

MOROKS

JUNE 2011

Monrovia Rockhounds Newsletter

P.O. Box 553

Monrovia, CA 91017

Editor – Janie Duncan



Monrovia Rockhounds Calendar June 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Board Mtg. Janie's	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13		15	16 General Mtg. Condor Agates	17	18
19 Father's Day	20	21 First day of summer	22	23	24	25 MOROKS Picnic 5 pm
26	27	28	29	30		

MOROKS NEWSLETTER JUNE 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) 357 8425
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 SHIRTS – 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
June Birthdays**

Michael Carter 24

Tom Freeman 2



Article from the Norfolk Mineral and Lapidary Society United Kingdom

The Lapworth Museum of Geology at Birmingham University dates back to 1880, and is one of the oldest specialist geological museums in the UK. The Museum has the finest and most extensive collections of fossils, minerals and rocks in the Midlands. Throughout its long history the Lapworth Museum has provided a valuable resource for students, schools and colleges, research workers, enthusiasts and anyone with an interest in, or desire to learn, about geology. The museum is open to the public and provides for school, college, adult education and community groups.

The Museum is named after Charles Lapworth, the first Professor of Geology at Mason College, the forerunner of the University of Birmingham. Lapworth was one of the most important and influential geologists in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. Located in the University's Grade II listed, Aston Webb Building, the museum retains its original Edwardian setting and interior.

The collections contain in excess of 250,000 specimens. In addition to rocks, fossils and minerals, there are large collections of early geological maps, equipment, models, photographic material, and also zoological specimens and stone axes. The Lapworth Archive contains one of the most complete records of the work of a scientist of that period. The fossil collections are important both scientifically and historically, with exceptionally well-preserved specimens from the Midlands and many other famous fossil localities in the UK, and throughout the world. The museum has some of the finest collections from the Wenlock Limestone of Dudley, famous for its fossils that lived 420 million years ago when the area was covered by a shallow, warm, tropical sea that enabled a highly diverse ecosystem to develop. From the rocks of the old Midlands Coalfields are important collections of fossil plants, fish, insects, arachnids, fossil footprints and animal tracks. There are beautifully preserved fish, dragonflies, crabs, lobsters and pterosaurs from the Solnhofen Limestone in Germany; outstanding fish collections from Brazil, Italy, Lebanon and USA; 510 million year old animals unique to the world famous Burgess Shale of British Columbia. The mineral collection contains around 15,000 specimens, many of them rare, and displaying stunning colours and crystal shapes. The specimens come from all over the world, but particularly from the old mining areas of the UK. Of historical interest is the mineral collection of William Murdoch, engineer and inventor, who worked with James Watt and Matthew Boulton at Soho House in Birmingham. The main collection of minerals contains a number of very important individual collections: William Murdoch Collection, McLean Mineral Collection, Goodchild Collection and Jasper-More Collection

PREZ SEZ

It was all fun, Two days, two locations, Shady and breezy. Meeting many new people with an interest in rocks. The people who did not come to the Monrovia 125th anniversary party missed out on a day with a fantastic DJ who played easy listening music all day long. Free food from your local recycling company, Athens. All this with excellent attendance at library park. The Duarte venue had its startup challenges but all the participants still had a good time. Now all we have to accomplish is to turn these attendees into members. Hard but not impossible.

Suggestions welcome.

Cal Matthews

VICE PREZ SEZ

I sure had a great time at the last 2 booths we did. The Monrovia Day one was fantastic. Great weather. Good turnout. Free food! WOW Now I am looking forward to the picnic in Gail Koon's lovely back yard. Remember the time is 5 pm. She has such a nice area and I love watching all the birds. Don't forget to bring your wrapped bingo gifts. My sister from Montana will be visiting so she can come and meet all the MOROKS. Call me if you need directions.

See you there. Janie Duncan

MAY 5TH**MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS BOARD MEETING**

President: *Cal Matthews* called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Vice President: *Janie Duncan* May will be Jim Pissani on “Jade and collecting at Jade Cove” June will be Mary Pat and Dick Weber on “Condor Agates of Patagonia Argentina.” July is Walter Lombardo on “Meteorites.” August will be Andrew Wilson on “Crystal Lore.” October is the Silent Auction. November is Dr. Ralph Mitchell “The Molecular Structure of Gemstones.” December is the Christmas Party.

