

# MOROKS

OCTOBER 2011

Monrovia Rockhounds Newsletter

P.O. Box 553

Monrovia, CA 91017

Editor – Janie Duncan



## October 2011 MOROKS NEWSLETTER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Board Mtg. Janie's House	7	8 MAFA BOOTH 10-6
9 MAFA BOOTH 10-6	10 Columbus Day Observed	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Silent Auction	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween					

# MOROKS NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2011



## MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS



### Club Information Our Website is [www.moroks.com](http://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
BOOKKEEPER – Jo Anna Ritchey	(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/cards – 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 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.*

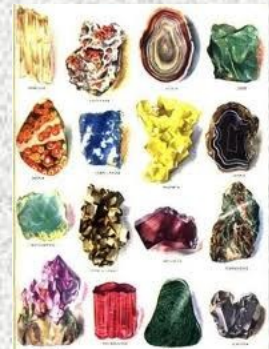
**Monrovia  
Rockhounds  
October  
Birthdays**

Tom Freeman	1
David Pooch	7
Judy McCulloch	6
Sharol Carter	30



**Mineral IQ Test** by Anita Westlake from Tips & Trips, April 2011 meteor via *Gem Cutters News – June-July, 2011*

1. What is black mica called
2. What color streak does hematite leave on an unglazed porcelain tile?
3. What does pseudomorph mean?
4. What is the purple variety of quartz called?
5. Are diamonds found in meteorites?
6. In the mineral kingdom, what is a halfbreed?
7. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe had what mineral named after him?
8. What mineral is 4 on the Mohs Hardness scale?
9. Which mineral is a natural magnet?
10. Which is the stalagmite and the stalactite?
11. What is another name for pyrite?
12. What is a "thin section"?
13. What's the difference between magma and lava?
14. What is silver/clear mica called?
15. Is amber a mineral?
16. What are aa and pahoehoe?
17. What's the difference between a meteorite and a meteor?
18. Do meteorites come from meteor showers?
19. Where in outer space do meteorites originate?
20. Which mineral has variable hardness?
21. What is the principle use of bauxite?
22. What is "quicksilver"?
23. Why is Rancho La Brea famous?
24. What common natural glass is still used in eye surgery?



**MINERAL  
Quiz**



**ANSWERS ON PAGE 9**



**PREZ SEZ** Fall is here and it is almost time for our Monrovia Arts Festival Booth October 8th and 9th at Library Park in Monrovia. The time is 10-6 both days and we need lots of help. If you have not volunteered before to work in one of our booths I ask you to consider it for this one. You will have a great time and meet lots of nice people. Our booth is usually near the Library door. Please come!

Cal Matthews

**VICE PREZ SEZ** The MAFA Booth is coming up and also our silent Auction. Please plan ahead for both events. I am at the booth both days and really have fun. Please come. Call me if you want a shift. It really is very easy. The silent Auction is a good one to invite guests. Everyone enjoys it! See you there! Janie Duncan

SEPTEMBER 1ST

**MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS BOARD MEETING**

**President:** *Cal Matthews* called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Vice President:** *Janie Duncan* 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 minutes were approved as written in the newsletter.

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

**Representative:** *Linda Wu* was absent. *Ray Ritchey* absent *Rodney Warner* was absent

**Fellowship:** *Louse Stack* Ray is have teeth trouble. Micelle now has whiplash from the seizures. Rodney's friend John's mother passed away.

**Great Rock Drawing:** *Louise Stack* August is dolomite with pyrite.

**Rock of the Month Talk:** The talk for August will be Yvette Fitzgerald.

**Fieldtrip:** *Ray Ritchey* was absent. Janie will plan a trip to David Popplar's later.

**Federation:** *Jo Anna Ritchey* was absent.

**Custodian:** *Jim Lloyd* No report.

**Photographer:** *Rodney Warner* was absent. The pics with Janie's camera were better.

**Historian:** *Nancy Hamrick* was absent.

**Show:** *Jo Anna Ritchey* A couple more dealers have committed. We will get sign ups for the MAFA booth at the Sept. Meeting.

