

# MOROKS

FEBRUARY 2013

Monrovia Rockhounds Newsletter

P.O. Box 553

Monrovia, CA 91017

Editor – Janie Duncan



## MOROKS NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Groundhog Day
3	4	5	6	7 MOROKS Board MTG @ Janie's 2pm	8	9
10 Chinese New Year	11	12 Lincoln's B Day & Madi Gras	13 Ash Wed.	14 Valentines Day	15	16
17	18 President's Day Observed	19	20	21 MOROKS General Mtg. 7pm	22 Washington's Birthday	23
24	25	26	27	28		

# MOROKS NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2013



## MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS



### Club Information Our Website is [www.moroks.com](http://www.moroks.com)

#### ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – Janie Duncan	(626) 358-8157
VICE PRESIDENT – Cal Matthews	(626) 798-7481
SECRETARY – Michele Silcock	(626) 357 8425
TREASURER – Jim Lloyd	(626) 793-9239
AUDITOR – Jo Anna Ritchey	(626) 359-1624
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
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
PHOTO – Donald Sneberger	(626) 941 6214
FELLOWSHIP/cards – Louise Stack	(626) 966-0350
REPRESENTATIVE – Gail Parks	(626) 359-6811
REPRESENTATIVE – Camille Rutkowski	(626) 289-2621

**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.

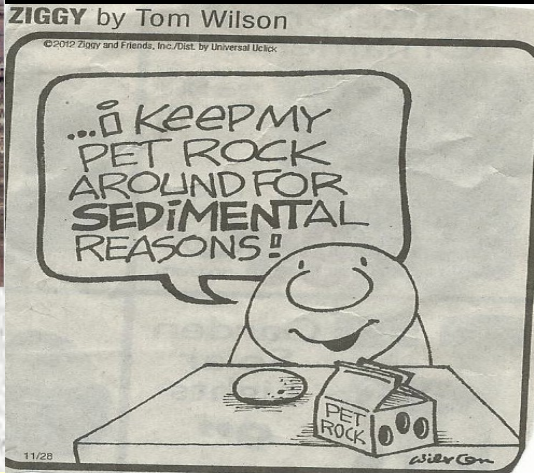
#### VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

*Permission to reprint is granted if acknowledgement is given.*

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

**Monrovia  
Rockhounds  
FEBRUARY  
Birthdays**

- Charlene Marks 4
- Micheal Vannatta 12
- Mark Batatian 12
- Thomas Witt 11



**Proof of prehistoric life in the Rodman Mountains of San Bernardino County, California. Picture taken by Don Eschbach via The Rockhounds**

Where does the color go? Rubies are red, emeralds are green, but powdered rubies and emeralds are white. The color of the transparent substances such as gemstones and glass is due to the fact that these substances partly transmit and partly reflect the color that you see. If you crushed a substance such as copper sulfate, it would be completely white. To display it's normal color, the stone has to be in pieces that are large in comparison to the wavelength of the light hitting it. *Via The Rockhound*



**PREZ SEZ**

It is only 2 months till our show! Time to plan ahead. PLEASE think about putting in a case this year. The club has liners and we will help you with labels and setting it up. I have all the sign up sheets if you know when you want to volunteer for our booths. *Janie Duncan*



**VICE PREZ SEZ**

Jay Valle did an excellent program on how the American Lands Access Association works. For February we will have a DVD about Rhodocrocite, the lovely pink stone from Argentina. Don't miss this one! *Cal Matthews*



January 3rd

**MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS BOARD MEETING**

**President:** *Janie Duncan* called The meeting was called to order at 2:10 PM

**Vice President:** *Cal Matthews* January is Jay Valle who will explain the ALAA. February is a DVD on Rhodochrosite. I have seen it and it is a really good one.

