

The MOROKS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2017

The Monrovia Rockhounds founded 1957

Volume 60, Issue 2

Upcoming Meetings

December Board Meeting, February 7th
2 pm at 224 Oak Ave.
Monrovia, Ca. 91016

General Meeting, February 16th 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.
Please come and join us!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Jo Anna Ritchey

**VICE
PRESIDENT:** Thomas Witt

TREASURER: Jim Lloyd

SECRETARY: Coleen Chestnut

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A WORD FROM THE PREZ

January and February are months that many rockhounds travel to Quartzsite and Tucson. If you get a chance to go to either or both, you will be given the opportunity to see so many rocks and minerals that are available for purchase. It is very hard to go there without money. I, of course, want to buy everything because everything is so interesting and pretty.

As you will read elsewhere our Nominating Committee has been unable to fill all the offices. This means that the club cannot continue. We will have the choice to disband or to merge with Pasadena Lapidary. In February we will have a vote by mail to choose which option members want. The reason for a vote by mail is that we are not seeing enough members at the meetings.

MOROKS will have our Annual Show on March 4-5, 2017 with set up on March 3, 2017. I hope that all of you can come out and help us at the Show. We will need help at the Treasure Wheel, Grab Bags, and Welcome Table.

Jo Anna Ritchey, President

Attention To the Membership

MOROK'S Membership is coming to a close!
Without officers and volunteers the club can no longer continue. It is with a sad heart that we are making this announcement.

After 60 years The Morok's being an organization in the City of Monrovia has come to a closes. More on this at this months meeting with very important decisions that need to be made regarding remaining funds, and equipment.

**MONROVIA ROCKHOUND'S
General meeting is February 16th**

Thank You

January 3, 2017 Board Meeting of the Monrovia Rockhounds

The meeting of the Monrovia Rockhounds was called
to order at 2:15PM at the Ritchey's home in Monrovia.

Officers present were:
Jo Anna Ritchey - president
Jim Lloyd - treasurer
Colleen Chestnut - secretary

Our first topic of discussion was not being able to nominate a full slate of officers for our coming fiscal year. For various reasons some members are unable to run for the positions. Members who do not attend the general meeting are not good choices for the positions. It is very possible that the club will be disbanded as of March 31, 2017. We will have further discussion of this at our January 19, 2017 general meeting. If the club disbands the money in our checking account will go to the CFMS Endowment Fund as stated in the club bylaws. Other items stored in the garage will be donated.

Treasurer, Jim Lloyd stated that we have 26 paid members and gave the balance in our checking account. He stated that at the present membership and expenses that the club could maybe go on for 2 more years, if we could get a full slate of officers to run.

Jo Anna announced the upcoming programs.

January 19, 2017 - Alfredo Petrov will speak on Minerals, collecting on a live volcano

February 16, 2017 - Jim Brace-Thompson will speak on collecting in Scotland

March 16, 2017 - program is pending

March 31, 2017 marks the end of the 59th year that the Monrovia Rockhounds have been a club.

Field Trips - the trip to Quartzite has been cancelled.

March 4th and 5th Gem and Mineral Show at the Arboretum.

The board decided that there will be no cases. They also discussed the main raffle and decided that we will not have one this year. We will have the free hourly prize raffle both days. Ray is working on grab bags.

For lunch both days we will have croissant sandwiches from Von's Pavillion. Jo Anna will order the sandwiches and buy the chips. The Garden Club and MOROKS will be asked to donate water and sodas. Each vendor will contribute \$5.00 for lunch. Lunch will be provided for our members who work a shift. Jim and Colleen will check for a coffee maker for the show.

Federation Director, Jo Anna Ritchey announced that CFMS needs judges to judge bulletins by June. The judging process will be done by mail. The CFMS show will be In Ventura in mid June.

The Girl Scouts invited us to have a booth at Arcadia Park on January 21, 2017. The board discussed it. Jo Anna will let them know that we decline their invitation.

Nominating Committee Report:

President

Vice President - Jo Anna Ritchey

Treasurer - Jim Lloyd

Secretary

Representative

If anyone is interested in being nominated for an office, please contact the chairman of the nominating committee, Colleen Chestnut at (626) 443-7662.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35PM.

Colleen Chestnut



The January 19, 2017
General Meeting of the Monrovia Rockhounds

Called to order at 7:11PM.

Officers present:

Jo Anna Ritchey--President

Thomas Witt--Vice President

Jim Lloyd--Treasurer

Colleen Chestnut--Secretary

Jo Anna lead us in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Vice President Thomas Witt announced that tonight's speaker is Alfredo Petrov. who will speak on collecting minerals on the side of an active volcano of Japan.