Secretary: *Mishele Silcock* asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes of last month’s Meeting as stated in the bulletin? There were 2 wrong dates. The minutes were approved as corrected in the newsletter.

Treasurer: *Jim Lloyd* We have 23 paid members.

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

Fellowship: *Louse Stack* was caught in terrible traffic but made it to the meeting. Ray has a new leg brace and is doing a little better.

Great Rock Drawing: *Louise Stack* Louse and Jim Lloyd are going to get a years worth of rocks from the garage so we can put the rock in the newsletter. Janie will call the Methodist church to ask about the cupboard above ours.

Rock of the Month Talk: The talk for May will be Jim Lloyd on Obsidian.

Fieldtrip: *Ray Ritchey* was absent.

Federation: *Jo Anna Ritchey* She is going to 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.

Custodian: *Jim Lloyd* When we cleaned the cupboard out at the church Jim look the old library box and put it in the garage.

Photographer: *Rodney Warner* Janie has pics from last meeting. Janie need field trip pics.

Historian: *Nancy Hamrick* was absent.

Show: *Jo Anna Ritchey* The last 2 booth were good. MAFA in October.

Website: *Jo Anna Ritchey* We need to post the new programs.

Great Rock Drawing: Nothing till May.

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

Refreshments: Colleen Chestnut is doing May refreshments. Cal Matthews has volunteered for June.

Picnic: *Donald Sneberger* was absent. as he is on a cruise to Alaska with his wife. The date is June 25th

Old Business: *Cal Matthews*

1. Wire wrapping 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. Bring small pliers. All else will be supplied and free lunch.

2. We did both booths but Monrovia Day was better.

New Business *Cal Matthews*

President: *Cal Matthews* adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm

BenchTips by Brad Smith SOLDERING EARPOSTS

I don't solder enough earposts to develop the dexterity for holding the wire by hand. So I modified a set of locking tweezers to help with the job. It's quick and easy. Use a triangular file to make a notch at the tweezer tip to keep the wire from moving around, and file a groove in the tweezer body to rest the tweezers on a stand that keeps the earpost wire at the right angle. The stand is just soldered up from scrap copper or nickel. This way the tweezers act like a see-saw that's weighted just a little bit more on the soldering end.

I felt that if the tweezers put too much pressure on the earpost wire, it could buckle when the wire gets up to soldering temperature.



MAY 19TH**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 Jim Pissani on collecting at Jade Cove. June will be Mary Pat and Dick Weber on "Condor Agates of Patagonia Argentina." July is Walter Lombardo on "Meteorites." August will be Andrew Wilson on "Crystal Lore." October is the Silent Auction. November is Dr. Ralph Mitchell "the Molecular Structure of Gemstones." December is the Christmas Party.

Secretary: *Michele Silcock* There were 2 wrong dates. One was on the calendar. The minutes were approved as corrected in the bulletin.

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

Website: *Jo Anna Ritchey* The CFMS Show & Meeting were good. Jo Anna went on one fieldtrip to mine tailings.

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

Fellowship: *Louse Stack* Jim Lloyd had a Birthday. We sang. We had 4 guests. Em Matthews, Brian Wurtz, Jim Pissani and another lady who came in late and I missed her name. Janie's brother in law passed away. Janie's brother in law in Montana passed away.

Treasurer: *Jim Lloyd* He reported 27 paid members.

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

Rock of the Month Talk: Jim Lloyd did a good talk on obsidian. Becky volunteered for June.

Bulletin: *Janie Duncan* Janie has a coupon.

Picnic: Donald Sneberger was still on his cruise to Alaska. He will be there to cook. Please read about the details in the flyer in this newsletter. 5PM Gail Koon's house.

Great Rock Drawing: **Louise Stack** The rock was a large chunk of sodalite. We now have a years worth of rocks in the upper cupboard.

