

NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol, 27 No. 2

February 2008

President's Message

by Don Eschbach

Hi Everyone,

I would like to thank everyone that brought in items for display at our January meeting. Jay Valle brought in a very interesting collection of Wiley's Well Tube Agate and a piece of Chuckwalla Mountain Plume Agate collected during the Holiday Season. Izzie Burns also brought in a very interesting "Mystery Rock" that turned out to be "Salt." I know there has to be a lot more "Mystery Rocks" out there so keep those terrific displays cummin!! Dave Swanston was able to stump club members last year with his Mammoth tooth. Who is going to be the first member in 2008 to stump everyone in the club?

Mike Beaumont gave a very interesting lecture on the history of the horse. Thanks very much Mike.

We will have a series of three Wire Wrapping Classes, scheduled for 2/7/08, 3/13/08 and 4/17/08. Be sure to contact me ASAP so I have time to obtain enough material to work with. See detailed information in this Newsletter.

Izzie Burns put on a great presentation for Girl Scout Troop 74. Thank you Izzie for a terrific job.

The club also received a nice Thank You letter from the City of La Habra for the Donations that many of you brought for "Operation Santa." A big "Thank you" to all of you who donated food and toys. Your thoughtfulness and generosity made this event possible to help the City of La Habra serve needy families and children.

Just a reminder, your 2008 Club Membership Dues are due now. Please mail or give your dues to Don Warthen.

NOC Club Activities

Board Meeting — February 5, 6 til 9 p.m.
Field Trip — Wiley's Well — February 23-24,
hosted by the Yucaipa Valley G & M S
Deadline for NOC News — February 17.
Show Meeting — To be announced

Programs

by Nancy Bird

Our program for February 12 will be two videos, the great flood (video 1) which unearthed the petrified wood (video 2).

Refreshments

Thanks to Kathy & Jay Valle for bringing the goodies to the January meeting. Dave & Fran Swanston will bring the goodies to the February meeting.

Members in the News

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

*Mike Beaumont
Nancy Bird
Al Hermosillo
Clarence Pool
Del Smith
Chalmer Steed*

Your gemstone is Amethyst
Your flower is Primrose or Violet

Shows and Events

February 15-24, 2008 Indio, CA

San Geronio Mineral & Gem Soc.
Riverside Co. Fair & National Date Festival
46-350 Arabia St. Indio
Hours: 10 - 10
Bill Grisham (951) 849-1674
Email: bert67@verizon.net

February 22-23, 2008, Northridge, CA

Delair Rockhounds
United Methodist Church
9650 Reseda Blvd. (at Superior St.)
Hours: Fri 3 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Julia Marin (818) 886-7190
Email: jomarin@disextreme.com

March 1-2, 2008 Arcadia, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds
Los Angeles Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave.
Hours: 9 - 4:30 both days
Jo Anna Ritchey (626) 359-1624
Website: www.moraks.com

March 1-2 2008, Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Seaside Park - Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 W. Harbor Blvd.
Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4
Abe-Bar-Shai (818) 991-7735
Email: Barshai3@aol.com
Web Site: www.vgms.org

March 8-9, 2008 San Marino, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Temple
3130 Huntington Drive
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6, Sun. 10 - 5
Drew Wilson (626) 449-4910
Email: TODREW@sbcglobal.net

March 14 - 16, 2008 San Bernardino, CA

Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
Western Regional Little League Park
6707 Little League Drive
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
Emma Couveau (951) 288-6182

April 26-27 2008, Lancaster, CA

The Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Lancaster High School
44701 32nd St. W.
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
Jules Ficke (661) 943-5157
Email: av_gem@yahoo.com
Website: www.geocities.com.av.gem

May 31 - June 1, 2008 Glendora, CA

Glendora Gem & Mineral Club
859 E. Sierra Madre
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10 - 4
Bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638
Email: Ybidwell2@aol.com

June 7-8 2008, La Habra, CA

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society
La Habra Community Center
101 W. La Habra Blvd.
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
Don Warthen (626) 330-8974
Email: warthen@earthlink.net
Website: nocgms.com

June 27, 28, 29 2008, Ventura, CA

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Ventura County Fairgrounds
Hours: 10-5 Daily
Bural LaRue (909) 874-5664
Email: bplarue@earthlink.net