**Secretary:** *Michele Silcock* was absent. The minutes were approved as corrected at the board meeting from what was written in the bulletin. **Representative:** *Camille Rutkowski* no report. **Representative:** *Gail Parks* was absent

**Auditor:** *Jo Anna Ritchey* Absent We still need the last 2 quarters reports in writing.

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

**Federation:** *Jo Anna Ritchey* was absent. The CFMS Show will be in Ventura in 2013. May 31—June 3

**Fellowship:** *Louise Stack* 5 birthdays in January and Jo Anna is starting some post op treatments.

**Treasurer:** *Jim Lloyd* He reported 42 paid members.

**Photographer:** *Donald Sneberger* Donald took pics at the general meeting and will photograph the party.

**Field trip:** *Ray Ritchey* No report. Go to Quartzite!

**Rock of the Month Talk:** Louise Stack will do Thundereggs in January.

**Bulletin:** *Janie Duncan* No report.

**Great Rock Drawing:** *Louise Stack*

**Custodian:** *Jim Lloyd* no report.

**Historian:** *Nancy Hamrick* was absent. **Picnic:** *Donald Sneberger* no report.

**Refreshments:** Colleen Chestnut will do January. Nancy and Michele will do February.

**Show:** *Jo Anna Ritchey* was absent 14 have paid dealers. Janie printed more flyers and will drop some at he Bead Co. Janie will print tickets and full page flyers right away. We will still need a new banner. Jo Anna is going to order geodes and tumbled stones to be picked up at Quartzite in Jan. Janie is working on kids Quiz.

**Old Business:** *Janie Duncan* 1. Camille Rutkowski and Louise Stack are the chairman of the 2013 nominating committee. You may nominate someone with their permission or contact the committee. The proposed slates is President Janie Duncan Vice President Camille Rutkowski, Treasurer Jim Lloyd. Secretary Micelle Silcock and Auditor Louise Stack. We vote in February. 2. We paid for our MAFA booth in Oct. now. 3. Janie and Louise is doing Cookie Kickoff. 4. Janie is helping with Girl Scout Science Day. See pic on page.7. 5. There will be a meeting of the ALAA in Quartzite. Check their website for details

**New Business** We voted to accept Stephen Hollingworth as a new member at the next meeting he attends and pays.

Janie Duncan Adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm

**Behold the Work of the Old...Let your Heritage not be lost, But bequeath it as a Memory, Treasure and Blessing...Gather the lost and the hidden And preserve it for thy Children. Christian Metz..1846**

**Bench Tips by Brad Smith More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at FaceBook [facebook.com/BenchTips](http://facebook.com/BenchTips) or at [groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips)**



#### SHEET & WIRE STORAGE

The more you work with jewelry, the more problems you have finding the piece of metal you need. My pieces of sheet were generally stored in various plastic bags, and the wire in separate coils. Few were marked, so it often took me a while to locate that piece of 26 gauge fine sheet I bought last year, especially since I usually take my supplies back and forth to classes. A tip from a friend helped me organize everything. I bought an expanding file folder from the office supplies store (the kind that has 13 slots and a folding cover) and marked the tabs for each gauge of metal I use. Then I marked all my pieces of sheet with their gauge, put them in plastic bags, marked the gauge on the bag, and popped them into the folder. I usually store coils of wire loose in the folder, but they can also be bagged if you prefer. I use one tab for bezel wire and one for the odd, miscellaneous items. The resulting folder is convenient when I want to take my metal out to a class or workshop. It is also colorful enough for me to find in the clutter of the shop!

JANUARY 17th

**MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS GENERAL MEETING**

**President:** *Janie Duncan* was absent and Cal Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

**Vice President:** *Cal Matthews* Tonight is Jay Valle who will explain the ALAA. February is a DVD on Rhodocrosite.

**Secretary:** *Michele Silcock* was absent. The minutes were approved as corrected from written in the bulletin.

**Representative:** *Camille Rutkowski* absent **Representative:** *Gail Parks* absent.

**Treasurer:** Jim Lloyd. 42 paid members and a guest tonight that wants to be a member.

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

**Federation:** *Jo Anna Ritchey* was absent The 2013 CFMS Show and meeting will be at the Ventura County Fairgrounds 2013 May 31-June 2nd. You can take the train there. It is hosted by 3 clubs. Conjo, Ventura and Northridge.

