

MOROKS NEWSLETTER MAY 2011



MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS



Club Information Our Website is www.moroks.com

ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – Cal Matthews	(626) 798-7481
VICE PRESIDENT – Janie Duncan	(626) 358-8157
SECRETARY – Mischele Silcock	(626) 289-2621
TREASURER – Jim Lloyd	(626) 793-9239
TREASURER BOOKEEPER – Jo Anna	(626) 359-1524
REPRESENTATIVE – Ray Ritchey	(626) 359-1624
REPRESENTATIVE – Linda Wu	(626) 357-4296
REPRESENTATIVE – Rodney Warner	(626) 444-9013
FEDERATION – Jo Anna Ritchey	(626) 359-1624

CHAIRPERSONS

HISTORIAN – Nancy Hamrick	(626) 357-4106
BULLETIN – Janie Duncan	(626) 358-8157
CUSTODIAN – Jim Lloyd	(626) 793-9239
CLUB VESTS – Linda Wu	(626) 357-4296
PICNIC – Donald Sneberger	(626) 941-6214
SHOW – Jo Anna Ritchey	(626) 359-1624
WEBSITE – Jo Anna Ritchey	(626) 359-1624
ROCK RAFFLE - Louise Stack	(626) 966 0350
FIELD TRIP – Ray Ritchey	(626) 359-1624
PHOTOGRAPHER – Rodney Warner	(626) 444-9013
FELLOWSHIP – Louise Stack	(626) 966 0350

Membership: Annual donations are \$15.00 per member and \$5.00 per each additional member at the same address. \$10.00 per name badge is payable on the date of initiation.

Meetings: MOROKS meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month. At 7:00 pm, in the basement of the United Methodist Church of Monrovia, located at 140 E. Palm Ave. Monrovia CA 91016. The building is on the corner of Ivy & Palm Ave. We use the door where there is handicapped access in the alley on the west side of the building. Do not try to enter from the front of the building. Guests are always welcome at our General Meetings. Please come and share our love of rocks.

Information: Monrovia Rock Hounds Inc. was founded August 28th, 1957. The club colors are green & white. The club is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing knowledge of the lapidary arts, geology, mineralogy, and other related fields. Members enjoy slide shows, lectures, demonstrations, displays, lapidary classes, our club library as well as field trips for exploration, study and collecting specimens.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Permission to reprint is granted if acknowledgement is given.

We reserve the right to edit all material submitted for publication.

**Monrovia
Rockhounds
May Birthdays**

Connie Rieman 11

Jim Lloyd 19



On The Web... Lost Tooth? If you were waiting to purchase a mammoth tusk from the cold permafrost covered tundra of northern Russia, you'll have to wait just a little longer. Russian officials just confiscated 3 tons of mammoth tusks _ including 64 complete specimens. The group responsible evidently has been smuggling material since 2004. So, if you notice the cost of your fossil ivory going up, now you know why. See: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/01/20/us-russia-mammoth-confiscation-idUSTRE70J2HW20110120>

34,000 Year Old Critters Found Alive A scientist working on his Ph.D. and studying climate change found the ancient bacteria living in 34,000 year old salt crystals pulled from under Death Valley. These ancient organisms evidently were trapped with tiny amounts of algae that sustained them before they went into a state similar to hibernation. Not every sample taken produced living bacteria; only 5 out of 900 samples tests. Still, it's fascinating to know that deep under our feet may be the only future survivors of climate change... *!Rockhound_1!_am~linii_-..* See: <http://news.yahoo.com/s/livescience/20110113/sc>

A diamond is forever

De Beers Diamond company's advertising slogan since 1947.



PREZ SEZ

Well our club put off the April field trip by one week to avoid the rain and got a beautiful, nearly cloudless day (even though the wind was fierce at times). We didn't find the huge boulders of Onyx, implied by the slabs that are sold, but did collect many nice chunks that we were able to carry in our buckets as we scavenged the pit perimeters at the Sierra Paloma Rock Club claim. After trying to find good quality Jasper at the Castle Butte area nearby we went to the 20 Mule Team (now called RioTinto) Mining Visitor Center where they provide sizable heaps of the three types of ore they process there for visitor sampling. On our way home we got in on the end of the first day of the Lancaster Show. Lots of dealers and many demonstrations by the four clubs putting on the show but very few club cases and only from one club on the stage of High School venue. A very worthwhile field trip that gives the feeling of wanting another one soon.

