MOROKS

FEBRUARY 2015

Monrovia Rockhounds Newsletter

P.O. Box 553 Monrovia, CA 91017 Editor – Janie Duncan









Monrovia Rockhounds February 2015 Newsletter

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----------------------|-------------|-----|--|-----|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 MOROKS Board Mtg. @ Janie's 2:15pm | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY |
| 15 | 16 President's Day | 17 | 18 | 19 MOROKS General Mtg. Workshop | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 Flag Day | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

MOROKS FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER



MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS



Our Website is www.moroks.com



ELECTED OFFICERS

CHAIRPERSONS



PRESIDENT – NEWSLETTER Janie Duncan (626) 358-8157 REPRESENTATIVE – Ray Ritchey

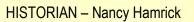


REPRESENTATIVE - Colleen Chestnut



VICE PRESIDENT - Camille Rutkowski

FEDERATION – Jo Anna Ritchev (626) 359-1624



(626) 358-8157



SECRETARY - Michele Silcock

CUSTODIAN - Jim Lloyd

BULLETIN - Janie Duncan

PICNIC – PHOTO Donald Sneberger



TREASURER - CUSTODIAN - Jim Lloyd

SHOW – WEBSITE – Jo Anna Ritchey

(626) 359-1624

ROCK DRAWING - Louise Stack

FIELD TRIP - Ray Ritchey



AUDITOR - FELLOWSHIP Louise Stack

CARD FELLOWSHIP— Aynn Freeman

Mission Statement: Our Purpose is to promote popular interest and education in the earth sciences, including geology, mineralogy, paleontology, the lapidary arts, and related subjects; to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of persons and groups with similar interests; and by and through such means to strive toward greater community and international good will and fellowship. We also support promoting and ensuring the right of amateur hobby collecting, recreational rock hunting and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes related to the earth sciences. We are a registered 501 C 3 non profit organization.

Affiliations & Accreditations: The Monrovia Rockhounds is affiliated with the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. (CFMS), the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS), and the American Lands Access Association (ALAA).

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, mineral logy, 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.

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



Prez Sez

Before we know it the 2015 show will be upon us so it is time to get started. Plan to put in a showcase this year. We have the liners for you. If you need help just ask. We need main prizes for the rock show. PLEASE bring your items to Michele at the February meeting! *Is*

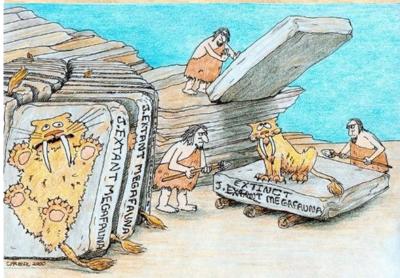
there anyone interesting in helping get companies to donate goods for the rock show? Please call Janie if you can help.

Janie Duncan Vice Prez Sez

There are some interesting programs as well as February's show workshop meeting coming up. Please join us!

"SMART ROCKS" TAKE A SWIM BY DR. VIVIEN GORNITZ

Stream hydrologists and geologists would like to know where the tons of cobbles, pebbles, and sediment moved by rivers actually wind up. Clearly, they move downstream, but how fast they move, how far they go, how they respond to the continuous jostling they experience, and how they interact with other cobbles along the way are not well understood. Current models that attempt to predict how sediments move in a river are often off by at least a factor of ten. Engineers in charge of protecting bridges, dams, and levees from floods, and naturalists concerned with river ecology need such information, since rivers transport hundreds of millions of tons of rock, sand, and silt each year, worldwide. Building "smart rocks" is an attempt to gain more such information. In one recent experiment, over 200 brightly painted natural rocks were equipped with radio tags inserted into small drill holes. Four others were brushed aluminum "smart rocks", cleverly designed to imitate the shape and density of real stones, and outfitted with custom- made electronics to measure and record movements 512 times per second. These aluminum, smart rocks are pricey-costing roughly \$800 each. Of the 200 tagged stones launched in an Idaho stream early in 2011, eventually 150 were recovered. Half had moved 2.5 km downstream, while a few adventurous ones had gotten as far as 6.4 km. A couple of smaller ones even traveled as far as 7 km! The faux rocks were less fortunate. Metal detectors supposed to find the aluminum "rocks" proved worthless-the streambed was full of metal junk-old cans and ranching tools. A curious rancher's dog spotted one "smart rock" over 2 km from its launch point; one of the researchers accidentally found a second, 900 meters downstream. The other two have wandered off to parts unknown. But the batteries of the two survivors that should have lasted a month had died after only 40 hours. Worse yet, these smart rocks "very accurately recorded no movements whatsoever." The radio-equipped genuine rocks, however, did yield some useful information on the role of local topography and channel width affected the distribution of the tagged stones. Meanwhile, a new kind of smart rock is being tested along Reynolds Creek, Idaho. This type is made by filling rubber molds of natural rocks with wet concrete. A matchbox-sized accelerometer is inserted before the concrete sets. Its battery lasts for months and records the rock's spatial orientation four times an hour, allowing researchers to deter- mine the movement of rocks along the streambed "from the point of view of the rocks." For easy