**Website:** *Jo Anna Ritchey* was absent. Janie will send her some info on Rock Talks and pics for the website.

**Bulletin:** *Janie Duncan* looks good.

**Refreshments:** Janie Duncan has volunteered for August.

**Picnic:** *Donald Sneberger* was absent.

**Old Business:** *Cal Matthews* 1. Budget this month was approved by the board. 2. Janie will make make copies of the papers before putting them in her safe. 3. We will set a date for the Bylaws meeting. 4. Janie called Monrovia High School about setting up a scholarship. No return call yet.

**New Business** *Cal Matthews*

**President:** *Cal Matthews* adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm



### **BenchTips by Brad Smith** More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at Face Book or at [groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips](http://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 escapement 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.

SEPTEMBER 15TH

**MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS GENERAL MEETING**

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

**Vice President:** *Janie Duncan* Tonight is Andrew Wilson on "Crystal Lore if we can get the computer working." 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. The minutes were approved as corrected in the bulletin. There was a wrong date.

**Representative:** *Ray Ritchey* was absent. He had dental work done.

**Representative:** *Linda Wu* was absent

**Representative:** *Rodney Warner* no report.

**Website:** *Jo Anna Ritchey* Janie will give Jo Anna Rock Talk info for the website.

**Federation:** *Jo Anna Ritchey*

**Fellowship:** *Louse Stack* We had 5 guests tonight. Andrew Wilson, Thomas Whi, Jamal Holmes, and Karina Alvarez and baby Aden.

**Treasurer:** *Jim Lloyd* He reported 33 paid members.

**Photographer:** *Rodney Warner* took pics tonight with Janie's camera.

**Field trip:** *Ray Ritchey* was absent. Janie will plan a trip to David Popplar's in Nov.

**Rock of the Month Talk:** Yvette was absent so we each shared our favorite rock.

**Bulletin:** *Janie Duncan* has stamps from before this month.

**Great Rock Drawing:** *Louise Stack* The rock was dolomite with pyrite. Won my Karina.

**Custodian:** *Jim Lloyd* will be able to get our stuff for the booth. Oct. 8 & 9.

**Refreshments:** Janie Duncan brought them tonight. Tom and Aynn volunteered for October.

**Show:** *Jo Anna Ritchey* October 8 & 9 is the MAFA Booth. 10-6 both days. Please sign up or Janie will be calling you.

**Historian:** *Nancy Hamrick* no report.

**Old Business:** *Cal Matthews 1.* We will voted to approved the budget.

2. Janie is having staff and volunteers from Monrovia Canyon Park over to her house to see the museum.

3. Date for Bylaws meeting is Friday Sep. 23rd? 10am at Janie's.

4. Monrovia High said we can send out a letter for the scholarship and ask for student to apply who are going into earth science and write why the deserve it. Then the one we choose has to submit in writing proof of enrolment wand them we give it to them at the high school night. We will discuss this more.

**New Business:** *Cal Matthews*

**Cal Matthews** Adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm

**GEOLOGIST AT LUNCH**

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## INGREDIENTS OF AN ARROWHEAD SOURCE



The American Indian wasn't fussy about what he used to make an arrowhead as long as the material would suit his need. Throughout the ages, the Indian's choicest material for arrowheads was flint and flint related rocks such as chalcedony, garnet, novaculite, jasper, opal, etc. He liked obsidian too. These are silicon dioxide glass rocks of nature and, like glass, they flake beautifully in conchoidal fractures and shape easily into sharp cutting edges.

Quartzite, which is more granular silica, was used extensively, but was more difficult to shape. The Indians of the eastern seaboard were starved for good flint-like rocks and their arrowheads are the ugliest of all since they are made of slate, quartzite, trap rock, schist's and other forms of rocks,

which a Wyoming Indian would have written off as junk.

There are rumors of Wyoming jade arrowheads but they probably aren't true. The Indians of the Valley of Mexico made beautiful jadeite sacrificial knives, but they weren't flaked. They abraded, honed and polished them into shape.