October 18-19 2008, Whittier, CA

Whittier Gem & Mineral Society
Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Avenue
Hours: Sat. 10-5 both days
Jay Valle: (626) 934-9764
Email: res19pnb@verizon.net

Dues are Due

Dues are due. If you have not paid your 2008 dues, remember they are due. \$20.00 for family membership and \$15.00 for single. The club must pay CFMS \$7.50 dues for each member, that's \$1.50 for CFMS dues and \$6.00 for insurance. Mail to:
Don Warthen
15455 Tetley
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

Safety

via Rock Rattler 10/96, Rock Rollers 8/07, and Del-Air Bulletin 1/08

Licking rocks can be dangerous, and even FATAL!! Always use water from a squirt gun or bottle to wet stones. At least one death has been attributed to a fungus contracted from licking a rock specimen.

Materials containing Arsenic, Mercury, Selenium, some of the Boron and even Phosphate minerals can be deadly.

Sawing Geodes

via Breccia, GI Nugget & Rock Chip Reporter 5/91, and Del-Air Bulletin 1/08

When sawing Geodes, look for the largest dome on the specimen. This dome was in an upright position while it was formed. Saw through the largest dome and it is likely you will get the best picture.

If the specimen is elongated or egg-shaped, saw lengthwise to obtain the best exposure. While there is no certain means to determine the interior of an agate nodule or geode, these ideas are likely to be beneficial.

Solder

via The Burro Express 3/97, Rock-A-Teer 8/05, and Del-Air Bulletin 1/08

If you get too much solder on a spot when making jewelry, trying to file it off takes too much time.

To get rid of the excess without filing:

1. Take a narrow strip of silver 1/8 x 2 inch.
2. Cut a slit in one end.
3. Heat the piece with the excess solder, touch the strip with the to the excess.

The extra solder will flow up the cut.

Polishing Jasper

via The Rockbuster News 12/06, and Del-Air Bulletin 12/07

Jasper is more troublesome to polish than agate because many varieties are “earthy” and porous and others contain hermatite, which in itself is difficult to polish.

If you are on a field trip, a good way to test for jasper is to wet it. If it absorbs the water and dries rapidly, throw it away. It will not polish.

If it stays wet and does not dry right away, it contains a high amount of chalcedony and will take a good polish.

Most jaspers polish well on leather with lime, but good results can be obtained with titanium oxide or either leather or felt.

Always remember that a good fine sanding job is the secret of good polishing.

Deep Earth Rocks San Andreas Fault

via The Pegmatite 12/07, summarized by the editor from <http://www.livescience.com/environment/071004-fault-rock.html>

About 23 miles north of Paso Robles, scientists drilled 2.5 miles down into the San Andreas Fault and removed 4 inch core samples which they hope will answer the question why this section of the fault moves so gently, instead of rupturing violently.

Is it the serpentine? Is it serpentine decaying into talc? Further study may tell.

Scientists will next place seismometers and tiltmeters into the borehole directly above the spot that ruptures, to detect earthquakes from the place where earthquake energy accumulates.

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society Awards Banquet and Christmas Dinner December 11, 2007

by Jay Valle

INTRODUCTIONS BY DON ESCHBACH

MAYOR ROSE ESPINOZA

Before I introduce our first guest, I would like to tell you a few things about this special lady. Recently, Rose Espinoza was invited to Washington DC to receive a Special Award for the "Most Caring People in America." The Caring Institute inducted Rose, along with 4 other adults into the Hall of Fame for Caring Americans. Sixteen years ago, Rose started what was called, "Rosie's Garage." The purpose of Rosie's Garage was to tutor the children in her neighborhood that really needed the help, but couldn't get that help anywhere else. The program grew and the result is the prestigious award that she received. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in honoring, "Mayor Rose Espinoza."

MARK STURDEVANT, Executive Director of the La Habra Chamber of Commerce

Mark has a very demanding job with the La Habra Chamber of Commerce. He is responsible for New Business' Ribbon Cutting, as well as promoting business and commerce for the city of La Habra. Scheduling, overseeing, and participating in city events, such as the "Good Morning La Habra Breakfast," Chamber Mixers, Business Expo, the La Habra Corn Festival are just a few of Mark's endeavors.