spotting and retrieval, the special rocks are spray-painted in gaudy colors. In the spring of 2012, 73 of this new batch of smart rocks, along with 1200 simpler, radiotagged rocks were launched into the same stream. Over a 10 km stretch, the experimenters later recovered 33 out of the 73 rocks, and this time most had continued to collect useful data. These initial attempts point out the utility in eventually scaling up the use of smart rocks to examine river networks of all shapes and sizes, even major continental rivers, such as the Nile, or the Mississippi. But further research is needed before such lofty goals can be achieved. Further Reading: Underwood, E., 2012. "How to build a smarter rock." From Bulletin of the New York Mineralogical Society January 2013 via The Rockhounder

January 5th

MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS BOARD MEETING

President: Janie Duncan called the meeting to order at 1:45 PM.

Vice President: *Camille Rutkowski* January is Tony and Sandy Fender on Mt. Saint Helens. February will be a station table workshop on crafts for the Treasure wheel and show. April is the Silent Auction. May is Dick and Mary Pat Weber Pilbara Region of Australia.

Secretary: *Michele Silcock* The minutes were approved as written in the bulletin.

Representative: Ray Ritchey no report Representative: Colleen Chestnut no report

Treasurer: Jim Lloyd. We have 49 paid members.

Auditor: Louise Stack no report

Website: Jo Anna Ritchey It is up to date.

Photographer: Donald Sneberger gave the card to Jo Anna to try to get the Christmas Party pictures off it.

Federation: Jo Anna Ritchey The 2015 Show will be in Lodi and hosted by the CFMS officers. The 2016 in Placer-

ville. They are near gold panning areas and will have fieldstrips.

Fellowship: Louise Stack Ray just turned 70. Happy Birthday Ray. Card Fellowship: Aynn Freeman has sent cards

Field trip: go to Quartzite

Bulletin: *Janie Duncan* No report **Historian:** *Nancy Hamrick* absent

Potluck Bingo BBQ night: Donald Sneberger no report

Great Rock Drawing: *Louise Stack* January Rose Quartz sphere.

Custodian: Jim Lloyd No report

Refreshments: Judy Romine and Janie Duncan will bring them for January.

Show: *Jo Anna Ritchey* She has assigned sub chairmen for show. Michele will do the Main Prizes, **WE NEED MAIN AND HOURLY PRIZES**. Please bring them to the February meeting. Janie will do Kids, Kitchen and ticket printing. Louise Stack will do Volunteers. Aynn Freeman will do the Treasure Wheel. William has been asked to do Security and Publicity and Denise Davis main prize tickets sales. Tom will do the truck and Thomas Witt may do the overnight security. Jo Anna has asked Ray Audette to help with grab bags. All indoor spots are filled. Jo Anna has got the tumbled stones and some other items for the Treasure Table.

Old Business: Janie Duncan T shirts will be for sale at the January meeting. \$10.00 each

Michele Silcock is the 2014 nominating Committee chairman. See her if you wish to run for office. The proposed slate of officers is Janie Duncan President Michele Silcock Vice President Jim Lloyd Treasure Louise Stack Auditor Denise Davis Secretary. 2. Michele and Janie did a booth for Girl Scout Cookie Kickoff.

