

# The MOROKS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017

The Monrovia Rockhound's founded 1957

Volume 60, Issue 4

## Upcoming Meetings

Board Meeting, APRIL 4<sup>th</sup>  
2 pm at 224 Oak Ave.  
Monrovia, Ca. 91016

General Meeting, APRIL 20<sup>th</sup> 2017  
@ 7:00 pm

United Methodist Church of Monrovia  
at 140 E. Palm Ave. Monrovia CA 91016.  
We meet in the basement, use the west  
entrance in the alleyway. Guest are always  
welcome.

Please come and join us!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT:** Jo Anna Ritchey  
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Thomas Witt  
**TREASURER:** Jim Lloyd  
**SECRETARY:** Colleen Chestnut

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## A WORD FROM THE PREZ

No Report was submitted at time of  
publication!

## VP's Report

Well as many of you already know, the club has survived yet another year. This April we shall see some new board officers take office.  
President---Geoffrey Greenham  
Vice President---Jo Anna Ritchey  
Secretary---Susan MacAdams  
Representative---Kimberly Reagan  
Jo Anna Ritchey will take the position of Vice President and she has a full line up of speakers for the months ahead.

The Annual Show did well and it looks promising for next year.

As for me, this past year has been exciting. The move to the High Desert and the home in Arcadia being remodeled, listed on the market and sold in just one day.

I will continue to publish the Moroks Newsletter and try to provide you with articles of interest and entertainment.

Thank You one and all,  
Thomas Witt

## Attention To the Membership

The Monrovia Rockhounds  
Annual Silent Auction is,  
**April 20, 2017**

Bring your Rocks, Minerals, Books,  
slabs, jewelry, plants, baked goods and  
white elephant items for donation.

**Attention, Membership Dues for 2017 are  
now due!**

Thank You  
MONROVIA ROCKHOUND'S

**The March 7, 2017 Board Meeting of  
the Monrovia Rockhounds**

The meeting was called to order at 2:10PM at the Ritchey's home in Monrovia.

Officers present were

Jo Anna Ritchey---President

Jim Lloyd---Treasurer

Colleen Chestnut---Secretary

Jo Anna announced that Ken Rogers will speak on The Changing of Gemstone and Bead Industries : New Finds, Fakes Created Dyed and Enhanced at our March 16<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. At the April 20th meeting the club will have a Silent Auction.

JoAnna will be contacting George Rossman, Walt Wright and Alfredo Petrov to see if they can do future programs for our club.

Treasurer Jim says we have 26 paid members. He will start collecting dues at the April Meeting now that we have a full slate of officers and the club will continue.

We have 2 new members pending. Jim announced the balance in our checking account after the show. Jo Anna handed out a breakdown of income and expenses for the show at the Arboretum on March 4th and 5th. We did very well financially this year. The 29 vendors were happy, they like the Arboretum location and many are all ready looking forward next years show because they did well financially.

A very big thank you to Jim Lloyd, Club Custodian, who loaded his truck and transported items to the show that we needed and then after the show loaded his truck again and took the items back to the garage. Thank you to Ray Ritchey who made the grab bags and fixed the hourly prizes. To all those who helped set up, clean up or volunteered at table many thanks. The help was reliable and amazing. We do care about our club.

Field Trips---none planned at this time.

Federation Director---there will be a show in June.

Bulletin---Thomas Will is doing very good on the club bulletin. Now that he lives in Apple Valley, we hope that he is able to continue doing the bulletin for the club.

Nominating Committee Chairman, Colleen, announced the slate of officers for our next fiscal year and we will vote on the candidates at our next meeting.

President---Geoffrey Greenham

Vice President---Jo Anna Ritchey

Secretary---Susan MacAdams

Representative---Kimberly Reagan

Sue and Kim will have attended 2 meeting and the both helped at our show so they are eligible to run for office.

We had a discussion on what we could do better for the next show.