FORMER MAYOR AND CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES GOMEZ

It is always a great honor to have the Former Mayor and current Council Member, James Gomez at our functions. He has been a long time friend and supporter of our club.

It is with great pleasure, Jim that I present you with a "One year Honorary Membership" to the North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society. This is our way of recognizing you for your valuable support of our club.

AWARDS - PRESENTED BY NOC PRESIDENT DON ESCHBACH

JANE HENDRIXSON, LIFE MEMBER

The North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society would like to recognize Jane as an "Outstanding Charter Member" who was involved in setting-up our original club when it first started. Jane was also involved in publications for the schools.

NANCY BIRD, 1st VICE PRESIDENT, & PROGRAM PLANNER

Nancy is most willing to help out when help is needed. She regularly asks what she can do to help out.

JAY VALLE, SECRETARY & FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN

Jay is without a doubt, the "Best Field Trip Leader!" He is not just a field trip leader; he is always willing to share his knowledge about various rocks, minerals, and geology of the area, various plants, animals, and even insects! You can learn a lot from Jay on a field trip.

FRANK WINN, DIRECTOR

Frank is most willing to share his knowledge in educating the youth in Earth Science. He participated in both the Educational portion of our show this past June, and the Youth Summer Day Camp.

RICHARD SCHIRER, DIRECTOR

Richard is most willing to participate; For a relatively new member; Richard jumped right in to help out with various functions of the club, not only as a NOC Board Member, but also on various committees. Thank you Richard.

YOLANDA SCHIRER, CLUB MEMBER

Yolanda is without a doubt the hardest working female "Truck Loader." She took a day off from work to help load the truck at the Storage Facility and the Community Center for our Jubilee of Gems Show. Every time I turned around, there was Yolanda with the hand-truck, ready to load or unload more items onto or off the truck! She is a very dedicated club member.

DON OGDEN, DIRECTOR, NEWS EDITOR & WEB MASTER

Don continues to be an outstanding News Editor and Web Master. He not only does the NOC Newsletter, he maintains our Web Site, and comes to many of our events including taking pictures for the Newsletter.

(continued)

LORETTA OGDEN, FEDERATION DIRECTOR

Loretta is an outstanding Shop Master and Lapidary Teacher. She has given countless hours of her time, not only offering the use of her garage, but also in teaching new members how to make cabochons.

KATHY ESCHBACH, 2nd VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Kathy is most dedicated. As Membership Chairman, she completely reorganized and continues to update, and distribute the Club Roster to all members of the club. She distributes information, writes letters to new and prospective members, and makes sure everyone has an NOC Badge! Kathy was also very involved with the La Habra Youth Committee helping to organize their participation in our Jubilee of Gems Show this past June. In addition, she wrote and hand-delivered letters to many local school Science Teachers in an effort to encourage their students to attend our show by suggesting the teachers offer their students extra credit for attending.

MIKE BEAUMONT, CLUB MEMBER

Mike is the most enthusiastic new member. He has been a “breath-of-fresh-air” to our club. He attends all Board Meetings, participates in our show helping out where he is needed, and has also been a very active Earth Science Museum Committee Member. Mike recently put on a very impressive presentation for our club.

BILL & IZZIE BURNS, CO-DIRECTORS

As a former NOC Field Trip Organizer, the first Field Trip I organized, Bill Burns come to me on the last day and stated, “Let me take you to a place where you can collect a lot of really nice material including palm wood.” To this day, that site is my favorite site. So, as of today, I am officially naming this site (for the purpose of the North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society), “The Bill and Izzie Burns Site.” For those who are not familiar with this collection site, it is approximately 3 miles northeast of Harvard Rd. & Interstate 15, in Newberry Spring, CA.

OFELIA WARTHEN, DIRECTOR & LIBRARIAN

Ofelia is “Most Organized” which shows in everything she does. She did an excellent job in getting letters out for recruitment of show vendors for our Jubilee of Gems Show. This included making last minute replacements, which is very hard to do! Ofelia has also organized our club Library so that it is now very easy to see what our Library has to offer at a glance.

DON WARTHEN, TREASURER, AND SHOW CHAIRMAN

Don is deserving of two awards:

“Outstanding Show Chairman” — Don has year after year, organized our annual Gem and Mineral Show. He does an outstanding job putting the show together, which the City of La Habra and community members always look forward to. Excellent Job Don!