New Business : Janie has a booth at Emperor School Wed. Feb. 5th. Louise Stack will help her. Janie also has 2 geology days for Cub Scouts coming up this month.

Janie Duncan Adjourned the meeting at 1:59 pm

Bench Tips by Brad Smith More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at FaceBook facbook.com/BenchTips or at groups.yahoo.com/group/ Get all of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon .com

LAYOUT TOOLS Dimensions on some features of a design can be fluid while others must be accurate for the design to work. When precision on a piece is important,

good layout techniques are essential. These are the tools that I rely upon to get holes in the right place, to achieve correct angles, and to cut pieces the correct length. I like crisp sharp lines to follow, so I often coat surfaces with a dark marker and scribe my layout lines onto the metal. A square makes quick work of checking right angles or marking where to cut, and the thin center punch helps me mark a place to drill holes exactly where I want them. Finally, a good set of dividers is probably my favorite layout tool. They let me quickly mark a strip for cutting, swing an arc, and divide a line or curve into as many equal segments as I need.

I keep at least one set of dividers in every toolbox.

January 14th

MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS GENERAL MEETING

Page 5

President: Janie Duncan called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Vice President: *Camille Rutkowski* January is Tony and Sandy Fender on Mt. Saint Helens. February will be a station table workshop on crafts for the Treasure wheel and show. April is the Silent Auction. May is Dick and Mary Pat Weber Pilbara Region of Australia.

Secretary: *Michele Silcock* The minutes were approved as written in the bulletin.

Representative: *Ray Ritchey* no report **Representative:** *Colleen Chestnut* no report

Treasurer: *Jim Lloyd.* We have 49 paid members by the end of the night.

Auditor Louise Stack: no report

Website: Jo Anna Ritchey up to date.

Federation: *Jo Anna Ritchey* The 2015 Show will be in Lodi and hosted by CFMS officers. The 2016 in Placerville. They are near gold panning areas. There will be field trips.

Fellowship: Louise Stack We had 4 guests present. Tony and Sandy Fender David and Kathy. Ray turned 70.

Happy Birthday ray Ritchey.

Photographer: Donald Sneberger No report

Show: *Jo Anna Ritchey* has assigned sub chairmen for show. We have a couple of new dealers for the show next year. Michele will do the Main Prizes, Janie will do Kids, Kitchen and ticket printing. Louise Stack will do Volunteers. Aynn Freeman will do the Treasure Wheel. William and Ralph will to do Security and Publicity. Denise Davis main prize tickets sales. Tom will do the truck and Thomas Witt may do the overnight security. All indoor dealers are final. Ray Audette is doing Grab Bags. We got tumbled stones from Village Originals now. Inside dealers are filled. Jo Anna got slabs for the installation.

MOROKS Fun Day:

Field trip: Quartzite

Bulletin: Janie Duncan There is will be no emails, birthdays or phone numbers except the Ritchey's and Janie's

Historian: Nancy Hamrick no report

Potluck Bingo BBQ night: Donald Sneberger No report

Great Rock Drawing: Louise Stack The drawing was for a Quartz Sphere and a sharks tooth. Rob Hull won the

sphere.

Custodian: Jim Lloyd no report

Refreshments: Janie Duncan and Judy Romine have volunteered for tonight. Nancy Hamrich volunteered for February.

Old Business: *Janie Duncan 1.* Michele Silcock has volunteered to be Chairman of the 2015 Election of officers. The proposed slate of officers is Cal Matthews President Michele Silcock Vice President Jim Lloyd Treasure Louise Stack Auditor Denise Davis Secretary. If you wish to run for an office please see Michele.

We have t-shirts for sale tonight for \$10.00 each.

New Business: Janie Duncan 1. Janie has a girl scout rock booth coming up in January.

- 2. She is also helping a group of Boy Scouts in a geology identification competition and has a Pack of Cub Scouts doing a geology day at her home.
- 3. Janie has a booth at Emperor School Wed. Feb. 5th. Louise Stack will help her.