1. Do more advertising. We need an Advertising Chairman. A better location for our banners at the Arboretum entrance.
2. Charge for the sandwiches?? We thought that maybe to up the table fee by \$5.00 rather than to ask for a separate additional \$5.00 might work out better. We spent \$315.77 for sandwiches for the 2 days. Some vendors and the Garden Club brought their own food. The Garden Club and the Ritcheys donated drinks this year. Next year we should ask our club members to donate drinks. We also had chips and tangerines for lunch. The chips were purchased. The tangerines were donated by Ralph and Becky Fregoso.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:27PM.

Colleen Chestnut

Secretary



## The MARCH 16, 2017

### General Meeting of the Monrovia Rockhound's

The March 16, 2017 General meeting of the Monrovia Rockhound's was called to order at 7:05PM.

Officers present were

Jo Anna Ritchey---President

Thomas Witt---Vice President

Jim Lloyd---Treasurer

Colleen Chestnut---Secretary

The flag salute was led by Jo Anna Ritchey

Thomas Witt announced that tonight Ken Rodgers will give a talk titled " The Changing of Gemstone and Bead Industries :New Finds, Fakes, Created, Dyed and Enhanced.

**The April 20th meeting will be a Silent Auction.** Members and guests can bring anything for the auction. This includes rocks, slabs, jewelry, plants, baked goods and white elephant items.

Jim Lloyd told us we have 26 paid members and gave the balance in our checking account.

**Field Trip Chairman**, Kevin Doran, says there will be a field trip to Lavic Siding this weekend. A trip to Stodered Wells is coming up in April.

**Fellowship Chairman**, Linda Doran, announced that tonight we have 11 members present and 2 guests. She introduced our guests---Ken Rogers and Matthew Bell. Cal Matthews has a birthday this month.

**Chair Showman**, Jo Anna Ritchey, reported that we did very well at the show at the Arboretum on March 4th and 5th despite the rain on Sunday afternoon. We had 27 dealers (21 inside and 6 outside) Many vendors said how much they like doing this show and they like being at the Arboretum. The current rent for vendors is \$80.00 per table inside (minimum 2 tables) and \$60.00 per table outside. Jo Anna proposed to increase the table rent by \$5.00 per table in 2018. This increase will also cover the cost of the sandwiches. Jo Anna presented a written breakdown of show income and expenses for 2017.

**Federation Director**, Jo Anna Ritchey said the CFMS Show will be held June 9-11 , 2017 at the Ventura Fairgrounds. You can go there by train and be let off at the fairgrounds. Ventura just had their normal club show on March 4-5, 2017.

**Bulletin Editor**, Thomas Witt, said that he plans to do a special article on the reopening of Mitchell Caverns after 5 years of closure.

Guest, Matthew Bell, brought an article from the L.A. times to share, about 208 New Human Mediated Minerals.

#### **New Business**

1. The club members voted to accept Sue MacAdams and Kim Reagan as members of the club.
2. Geoffrey Greenham made a motion and Colleen Chestnut seconded the motion to permit Sue MacAdams and Kim Reagan to be officers of the MOROKS. Also Jim Lloyd can serve as Treasurer for another year. The members voted and approved.
3. Colleen Chestnut, Nominating Committee Chairman, presented the following slate of officers for 2017:
  - President---Geoffrey Greenham
  - Vice President---Jo Anna Ritchey
  - Treasurer---Jim Lloyd
  - Secretary---Sue MacAdams
  - Representative---Kim Reagan
4. Jo Anna requested nominations from the floor. There were none.
5. The members voted on the slate of officers. The slate was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36PM.

We enjoyed refreshments and a very interesting talk by the very knowledgeable Ken Rogers. Ken has been recognized as one of the "go to" people when someone or a firm has questions about gemstone beads. He has been a Rockhound since he was 10 years old. Ken discussed what has happened in Asia/China, where it is going and how it will affect us in the U.S.