I would like Former Major and current Counsel Member Gomez to present this second award to Don.

Don Warthen is NOC’s “Liaison to the City of La Habra.” He continues to give freely of his time in an effort to establish and continue a strong relationship with the City of La Habra. Because of Don’s efforts, the results have been mutually beneficial to the City of La Habra and the North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society, which have resulted in bringing commerce, culture, and education for all of us.

FINAL AWARD: DON ESCHBACH, PRESIDENT

Don Warthen presented Don Eschbach the “Genuine Leverite” award (actually a fine set of bookends) for all his hard work and enthusiasm in 2007. Congratulations, Don and thanks.

And that was the way it was, December 11, 2007. ED

Jay Valle
NOC Secretary
January 10, 2008



Marilyn’s First Whale Bone

NOC

General Meeting Minutes

La Habra Community Center

January 9, 2008

by Jay Valle

Call to Order: President Don Eschbach called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. followed by the flag salute.

Membership: The meeting was attended by 26 members.

Program - The History of the Horse, presented by Mike Beaumont

Break & Drawing

December Minutes: Don Eschbach observed that since the December meeting was the Awards Dinner, there were no minutes so they will stand as read.

Treasurers Report: Don Warthen gave the Treasurers Report. There were no corrections so they will stand as read.

Field Trips: Jay Valle informed the membership present that the official Club field trip will be to Quartzsite, January 23 - 27, for QIA & Pow-Wow. Maps were provided and a sign-up sheet made available for those wanting to go. An upcoming CFMS field trip for petrified whalebone will be on January 19. They will be meeting at 11 AM at Refugio Beach. Maps and information were provided.

The Stoddard Wells Tailgate has been officially scheduled and will occur on March 7-9, 2008. Info will be in next month's bulletin.

Other field trip opportunities include:

- ◆ 3 field trips in January, hosted by the Sun City West Rockhounds (Arizona club) to Arizona destinations.
- ◆ Walt Wright will be teaching a petrified wood identification seminar on March 14 - 19 at Sierra College at Rocklin, CA (info in January bulletin.)

- ◆ CFMS Field Trip Seminar titled Knowing Where You Are, scheduled for April 12 at Pittsburg, CA (info in bulletin.)
- ◆ Wiley's Well - February 23-24, hosted by the Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society.

Contact Jay for details if any of these trips sound interesting to you.

Jay also described a small collection of Wiley's Well tube agate and a piece of Chuckwalla Mountain plume agate displayed on a side table and all collected over Christmas vacation.

Federation Report: Bill Burns talked about the ZZYZX and Camp Paradise week-long workshops and described the activities held during these events. It is too late to sign up for ZZYZX but Camp Paradise is still booking participants.

Librarian Report: Magazines and books available on table for checkout. A new book, "Gem & Lapidary Materials" was purchased for our library. Also 3 DVDs on wirewrapping by Dale Nichols.

Program for February: Nancy Bird informed us that next month's program will be 2 videos from the CFMS video library. The first is about the Ginko Petrified Forest and the other is about the Great Flood in the northern mid-west which brought the Ginko tree down from their point of origin to their current location at Ginko Petrified Forest.

Refreshments: Jay & Kathy Valle brought the refreshments to the January meeting. Next month our snacks we will be provided by Dave & Fran Swanston. A sign-up sheet was set out at the refreshment table for members to sign up for bringing snacks to the upcoming 2008 meetings.

Show Report: Don Warthen told us that the 1st edition small show flyers had been produced and were available on the side table. Jay Valle was asked to take a quantity of them to set out at the Quartzsite Show. The 3D Art Group is going to be participating in our Show this year. They are meeting with Don Eschbach on January 21 to check out the building and facilities.

The next Show Committee meeting is on Wednesday, January 16, 6 PM at the La Habra Community Center. Everyone is invited and volunteers are always welcome.

Social Report: No report.

New Business:

Don Eschbach asked for program ideas from the membership present.