**Fellowship:** *Louise Stack* 2 guests present. Jay Valle & Em and 7 members. The meeting was held upstairs.

**Photographer:** Donald Sneberger took pictures for the club.

**Field trip:** *Ray Ritchey* was absent. Go to *Quartzite*.

**Rock of the Month Talk:** Louise Stack did a talk on Thunder eggs. Janie suggests bringing samples of Rhodochrochite for February.

**Bulletin:** *Janie Duncan* was absent no report.

**Picnic:** *Donald Sneberger* No report.

**Great Rock Drawing:** *Louise Stack* The petrified wood was won by Marcus Look.

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

**Refreshments:** Colleen Chestnut brought them tonight. Nancy Hamrick & Michele Silcock volunteered for February.

**Show:** *Jo Anna Ritchey* was absent 14 dealers paid. We still have a couple of dealers not paid. We have some new dealers lined up! Janie dropped off more show flyers and full pager flyers. Jim has tickets to sell tonight and sign up sheets for the booths and set up clean up and truck rental and return. Janie is working on the Kids Quiz and main and hourly prizes. We will get the geodes and tumbled stones this week. Please pay for them.

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

**Old Business:** *Janie Duncan* 1. Camille Rutkowski and Louise Stack are the nominating committee for the 2013 proposed slate of officers. You may contact them if you want to run or be nominated. You must have permission from the person you nominate. This is the slate. President: Janie Duncan Vice President: Camille Rutkowski Treasures: Jim Lloyd Sectary: Michele Silcock Auditor Louise Stack. We vote next month.

**New Business:** *Janie Duncan* was absent *Cal Matthews:* 1. The club will buy geodes and a case of tumbled stones at Quartzite. Jo Anna will pick them up. Janie wants 4 bags, Aynn 1 bag and Donald 1 bag.

2. Janie has 2 booths for us next month for the Girl Scouts. Cookie Kickoff day January 12th 10-2 Janie asked Louise to help from 9-3 at Holy Angels Church in Arcadia. Janie is helping with a booth at the Girl Scout Science day on Jan. 20th. 3. We have a guest that wants to be a new member. We will vote at the board meeting and contact him.

**Janie Duncan was absent Cal Matthews** Adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm

## The Trivia Vug

by RJ Harris What's in a name?

The name aquamarine stems from the Latin *aqua marina*, literally meaning "sea water" in allusion to its blue and greenish-blue colors. Hemimorphite is from the Greek *hemi*, meaning "half," and *morphe*, "form," and alludes to its singular property of having different crystal form on opposite ends. Spinel is a name that goes back to at least 1546, and may be from the Latin *spinella*, "little thorn," in allusion to spinel's common crystal form, or may be from the Greek word for "spark. The name stilbite is derived from the Greek *stilbein*, meaning "to glitter," a reference to the mineral's bright, vitreous luster. The name is pronounced jipl-sum, and comes from the Greek *gypsos*, meaning "chalk," which to them included gypsum, dehydrated gypsum, lime, and similar material. In Latin, it was *gypsum*. Source: *Mineral of the Month Club via Gem Cutters News*



<http://www.amlands.org> for more information on what you can do to protect our rock sites.