Probably the most spectacular arrowhead ever found was a fabulous fluted early-man Clovis Point struck out of a large quartz crystal. This diamond clear point was found by a farmer in North Carolina, who then took it home and used it to strike against steel to start kitchen fires. The now damaged point rests in the Smithsonian.

Some arrowheads and spear points were made of wood, especially the stunning arrow. Many were made of bone, antler and tusk. The Indian tribes bordering the Gulf of Mexico used Garfish scales extensively. Everywhere bottles, insulators and other glass articles were also popular.

Best of all, Indians liked the white man's iron. Barrel hoops were a favorite source. The Indians also traded fur pelts to the white man for steel arrowheads.

Source: *Rock Chips* May 2011 via *Pineywoods Rooter* – January 2008 VIA

*Cutting Remarks*, Volume 2011, Issue 6, June 2011. Published monthly by the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club

### Nifty Rock Hound Bumper Sticker Slogans

*Submitted by Bob Livingston*

- Love a Geologist – feel your earthquake.
- Love a faceter – they're a cut above the rest.
- Love a Mineralogist – but don't take them for Granite.
- Love a beader – but they'll string you along.
- Love a Paleontologist – but be aware.
- They collect old dead things.
- I collect rocks too! Diamonds, rubies, topaz, emeralds...
- Amateur Paleontologist – Professional Rock Collector
- Amateur Mineralogist – Professional Rock Collector
- VIA WICHI TA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC QUARRY QUIPS

### CASHING IN?

Would you believe it – Iceland has issued a set of postage stamps commemorating the eruption of that volcano late last year. That mountain and it's glacier with the unpronounceable name, Eyjafjallajökull, grounded most of Europe's aircraft with its resultant ash cloud.

Via NORF LK MINERAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY UK



## Catlinite by Richard "Pete" Peterson VIA *Gem Cutters News* – June-July, 2011

Catlinite [Pipestone] is a rock that was a favorite material of Native Americans for making pipe bowls, especially those tribes who lived on the Plains. Other decorated items for ceremonial and religious purposes, and articles for personal adornment, were also made from the stone. By ca 1700, the Dakota Sioux controlled the Minnesota pipestone and distributed the stone only through trade; it found its way as far east as Georgia and west to the Pacific coast. Catlinite from the Minnesota quarries is sometimes referred to as sacred pipestone. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: The name Catlinite was derived from the artist George Catlin (b 1796 -d 1872). Catlin traveled and painted extensively in the American West and visited the Minnesota quarries in 1835. Catlin is generally credited with first bringing the stone to the attention of mineralogists ca 1839.

THE ROCK: Catlinite is a metamorphic claystone, a type of argillite. It is a fine-grained rock, commonly colored by hematite. The often mottled or speckled stone is grayish to brownish-red to dark red in color. It occurs embedded as a 12 - 18 inch layer in a hard matrix of Sioux quartzite. The quartzite was formed by the metamorphism of sandstone. In some areas, 12 feet of quartzite must be removed to reach the layer of Catlinite.

The quarries are located in southwestern Minnesota in Pipestone County, near the city of Pipestone. The location was reported as early as 1702. The rock is also found in Minnehaha County, South Dakota (southwest of Pipestone). The South Dakota stone is cut from the same geologic strata as that quarried at Pipestone, Minnesota. The word pipestone is frequently misused to describe a wide range of materials used in crafting pipes. True Catlinite can be distinguished from other pipe-making materials by using a streak plate (a small tile, of unglazed porcelain) and the Munsell Soil Color Chart. Catlinite has a streak which falls, only within hue 5R on the color chart.

THE PIPE IN ITS SPIRITUAL CONTEXT: Ceremonial smoking marked important activities of the Plains people; rallying forces for warfare against rival groups, prior to the trading of goods and hostages, ritual dancing, and in medicine ceremonies. The pipe bowl, stem and pouches or in wrapped bundles along with other sacred paraphernalia. After smoking the tobacco ashes were disposed of in special places. Pipes had an identity, were a valued possession, and were frequently buried with their owner.