Cal Matthews

VICE PREZ SEZ

I sure had a great time on the field trip! We had such a wonderful day and I enjoyed everyone's company also. I got all the rocks I needed for my cub Scout geology booth. Now I am looking forward to our upcoming booths at the car show family day and at Monrovia Days. I hope you have time to come and help us. Call me if you need more information.

Janie Duncan

A Rockhound is a kind of nut
Whose mind is slightly undercut.
He swings a pick and drives a jeep,
And dreams of agate in his sleep.
He'll pick up any kind of stone
Or piece of glass, or even bone.
If he can't name it, he'll assert
That he has found a piece of chert!

From Ghost Sheet, June 1988 via SCRIBE #1,V14-90

APRIL 7TH ***MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS BOARD MEETING***

President: *Cal Matthews* called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Vice President: *Janie Duncan* April is our Silent Auction. May will be Jim Pissani on “Jade Cove”

Secretary: *Mishele Silcock* was absent. Cal Matthews asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes of last month’s Meeting as stated in the bulletin? There are none the minutes were approved as in the newsletter.

Treasurer: *Jim Lloyd* We have 12 paid members.

Representative: *Linda Wu* no report *Ray Ritchey* absent *Rodney Warner* no report.

Fellowship: *Colleen Chestnut* was absent. Ray is have real trouble with his leg braces and still falling a lot. *Laura Lloyd* is slowly improving.

Rock of the Month: no report as we are having the auction.

Fieldtrip: *Ray Ritchey* was absent. WE had a great trip out to Boron where we looked for bande onxy on the sierra Polona claim. We then went to look for jasper up by the butte. And on the way home se stopped at the Lancanster show.

Federation: *Jo Anna Ritchey* was absent May is the CFMS Show in Anderson Northern CA. This is gold country and should be a good Show & meeting. The board voted to pay for Jo Anna’s gas and hotel if she goes.

Custodian: *Jim Lloyd* We will need booth items from the garage for the booth at Maxwell school on the 30th of April and for the booth at Monrovia Days on May 16th.

Photographer: *Rodney Warner* No report. Janie need field trip pics.

Historian: *Nancy Hamrick* was absent.

Show: *Jo Anna Ritchey* was absent. No report.

Website: *Jo Anna Ritchey* was absent. no report.

Great Rock Drawing: Nothing till May.

Bulletin: *Janie Duncan* looks good. We have been getting more exchange bulletins in the mail.

Refreshments: *Mishele Silcock* is doing April refreshments.

Picnic: *Donald Sneberger* was absent. The date is June 25th

Old Business: *Cal Matthews* We decide not to do Girltopia for the Girl Scouts.

New Business *Cal Matthews*

1. The board voted to do a wire wrap class for 7 people @ \$40.00 cash each on Thursday May 27th @ Janie’s House. 10:30am —4:00 pm. *Linda Vios* is the instructor.

2. We have a booth at Maxwell School in Duarte on Sat. April 30th from 9-4 set up @ 8. We got the cost to \$25.00 and we will need a check from Jim.

3. Booth @ Monrovia Days no charge library Park NE end 10-4.

4. Janie is doing a talk for the Searchers this week and has one for North Orange County in May.

President: *Cal Matthews* adjourned the meeting at 8:35pm

BenchTips by Brad Smith

LOWERING THE NOISE A simple way to cut down the noise when you're hammering on your mini anvil or bench block is to place it on an old mouse pad or other similar rubber material.

DENTAL FLOSS When testing the fit of stone in a bezel, it's all too easy to get it stuck. Often the only way to free it is to drill a hole in the bottom and push it out with a needle. To avoid this, lay a piece of dental floss over the top before you press the stone in. Then just pull on the string to remove the stone.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ OR Face Book

APRIL 21ST MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS GENERAL MEETING

President: *Cal Matthews* called The meeting was called the meeting to order at 7:05PM and lead us in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice President: *Janie Duncan* Tonight is April is the Silent Auction.