Our February 16th speaker will be Jim Trace-Thompson who will talk on Agates of Scotland.

Treasurer, Jim said we have 26 paid members and gave the balance in the checking account.

Field Trip Chairman, Kevin Dorn, said that no field trips were planned for our club.

Fellowship Chairman, Linda Dorn, announced that we had 8 members and 2 guests present at tonight's meeting. She noted that Ray Ritchey's birthday was in January.

Ray was at home and he had the flu.

Show Chairman, Jo Anna, said that money was received from 3 more vendors for our show at the Arboretum on March 4th and 5th. She will apply for insurance soon.

Federation Director, Jo Anna, told us that the CFMS show will be held in June 2017 at the Ventura Fairgrounds.

Bulletin Editor, Thomas, will have more interesting articles in the next bulletin.

Auditor, Kevin Dorn, has finished the audit of the club books. He found no discrepancies but he had a few suggestions.

Chairman of the nominating committees, Colleen Chestnut, read the slate of officers for the next term.

President--Victor Castellano

Vice President--Jo Anna Ritchey

Treasurer--Jim Lloyd

Secretary--open

Representative--open

Colleen stated that Victor Castellano is not eligible to run for office because according to our by laws he is not a member in good standing because he does not attend club meetings.

The Board recommended that the club be disbanded effective March 31, 2017, the end of the club fiscal year, because we do not have a complete slate of officers.

All funds remaining after paying invoices will go to the CFMS Endowment Fund per the MOROK by laws

Thomas Witt asked if some of the funds could be used to pay a one year membership to Pasadena Lapidary for each of our members in good standing.

The membership voted and approved that Janie Duncan could use the Treasure Wheel for an event in February.

Colleen will contact Janie and tell her to call Jim Lloyd to arrange for the pick up of the Treasure Wheel and her PA System from the garage.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25PM.

We had refreshments. Then we enjoyed slides and a very interesting and humorous talk about Alfredo Petrov's adventures.

Colleen Chestnut



Introducing Alfredo Petrov our Guest Speaker

We were all honored with Alfredo's presence as he gave his presentation on his travels to Japan. With his humor about his travels made for an enjoyable evening.

"Alfredo Petrov: One of a Kind"

When asked where he lives, Alfredo Petrov answers "kind of out of my suitcase," and likes to joke that he personally has kept American Airlines out of bankruptcy. " He adds: "I have my rocks, my microscopes, and my clothes scattered about homes on four continents." This makes sense for someone who deals minerals at 16 shows every year (three in Japan, two in Europe, and eleven in the United States). In addition to these shows, Alfredo and partner Frank deWit operate a [mineral travel business](#) that escorts collectors on trips to such destinations as Bolivia, Greenland, Portugal, Morocco, Spain, Switzerland, Italy and Japan.

Alfredo was born in Great Britain of a Russian father and German mother. He attended high school in Ethiopia where, as the only white student among 800 who were black, remembers himself as having been "kind of like the school pet." He began college in Beirut, Lebanon, because of its proximity to Ethiopia and ended up in the U.S., graduating with a degree in geology from San Diego State. Among other places he has since lived and worked are Japan, where he worked as a translator, and in Peekskill, New York, working as an assistant to Tony Nikischer of *Mineral News*. At all the shows around the world where he sets up shop, the sign announcing his presence reads, "Alfredo Petrov: Bolivia." That is where he was living and working as a geologist for the Bolivian government when he first began selling minerals internationally.

Most of the world's phosphophyllite, which numerous credible dealers refer to as "the Holy Grail of minerals," comes from Bolivia, and Alfredo believes that he's supplied more than half of all that's hit the market over the past several years. The Holy Grail tag attached itself at the end of the 1990's, when phosphophyllite had become all but extinct at the only major locality that produced it, namely the Unificado Mine in Cerro Rico near Potosi. In more recent years, after acquiring specimens from two new Bolivian localities, Alfredo became the man to see for it. He quickly points out, however, that these newer localities never produce specimens as gemmy as those from the original locality

Alfredo credits Rock Currier for bringing him to Tucson and getting him started as a mineral dealer. "Rock Currier," he says "did more than anyone to internationalize the major shows. The big shows didn't use to be international then like they are now. Then, in the late 1970's, he (Rock) started finding people in Third World countries, taught them how to be mineral dealers, and brought them here."

Most of the minerals Alfredo sells (about 80 per cent, he says) are to other dealers who resell them in stores



and on the Internet. Without exception, the selection is eclectic, diverse, and dominated by specimens that are rare and/or for one reason or another unusual. Many he has either field collected himself or obtained at shows in different parts of the world. Those at left, for instance are from Japan. The labels are in Alfredo's distinctive handwriting and come in different shapes, colors, and sizes.

