

MOROKS

JULY 2011

Monrovia Rockhounds Newsletter

P.O. Box 553

Monrovia, CA 91017

Editor – Janie Duncan



Monrovia Rockhounds Newsletter July 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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3	4 of July	5	6	7 Board Mtg. @ Janie's	8	9
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MOROKS NEWSLETTER JULY 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 – Michele 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
July Birthdays**

Gail Parks 30
Laura Lloyd 19



Via The Pasadena Lapidary newsletter: We are sad to report the passing of Harry Bilheimer. Harry and Arlene were longtime rockhounds and for many years they were in charge of the mineral displays at the Los Angeles County Fair. The came to our rock show every year for many years. We will miss Harry. Our sympathy to the family and Arlene.

What Kind Of Rockhound Are You?

The Fortune Hunter - this rockhound sees potential wealth in every pebble. You recognize him by his clutch on a new find. He has a greedy glitter in his eye as he asks, "What is this worth?" The beauty of the stone means nothing to him. First and foremost is the monetary value.

The Optimist - Called the Happy Hunter, this one is characterized by a cheerful disposition. Any colorful rock excites him. At once he sees in any rock, large or small, a gem of rare beauty. This type of rockhound is fun on a rock hunt. A drenching rain only means that the rocks will show up better. Even when he finds nothing, he has relentless enthusiasm.

The Road Runner - No mountain trail or river bed for this roadside seeker. He operates with the rule - never look further than 12 feet from the car. Road runner depends on low cunning for his supply of rocks. By wearing flimsy shoes, he avoids sloshing along stream beds or climbing hills. By forgetting equipment, he plays on the sympathy of others who offer him part of their finds.

The Smasher and Basher - this one is recognized by the trail of rubble he makes with his sledge hammer. As he goes into rock areas, he smashes and bashes at everything in sight. By the time he is done, there is nothing but worthless chips. This convinces him that the rock must have been originally unsound, anyway.
Scribe via Ft Lewis Rock Club News 6/01 via Golden Spike

The International Meteorite Collectors Association, at <http://www.imca.cc/> is valuable to meteorite fans. Clicking on "met info" gives information about collecting, finding, classifying, Martian meteorites, field reports, and meteorite scams. Hammer information documents hits on humans, animals, and man-made objects. Be sure to visit the encyclopedia of meteorites showing thousands of specimens! Via The Rockhoulder Gem & Mineral society of Montgomery County Maryland



PREZ SEZ

Our Picnic is coming up fast and I hope all MOROKS are able to attend. Gail's backyard is a wonderful place and the food is always great! I hope to see you there.

Cal Matthews

VICE PREZ SEZ

At the time I am writing this I am getting ready for our fantastic picnic in Gail Koon's lovely back yard. She has such a nice area and I love watching all the birds. I am planning to pick up Ann Dayne one of the original members of our club in 1953. She came to our Rockshow in March and reconnected with us. I am looking forward to have the rest of the members meeting her. See you at the picnic!

Janie Duncan

JUNE 2ND ***MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS BOARD MEETING***

President: *Cal Matthews* called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Vice President: *Janie Duncan* 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." September is open. October is the Silent Auction. November is Dr. Ralph Mitchell "The Molecular Structure of Gemstones." December is the Christmas Party.

Secretary: *Michele Silcock* was absent. Cal asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes of last month's Meeting as stated in the bulletin? The June birthdays were wrong. The minutes were approved as corrected in the newsletter.

Treasurer: *Jim Lloyd* We have 32 paid members.

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

Fellowship: *Louse Stack* had no report.

Great Rock Drawing: *Louise Stack* June will be a large quartz with small crystals.

Rock of the Month Talk: The talk for June will be Becky Fregoso.

Fieldtrip: *Ray Ritchey* was absent. No report. Janie will be checking out a possible site in Orange County for a trip for fossils.

Federation: *Jo Anna Ritchey* Her report was in the newsletter.

Custodian: *Jim Lloyd* Janie will need the picnic box.

Photographer: *Rodney Warner* No report.

Historian: *Nancy Hamrick* was absent.