Custodian: *Jim Lloyd* Jim Lloyd got the library box back in the garage.

Refreshments: Colleen Chestnut brought them tonight. Cal Matthews volunteered for June.

Show: *Jo Anna Ritchey* October is the MAFA Booth.

Historian: *Nancy Hamrick* no report.

Old Business: *Cal Matthews*

1. Wire wrapping 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. Bring small pliers. All else will be supplied and free lunch. There is one opening as Mishela has a doctor's appointment. Yvette will see if she can take her place.

2. We did both booths but Monrovia Day was better.

New Business: Janie Duncan posted our meetings and booth on Monrovia Patch.

Cal Matthews Adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm



DUES ARE VERY 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

Telling Lapis Lazuli from Sodalite

If you want to know whether you have sodalite, lapis or imitation lapis look for pyrite inclusions. Lapis-Lazuli will have pyrite inclusions. Sodalite does not have pyrite inclusions. In imitation Lapis the inclusions are golden flakes not pyrite crystals.

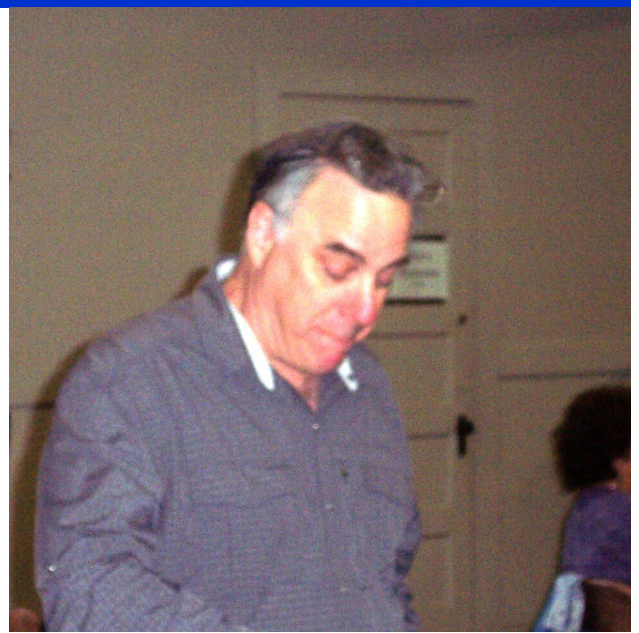
Lazurite is the mineral name of the gem and ornamental stone Lapis-Lazuli. Lapis Lazuli is a gemstone with a rich blue color. It has a hardness of 5-5-1/2, is composed of sodium aluminum silicate with some sulphur. Most of the properties of lazurite are similar to those of sodalite, but the association of pyrite with lazurite determines the identification.

Sodalite is composed of sodium aluminum silicate with chlorides . It is 5-1/2 to 6 on the hardness scale and the color is usually blue but may tend toward white, grey, yellow or red. It is associated with other feldspathoids, so called because they resemble feldspars but are of a slightly different compositing.

When working Lapis to a polish it requires fine sanding to prevent pyrite inclusions from protruding. Leather may be used with chrome oxide for polishing. Sodalite, on the other hand polishes perfectly on felt with cerium oxide, after a fine job of sanding.

A drop of Hydrochloric acid is good for testing lapis-lazuli. A drop of it on the blue stone creates an odor of hydrogen sulfide. On the white areas of the stone it usually effervesces because the white is usually calcite. This test will distinguish Lapis from Sodalite.

This report was inspired by an article from Tulip City Conglomerate via the Roseville Rollin' Rocks Via the Grant County Rolling Stones Gem & Mineral Society The Beacon



Jim Lloyd Obsidian Rock of the month 5/2011 Jim Pissani Program Jade & Jade Cove

Great Rock drawing for June will be a large quartz 8 Inches in diameter with small crystals. Becky Fregoso will be doing the rock of the month talk.

MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS PICNIC

SATURDAY JUNE 25th 5:00 pm

Gail Koon's Home

908 Valley View Ave. Monrovia

Go to the corner of Foothill Blvd. And Mountain Ave. turn north on Mountain for 2 blocks . Turn right on Valley Vista and it is on the right side of the street almost to the end of the block.