Janie Duncan Adjourned the meeting at 7:25pm

Rock Song Title of the Month: 'Heart of Stone' ~ Fleetwood Mac

February Program will be a club workshop on Treasure Table Items



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

So, what do you get when you mix a rockhound with a Barbie collector? Why, *Rockhound Barbie*, what else?



Today I had the pleasure of meeting Barbara (Bee) Amato and her creation, Rockhound Barbie, at a prearranged meeting the Executive Inn. I first heard about Bee and Rockhound Barbie from some fellow rockhounds during Tucson's Old Pueblo Lapidary Club's annual show last November. Rockhound Barbie sounded pretty cool and I was able to contact Bee, who lives in Mesa, Arizona, and made arrangements to meet with her at the EI during the Show. I thought Rockhound Barbie and the story behind her might make an interesting feature for the '99 report and I wasn't disappointed.

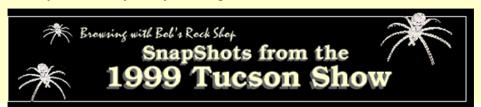
In addition to being a rockhound, Bee is a Barbie collector and while the 100 or so Barbies in that collection is dwarfed by the number of rocks in her other collection, that's still quite a few Barbies. Of all her Barbies, Bee is fondest of her 'Belle', made by Matel. Bee wasn't sure when the idea for Rockhound Barbie first germinated, but by the 1997 Arizona State Fair, Bee had created her and entered Rockhound Barbie as an exhibit in the Fair. Rockhound Barbie was a big hit at the Fair, and Bee was subsequently encouraged and invited to enter a Rockhound Barbie as a competitive display in the Mineralogical Society of Arizona's 1997 show. Bee related that Rockhound Barbie received the Visitor's Choice award,

in spite of going up against some pretty stiff competition from more conventional displays. Bee's original plan included ongoing production of Rockhound Barbies, but after completing her pilot run of a dozen dolls, she decided to curtail further production due to the large amount of time creating them entailed. After checking out one I understood why they take so long to make - the detail Bee has incorporated in her Rockhound Barbies is pretty amazing.

Bee is a typesetter by vocation and has the skills and access to equipment which enabled her to do a really slick job on the package as well as the collecting equipment and paraphernalia, which includes a miniature 'Watch for Rocks' sign, pick, bag of Fritos, shovel, a pack of Marlboros (empty, of course), an Arizona State map, a gold pan brimming with fools gold, a bucket full of rocks, and a snake. Hey, you should do so well collecting as Rockhound Barbie - check out her rock bucket! The tools are modeled from an epoxy putty and employ dowels for handles. The Arizona map even incorporates a miniature picture of Fife Symington, a former AZ governor who got himself into serious legal trouble over shady financial matters and fraud. The images on the package were derived and scanned from photos of an Arizona mine entrance.

Needless to say, I thought Rockhound Barbie was way cool and my virtual hat is off to Bee for her humorous and creative project. I just couldn't resist, and Bob's Rock Shop is now a proud owner of one

of only a dozen Rockhound Barbies in the world. Bee reported that many of the Rockhound Barbie sales were to dealers. Bee related that at \$50, her Rockhound Barbies were not usually purchased on impulse. The buyers typically wanted to 'think about it', and after they did, they did. Sorry, they're all gone...







↑ Janie and Michele at Girl Scout Cookie Kickoff Rock Booth.

Janie giving a Rock/Local Geology Talk at Monrovia Canyon Park for the volunteers.

She was upstaged by a dog selfie \rightarrow



Fiber Optic Gems: What are They?

by Bill Grimes

Fiber optics was developed as a result of someone studying a piece of the mineral Ulexite. Also known as TV rock, it is a hard, brittle, fibrous stone which when writing is placed underneath, will allow the image to appear on the surface of the stone. This led to the theory that if this type of fibrous material could be manufactured, it could be used in many different ways where image transmission was needed. Fiber optic cables were at first very slender and flexible, used in surgeries and in household decorations. The manufacturing technology improved and soon manufacturers were spinning out miles of cable for a new application - data transmission lines. These lines can be up to two inches across. The cable consists of thousands of pairs of optic fibers. Each pair carries data for phone, computer, fax, etc. Since the sides of the cable are

reflective, there is no need for insulation or shielding around each fiber, as in old phone lines. This translates to more pairs



in a smaller space. For use in the hobby, this created one of the newest gem treasures.