Colleen Chestnut  
Secretary



# Mitchell Caverns, one of California's few 'show caves,' will reopen after 6 years

*Eastern Mojave 'show cave' would welcome public after Providence Mountains State Recreation Area spruce-up including a new well, vandalism repairs and dorm.*

Mitchell Caverns in the eastern Mojave Desert's Providence Mountains is expected to reopen in a few months after being closed more than six years, mainly over water issues.

The caverns – one of only two public “show caves” in Southern California and the only limestone caves in the California State Parks system – may open by May or June.

“But that’s still not firm yet. We still have more work to do,” said Russ Dingman, superintendent of the state parks’ Tehachapi District, headquartered near Lancaster.

While Southern California has a modest number of sea caves, granite caves, lava tubes and limestone caves, the only other “tourist” cavern is Sunny Jim Sea Cave in La Jolla, said Alan Rice, Conservation Committee chairman for the Southern California Grotto of the National Speleological Society.

**RELATED:** [Mitchell Caverns, the popular desert attraction, will reopen this year](#)

“Southern California is not a hotbed of caving, in the sense that there’s a lot of caves,” he added.

The remote Providence Mountains State Recreation Area, home to Mitchell Caverns, has been closed since January 2011.

The recreation area between Barstow and Needles, and southwest of the popular Hole-In-The-Wall formations, was [shuttered at the same time 69 other state parks were closed due to state budget cuts](#).

But Providence Mountains SRA was closed over infrastructure issues that included a hand-dug well that went bad after the area’s water table dropped, Dingman said.

“We were not able to provide potable water to the park visitors or employees,” he said.

The gate to the park and its popular caverns – down a lonely road through the Mojave National Preserve – has been locked ever since.

More than \$400,000 was needed to reopen the park and repair damage by vandals and thieves during the closure.

The Committee to Reopen Mitchell Caverns was formed as a joint effort between Poppy Reserve/Mojave Desert Interpretive Association, the Mojave National Preserve Conservancy and the National Parks Conservation Association to raise money.

The committee couldn’t be reached last week to say how much was raised.

Much work already is complete. A consultant produced a hydrological footprint of the Providence Mountains and its best aquifer. The district got a permit to use that water from the State Water Resources Control Board after a lengthy environmental review process and a \$222,000 well, pump and water tank were installed in December 2015.



## Upcoming Events

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### **West Coast Gem & Mineral Show - Spring May 19 - 21, 2017**

Holiday Inn - Orange County Airport  
2726 S. Grand Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92705

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### **SHOWS, FIELD TRIPS, AND EVENTS**

April 1 & 2, TORRANCE: Show, South Bay Lapidary. 3341 Torrance Blvd (Enter on Madrona Ave)  
Hours: Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4. <http://www.southbaylapidaryandmineralsociety.com>

April 2: "Crocodiles in Orange County. Who Knew", presented by Mark Roeder. So. Cal. Paleontological Soc. Page Museum, on Wilshire Blvd. at Hancock Park; Enter at rear entrance to the museum. 1:30 PM.

April 7-9, VISTA: Show, Vista G&MS. Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue.  
Hours: 9 - 5 daily. <http://www.vistarocks.org>

April 10: "Fluorite: the World's Most Colorful Mineral", presented by Dick & Pat Weber.  
Culver City R&MC. Veterans Memorial Multi-Purpose Room, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City, at 7:30 PM

April 22-23, NEWBURY PARK: Show, Conejo G&MS. Borchard Park Community Center,  
190 Reino Rd. Hours: 10-5 daily. <http://www.cgamc.org>

April 22: Field Trip (Ventura clubs) to Cady Mountains. Luther Brown: 805-312-8467, [ravenwolf2@att.net](mailto:ravenwolf2@att.net)

April 22, SANTA ANA: Show, "Art of Adorning". The Bead Society of Orange Co.,  
at the Bowers Museum.  
Hours: 10-4, free. <https://beadsocietyoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/2017-Bead-Bazaar-Download.pdf>