Alfredo is also an avid micromounter and writes for numerous publications including *Rocks and Minerals*, *Mineralogical Record*, *Mineral News*, and *Lapis*. He is also a major player at [Mindat](#). More than anything, he's one of a kind.

Courtesy of [Mineral Bliss](#) Sharing a wide range of experiences and perspectives relating to mineralogy as a hobby

POSTED BY [JAKE SLAGLE](#)

Upcoming Events

January 2017 Quartzite Begins
Possible field trip to pick up material.
I don't think this will happen this time!

Tucson Gem and Mineral Show
January 28th to February 12th
Tucson, Az.

On February 16, 2017 we have invited Jim Trace-Thompson to give a talk on Rockhounding in Scotland. He is a very entertaining speaker that I am sure you will enjoy. You must come to see pictures of agates found in Scotland.

March 4th & 5th
Monrovia Rockhounds
Gem and Mineral Show
@ the
LA County Arboretum

When a child ask,
What kind of rock is this?



VP's Message

Well for our January Guest Speaker we enjoyed Alfredo Petrov and his presentation on collecting minerals on different volcanic islands of Japan. Wow! What an experience that would have been.

His presentation was captivating with his photos and his talk along with his humor had us all laughing. I know I should have been taking better notes about his travels but his presentation was so interesting.

One of the ways he got his start, was re-writing articles for Japanese scientist before submitting them to Scientific publications. It seems that the Japanese language gets lost in the English translation. So the publishers rejected most of the articles that were written by the scientist. Alfredo made a very good living rewriting these articles for these scientist.

He explained when he was working in Bolivia as a geologist, he collected rocks, lots of rocks. When one of his associates asked him what he was doing with all of the rocks he collected? Why not sell them in Tucson Az. and the rest is history.

For February we will enjoy Jim Trace Thompson as our "Guest Speaker", He will give a presentation on Agates of Scotland, or what a rockhound does before and after attending his daughters wedding.

Well as we get ready for the annual Moroks Show the first weekend of March, there will be some changes in store with the elimination of display cases and the raffle tickets. However we will still need volunteers to work the show. So please think about it, if you might have some spare time to donate.

Nominating Committee for Club Officers has come up with a blank. Three of the five positions are still open. So what does that mean for the club? The disbandment of the club as an organization. This is a sad outcome for an organization that has been in the community for 60 years.

On a personal note, my move to Apple Valley has almost been completed. After three weeks as a weekend resident of Apple Valley and resident of Arcadia Monday thru Friday, I'm now a full time Apple Valley resident. Much colder at night in the high desert, but some beautiful areas to be explored! I can't wait.

Thomas Witt, Morok's Vice President



February Birthdays

Thomas Witt	2/11
Justin Brown	2/16



February Birthstone Amethyst

For individuals with February birthdays, the amethyst makes a perfect birthstone. This month is often cold, dark and short for many people around the world, so the amethyst—which is often associated with qualities of peace, courage and stability—is the right gem for individuals who need a little extra warmth and strength this time of year. A beautiful purple quartz, the amethyst is an easily recognizable gem, but you may not know everything about it just yet!

The Meaning and Uses of Amethyst

Purple Amethyst has been highly esteemed throughout the ages for its stunning beauty and legendary powers to stimulate, and soothe, the mind and emotions. It is a semi-precious stone in today's classifications, but to the ancients it was a "Gem of Fire," a Precious Stone worth, at times in history, as much as a Diamond. It has always been associated with February, the month the Romans dedicated to Neptune, their water-god, and is the traditional birthstone of that month. It is the stone of St. Valentine and faithful love, and signifies ecclesiastical dignity as the Bishop's Stone. It carries the energy of fire and passion, creativity and spirituality, yet bears the logic of temperance and sobriety.

In today's world, Amethyst is still a remarkable stone of spirituality and contentment, known for its metaphysical abilities to still the mind and inspire an enhanced meditative state. Its inherent high frequency purifies the aura of any negative energy or attachments, and creates a protective shield of Light around the body, allowing one to remain clear and centered while opening to spiritual direction. Amethyst stimulates the Third Eye, Crown and Etheric Chakras enhancing cognitive perception as well as accelerating the development of intuitive and psychic ability. It initiates wisdom and greater understanding, and is a stone of comfort for those grieving the loss of a loved one.



Rock of the Month

MEXICAN LACE AGATE



AKA, Crazy Lace Agate. Crazy Lace Agate is called the Laughter Stone, or "Happy Lace." It is associated with sunny Mexican fiestas and dancing, and brings joy to those who wear it. It is not a stone of protection, but of support and encouragement, elevating thoughts and promoting optimism. Its graceful design, in random lacy patterns, creates a circular flow of energy, stimulating for the mind and attitude.