The club will furnish the hot dogs, hamburgers, paper goods, beverages and silverware. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. We will be playing bingo and we need everyone to bring along wrapped bingo prizes. Please label man, woman or leave blank if they are for either. We have not had any kids for a while so we will not need kids prizes. The picnic is free for members. Guests are \$3.00 each.

June 2011 CFMS Board of Directors Meeting

The CFMS Show was in Anderson, California from 5/13-5/15/2011. Not many from Southern California traveled to the Show as probably the distance (500 miles for me) seemed to be a bit far. This was a lovely show.

The clubs in the area are very active and the Redding club has a workshop that is something wonderful. The city had an empty house that after a bit of effort was rented to the club. This building has one room for silver work, one for wire wrapping, one for bead making, one for juniors, and misc activities in the "dining room". I expect that the garage housed their saws and grinders. The club also owns the tools and gas used for these activities (wow!). There is a cost (daily, monthly, quarterly or annual) for using the facilities. They hold classes there and also classes through the Parks and Recreation Dept.

The local juniors put in some impressive cases. Jim Brace-Thompson gave a special prize of \$100.00 for the best case (either in competition or non-competition) in his opinion. A case of thumb nail minerals won both his special prize and a trophy. This was a difficult decision as a case of petrified wood was very good. The 2012 CFMS Show will be in Riverside. The date has not been set yet. The 2013 CFMS Show will be held at the Ventura County Fairgrounds.

Jo Anna Ritchey

CFMS Director



MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS PICTURE PAGE

APRIL 2011 FIELD TRIP TO BORON



Cal Matthews Kindra Fitzgerald Jerry's friend Tom Freeman Janie Duncan Louise Stack Jerry Katz
 Louise Stack Yvette Fitsgerald Cal Matthews Janie Duncan Mishele Silcock Tom Freeman



Rio Tinto Borax

May 13, 2011 California officials announce closure of 70 state parks

Gov. **Jerry Brown's** January budget plan proposed reducing the state parks budget by \$22 million. The Legislature in March approved \$11 million in cuts to state parks and \$10 million in cuts to off highway vehicle parks in the next fiscal year, with \$22 million in cuts to state parks in future years.

The **California State Parks System** was directed to identify which parks would close based on attendance rates and historical significance. The department operates more than 270 state park units covering more than 1.4 million acres. "We regret closing any park," **Ruth Coleman**, director of California State Parks, said in a statement. "But with the proposed budget reductions over the next two years, we can no longer afford to operate all parks within the system." The department at first said service reductions will begin over the summer and closures will begin in September, but later announced that the parks will not be fully closed until July 1, 2012. The cuts have not yet been signed by Gov. **Jerry Brown**, so a final list could grow or shrink based on the actions the Legislature takes to close the budget deficit. Parks officials said 92 percent of total park attendance will be retained and 94 percent of existing revenues even with the closures. Here's a full list of the closures from the parks department: Check out for a list northerncaliforniahikingtrails.com/blog

Cabbing Tip *via* Bulletin of the Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

by Rich Kelly -- owner of South Fork Mining and member of the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

In the winter I am one of those guys who always has splits at the top of my finger tips. Some days when I want to cab, the thought of my fingers brushing against the diamond wheels prevents me from cabbing. I also do not use dop sticks, I prefer to work the stone with my fingers, it is more comfortable and gives me a sense of the stone. So I decided to try those rubber finger tip things, people use when filing or perhaps sewing. The ones I found in a stationery store are called Machine Quilting Finger grips; they sell for about 25 cents each . . . and a pack of a dozen for less than \$3.00. They take a little getting used to, but they do work, and they allow me to work on days when I might not have taken a chance. They may also help if you have just had your nails done, (I assume this would apply to the women?) and want to keep from scratching your nails. One thing, as the stone is almost done and the polish is getting close to a finish, the stone definitely slips out more often, so be careful towards the end. Hope this helps, give it a try.