Secretary: *Michele Silcock* The minutes were approved as written in the bulletin.

Representative: *Ray Ritchey* **Representative:** *Linda Wu* has no report **Representative:** *Rodney Warner*

Website: *Jo Anna Ritchey* was absent.

Federation: *Jo Anna Ritchey* was absent The CFMS Show is in May 13-15 in Anderson Northern CA.

Fellowship: **Louse Stack** Camille, Gail k, Mishele and Rodney all had April Birthdays. We sang. We had 7 guests. Em Matthews, Brian Wurtz, She Sneberger, Rudy Diana and David, Fred and Linda Elsnau and Denise Davis. Laura Lloyd is still slowing recovering.

Treasurer: *Jim Lloyd* He reported 20 paid members.

Photographer: *Rodney Warner* took pics tonight but Janie needs fieldtrip pics.

Rock of the Month: No talk in April.

Bulletin: *Janie Duncan* working on it.

Picnic: Donald Sneberger no report.

Great Rock Drawing: No drawing tonight.

Custodian: *Jim Lloyd* We will need booth stuff on the 30th and amy

Refreshments: Mishele Silscock brought them tonight. Colleen volunteered for May & Cal Matthews for June.

Show: *Jo Anna Ritchey* Best Show ever. We made more money and had a lot happy dealers. They loved the food. Weather was good. Everyone worked together as a team. Ralph did a great job handling the security issue. Thanks Ralph. Thanks to everyone who helped which was almost everyone in the club did something!

Field trip: *Ray Ritchey* We went to go get onyx at Sierra Polona Claim Then for Jasper up clay Mine Road and finally stopped at the Lancaster show on the way home. Those who went were Janie Duncan, Cal Matthews, Jo Anna Ritchey, Jerry Katz and friend Allen, Yvette and Kindra Fitzgerald, Tom freeman and Louise Stack and Mishele Silcock. A great time was had by all!!! What a fun day.

Historian: *Nancy Hamrick* was absent

Old Business: *Cal Matthews* 1. The board voted to do a wire wrap class for 7 people @ \$40.00 cash each on Thursday May 26th @ Janie's House. 10:30am —4:00 pm. Linda Vios is the instructor. The class is full.

2. We have a booth at Maxwell School in Duarte on Sat. April 30th from 9-4 set up @ 8. We got the cost to \$25.00 and we will need a check from Jim. Sign up tonight. Janie will bring ezup

3. Booth @ Monrovia Days May 15th at no charge library Park NE end 10-4. sign up tonight. JD ezup

4. Janie is doing a talk for the Searchers this week and has one for North Orange County in May.

New Business Cal Adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm 5 truckloads of rocks were picked up at Parrino's on N Stedman in Monrovia By Ray Ritchey, Cal Matthews, Curt Quakenbush, Ralph and Becky Fregoso, Yvette and Kindra Fitzgerald and Janie Duncan. We are roll'n in grab bag material!

**DUES ARE PAST DUE!**

\$15.00 for individuals and \$5.00 for each other person at the same address.

Mail to PO Box Address or to Janie Duncan



THE WEEKLY STAR

March 10, 2011



Group rocks gems & minerals

Monrovia Rockhounds member James Lloyd, above, holds a quartz geode he cracked open for the Chen family: George, center, Sherry, right, and Danica, 2, on Sunday, March 6. The geology club hosted its 48th annual Gem and Mineral show at the L.A. County Arboretum on March 5-6. At right, Linda Hardinger of Los Angeles, an instructor at Brea Beadworks, threads glass beads and crystals to form a bracelet. The event saw more than a dozen vendors selling rocks, gems, jewelry, minerals and fossils, from as far away as Zimbabwe and Morocco.

Photos by Lafayette C. Hight Jr.
Staff Photographer



“Arizonia State Fossil”



Petrified wood from the Chinle Formation deposits of Winslow, Arizona; the green color is from ~2% chromium content.