Crazy Lace Agate is a variety of banded Chalcedony, a mineral of the Quartz family. It is predominantly white, with layers of creamy browns, blacks and grays. Some may include layers of yellow ochre, gold, scarlet and red. Agate is sometimes called the earth rainbow because, in its various forms, the concentric bands in nature form nearly every color the earth can produce, including a colorless form.

Historically, Agate has been discovered with the artifacts of Neolithic people, and was used as healing amulets and ornamentation dating back to Babylon. Its medicinal uses continued through the ancient Greek and Egyptian civilizations, and spread throughout Africa and the Middle East into Russia. Agate sparked a world renowned stone cutting and polishing industry in Germany that flourished from the 15th to the 19th century, and exists today.

Metaphysically, Agate has a lower intensity and vibrates to a slower frequency than other stones, but is highly regarded as a stabilizing and strengthening influence. The layered bands of microscopic quartz in Agate may appear delicate, they are actually very strong. Agate is excellent for balancing emotional, physical and intellectual energy, and in harmonizing Yin and Yang, the positive and negative forces of the universe.

Crazy Lace Agate Uses and Purposes - Overview

Crazy Lace Agate with its twisting and turning bands is elegant and dynamic. It promotes mental agility, liveliness and variety, and encourages flexibility in thinking and action.

A dish of Crazy Lace Agates in the room promotes fun and laughter at a party. In the workplace, it unites people usually restricted to their own areas without direct communication.

Crazy Lace Agate helps overcome the fear of spiders and crawling insects. Associated with the web of fate, Crazy Lace Agate is useful when ghost hunting or visiting very old places to prevent sudden fears or negative vibes, but allowing you to see past worlds and spirits. A Crazy Lace Agate placed under an old spider's web monthly for 24 hours attracts happy experiences in love.

Agate promotes inner stability, composure, and maturity. Its warm, protective properties encourage security and self-confidence. It is a great crystal to use during pregnancy. Agate also promotes marital fidelity.

Agate is useful as a protection amulet when traveling, and is especially effective against traffic accidents.

I think we all need on of these stones with us all the time here in California when operating a motor vehicle.

Tucson Gem and Mineral Show 2017 is here!

The World's Greatest Treasure Hunt

Jan. 28 - Feb. 12, 2017

Here at Tucson.org (the community directory) we want you to have the best time at this years festivities. So we have designed a whole bunch of informative listings to help you negotiate the city. We researched the [shuttles](#) and the SunLink to get the facts about getting around town to the events. Our Individual listings will include everything about the various shows, including links to websites, Facebook, and twitter if they have it. Each listing is complete with a google map to help you get there too. **It all starts with this [link](#).** Maria Powell has contributed a clip from her show [Bienvenidos a Su Casa](#) from the 2015 show which you can check out to the right or below. The Main event is of course the show sponsored by the [Tucson Gem & Mineral Society](#). This years theme is, "MINERAL TREASURES OF THE MIDWEST", and that show is from February 9-12. [The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®](#) features two separate annual events that focus on kids, as well as lectures on a wide variety of Earthy topics and vendors from around The World. The Gem Show itself has grown well beyond just the main show over the years. In fact; Tucson hosts the largest gem, mineral, fossil and lapidary trade show in the world. Vendors from all over come here for the weather and to sell all things rocky. It is the single largest annual event in Tucson and we have The Tucson Gem & Mineral Society to thank for it! So if you live here, or if you are just visiting for the show please check out our online guide. **It is mobile friendly.** It is interactive so you can tell us what you liked best about the show: AND, if you feel the urge to review one of the great restaurants or to post a listing of something we've missed- that's what Tucson.org is for. We hope you like it!



Every year for about 2.5 weeks in January and February — the rock, gem, mineral and jewelry worlds cosmically align in Tucson. Researchers, gemologists, authors, artists, miners and nearly 4,000 trade companies gather here from every continent to share their treasures, knowledge and expertise with the show's tens (if not hundreds) of thousands of attendees. Earth's gem and mineral riches are on display at over 40 venues unfurled all over town, for sale in huge circus tents, expo halls, hotels, warehouses, and in the city's fine Convention Center. Every type of polished and rough rock and fossil specimen and every kind of faceted jewel that you can imagine is being peddled everywhere — on blankets on sidewalks or in sophisticated exhibits brought in by the world's finest museums and collectors. All of the shows are free except the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show® held at the Convention Center. Indeed, Tucson hosts the Giant of all Gem Shows, the largest of its kind in the universe.





FEBRUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Board Meeting	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 MOROKS General Meeting	17	18
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Quarter Page for 6 months: \$35

Half Page for 6 months: \$45

Full Page for 6 months \$75

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