- ◆ Conrad Grundke and one of his intarsia programs (Kathy Eschbach)
- ◆ Bill & Izzy Burns (members) have 3 or 4 programs listed
- ◆ Misha Farinech volunteered to do a program on Glaciology next Fall
- ◆ Gold Program seen at Whittier Club meeting (James Klein?)
- ◆ Excellent "Indian" programs listed in the CFMS Podium People
- ◆ Geology Professor

There are a series of 3 wire wrapping classes scheduled for 2/07/08, 3/13/08 & 4/17/08. You need to let Don Eschbach know you are coming so he can purchase materials and prepare kits.

Next NOC Board Meeting: February 5, 6:00 PM at the La Habra Community Center

Don Eschbach asked Don Warthen if we had paid our annual liability insurance yet. Don W. said no but the check would be going out this month.

Don Eschbach is creating a Budget Committee. Don Warthen will head it up and Don Eschbach will also be part of the group. He asked for volunteers from the membership present. Richard Schirer, John Erskine, Jay Valle, and Bill & Izzie Burns all said they would participate.

Education: Don Eschbach said that 2 girl scout groups have asked us to do a presentation on rocks so they can get their merit badges about rocks and minerals (we'll need volunteers). Need to start thinking about the La Habra Summer Day Camp - no date set yet (we'll need more volunteers). Brenda Gomez wants us to go with a group of kids to Jurupa Cultural Center and identify rocks and help with their education. No date has been set yet.

Dues are due! It's that time again. Please pay at the meeting tonight or mail it to Don Warthen.

Display Case at entry of La Habra Community Center: We have been given the use of the entire case by the City of La Habra and we need some more display items. Don Eschbach has been showing some of his collection for about 3 months. Wendi offered to display Indian pottery sherds. Loretta suggested we display some examples of what we make in our various classes, such as wire wrap as a way to inform people what we do. Mike suggested putting museum pics and info to show what we are planning. Don E. asked for a volunteer to be display case chairperson and Wendi accepted the job.

Mike Beaumont discussed the possibility of NOC providing a jewelry dealer at the upcoming La Habra Beauty Pageant as a way to promote jewelry and our show.

Richard Schirer proposed that we schedule an activity in July when we are normally "dark". The aim would be to capitalize on the public awareness of us gained because of our annual show. "Strike while the iron is hot." Suggestions of what to do included a demonstration-activity program for the kids and a more adult format program for the parents. Loretta suggested "How you do what you saw" to show how cabs, wirewrap, etc. are actually done. If NOC decided to sell stuff then they might need a resale license.

Nancy Bird suggested that we have a seminar or program on setting up a winning display at the June CFMS Federation Show at Ventura.

Loretta Ogden asked that as many people as possible come to the Federation Show on Friday, June 27 (she wants to keep the reason hush-hush for now.)

Don Eschbach asked if anyone had guessed the "mystery rock". It was a large piece of clear rock salt from Roswell, New Mexico, brought in by Bill & Izzie Burns.

Old Business:

A Museum Committee meeting has been scheduled at the Community Center for 6 PM on January 10. They will be working on the business plan.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Jay Valle, NOC Secretary
January 9, 2008

2008 Field Trip Schedule

by Jay Valle

The 2008 field trip meeting was held at the home of Joe & Marcia Goetz (WGMS/PLS/NOC) on Saturday, January 12. The three clubs - Whittier, Pasadena and North Orange County met to produce the official field trip schedule for the coming year. The following list is the result. As always, when other field trips opportunities arise during the year, such as various CFMS trips, I will try to keep you up to date and informed. The bulletin you are currently reading will (hopefully) have the latest field trip information and should be your first source to look at when you have field trip questions. Contacting your field trip leader can get you better info.

Note: It is always a good idea to let your field trip leader know that you are coming so as to receive the latest info on campsites, weather, etc. It has also happened before that a trip was cancelled and the field trip leader did not have everyone's name who had planned on going so when they showed up for the party, no one was there. Oops.

Feb. 16 - 18: Wiley's Well Area - President's Day Weekend - This classic geode location also is known for tube agate, jasper and banded psilomelane and will always produce good rocks if you have good directions. These days we visit here less often, but it is always worth the wait. For campers, we will be staying on Wiley's Well Road, just across the road from the Coon Hollow BLM Campground.

Mar. 15: Livingston Quarry, Palos Verdes 1 day trip - This old location is near San Pedro and features barite, quartz crystals and fish fossils. Led by Dave Kelty.