Show: *Jo Anna Ritchey* Nothing till Oct.

Website: *Jo Anna Ritchey*

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

Refreshments: Cal Matthews has volunteered for June. He is bringing ice cream.

Picnic: *Donald Sneberger* is ready to BBQ. He is back from his cruise to Alaska.

Old Business: *Cal Matthews* We all thought the wire wrap class was good.

New Business *Cal Matthews*

1. We need to vote on Denise and William Davis as new members. Both were approved and Janie will get the name badges. 2. Budget next month. 3. Add Kendra to the roster.

President: *Cal Matthews* adjourned the meeting at 7:55pm

BenchTips by Brad Smith More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at Face Book or at



groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips **FINISHING PIERCED PATTERNS** After sawing patterns there is always a little cleanup to do. Needle files (7-8 inches) can get into the larger areas, and escape-ment files (4 inches) can get into some of the corners. But I often find myself looking for even smaller files. Could not even find them at a watchmaker tools supply company, so I had to try something else. I ended up grinding down the tip of a 4" barrette file using a separating disk (or cutoff wheel) in your Dremel or Foredom. The wheels are inexpensive and do a great job grinding steel (poor at soft metals like silver). The disks have other uses like modifying pliers and making design stamps. My preference is the one-inch diameter ones as shown at <http://www.ottofrei.com/store/product.php?productid=3919&cat=3439&page=1>. Be sure to hold the wheel firmly so nothing moves to break the disk, and definitely wear your safety glasses. A flake of steel in your eye makes for a bad day.

JUNE 16TH**MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS GENERAL MEETING**

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

Vice President: *Janie Duncan* Tonight is 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."

September is open. 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 birthdays dates. There are 3 corrections on the new roster. The minutes were approved as corrected in the bulletin. Janie will reprint.

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

Website: *Jo Anna Ritchey* was absent

Federation: *Jo Anna Ritchey* was absent

Fellowship: *Louse Stack* We had 2 guest our speakers present and 2 dogs. We sang happy birthday to Aynn Freeman and Becky Fregoso. Ray Ritchey had some serious oral surgery today. Harry Bilheimer passed away. He and his wife Arlene did the rock department at the Los Angeles County fair for many years.

Treasurer: *Jim Lloyd* He reported 32 paid members.

Photographer: *Rodney Warner* took pics tonight

Rock of the Month Talk: Becky did a good talk on crystal habits. Rodney volunteered for July.

Bulletin: *Janie Duncan* Janie has a coupon.

Picnic: *Donald Sneberger* will be there to cook. Please read about the details in the flyer in this newsletter. 5PM Gail Koon's house. Ann Dayne will be a guest.

Great Rock Drawing: *Louise Stack* The rock was a large plate of stone covered with quartz crystals. It was won by Camille Rutkowski.

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

Refreshments: Cal Matthews brought ice cream tonight. Yum! Louise Stack volunteered for July.

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

Historian: *Nancy Hamrick* no report.

Old Business: *Cal Matthews* No old business.

New Business: *Cal Matthews* 1. Cal installed Denise Davis as a new member. 2. We voted to buy a new ticket raffle wheel. 3. We voted to buy a 6 foot folding table for Gail Koons as agift for having the picnic at her house for 3 years.

Cal Matthews Adjourned the meeting at 7:45 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