## How I Got Interested In Minerals. By Rock Currier via MSSC Newsletter



In 1963 I dropped out of my senior year at UCLA as a chemistry major, to do what I did not know. My father, a doctor, had paid for as much education as I could stand though he didn't say much about it, he must have been disappointed that I had not gone on to be a doctor like he and my grandfather. Although no one ever said I needed to go out and get a job, I found myself going through the want ads in the Los Angeles times and soon found myself driving my 51 straight 6, stick shift Chevy up from Los Angeles up and over the Cajon pass into the Mojave Desert to the little mining town of Boron, California for a job interview. I got a job in the control laboratory at the borate refinery perched on the edge of the big open pit borate mine, doing routine chemical analysis of various borates that the refinery produced. My boss was a man named Vince Morgan and in his office were book shelves and instead of books, the shelves were filled with fine examples of crystal specimens of the various borate minerals produced by the mine. I ask him how he made them and he said that he didn't make them, but that they were found naturally in the mine and were a product of natural inorganic crystallization, that been encountered during the mining in the open pit. He said I could collect some from the big mine dumps from the mine that were adjacent to the open pit. The dumps consisted mostly of boulders of colemanite and ulexite from the mine. The ore they ran through the refinery was borax, and the colemanite and ulexite were of no immediate interest to the company, because they were more costly to refine than borax. The other borate mines in California, and Nevada has been closed because they produced either colemanite or ulexite and were not commercially viable against the crystalline borax that was the main ore at Boron, which needed only to be dissolved in hot water and recrystallized. I was soon out on the dumps at Boron hammering away on boulders of colemanite/ulexite with a claw hammer and an old screw driver as a chisel and finding fabulous treasures. That was long before they had the perimeter fenced and guards on patrol. I would bring my priceless gems back to the lab to show my boss who would then show me some of the seriously fine ones in his collection. I would look at his and then back at mine and then throw mine away and go back to the dumps and search for better ones. I soon bought a sledge hammer and in my zeal to find specimens remember wondering why the handle kept getting slippery. I found out that the little colemanite crystals were so razor sharp that they had cut my hands without me even feeling it and it was my blood that was making the handle of the sledge slippery and that the specks of realgar on some of my colemanite specimens was not realgar but drops of my Blood. Soon I discovered that the guys who operated the heavy equipment in the open pit were the guys who had the really good specimens which they would sell for what seemed reasonable prices and that the drilling and blasting forman, Howard Pomptier had the really good stuff. Pretty soon I was showing up in the lab with good specimens. I knew they were good because my boss who was a real expert on borates said stuff like "Where in the world did you get that specimen." And he could show me none better. That got me started. I



and collect what ever we could. After a few years I became president of the society and we moved the annual show into the Pasadena center. Shortly after that I moved back to NY for 4 years to work for a chemical company and spent my spare time chasing around to eastern US mineral museums, private mineral collections and specimen localities. I took a lot of pictures. That was my “college education” in minerals. In 1972 the job came to an end and I was soon off to India for Indian zeolites. That marked the beginning as my life as a mineral dealer and since then I can’t believe that already 40 years have passed. After India came Peru, and many other countries and tons of specimens. It’s been a good ride.

The Monrovia Rockhounds would like to express our gratitude to Rock Currier for his many years of support to our club by doing free programs and inviting us to his open houses each year.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH ROCK CURRIER! YOU ROCK!**



**GREAT  
JOB  
MELISSA  
SCHWANDT!**



Melissa Schwandt's Troop 161 of Monrovia Silver Presentation at Girl Scout Science Day where she served core sample cupcakes and did an excellent job of teaching sedimentary rocks to 80 girls and 40 adults. Monrovia Rockhounds had a display and gave out show flyers and tumbled stones.

## HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY FEBRUARY 14TH



**Astorite** Swirling pinks, clear and little fibers of gold and silver make up Astorite. The color ranges from pink, red, clear, white, dark with translucent to opaque areas, showing little flecks of gold and silver. This stone, its contradictions, colors, minerals and metallics, from composition to formation, is one of a kind.

Astorite is basically rhodonite, but in addition also contains - pardon us if we get rock-geeky here! - rhodochrosite, quartz (in the form of pseudomorphs, and chalcedony, after quartz), and ore gangue silicified (complex sulfide ore with native metallics of gold, silver, copper, lead and chalcopryite). This combination is what gives it a special look - as far as we know, astorite is only found at a very remote area of Colorado in a mine located 12,000 feet above sea level in an avalanche chute.