April 23, CULVER CITY: Bead Bazaar, Bead Society of L.A. Veteran's Memorial Auditorium,  
4117 Overland Ave  
Hours: 10-5, \$5 admission. <http://www.beadsocietyla.org/pdf/Spring-2017-V06-4download.pdf>

April 29-30: LANCASTER: Show, Antelope Valley G&MC. Lancaster High School,  
44701 32nd Street West. Hours: 10-5 Daily. <http://www.avgem.weebly.com>

April 29-30, Multi-Club Field trip to Stoddard Wells. Joe Goetz: 626-260-7239, [joenmar1@verizon.net](mailto:joenmar1@verizon.net)

May 6-7 ANAHEIM: Show, Searchers G&MS. Brookhurst Community Center,  
2271 W. Crescent Ave  
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4:30. <http://www.searchersrocks.org>

Courtesy of the DELVINGS April 2017





## APRIL Birthdays

Camille Rutkowski	4
Gail Koons	14
Michele Silcock	12



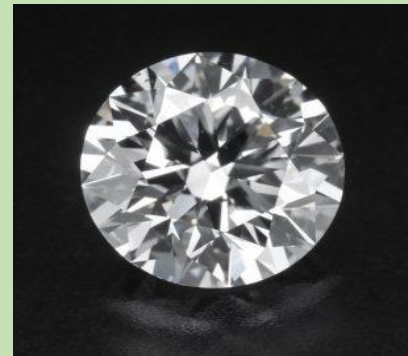
### **Aprils Birthstone**

The birthstone for April is the **Diamond** which symbolizes romance and enduring love, and this April birthstone is traditionally set in engagement and wedding rings.

The April birthstone color is clear or white representing the transparency of diamonds. Thus alternative birthstones for April are any clear or white gemstones such as clear quartz, white sapphires and white topaz. Fancy colored diamonds are also considered a trendy alternative to the conventional clear diamond.

The name 'diamond' comes from Greek 'adamas' meaning invincible and may reflect that the diamond is the hardest gemstone known to man.

Both the modern and the official April birthstone (as per the American Gem Trade Association) is the Diamond.



Diamonds are the rich cousins of graphite. Both are crystalline forms of pure carbon. The enormous differences in their properties are a result of the way the carbon atoms are bonded together. In graphite, carbon atoms are arranged in sheets that easily slide past each other, which makes graphite ideal as a lubricant and, of course, pencil lead. Diamond crystals, on the other hand, are a tight-fisted network of carbon atoms securely held in four directions, making it the hardest naturally-occurring substance in the world.

In order to achieve such a compact and strongly-held network of carbon atoms, it is believed that diamonds must have crystallized deep under the Earth's surface. At these depths the proper conditions for the formation of diamonds exist; at 90 to 120 miles deep, pressures are more than 65,000 times that of the atmosphere at the Earth's surface, with temperatures exceeding 2,700 degrees Fahrenheit. Such pressures and temperatures reproduced in laboratories have successfully yielded synthetic diamonds.

There are many kinds of diamonds: transparent, translucent, or opaque; ranging from colorless to sooty black, with many colors in between. Mostly transparent diamonds, colorless or tinted, are used as jewelry. Others are used widely in industry. The color of a diamond depends on the kind of impurities embedded inside it. Yellow diamonds, for example, betray minute quantities of nitrogen, while boron imparts a bluish hue. There are other inclusions in diamonds that have great scientific value. Such samples are time capsules that yield valuable information about conditions deep in the Earth's upper mantle where diamonds formed, as well as clues to the formation and age of the diamond.

## There is something happening in the High Desert, “A Super Bloom”

This is one of the most frequently asked questions about desert wildflowers. Unfortunately, it is also one of the most difficult to answer. Each year, the unique combination of sun, wind, water, temperature and elevation sets the stage for the precise location of the best springtime blooms. Use the following information to make your own predictions for this spring's showing.