Pipe designs varied over time and by the time of Catlin's visit in 1835, the simple tube of earlier times had developed into elbow and disk forms, as well as elaborate animal and human effigies. In the 19th century, the pipes found their way through trade into white society. Bowls were sometimes carved effigies honoring white politicians and explorers; sometimes the images were far from flattering. The Pawnee and Sioux were master effigy carvers. The T-shaped bowl we recognize today became widely associated with peace pipes because the white negotiators usually encountered them at treat ceremonies.

Ceremonial pipes were used by the Lakota Sioux as a means of conveying prayers or wishes to the creation forces or beings. The tobacco mixture that was burned in a pipe and the resultant smoke was thought to carry those prayers. The pipe was smoked in personal prayer, as well as at collective rituals. It served as a means of conveying the thoughts of the smoker. Assembling the pipe (i.e. connecting the bowl with the stem) and the smoking mixture symbolically formed a bridge believed necessary for successful communication with non-humans that influenced fates and outcomes.

CRAFTING AND SHAPING: Catlinite is soft enough to be carved and tobacco were stored in animal skin with stone or metal knives and drills. Native Americans traditionally used bow drills; the tip of the drill was fashioned with a quartz point which (when combined with water) could bore out even the hardest pipestone. They then employed moistened, thin rawhide strips rolled in pulverized quartz, that were stretched with a bow handle. The bow saw was used to rough-shape the blanks for the pipe bowl. Bowls could then be shaped with gradations of sandstone. After shaping, the bowls were polished using water and progressively finer abrasive grits, then worked with animal hide, and finally hand rubbed with buffalo tallow or facial oils to complete the polishing. Today, the rough rock can be cut and shaped using common, carpenter hand tools. A regular hacksaw blade can rough-shape the blank. The blank can then be scraped with a file, rasp, or knife blade, then smoothed with various gradations of sandpaper. If desired, the piece can be incised using any thin, sharpened tool. The piece can then be gently heated and rubbed with beeswax (fat and facial oils still work). The item can then be immersed in cold water to harden the wax that was worked into pores of the rock. Finally, the item can be polished with a soft cotton cloth.



# MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS PICTURE PAGE SEPTEMBER ANDREW WILSON CRYSTALS



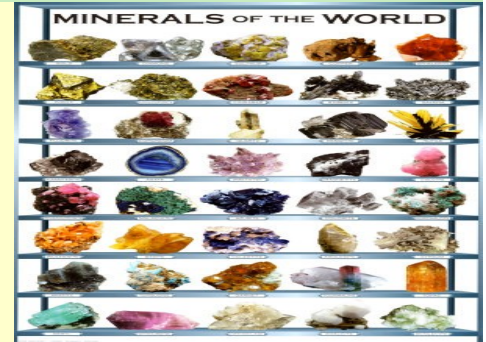
Andrew Wilson  
And Guest  
Thomas Whitt





## Mineral Test Answers from page 3

1. Biotite
2. Red to Brownish Red
3. False-Form
4. Amethyst
5. Yes, most notably in Canyon Diablo
6. A specimen of half silver and half copper
7. Goethite
8. Fluorite
9. Magnetite
10. Stalagmite grows up mightly from the ground. Stalactites have to hang on tight to drip from the ceiling
11. Fool's Gold
12. A wafer thin slice of a mineral or meteorite that is virtually transparent. It is placed in a polarized microscope to identify individual minerals and their crystal structures.
13. Magma forms inside the volcanic chamber lava flows outside the chamber and is visible to the eye.
14. Muscovite
15. No it does not pass one of the five characteristics of a mineral most specifically "inorganic"
16. Types of lava. Aa is named for the sound one makes when walking upon its rough surface pahoehoe is ropy lava.
17. A meteorite is a rock from space that makes it to the ground. A meteor is the LIGHT you see when the meteoroid hits the earth's atmosphere and briefly catches fire.
18. No-Meteor showers are cyclical and are the result of comet trails intersecting with earth's orbit. 19. The asteroid Belt between Mars and Jupiter
20. Kyanite
21. Aluminum
22. Mercury (the liquid metal that used to be in thermometers)
23. The La Brea Tar Pits where hundreds of animals were found preserved in tar
24. obsidian