The mineral and mine are named after the previous mine owner JOHN JACOB ASTOR IV. The wealthiest man in the United States at his death, his estimated value in today's dollars would be approximately \$1.3 Billion. He left a fortune that has continued to make the family name prominent. The Astor Mine in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado Astor was a well traveled man and knew quality and value. So it's not surprising that he found and purchased the Astor Mine in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado. The mine was closed when John Jacob Astor IV went down in 1912 with the Titanic in the Atlantic. The portal was sealed upon John's death not to be re-opened until 2001. Today this mine produces the finest unique ore body in the world, now known as "astorite." Excerpted from <<http://www.trashcity.com/historyofastorite.htm>> and <<http://www.trashcity.com/storite.htm>> , via via chips & Splinters





## OWHYEE JASPER

Source *Ron Gibbs*

On the eastern side of Oregon there is a lake called Owyhee Lake, feed by a river with the same name. This area of Oregon is high desert country and contains an abundance of fine jaspers and agates. The various varieties of Owyhee Jasper share a geographic region not a single locale.

There are many different looks to the Owyhee jaspers and they are not all found in the same spot, but all include Owyhee as part of their name. Not only does the Owyhee area jaspers produce the scenic variety, but it also produces artistic works reminiscent of Asian paintings, modern works of art, and strong abstract color patterns. Two example of Owyhee scenic type jasper can be seen to the right, one happens to have a green sky, but Owyhee scenic also produces blue skies in some pieces. Mountains, valleys, and dunes are common scenic features, some with small dendritic plants or tree shapes.

Asian style design and paintings can often be found in the Owyhee Flower Jasper which, by the way, is also sold as Chinese Dendritic Jasper. This jasper is usually cream colored with red splotches, often connected with fine dendrites, and the red areas are often surrounded by pale green halos. The example shows warm, brown-red color zones connected by a fine series of dark lines

The Owyhee Sunset Jasper, has warmer colors, less details, but often shows us the world with a stylized sunset.

Last, but certainly not least is the Owyhee known as the Cherry Creek variety. This is my favorite type for its bright red color veining that is often surrounded by cream-yellow or even blue areas of color. Sometimes both in the same stone. It often contains fine dendrites and resembles strong abstract art . All of the Owyhee Jaspers appear to come from silicified mud-stones or siltstones. They are very fine grained, uniformly hard, take a great polish, they are truly porcelain jaspers of the highest quality.

### Santa Ana Rock & Mineral Club

Via CHIPS 'N SPLINTERS



## Go see a CFMS Show this February!

**February 15 - 24: INDIO, CA** San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival 46-530 Arabia Street Hours: 10 - 10 daily Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674 Email: [bert67@verizon.net](mailto:bert67@verizon.net)

The Blarney Stone is a block of bluestone built into the battlements of Blarney Castle, Blarney, in, Ireland. According to legend, kissing the stone endows the kisser with the gift of the gab (great eloquence or skill at flattery). The castle has been a popular tourist site since at least the 1800's. An early story has Cormac Laidir MacCarthy, the builder of Blarney Castle, being involved in a lawsuit, and appealing to Clíodhna (in some stories a queen of the banshees, in others a goddess of love and beauty), for her assistance. She told MacCarthy to kiss the first stone he found in the



morning on his way to court. He did so, with the result that he pleaded his case with great eloquence and won. Thus the Blarney Stone is said to impart "the ability to deceive without offending." MacCarthy then incorporated it into the parapet of the castle. The stone was set into a tower of the castle in 1446. via Chips and Splinters

# West Coast GEM & MINERAL SHOW

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

(Take 55 Fwy exit 8 for Dyer Rd. to S. Grand Ave.)

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Tourmaline  
Jeff Scovil Photo©

## What Is A Rockhound?

*A Teacher/Educator*  
*A Mineralogist*  
*A Geologist*  
*A Paleontologist*  
*An Archaeologist*  
*A Biologist*  
*A Botanist*  
*A Herpetologist*  
*An Entomologist*  
*A Lapidary*  
*A Student*  
*A Sculptor*  
*A Jeweler*  
*A Photographer*  
*A Painter*  
*A Four-Wheeler*  
*A Hiker*  
*A Biker*  
*A Conservationist*  
*A Recreationist*  
*And a Responsible Citizen*