Rain is needed in small doses throughout the winter. Too little rain provides a poor climate for seed germination. Too much rain, and the seeds could rot or be washed away. Showers too early or too late in the season may not help the flowers bloom.

Temperature is also critical. Warm days are a good indicator of a full bloom ahead. If the sun gets too hot though, (over 85 degrees F. in February/March) the seeds may become parched and seedlings scorched. Cool nights can assist flower seedlings by slowing the growth of competitors like grasses and mustards. However, very cold temperatures mean bad news for blossoms.

When will the flowers bloom? None of us knows for sure. Each year's bloom is unique in its variety, profusion and timing. From late February through March, you can find blossoms on the desert floor. To plan your visit to coincide with the peak of the bloom, take advantage of the various wildflower hotlines and information sources



The Deserts are filled with new explorers looking for gold. Wildflowers are in full bloom right now! In fact the bloom is happening everywhere. Right in our local mountains, the plants and flowers are exploding with color.



## An Off Road Adventure

Come this May 2017, I hope to put together a little prospecting trip up the Old Dale Road 4 wheel Drive Jeep Trail. This trip is more of a fun trip and a look into the past of the old mining days of early California before WW II.

**Old Dale Rd. 4WD Road** Location: Joshua Tree National Monument.

**Requirements:** 4WD Required, also excellent Mountain Bike Trail

**Time by Car:** 2 to 3 hours

**Distance:** 23 Miles (one way) Not recommended for summer trips.

The 4WD expedition into the Pinto Basin byway of Old Dale Road/Gold Crown Road. Old Dale Road starts in Joshua Tree National Park, passes through the Pinto Basin and out of the park into the Pinto Mountains, where it becomes Gold Crown Road. The route ends at California Route 62, 15 miles east of the small desert town of Twentynine Palms.

Old Dale Road can be accessed from Pinto Basin Road, 6.9 miles north of the Cottonwood Visitor Center, at the same point where the Black Eagle Mine Road begins. All of these roads are marked on the Park map, which is distributed free at all visitor stations.

The adventure begins down the washboard dirt road into the Pinto Basin. On both sides of the road, plant life was abundant. You can spot Creosote, Pencil Cholla, numerous Smoke Trees and an occasional Beavertail Cactus. You can see so many plants in bloom in this spring. In the desert, no matter what month you visit, there is always something in bloom, but the yellow, white and green colors that filled the roadside are more than one expected.

Traveling further into the Pinto Basin, the dirt road turns from a washboard surface, to fairly deep sand. Sections of the road passes through sandy washes bordered by Smoke Trees and Desert Willows.

On the side of the road, you pass through Pinto Wash, you come upon a landmark sign for Mission Well. The Well was drilled in 1934 to provide water to the mines and mills in the nearby area. The foundation and other ruins from the well still remain in fairly good condition. The area is filled with small roads leading to different mines through out the valley. The Old Dale Mining District still has many buildings and lots of Equipment in tact and ready to be explored. Once you leave the National Park you can do some prospecting. Tailing piles remain to explore and use metal detectors and dry washers.







## APRIL 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 <b>Board Meeting @2 PM</b>	5	6	7	8
9 Palm Sunday	10	11 Passover Begins	12	13 Holy Thursday	14 Good Friday	15
16 Easter	17	18 Passover Ends <hr/> Tax Day	19	20 <b>General Meeting @ 7 PM</b>	21	22 Earth Day
23	24	25	26	27	28	<b>29</b>
30						

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### Advertising in the Moroks Newsletter

Business Card Size for 6 months: \$25

Quarter Page for 6 months: \$35

Half Page for 6 months: \$45

Full Page for 6 months \$75

Please contact  
Thomas Witt @ 760-552-2404

**Monrovia Rockhounds Inc**  
**Gems of the Foothills**  
224 Oaks Ave  
Monrovia, CA 91016



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