**Wieliczka Salt Mine**, located in the town of Wieliczka in southern Poland, lies within the Kraków metropolitan area. The mine continuously produced table salt from the 13th century until 2007 as one of the world's oldest salt mines. It is believed to be the world's 14th-oldest company. The mine's attractions for tourists include dozens of statues and an entire chapel that has been carved out of the rock salt by the miners. About 1.2 million people visit the Mine annually. The Wieliczka salt mine reaches a depth of 327 meters and is over 300 km long. It features a tour for visitors that includes historic statues and mythical figures. The oldest sculptures were carved out of rock salt by miners; recent figures have been fashioned by contemporary artists. Even the crystals of the chandeliers are made from rock salt that has been dissolved and reconstituted to achieve a clear, glass-like appearance. The rock salt is naturally gray in various shades, so that the carvings resemble unpolished granite rather than the white or crystalline look that many visitors expect. Also featured is a large chamber with walls carved to resemble wooden chapels built by miners in earlier centuries; an underground lake & exhibits on the history of salt mining. During World War II, the salt mine was used by the Germans.



## CFMS OCTOBER SHOW DATES

**October 2: FALLBROOK, CA** Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Facility 123 W. Alvarado St, Ste. B Hours: 10 - 4  
Janice Bricker Email: [fgms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fgms@sbcglobal.net) Website: [www.fgms.org](http://www.fgms.org)

**October 15-16 - PLACERVILLE, CA** El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society El Dorado County Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Drive Hours: 10-5 daily Karen Newlin, (530) 676-2472 Email: [info@rockandgemshow.org](mailto:info@rockandgemshow.org) Show Website: [www.rockandgemshow.org](http://www.rockandgemshow.org)

**October 15-16 - SANTA ROSA, CA** Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 1351 Maple Ave Hours: Sat. 10-6: Sun 10-5 Debbie Granat (707) 542-1651 Email: [santarosarockshow@hotmail.com](mailto:santarosarockshow@hotmail.com) Website: [www.srmgs.org](http://www.srmgs.org) **October 8-9: TRONA, CA** Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society 13337 Main Street Hours: Sat 7:30 - 5; Sun 7:30 - 4 Jim

**October 15: WEST HILLS, CA** Woodland Hills Rock Chippers First United Methodist Church 22700 Sherman Way Hours: 10 - 5 Mary Beth Pio Email: [info@rockchippers.org](mailto:info@rockchippers.org) Website: [www.rockchippers.org](http://www.rockchippers.org) & Bonnie Fairchild, (760) 372-5356 Email: [slgms@iwvisp.com](mailto:slgms@iwvisp.com) Website: [www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub](http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub)

**October 15-16: WHITTIER, CA** Whittier Gem & Mineral Society Whittier Community Center 7630 Washington Hours: 10 - 5 daily Marcia Goetz (626) 260-7239 Email: [joemar1@verizon.net](mailto:joemar1@verizon.net)

**October 8-9: GRASS VALLEY, CA** Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Nevada County Fairgrounds 11228 McCourtney Road Hours: 10 - 5 daily Kim Moore, (530) 470-0388

## From Panama to Elizabeth Taylor : The Story of La Peregrina Pearl

Discovered in Panama in the 1500s by an African slave diving off Panama's Pearl Islands, La Peregrina ("The Wanderer") is one of the most famous pearls in the world. Soon after its discovery, the white pear-shaped pearl was taken to Spain where it became part of the crown jewel collection. Around 1554, Phillip II of Spain gave the pearl to Queen Mary I of England as an engagement present. When "Bloody Mary" died in 1558, it was returned to Spain and worn by a succession of Spanish queens over the next 250 years. In 1808, Napoleon Bonaparte conquered Spain and took the pearl with him back to France. Years later, Napoleon III, who was exiled in England and facing financial difficulties, sold La Peregrina to the Marquis of Abercorn. In 1969, Welsh actor Richard Burton spent \$37,000 at a Sotheby's auction to buy La Peregrina from the Duke of Abercrombie as a gift for his wife Elizabeth Taylor.

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