ALLERGIC TO YOUR JEWELRY? The mildest skin reaction to jewelry is a greenish stain on the skin which as it turns out has nothing to do with allergies or even skin sensitivities. "It's the oxidation process of jewelry, other than gold, that causes skin to turn green," says David Herschthal, MD. "Fine jewelry, such as 18-karat gold, oxidizes far less, so the discoloring usually doesn't occur with those pieces." Sweating, he adds, exacerbates the problem because salt, or sodium chloride, contained in perspiration slightly corrodes the metal. "So if you really love that copper necklace, don't wear it to the gym!" More severe skin reactions are usually caused by nickel in the metal. A nickel allergy can occur at any age, and manifests a few days after contact as eczema, which appears as an itchy, dry, crusty, and red pigmented skin rash with watery blisters. The affected area is usually restricted to the site of contact, although it can sometimes be found on other parts of the body. Once a nickel allergy has developed, it is usually a chronic, life-long condition. Nickel is a silvery- white metal found in nature. It is usually mixed with other metals to produce alloys. Nickel-iron, which is used to manufacture stainless steel, is a common nickel alloy. Other nickel alloys are used to make: coins, costume jewelry, bra or girdle fasteners, zippers, snaps, buttons, suspender clips, hairpins, studs, eyeglass frames, pens, handles, utensils, paper clips, keys, tools. One way to sleuth out a nickel allergy is to figure out if you have reactions to these items as well. If you do, you can use substitutes made of plastic, coated or painted metal or some other material. "It's difficult to know if a piece of jewelry contains nickel without actually testing the metal," says Nicole Teague, a jewelry artisan in Berkeley, California. "That little authenticity stamp that says "sterling" or ".925" is a nonregulated steel stamp that anyone can use if they know where to find it. Even the most reputable department stores can be duped." Wonder whether your favorite opal ring contains nickel? You can test it yourself, using a dimethylgloxime spot test, which is a nickel-testing kit that safely tests your jewelry and other suspected metallic items for the presence of nickel. You can obtain one from a dermatologist, pharmacist, or from a number of different testing labs. Via Snoopy Gems Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

CFMS JUNE SHOW DATES

June 3-5 - WOODLAND HILLS, CA Rockatomics Gem and Mineral Society Pierce College 20800 Victory Blvd Hours: 9-5 daily Gary Levitt (818) 993-3802, (cell) (818) 321-6290 Email: Show@Rockatomics.org Website: www.Rockatomics.org

June 4-5 - GLENDORA, CA Glendora Gems Goddard Middle School 859 East Sierra Madre Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4 Bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638 Email: Ybidwell2@aol.com

June 4-5 - LA HABRA, CA North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society La Habra Community Center 101 W. La Habra Blvd. Hours: 10-5 daily Dave Swarton (626) 912-1531 Email: swanni3@adelphia.net Website: www.nocgms.com



Booth at Maxwell School in Duarte

Cal Matthews

**Ray Ritchey
Mishele Silcock
Cal Matthews**



Ray Ritchey

Desert Varnish Mystery Solved From WAYNE'S WORD®: A Newsletter of Natural History. Via Long Beach Gem and Mineral Society Pick and Shovel

One of the most remarkable biogeochemical phenomena in arid desert regions of the world is desert varnish. Although it may be only one hundredth of a millimeter in thickness, desert varnish often colors entire mountain ranges black or reddish brown. In the Anza-Borrego Desert of southern California, the sun-baked boulders are devoid of lichens. Instead, the rocks are coated with "desert varnish," a reddish layer of clay and iron oxide precipitated by remarkable bacteria. This large boulder has split apart revealing the lighter granodiorite beneath. Desert varnish is a thin coating (patina) of manganese, iron and clays on the surface of sun-baked boulders. According to Ronald I. Dorn and Theodore M. Oberlander (*Science* Volume 213, 1981), desert varnish is formed by colonies of microscopic bacteria living on the rock surface for thousands of years.

The bacteria absorb trace amounts of manganese and iron from the atmosphere and precipitate it as a black layer of manganese oxide or reddish iron oxide on the rock surfaces. This thin layer also includes cemented clay particles which help to shield the bacteria against desiccation, extreme heat and intense solar radiation.