Mar. 14 - 16: Stoddard Wells Tailgate -The Victor Valley Club hosts a fun tailgate at Stoddard Wells every year at this time, sort of a mini-Quartzsite but you are allowed to bring your own stuff to sell along the "line". No Charge. Unfortunately, it conflicts with the Pasadena Club's annual show but if you want to go to both shows... More info will be made available as we get closer to the time.

Apr. 26 - 27: Castle Butte - Castle Butte is a fun place to camp and a good place to collect. Tony Fender will be leading us to special locations.

May 24 - 25: San Diego County Tourmaline Mines - Suitable for day-trips, we will be visiting one or more tourmaline mines (Blue Lady, Himelea, Stewart Mine, etc.) on Saturday and saving the **Oceanview Mine** for Sunday.

May 21 - 26: Tri-Federation Field Trip to Texas Springs, Nevada - This is a week-long trip to the famous pink wood location near Jackpot, Nevada. I am telling you about this now so you can plan for it if you always wanted to go there (like me.)

Jun. 27 - 29: CFMS Federation Show at Ventura - Our June field trip will be to the 2008 Federation Show.

Aug. 16: Gold Panning! Location TBA

Sep. 27: Ant Hill - 1 day trip (Bakersfield) - For marine fossils and shark's teeth.

Oct. 11 - 12: Searles Lake Club Gem Show - This is the only time rockhounds are allowed to collect the pink halite and hanksite crystals on the not-so-dry Searles Lake. More info after the summer break.

Nov. 1 - 2: Whittier Club Claim -This is the after-show field trip hosted every year by the WGMS. Since many of our members spend the weekend after the annual show catching up on chores and recovering from the show ordeal, the trip date is actually in

November. It is a fun and easy trip and a number of the usual participants "camp out" at the motel just down the street. Those of us who prefer to camp tent or trailer style stay at the claim itself and enjoy our usual evening activities (campfires, etc.)

Nov. 27 - 30: Owen's Valley locations

Dec. 13: Gem Hill (near Palmdale) - 1 day trip

For more information on these or other field trips contact: Jay Valle
NOC Field Trip Chairman
(626) 934-9764 / res19pnb@verizon.net

Wire Wrapping Classes

by Don Eschbach

Beginner and Advanced Wire Wrap Class:

When: Thursday February 7, 2008 6- 9 p.m.

Where: La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd., La Habra

This first in a series of three wire wrapping classes, will be a Beginner Level Class, but I will also be coaching the advanced students on their own projects. Some of the advanced students will be working on heart pendants. I will provide oval stones for those that need them for the Beginner Project. We will be using Sterling Silver square 22 gage wire and 20 gage half round Sterling Silver wire for the wrap wire. The cost of the wire will be \$5.00 for your pendent, which is our club cost.

Please confirm me if you will be attending this class as soon as possible. It is important that I know the number of people attending so I know how much wire to order and how many oval stones are needed.

Don Eschbach - (562) 943-8736
donkathyesch@verizon.net

Wire Wrapping Odd Shaped Stones:

When: Thursday March 13, 2008 6- 9 p.m.

Where: La Habra Community Center

This class will focus on Wire Wrapping odd shaped stones. If you need a stone. I will provide it for you. The same wire will be used for this project and the cost of the wire will be \$5.00.

Pearl Ring Wire Wrap Class:

When: Thursday April 17, 2008 6- 9 p.m.

Where: La Habra Community Center

In this class we will be making Pearl Rings of different designs. We will do a basic design and a more advanced design so that you can chose your comfort level. We will use 22 gage 14K Gold Filled square wire and 24 gage 14k Gold filled round wire for this project. The cost will be announced at a later date.

Note:

Some students have asked where they can buy 20 gage half round wire in either Gold Filled or Sterling Silver. I have been buying this wire for the club at:

T.B. Hagstoz & Son, Inc.
709 Sansom St., Philadelphia, PA 19106.
Phone: (800) 922-1006 or (215) 922-1627

To Fill Pits in Cabochons using Opticon

Question from Shep Koss, reply from Brad Smith, on LA-Rocks, 11/9/07) via The Pegmatite 12/07

Q: Just a quick question, what's a good filler for cabs that have chipped, have natural pits or where soft material has undercut? The specimens I have are mostly onyx, agates, jaspers & petrified wood. I've seen Epoxy 300 listed in a catalogue; it dries clear and takes a polish. Does anyone use this? Any other fillers? Any recommendations, other than avoiding cabbing pieces like that?