You have one guess to ID the State Fossil! Hint! How many collectors have picked up pieces outside the National Park? A departure from the typical State Fossil lends a degree of adventure and excitement to what this state provides – a petrified conifer, *Araucarioxylon arizonicum*. This species is the most common petrified wood in the state and rightly should have a distinguished position as a Stately Fossil. Adopted as State Fossil in 1988, most specimens can be found in the Petrified Forest in the northern part of the state.

During the Triassic Period, over 200 million years ago, thriving forests with giant trees 150-200-feet tall and trunks of 4-5-feet diameter grew easily in a warm climate with more than sufficient rain. A volcanic eruption to the southeast filled rivers and streams with ash and debris causing extensive flooding that uprooted the vegetation. Ash continued to bury the trees up to 30-40 feet deep and fossilization ensued, the microscopic structure of the wood cells preserved for eternity. Most of the wood is found in the Chinle Formation, a Late Triassic rock unit laid down about 225-208 million years ago. The origin and evolution of *Araucarioxylon* has not been clearly deciphered but the wood resembles that of the Family Araucariaceae, notably species of the monkey-puzzle tree in South America and the common Norfolk Island Pine. Early Native Americans were the first to discover these vibrantly colored rocks but William Tecumseh Sherman, a Civil War general and regent of the new

Smithsonian Institution, knew the importance of collecting specimens and, in 1879, directed troops to meet with Navajo tribesmen and be led to the “petrified forest.” In the next decade, word spread to Europe and Asia of the value of the unusual stone and businesses developed to cut up the logs and produce decorative pieces. By 1899, the U.S. Geological Survey reported the depletion of logs to the point they would no longer exist in a few years. In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt designated the 93,500-acre area a National Monument, and, in 1962, President Kennedy made it a National Park.

Source: *Stately Fossils, a Comprehensive Look at the State Fossils and Other Official Fossils* by Stephen Brusatte 2002.

Published by Fossil News, 1185 Claremont Dr., Boulder, Colorado 80305. Photo from www.fossilmuseum.net

Via The Hounds Howl AIKEN GEM, MINERAL and FOSSIL SOCIETY AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA

ALAA REPORT

Via Jim Brace Thompson April 20, 2011 To all California Rockhounds, Identification and Mapping of southern California rockhounding locations and routes within public lands to preserve access This email is being sent to you on behalf of the American Lands Access Association. As the Southern California representative for the ALAA, I was invited to join a small but powerful group of leaders and individuals, some who represent various recreational groups, some who are or have been involved in government on various levels, but all who are alarmed at how recreational access to public lands in Southern California is being seriously threatened on many fronts. This group has formed a coalition for the purpose of mapping the areas and vehicular routes on public land that are significant for recreation and seeking legislative and possibly legal protection for them. They envision having overlay maps by recreational groups (i.e. one for rockhounds, one for OHV enthusiasts, etc.) and then one larger map encompassing all of those maps. The reason I am contacting you is because I need help from rockhounds who know the collecting areas (and vehicular routes used to access them) and can identify them by GPS coordinates or by drawing them out on detailed topographical maps. Some of this information is well known and documented in the published books on the subject, but many areas may not be included in such books and (based on my personal experience) the areas identified in the books may be merely examples of locations within larger areas that are very rich and should be protected for rockhounding, such as the Cady Mountains. Time is of the essence due to all of the proposed alternative energy projects, DRECP, California Desert Protection Act of 2011, and other efforts to designate public lands as national parks, monuments, preserves, military base expansions that would withdraw these areas from rockhounding and/or vehicular access. This coalition has established a very aggressive timeline, so if we as rockhounds do not respond quickly, our collecting areas will be omitted from their maps.

Please, please contact me with any information you can provide. It can be from your own collecting experience or your club's field trip records, and areas that have been closed off to collecting should be included because the coalition will also seek to reopen closed areas.

Protecting access for future generations of rockhounds could be your legacy!

