. Learn about the deadly fire that claimed 47 lives; bodies, which remain in the mine to this day. The Change House has a simulated underground mining tunnel, mining displays, and several rock display cases organized by the Amador County gem & mineral club. There is a great gift shop with items for the kids and the serious gold rush collector. There is a good collection of gold rush themed books and CD's, including songs of the gold rush.

Jackson is 42 miles east of Sacramento on Highway 49, halfway between Placerville and Sonora. The mine is open on weekends March thru October. Hours are 10 am to 3 pm. The entrance fee is \$9 for those 13 years and older, \$5 for ages 6 thru 12, and free for those 5 and under. The entrance off the highway is a little tricky. One entrance is thru the Linda Vista motel and church. The other entrance is across from the rest stop/view site. If you enter the town of Jackson, you've gone too far.

Spring is a particularly lovely time to visit the gold country. But even in the summer, Jackson is usually several degrees cooler than Sacramento. There are many other gold rush sites in the area including the giant water wheel and the Amador county museum. Come and spend a weekend in the gold country and be sure to visit the Kennedy gold mine.

Zzyzx Open House - Saturday April 9, 2005

The Zzyzx open house celebrates the 20th anniversary of the annual Earth Sciences Seminar started 20 years ago by Isabella and Bill Burns. It is located on the Zzyzx road in Soda Springs, CA near Baker CA.

Ten members from the NOC attended: Bill & Isabella Burns, Virginia & Jerry Grafton, Don & Kathy Eschback, Don & Ofelia Warthen, and Don & Loretta Ogden.



Welcome



Artist at Work



Tranquility



Buffet



Ancient Fish Pond



Bird Watch