Fiber Optic Cabs In order to make a fiber optic cabochon, the cable scraps are first cut into small lengths. The cable is then either cut into spheres, or it is sectioned parallel to the length of the fiber. Once the slices are made, it is cut much like any other gem. However, care must be taken to protect the ends of the cable from splintering, catching cutting dirt, abrasives, etc. There is an interesting thing about fiber optic gems. If you look at them from a 90 degree angle from the eye of the gem, the gem will be transparent to light, maintaining its properties for light transmission.

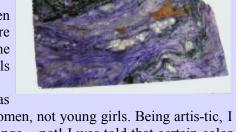
Via CGMG News s January, 2015

Gem Profile - Charoite

by Dale "Cougar" Armstrong, from The Voice, April 2013 via Gem Cutters News A large polished slab of charoite that we think resembles Van Gogh's painting Starry Night. Private Collection

Charoite, the intense phlox-purple stone that can include black, peach, orange, and even green minerals in its enchanting surface, is a fairly rare rock found only in Siberia, where locals call it *Sirenevyi Kamen*, or lilac stone. Charoite is also a fairly recent addition to the rock and gem world, was not discovered until the 20th century. Dis-cover what minerals make up charoite, and how this stone is typically treated, in today's Gem Profile!

Although purple was my favorite color at age 10, I was not allowed to wear it because I was



told that both purple and black were "mourning" colors and meant to be worn by older women, not young girls. Being artis-tic, I thought I could get away with wearing purple if I brightened it up by adding green or orange – not! I was told that certain color combinations just did not go together, like green and purple, or orange and purple. My, how times have changed! Of course, back then my mother was heav-ily into mineral collecting, but only those found in North America. Little did she know that Mother Nature had already decided that yes! Purple and orange DO go together quite beauti-fully, in the natural formation of the mineral known as Charoite.

It is said that charoite was first discovered in the 1940's, but that it was not recognized until around 1978. Perhaps this is because the one place in the world where it can be found is in Siberia, where both the weather and terrain are beyond the definition of harsh. Charoite is a calcium potassium silicate mineral forming in limestone deposits, in beautiful shades that range from lavender to lilac to purple; with contrasting colors of black, green and orange. Although the name relates to the Chary or Charo River in Yakutia, Russia near where charoite is found, Russian people call it *Sirenevyi Kamen* or lilac stone.

The gem-rock charoite is always found as a massive mineral, meaning that it does not crystallize. Its silky chatoyant, violet swirls are often con-trasted by the black needles of ae-gerineaugite, the peach to orange of tinkasite and green microcline. When a lapidary works with charoite they are often presented the challenge of the stone "peeling" away at its edges due to the fact that the stone is com-posed in irregular layers, similar to a mica schist. Charoite is also difficult to polish because it is a fibrous ma-terial and all of the different inclu-sions each have a different hardness. Besides being made into cabochons and beads, charoite registers a 5 to 6 on the Mohs hardness scale and carvers use it to make ornamen-tal items such as urns and vases, candlesticks and statuary.

Considered to be rather rare be-cause it only comes from one location, open pit mining is only done a few months out of every year, often pro-ducing huge quarry sized stones. How-ever as this is a "new kid on the block," when looking to purchase charoite, you should be aware of some sellers' classifications. Charoite with a lot of chatoyancy, few inclusions, nice feather-like structure and good deep color is considered to be the best quali-ty; while material with inclusions of black, peach, and or orange is not considered to be pure and should be more affordable. As a designer, I prefer the inclusions!

Charoite is distinctive and easy to recognize. Its pearly luster and deep chatoyancy might make one think it isn't a natural stone, but the only imi-tations are plastic or possibly opaque to translucent fluorite that has been intentionally labeled charoite to make a sale. A lot of the charoite beads on the market today have been stabi-lized with resin, making the material easier to work and polish. Natural charoite will be quite a bit more ex-pensive than stabilized material and both are equally beautiful.