Sincerely, Kim Campbell Southern California Representative ALAA Rockhound Activist P.O. Box 26091 Anaheim, CA 92825-6091



MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS PICTUREPAGE

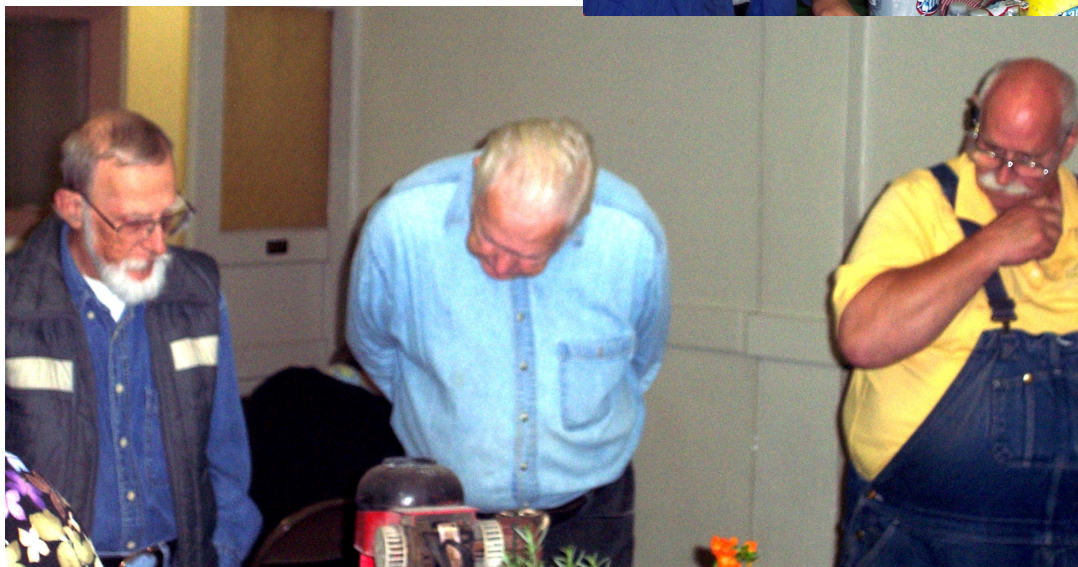
2011 April Silent Auction



Camille Rurkowski



Ray Ritchey & Gail Parks



Jim Lloyd
Cal Matthews
Harold Vannatta



Donald Sneberger

Janie Duncan



Vanadinite



Photo R. Weller/Cochise College

Vanadinite is a great favorite among mineral collectors, owing to its beautiful colors and interesting crystals. Vanadinite consists of lead chlorovanadate, $\text{Pb}_5(\text{VO}_4)_3\text{Cl}$. It crystallizes in the hexagonal system. Crystals are commonly barrel-shaped, but may also be short and tabular, and can be of a "cavernous" or "hopper" form. Acicular, fibrous, or mammillary formations also occur. Mineralogically, it is grouped with pyromorphite and mimetite, which have similar composition, but with phosphate and arsenate respectively, instead of vanadate as predominant components. It can be distinguished from these minerals by blowpipe tests. Vanadinite is commonly a brilliant red to orange, but may also show brown, yellow,

or rarely, white. The red color is due to chromium. An arsenic-rich variety, endlechte, is usually brown to silvery gray. Red specimens tend to darken and dull with prolonged exposure to sunlight, and so they would best be kept in the dark. Other physical properties include a hardness of 2.75 to 3.0, a specific gravity of 6.7 to 7.1 and an absence of cleavage.

Vanadinite occurs in the weathered zones of lead deposits, typically but not always, in arid regions.

Perhaps the most important localities are in Morocco. The lead mines of Mibladene are the source of great numbers of specimens of bright red to orange material. Crystals up to 12 cm across, coated with descloizite, have been found at Oujda, in northern Morocco. At Taouz in eastern Morocco, a locality famous for dinosaur fossils, vanadinite crystals on a black psilomelane matrix have been found. Vanadinite is also found at numerous localities in the southwestern US and neighboring areas of Mexico.

For example, the red crystals from the Old Yuma Mine, in Arizona, are well known. A few years ago, cavernous crystals from the Pure Potential Mine, also in Arizona, came on the market. Good specimens of endlechte come from Santa Eulalia, Mexico. Less typical localities include alpine fissures in Switzerland and Italy. Other localities include Russia, Spain, Kazakhstan, Algeria, and Tunisia. Closer to our area, vanadinite has recently been found with pyromorphite in Louisa Co., VA.