What is the streak test and how is it done? Via DELVINGS

There are a number of physical tests that mineralogists do to an unknown mineral specimen to determine its identity. The physical tests are hardness, color, luster, cleavage, fracture, acid test, magnetism, and the streak test. What is the streak test and how is it done? The streak test is a simple test. You will need a piece of unglazed porcelain. "Streak plates" can be purchased, but it is cheaper, and easier, to find an old bathroom tile. You will use the side of the tile that is dull and rough (the back side of the tile that is usually attached to a wall or floor). Take a piece of a mineral and firmly rub it across the porcelain. Now look at the mark you made on the porcelain. The color of the mark is the streak of the mineral. The streak is actually the color of a mineral when it is ground into a powder. The streak of most minerals is not a surprise. Gypsum, calcite and fluorite all have white streaks. The blue copper mineral azurite has a blue streak. The green copper mineral malachite has a green streak. Two minerals have streaks that are so distinctive that they can be used to identify these minerals. The first is pyrite (Fools Gold). Pyrite always has a dull, dark green streak. The second is hematite (blood-red "kidney ore" hematite). Specimens of hematite can be deep blood-red, black or silver. Regardless of its color, hematite's streak is always deep blood-red. Minerals that are harder than 7 are too hard to leave a streak on a streak plate. In this case you can note that the mineral has "no streak." If a mineral is hard enough, it will actually scratch the streak plate! It is easy to think that it left a white streak. Wipe away the streak and look very closely to see if the specimen scratched the streak plate or left a white streak. This is a simple test you can do on your own. Test different minerals and record the streak you find for each. Don't do this test on your good specimens. Use very low quality pieces to do the streak test. With permission from; Diamond Dan Publications Via "Ghostsheets" 5/2010 www.diamonddanpublications.net

Article of Interest

The largest fossil spider uncovered to date once ensnared prey back in the age of dinosaurs, scientists find. The spider, named *Nephila jurassica*, was

discovered buried in ancient volcanic ash in

Inner Mongolia, China. Tufts of hairlike fibers

seen on its legs showed this 165-million-year-old

arachnid to be the oldest known species of the

largest web-weaving spiders alive today — the

golden orb-weavers, or *Nephila*, which are big enough to catch birds and bats, and use silk that shines like gold in the sunlight. The fossil was about as large as its modern relatives, with a body one inch (2.5 centimeters) wide and legs that reach up to 2.5 inches (6.3 cm) long. Golden orbweavers nowadays are mainly tropical creatures, so the ancient environment of *Nephila jurassica* probably was similarly lush.

Via the Cowtown Cutter Fort Worth TX Gem & Mineral Club



Great Rock drawing for July will be a Large half polished amethyst geode

Rock Talk July will be Rodney Warner .



Larimar by Wendy Ansel of Rocks & Runes

via Pasadena Lapidary Society Rockhound Ramblings

Modern tradition acknowledges the diamond as the sacred stone for love and the birthstone for all born in April. Due to the coyness of the diamond industry, I am proposing an alternative for you to consider! Infinitely more rare than diamond, Larimar, a unique blue variety of pectolite, is only found one place on Earth - in the Caribbean nation of the Dominican Republic! First recognized in 1916 by Father Miguel Domingo Fuertes Loren, and dismissed by the authorities of that day, this unusual mineral was rediscovered in 1974 by geologist Miguel Méndez and Peace Corps

volunteer Norman Rilling on a Caribbean beach in the Dominican Republic. Miguel took his young daughter's name **Larissa** and the Spanish word for sea (**mar**) and formed **Larimar** - another of a number of minerals named after a person!

Larimar is a variety of pectolite, formed in the vugs (in this case pockets left by volcanic activity) by a solution of sodium calcium silicate hydroxide. Although pectolite is found in many other locations, none have the unique volcanic blue coloration of Larimar.

At Rocks & Runes I teach the metaphysical properties of all of the jewels of the earth. According to my research Larimar, the stone of true love, displays the most incredible, vibrant hues of blue and white. This rare pectolite gemstone corresponds to the throat chakra (the area of the body where your communication abilities emerge) and is associated with hearing, including psychic hearing. Larimar encourages one to gently 'speak your truth' with love and compassion - enhancing open, peaceful and loving communication, the true foundation to all healthy relationships.

It facilitates the regrouping of powerful spiritual leaders. These messengers are highly practiced in the art of public speaking and are often in the pub-stone, with a hardness of 4.5-5 on the Moh's scale, it lends itself to uses in jewelry. Through my contacts with the miners in the Dominican Republic I have been able to import a good quantity of both raw stones, cabochons and polished Larimar that is ready to wear as jewelry. I invite my friends at the Pasadena Lapidary Society to come and allow me to show them this unique mineral and other treasures of nature !

Editor's note: Wendy Ansel has studied geology and metaphysics extensively and takes time to share her knowledge with adults and children alike. Exploring her shop in Burbank is to a lover of rocks and gems as is a forgotten old bank vault is to a coin collector - and with an expert waiting to talk with you!