Resources

· <u>Minerals of the World</u> by Walter Schumann, ISBN 0-8069-8570-4 <www.gemtradenet.com> <www.vangoghgallery.com> <www.mindat.org <www.wikipedia.org>



2014 MOROKS

Xmas

Party

Colleen

Wins

The

Big

Prize!





Pictures by Donald Sneberger

MOROKS PICTURE PAGE

Pics Page January Program Fender's Mount Saint Helens Eruption



Jim Lloyd

Janie Duncan

Louise Stack



Tony and Sandy Fender

Happy 70th Birthday Ray Ritchey!





CFMS February Rock Shows

February 13 - 22: INDIO, CA San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society, Cabazon Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival 82-503 Highway 11 Hours: 10 - 10 daily Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674

Email: bert67@verizon.net

February 27 - March 8, IMPERIAL, CA Imperial Valley Gem & Mineral Society Imperial Valley Expo 200 East 2nd Street dd Hours: Weekends noon - 10 pm; Weekdays 4 pm - 10 pm John Pyle, Jr. (760) 562-3453

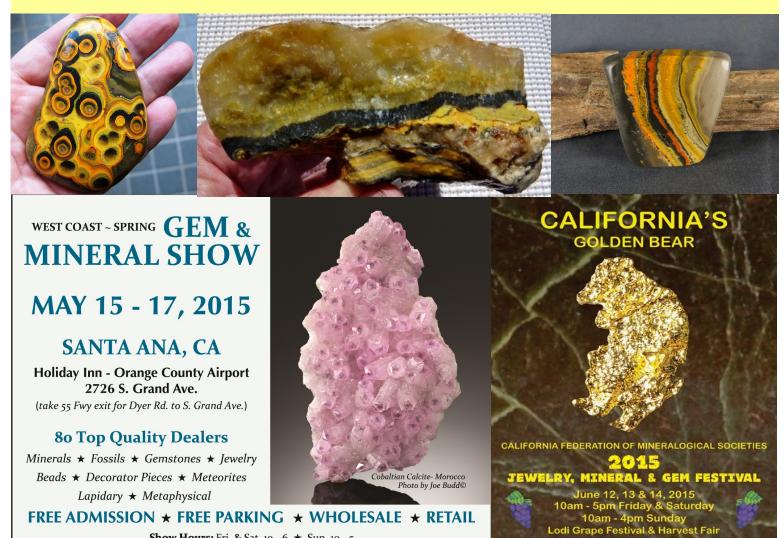
Email: jcwus@sbcglobal.net Website: www.IVGMS.org

February 28 - March 1: VALLEJO, CA Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society Solano County Fairgrounds, Mc Cormack Hall 900 Fairgrounds Drive Hours: 10:00 - 5:00 daily Contact: Dan Wolke, 707 334-2950

mail: dncwolke@sbcglobal.net Website: www.vjgems.org

Bumble Bee Agate Great Stuff But It Comes with a Warning Carolyn Weinberger via Gritty Greeting WACO

I first saw slabs of Bumble Bee Agate at Helen and Andy's booth in Tucson during the 2012 show. It's a very attractive material found in Indonesia and mined from sulfur vents. Its composition is anhydrite (gypsum), sulfur, and hematite in a matrix of volcanic tuff. Helen and the other dealers in Tucson who were selling the material all warned that it should be cut as follows: in a well-ventilated place wearing a respirator with plenty of running water washing your hands very well after working the material polishing the finished material—both front and back—to seal it after cutting Why all the precautions? Some tests have shown that this material contains traces of arsenic. Some specimens also show a mild trace of radioactivity. Please use caution—and if you're examining a piece of rough, wash your hands well after touching. If buying a finished cabochon, be sure it's polished on all surfaces.



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413 East Lockeford Street, Lodi, Ca www.cfmsinc.org \$6 Adults, Children under 12 Free

Show Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10 - 6 ★ Sun. 10 - 5

LLD Productions, Inc. in cooperation with Martin Zinn Expositions, L.L.C., P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004

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