Vanadinite has been a favorite of mineral collectors for a long time and will doubtless continue to be popular. Really good specimens are not cheap, but nice pieces can be had by most collectors. As long as they are not exposed to sunlight for extended periods, vanadinite specimens will continue to provide their owners with much enjoyment. From The Rostrum January 2009 Vis 2011 Rockhoulder



This space shuttle was the winner in the natural stone category at the Hob Nob Facetors Meeting at the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club in Tucson Arizona February 5th 2011 as printed in their newsletter. Over 78 Facetors from around the world attended the event. There were 2 categories natural and best cut synthetic stone.

MAY SHOW DATES

May 6-8 - BISHOP, CA Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society Tri-County Fairgrounds (Robinson Bldg.) Corner of Sierra Street & Fair Drive Hours: Fri. 6pm-10; Sat. 9:30-4; Sun. 10-3 Francee Graham (760) 876-4319 Email: franceem@quet.com

May 7-8 - RENO, NV Reno Gem and Mineral Society Reno Livestock Events Center Exhibit Hall 1350 N. Wells Ave. Hours: Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4 Ann Johnson (775)544-4937 Email: ann.johnson.e@gmail.com Website: www.renorockhounds.com

May 13-15 - ANDERSON, CA CFMS SHOW & CONVENTION, "Northern California

Treasures" Hosted by: Superior California Gem & Mineral Society Shasta Gem & Mineral Society Paradise Gem & Mineral Club Shasta District Fairgrounds - Anderson, CA Briggs Street (8 miles south of Redding) Exit 677 off Interstate 5 to Highway 273; 2.5

miles to Fairgrounds Hours: Fri. & Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-4 Show Chairman: Steve Puderbough -steve@applyaline.com

Website: www.superiorcal.com **Forms are on this site** Website: www.shastagemandmineral.com

May 21-22 - JACKSON, CA Fossils For Fun Society Kennedy Mine 12954 Kennedy Mine Road

Hours: 9-5 daily Debbie Bunn (916) 929-6665 Email: fossilsforfun@hotmail.com Website: www.fossilsforfun.org



BENCH TIPS By Brad Smith

More Bench tips @ facebook.com/BenchTips



EMERY BOARDS

The sanding boards for doing your nails are one of my favorite finishing tools. I use the ones with a thin foam core. They have enough resistance to sand just the high points off a flat surface and yet give a little when you're trying to smooth off a curved surface. Plus they're inexpensive and come in a variety of grits. Some grits are so fine they give an almost finished surface. Pick up a few at a beauty supply company or at your local dug store.

The L.A. County Natural History Museum's Dinosaur Institute is working on a new hall of Mesozoic-era bones and fossils to engage and educate children. By SONALI KOHLI and CARY BERGLUND/KNBC-TV Los Angeles Updated 12:30 PM PST, Thu, Jan 20, 2011 There has long been a pair of dinosaurs to greet visitors in the lobby of the Natural History Museum, but they were, paleontologically speaking, your run-of-the-mill giant prehistoric specimens. That will change soon though, as the L.A. County Natural History Museum Dinosaur Institute been collecting and assembling a cast of Mesozoic-era bones and fossils to populate what they say will be the dinosaur hub of the West Coast. The prime target for exhibit, which will open in July, is enthusiastic kids. "We wanted to use the appeal the dinosaurs had as a vehicle for teaching about the nature of science," said Luis Chiappe, director of the Dinosaur Institute. Article from Kim Knoyes

MOROKS

MAY 2011

Monrovia Rockhounds Newsletter

P.O. Box 553

Monrovia, CA 91017

Editor – Janie Duncan



Monrovia Rockhounds May 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
← 30th Booth Duarte	2	3	4	5 Board Mtg. @ Janie's	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14 Monrovia Days Booth 10-4
15	16	17	18	19 Gen. Mtg. "Opals"	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Wire Wrap Class	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day	31				→ June 26th Picnic