Treat yourself to a visit at her shop soon!





MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS PICTURE PAGE

JUNE GENERAL MEETING CONDOR AGATES



Cal's Ice
Cream Treat
Yummy!



Cal Matthews Installing Denise Davis as a new
club member. Welcome Denise & William Davis.

Mary Pat and Dick Weber
Program on Condor Agates from Argentina



Condor Agates on display



The Geologist's Lament

By R.L.Frism 1940

Gather 'round me, hear my story,
 I'm a rockhound in distress
 I'm a rockhound bathed in troubles
 I'm an outcast, more or less.
 I have fossils in the kitchen,
 I have crystals in the hail.
 I have minerals in the bathtub;
 I have relics on the wall.
 I have oxides on the carpet
 I have oil upon the floor.
 I have blacklight in the parlor
 I have bones behind each door.
 Attic rooms are fairly sagging.
 Rocks pave the cellar floor,
 Pockets bulge with gemmy pieces,
 All of this and millions more.
 Wifey thinks that I am goofy
 I don't know, she may be right.
 She insists I have silicosis,
 Or some contagious form of "ite"
 Says my head is lined with agate
 (A freak displacement of the bone),
 Says my brain is just a nodule.
 Says my heart is turned to stone.
 Threatens me with separation;
 Storms about our rockhound home,
 Says life for me is just a geode
 Or a hunk of mammal bone.
 Are you rated as a fossil?
 Are you obliged to live alone?
 How do you maintain a hobby,
 And still maintain a happy home?
 Via Gravel Gazette 10/01

Via EL GAMBRISINO Gem Crafters &

SAFETY Hearing Conservation: A Sound Practice

By Bural La Ruevia via Breccia Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Each day employees are exposed to many different types of noises while performing their job. In many cases, the noise does not reach a high enough decibel level to damage their hearing. However, when an employee is consistently exposed to excessive noise at a high enough decibel, hearing loss can occur. Therefore, employees exposed to elevated occupational noise levels must protect themselves by wearing hearing protection.

Noise, or unwanted sound, is one of the most pervasive occupational health problems. It is a by-product of many industrial processes. Sound consists of pressure changes in a medium (usually air) caused by vibration or turbulence. Exposure to high levels of noise can cause hearing loss and may cause other harmful health effects. The extent of damage depends primarily on the intensity of the noise and the duration of the exposure.

Noise induced hearing loss can be temporary or permanent. Temporary hearing loss results from short term exposures to noise, with normal hearing returning after a period of rest. Generally, prolonged exposure to elevated noise levels over a period of time can cause permanent damage.

Noise is measured in units called decibels. Noise levels can range from 1 (near silence) to 60 (quiet conversation) to 140 (a jet engine). Scientific studies have shown that people exposed to noise levels of 85 decibels and above over 8 hours or longer may gradually lose their hearing over time. If you have to shout to be heard by another person 3 feet from you, the noise level is probably above 85 decibels. Typically, the louder the noise level and the longer the exposure, the greater the risk of hearing loss. Noise levels above 140 cause immediate hearing loss.

Some comparisons:

conversation—60
 back hoe—85-90
 chain saw—110
 gun shot—140
 jack hammer—112
 lawn mower—90
 circular saw—90-100



CFMS JULY SHOW DATES

July 9-10 - CULVER CITY, CA Culver City Rock & Mineral Club Veterans Memorial Auditorium 4117 Overland Ave (Overland & Culver) Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5 Robert Thirlaway Website: <http://www.CulverCityRocks.org>



Picture sent to
MOROKS
by Andre Doyan the
son of Walter Doyan
one of the original
Founding members of
our club in 1953

Ed & Anne Dayne with their son Lee on the right side on a Monrovia Rockhounds to Last Chance Canyon 1950's Walter W. Doyon back row standing by Ed, Cliff Hanchet to the right of Walter - man by Cliff Hanchett was Cotelli his wife Delores is in the front row left, Margaret Hanchett on the ground getting a rock fieldtrip to last Chance Canyon in the 1950's