A: As to your question about filling pits in cabochons, I have used Opticon (a thin, two-part epoxy) in the past, but might now be tempted to try one of the more modern thin superglues. I have used superglue a couple of times recently as a wood finish on several items and had excellent results. Opticon is available from Rio Grande and other lapidary catalogs. If you can't wait, I've heard you can thin down regular epoxy resin with acetone, but haven't tried this myself.

For filling pits in rocks, a thin compound is important in order to get as far into the pits as possible. A gentle heat or a vacuum chamber helps a lot. To use Opticon, finish your cab to the last stage of sanding, put it into a small disposable dish (I use aluminum foil or the bottom of a plastic bottle), cover it with the Opticon resin, and place it in a warm place for 4-5 hours. The heat from a light bulb keeps the cab at around 120° F and helps the resin to creep into all the pits. I put the dish on top of a floor lamp. A gooseneck desk lamp should work, also. I find that my kitchen oven, even on low, is too hot.

When the cab is done soaking, I lift it out, pour the excess resin back into the can, and mix a little of the hardener into the resin that remains in the dish. Use the mix to coat the top of the cab and return the dish to the lamp for another couple of hours. After a day to allow for hardening, I sand the plastic off the surface of the cabochon with 600 grit and then proceed with polishing as usual.

Birthstone for February is Amethyst

Submitted by Ofelia Warthen

*Ref: Gemstones of the World by Walter Schumann &
Crystal & Gem by Dr. R.F. Symes
and Dr. R.R. Harding*

Amethyst is the most highly prized form of quartz. The best comes from two kinds of source. In the Mountains in the USSR crystals occur in veins in granite. In Brazil, Uruguay, and India crystals of superb color are often found in cavities in basalt. Crystals are always grown onto a base. Pyramids are not well developed, therefore are often found as "crystal points" with deepest color. These crystals are broken off the base.

The name "Amethyst" is derived from the Greek word meaning "not drunken" as amethyst was also worn as an amulet against drunkenness.

Characteristics: Color is Violet, pale red. Mohs hardness is 7. Specific Gravity is 2.63-2.65. Cleavage is none. Chemical composition is SiO₂ silicone dioxide. Transparency is Transparent. Crystal system is Hexagonal (trigonal). Fracture is Conchoidal, very brittle. Refractive index is 1.544-1.553. Double refraction is + 0.009.

When heated, the color of amethyst changes usually to yellow or green; when irradiated, it returns to its familiar purple color.

Leonardo da Vinci wore and believed that amethyst had the power to control evil thoughts and to quicken the intelligence. Amethyst has been used to symbolize deep love, happiness, humility, sincerity and wealth. So all of you great "rockhounds" born in February wear your Amethyst and have a wonderful Happy Valentines Day!

Show Committee Report

by don Warthen

The Committee met Thursday, January 17th. It was decided that the main prize should be a nice piece of jewelry. We need some volunteers to cut some stones and fabricate a setting. The committee volunteered Don Warthen to cut a stone. We are going to need some other nice prizes also.

Richard has notified the newspapers, magazines and radio stations. In fact, the Whittier Daily News already ran a story on the show (they had January 7th & 8th) but said they will re-run the story again on the right date and will also come out and cover the show.

The Chamber Mixer on Friday night will be called a "Chamber VIP Night". We need **All the members** to volunteer to cover the VIP Night from 5 till about 8 p.m. and be good ambassadors to promote the Club. We will be selling donation award ticket at the event that Loretta will be in charge with some volunteers. The food serving will be further discussed at next meeting.

Ofelia reported on the Dealers that have submitted payment. All the large spaces have been sold out and only a few of the smaller spaces are available. The Dealers have been advised of the Friday VIP special night event, so they will have an extra opportunity to sell and promote their products.

The La Habra Youth Committee liaison will be meeting on February 5th at 6 p.m. at the Community Center to discuss the menu with our committee, Loretta, Ofelia and Yolanda.

Whale-bone Field Trip Pictures 1/19/2008



Ripples like in Great Flood Video

